


SUMMER 2008

ccfa
VOICES

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



U of M
filmmakers
focus on
infant mortality
for new
documentary

AHEAD OF THE CURVE:
JOURNALISM ONLINE
PROGRAMS AT THE U OF M

CCFA REMEMBERS
BOB MCDOWELL

ccfa VOICES

SUMMER 2008



A Message from the Dean

On our campus, spring marks a time of departure. Many students won't return to the University until the fall semester. In our College, this spring is also a time when we say good-bye to several long-time faculty members: Professors Carol Purtle of the Department of Art, Bill Brody, Elinor Grusin, and Jim Redmond of the Department of Journalism, and John Peterson and Jim Richens of the School of Music. All of these excellent scholars and fine artists have given many years of dedicated service to the College of Communication and Fine Arts (CCFA). Actually, all will continue to give us several more years of their time as teachers through the University of

Memphis' post-retirement program, even though not necessarily on campus. Jim Redmond, who has been an excellent chair of the Department of Journalism for the last eight years, will teach in the on-line Master of journalism program from his new home in western Montana. This ground-breaking program, the first of its kind in the world when it began about a decade ago, will be matched this fall by an on-line undergraduate public relations concentration within the journalism major; another first in the nation for the University's journalism department.

Springtime also means graduation-time for several thousand U of M students. However, something was amiss during this year's commencement ceremonies on May 3. Students didn't hear the familiar deep resonant radio voice of Bob McDowell calling out their names as they crossed the stage. Time stopped for Bob on March 2, as he left us due to a sudden reoccurrence of cancer. He had planned on retiring this year, but stayed on to guide the broadcast communication students and WUMR, U92-FM, the radio station he managed with such a wonderful touch. Through WUMR he will continue to be with us as his loving family has agreed that his voice will not be stilled, but that it will go on announcing station breaks and other spots through digital recordings. As we begin our search for a new station manager and another communication professor (yes, it will take two people to do what Bob had been doing by himself), we do so with the fond memory of our dear "golden voiced" friend, Dr. Bob.

Spring also means new growth—the front and back cover of this magazine show exciting new developments for two units of CCFA that collaborate with The Urban Child Institute (TUCI). In full "bloom" is the editing and completion of the newest documentary from two of CCFA's award winning filmmakers, David Appleby and Craig Leake of the Department of Communication. Partly funded by a grant from The Urban Child Institute, the film will focus on the high rate of infant mortality in some areas of Memphis.

Through contracts with TUCI, Michael Schmidt and the faculty and staff of the Center for Multimedia Arts (CMA) have become involved in developing communication strategies, presentation tools, and a public service announcement on infant mortality for the Institute. The CMA will also be undertaking Web site development and a new exhibition in TUCI's lobby in the future. These and other partnerships, such as the one between the Charles Powell Community Center, the Department of Art, and the Art Museum of the University of Memphis (AMUM), funded by an Access and Diversity grant from the Tennessee Board of Regents, are just a few examples of CCFA research and creative activities that directly involve and affect our community.

Finally, you may notice a new department listed to the right. In early April, the Department of Architecture sprang forth with the final approval from the Tennessee Board of Regents. The Department of Architecture is composed of two units previously in the Department of Art—interior design and architecture. The absence of a chair's name is not an error, as we will conduct a search for the position this summer. I know that all of you will help us get this newest addition to our College off to a great start this fall.

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

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS
Dreamers. Thinkers. Doers.

Content



CCFA remembers Bob McDowell who died in March after a short battle with cancer. See story on page 21.

CCFA 2 >
Endless Possibilities for CCFA Graduate

Architecture 4
Faculty and Students
Present Work in Nashville

Art 6
Affecting Change Through Art

Communication 8 >
Appleby and Leake Focus on Infant Mortality
for a New Documentary

Journalism 11
Journalism Department is Forerunner
in Distance Learning

Music 14
East Meets West in a Journey
Set in Motion by Music

Theatre & Dance 16 >
U of M Alumni Theatre Company
Comes Full Circle



Centers, Institutes, and Affiliates

18 AMUM
Collaborative Art Exhibition Engages
Students from Different Backgrounds

19 Jones Hall Gallery

19 IEAA

20 CSD

20 CSRAC

21 WUMR
Remembering Bob McDowell

22 Development
Why They Give

23 Faculty, Staff, Students & Alumni

CCFA ADVISORY BOARD

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University of Memphis dance students share passion and technique with Company d, a group of dancers with Down syndrome, in CCFA's Dance Space.

Moving to Connect

In February, a group of young dancers with Down syndrome, known as Company d, joined a class of University of Memphis dance students in CCFA's Dance Space with one focus—the Luigi method. Both groups had been studying the method for several months, Company d dancers under Darlene Winters, and the U of M students under Pam Hurley, U of M jazz dance instructor. 20 young dancers from different backgrounds and varying levels of training stood shoulder to shoulder in the U of M dance studio and united for more than just a “show” of technique.

In 1946, when a car accident left Louis “Luigi” Facciuto, then a young dancer, with

very bad eyesight (double vision), and one side of his body paralyzed, he developed what is now credited as the first formal jazz dance technique. Although doctors said he would never be able to dance again, Luigi went back to the studio. In his practice, he harmonized dance movement with natural body tendencies and thus slowly overcame his disabilities. Today, his technique is known throughout the world for its elegant and sophisticated jazz style that enhances the connection of body and mind.

During the class at the University of Memphis, Luigi's technique seemed to extend to connect the two dance groups.

“After class began I realized how talented the Company d dancers are in ways I have never experienced myself,” says Allie Roberts, one of the U of M dance education majors who participated in the class. “Once I began to talk and interact I learned that these dancers had the same passion and love for dance as I did. It made my heart melt to know that we all shared a passion for dance. I will never forget this day. It has changed my life.”

Company d is an awareness outreach of the Down Syndrome Association of Memphis and the Mid-South.

Endless Possibilities

Niki Johnson is the recipient of the 2008 College of Communication and Fine Arts Creative Achievement Award for students. Johnson, who graduated with a BFA in studio arts in May, also received the 2008 Department of Art Creative Achievement Award as well as the undergraduate award in AMUM's 24th and 25th Annual Juried Student Exhibitions.

Johnson, originally from New Mexico came to Memphis from the Bay Area in 2005. Her husband was looking into a position at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and Johnson into the studio arts program at the University of Memphis.

"My husband and I never thought we would move here, being mountain-bound rock climbing folk," Johnson says. "Meeting Greely Myatt was what ultimately drew me to the University of Memphis. There was something about the sheer enthusiasm he had when he first looked over images of my work. I enjoyed how real he was. Somehow I just knew that this place would facilitate the space in which I could further develop as an artist and a peer."

Johnson acknowledges that her time at the U of M has changed her outlook on the possibilities for her future—"so much for a career waitressing," Johnson says.

"Niki is one of the best students I have worked with at The University of Memphis," says Greely Myatt, professor of art and associate chair of the Department of Art. "She is incredibly self-motivated and disciplined. Her works are carefully and beautifully made, keeping in mind material, process, and presentation, while addressing numerous issues of political and social awareness."

Following graduation, Johnson will spend the summer looking at graduate schools and preparing for her GRE. During the fall she will organize two exhibitions in Memphis bringing local artists together to show their work at Material Art and Marshall Arts galleries.

"I like putting together exhibitions. It's challenging work and it may be something that I pursue after graduate school," Johnson says. "Teaching is a possibility too, but I am trying to resist speculating on my future until I have been through enough experiences to know what the different jobs mean."



(Top) Niki Johnson receives her award from University of Memphis President Shirley C. Raines at the 2008 Honors Assembly. (Above) Niki Johnson's latest work, "The Great American Bake-Off" was part of the U of M's 2008 Senior Show. The piece shows Michele Obama, Bill Clinton, and Cindy McCain, the spouses of America's 2008 presidential candidates.



Latoya White



Neena Howell

Latoya White has joined the dean's staff as secretary. Latoya's warm smile and friendly voice will welcome you whenever you visit or call the dean's office. She has been with the University of Memphis for two years, and previously worked in the office of admissions. Latoya holds an A.A.S. in office administration, and currently pursues her Bachelor of Professional Studies in organizational leadership, from the University College.

Neena Howell has joined the CCFA office as Dean Ranta's new assistant. Neena previously worked as the practice manager of a Memphis medical group. Serendipitously drawn to the College of Communication and Fine Arts, she is delighted to have found a position that enriches her personal interests, which include costume design, beadwork, and dancing. Neena is pursuing her Bachelor of Liberal Studies with concentrations in history and English through the University College, and plans to graduate in spring 2009.

She teaches and lectures on personal defense principles for women, which brings her great satisfaction, and provides an avenue to give to the needs of the community.



(Above) Architecture honors students learn about urban design in downtown Chattanooga from Henry Turley Fellow Ann Coulter (with architects Stroud Watson and Jon Coddington). (Bottom right) Architecture honors students (from left) Kelly May, Colby Mitchell, Kate Bidwell, and Jeffrey Johnson listen to a description of sustainable design features at the LEED-certified Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Students Learn About Urban Design in Honors Class

For the past two years Michael Hagge, associate professor of architecture at the University of Memphis, has offered a special class for architecture students in the University's honors program as well as for graduate students in city planning. In the spring, 14 architecture students and three students from city planning participated in several out-of-town trips as a part of the "Architecture + Urbanism Seminar."

A weekend trip to Chattanooga allowed the students to learn about urban design and waterfront development with Henry Turley Fellow Ann Coulter, Stroud Watson, an architect with Kennedy, Coulter, Rushing & Watson in Chattanooga, and Jon Coddington, an architect with the RiverCity Company in Chattanooga, and others involved in neigh-

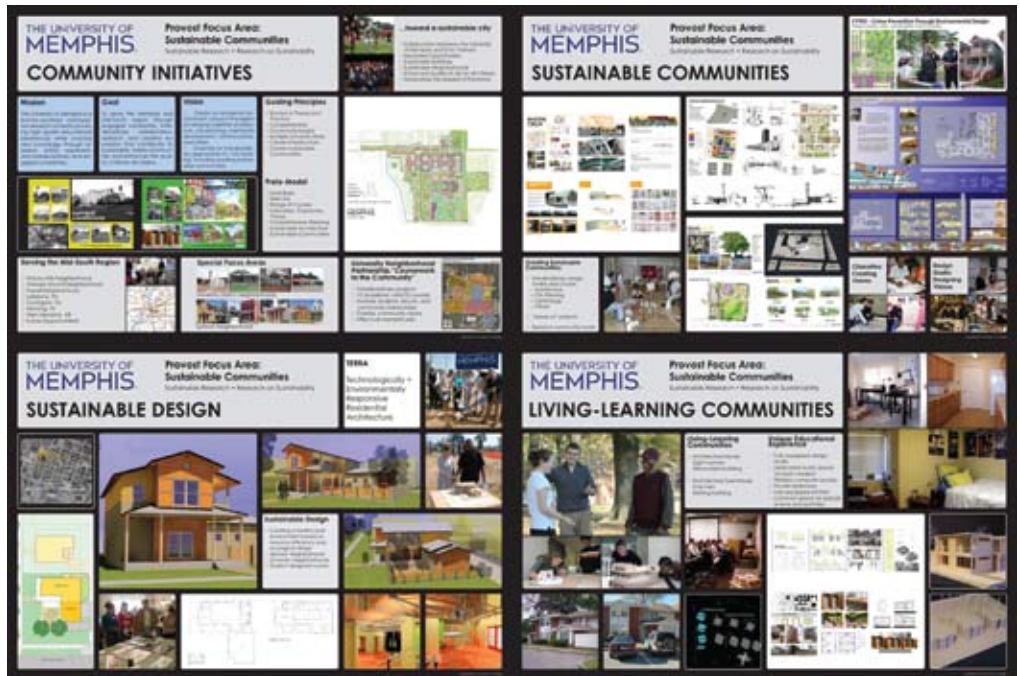
borhood revitalization and sustainable design.

A weekend charrette at the Nashville Civic Design Center with faculty and students from the University of Tennessee School of Architecture and Design, allowed students to work in teams and study relevant planning and design issues in downtown Nashville. During a trip to Little Rock the students looked at three significant buildings that were all LEED-certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, the U.S. Green Building Council's rating system). Sponsored by the Memphis Chapter of the Urban Land Institute, the trip also included architecture and interior design students from the "Introduction to Sustainable Design" course taught by Jim Lutz, assistant professor of architecture at the University of Memphis.



Architecture Faculty and Students Present Work at Legislative Day in Nashville

Michael Hagge, associate professor of architecture and Stan Hyland, director of the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy (SUAPP), along with architecture students Holly Hendrix and Alzbeta Bowden, represented the University of Memphis at the Tennessee Board of Regents Legislative Day in Nashville on March 12, 2008. The team presented examples of their community centered work, which was created by architecture and SUAPP students and faculty under the Provost's "Sustainable Research Focus Area." Models of the Living-Learning Community, designed by architecture student Kasia Źycińska, and the TERRA House (Technologically and Environmentally Responsive Residential Architecture) were also presented.



Presentation boards for TBR's Legislative Day, which were prepared by Michael Hagge and Kasia Źycińska.

Architecture Student Wins Prestigious Mah Travel Grant

Linda Šuhajdová, fourth year architecture student, received the 2008 Francis Mah Travel Grant. This is the sixth time that an architecture student from the University of Memphis has won the award, which is available to architecture students and intern architects throughout the Mid-South.

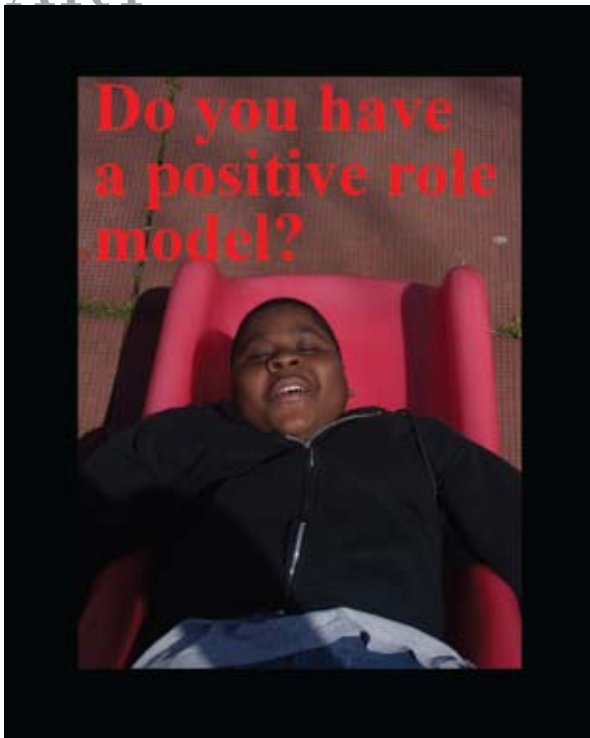
Šuhajdová was selected by the past presidents council of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and representatives of the Mah family based on her academic interests and the quality of her portfolio.

Šuhajdová graduated summa cum laude with a BFA in architecture, university honors and thesis in May. She will use the grant to complete her summer study and work in Mexico City. She plans to pursue the professional Master of Architecture degree in Cologne, Germany.

The Francis Mah Travel Grant was established in 1999 in memory of the life and work of internationally acclaimed architect Francis Mah, who also taught architecture at the University of Memphis and Mississippi State University.



Architecture student Linda Šuhajdová



L.I.F.E. as Process: Affecting Change Through Art

An African-American girl sits in front of a brick wall. She smiles. On the photograph large red letters loom above her, asking the question, “Why are the schools and communities segregated?” Another photograph shows a teenager against the backdrop of an empty parking lot. In red letters the question reads, “Why did we let our community go down?”

The photographs represent the distinct, tangible reality of the world in which these teenagers live, and they are part of “Neighborhood Communication: L.I.F.E. As Process,” a collaborative photo exhibition created by students from the Charles Powell Community Center (CPCC) in Southwest Memphis. The middle and high school students worked together with the Art Museum of the University of Memphis (AMUM), U of M art faculty and students (the graduate program in museum studies, the art department’s photography and art education programs) as well as staff of the CPCC to create a photographic/video record of their communities. The four-months pilot project and the final exhibition at AMUM this past April, have been funded by an Access and Diversity grant from the Tennessee Board of Regents.

The initial idea for the project was simple: teach a group of middle and high school

students from a local community to capture their life experiences and aspects of their neighborhood through photography. In the end, however, the students and teachers made it much more than this.

“You have two institutions that have never worked together,” says Richard Lou, chair of the Department of Art. “But working together and building camaraderie is what this is really all about. The art is a pretext for discussion. It was amazing to see those kids go out into the community to find answers to tough questions, and express their feelings through art.”

Garbage cans, empty streets, and portraits of the teenagers within those scenes are the common thread in all of the photographs, which were printed on 4-foot banners, making them appear like large still frames that visualize the teenagers’ concerns for their community.

Questions such as, “Why do we let jealousy destroy our community,” and “How do we prevent teenage pregnancies?” as well the statement that “Men need to be parents too,” reflect the teenagers thoughts as they learned about their neighborhood through interviews with family members and friends.

“When you let the community do something specific, it changes itself,” says Leslie Luebbers, director of AMUM.

Earlier this year, Luebbers, along with Richard Lou, David Horan, of the photography program, and Donalyn Heise and Melody Weintraub, of the art education program, began to work with Dedra Macklin, founder of the L.I.F.E. (Leaders Implementing Foresight Everyday) youth development program, to find teenagers that would not only enjoy the project, but also be interested in getting involved in their communities.

The 14 students who participated committed to weekly workshops during which they received art instruction that helped develop fundamental understanding of the visual language, and fostered discussions about how the issues the students wanted to highlight could be reflected in their artwork. On weekends, U of M art faculty and students accompanied the teenagers to local museums, such as The Brooks Museum of Art, The Center for Southern Folklore, and the STAX Museum of American Soul Music. Here the students had a chance to see how regional images and artwork are presented in exhibitions.

“I love this project,” says Dean Richardson, one of the high school students. “I was already in photography class and this helps me gather my skills as a photographer.” Kedarious Williams learned about the program from his guidance counselor. Although he had

been taking pictures before, he didn't really know much about composition and how to make his photographs more meaningful.

Horan says that the program has helped the kids to think broadly and conceptually about their images and their meaning.

According to Macklin, The University's involvement with the Community Center and L.I.F.E. makes it possible to support programs that would otherwise not exist and helps the teenagers discover new avenues to express their creativity.

As part of the project, all students were given digital cameras to use for still photography, as well as some video work. The cameras remain with the L.I.F.E. youth program for future projects.

"The filmed interviews evolved from the overall project, when the kids felt that they wanted to capture the responses to their questions from people they considered role

models," Lou says.

The short interviews were part of the final exhibition. Viewers were able to watch the students' videos, listen to their interviews, and thus truly follow "L.I.F.E. as Process."

Lou says that the goal of the project was to work in a "collaborative model," where the teachers would guide the students to develop the content and format of their work.

"The students created the work as a team," Lou says. "They decided the content, process, and format of the work, while remaining flexible so they could change the form during the production."

The students observed and analyzed their communities on their own. They interviewed family and friends to get a better understanding of their surrounding and its obstacles.

"We're trying to make the community a better place," says Breanna Macklin, who

interviewed her teachers, grandparents, and church members. One of her photographs questions the gang culture in her community.

"The kids seem to be really engaged. They see that the cameras can be a tool, that it doesn't have to just be about photographing the outside of your experience," Lou says.

But it wasn't just the students who learned a lot through the project.

"It taught me a different way of teaching because these kids don't come from an art background, so I had to learn to facilitate discussion," Horan remembers.

Lou hopes that the photo banners of the exhibition will become part of a larger community dialogue by asking local business owners to display them on a rotating basis.

—By Elizabeth Cooper

Carol Purtle Retires from Department of Art

Carol Purtle, professor of art history at the University of Memphis, didn't go to college to become an art historian. She was an English major and an art minor, on track to become a schoolteacher.

"I took art history classes as part of the regular class work," Purtle remembers. "Our teacher was very enthusiastic, and she made the subject really interesting."

Still, after graduating, Purtle taught English in high school, and it wasn't until the principal asked her to introduce art history to the curriculum that she reconsidered her career. What eventually got her hooked on art history was the way her high school students responded to the paintings she introduced.

"I noticed that many of the students who didn't necessarily excel verbally, did much better when given a visual medium," Purtle says. "I also noticed that students engaged more thoroughly and were more patient with a visual medium than when given a book to read, for example."

Just as her students got more engaged in the subject through the historic paintings, so did Purtle, who eventually received her doctorate in art history from Washington University in St. Louis in 1976.

"I was drawn to the visual engagement with the subject, and because art history is still a young discipline, there are many things that can be discovered," Purtle says. "Scholars can make a difference and meaningful contribution and be part of the field's progress."

Purtle's interest in Van Eyck intensified when she chose Van Eyck's "Rolin Madonna" for her graduate comprehensive exam. A dissertation on "The Marian Paintings of Jan Van Eyck" followed.

"I had never looked at Van Eyck that closely, and after some initial research I found that I had something to say about the painting that nobody had said before," Purtle remembers. "So right then I felt that I could make a contribution, which is a great discovery for a young scholar."

More than 30 years later, Purtle is one of the few experts on Jan Van Eyck, a Netherlandish painter who was active in

Bruges and is considered one of the best Northern European painters of the 15th Century. She also looks back at a long career of teaching at the U of M. As she retires from her position in the Department of Art, she hopes to find more time for research and travel, as well as finish her latest book on Van Eyck, *Looking at Jan van Eyck: The Art and Science of Painting*, which she hopes to see published next year.

What has sustained Purtle's interest in Van Eyck over the years is the fascination and intellectual engagement with his work.

"To be interested in one period and one artist is very enriching and focusing," she acknowledges.



Carol Purtle



U of M Filmmakers Immersed in Memphis Community for Documentary About Infant Mortality

When David Appleby and Craig Leake, award-winning University of Memphis filmmakers and faculty of the Department of Communication, were looking for a topic for a collaborative project, they wanted to focus on a regional subject with national significance. Both Appleby and Leake have garnered many national awards for their film projects and television documentaries, including the Peabody award, national and regional Emmy awards, the Cine Golden Eagle award, and the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award, one of the most respected awards in broadcast journalism.

“We have a dual role here at the University of Memphis,” Appleby says. “We are professors and filmmakers at the same time, which means that we can’t just pack up and leave to shoot a film for six months. So we were looking for a topic that could be filmed locally, but would have implications for people across the U.S.”

After noticing a series of stories on infant mortality in *The Commercial Appeal* in the spring of 2005 and further research into the

subject, the team felt it had found its theme.

The series in *The Commercial Appeal* received mixed reviews because one story compared Memphis to less developed countries, stating that the North Memphis 38108 zip code, which includes the Douglass and Hollywood neighborhoods, is deadlier for babies than Vietnam, El Salvador and Iran. The article also pointed out that Memphis ranks worst in the nation when it comes to infant deaths.

“That didn’t sit too well with some people, but it certainly helped to bring new attention to the issue,” Appleby says.

Infant mortality is defined as the number of deaths of infants, one year old or younger, per 1,000 live births. Some people argue that comparing infant mortality rates among countries is like comparing apples and oranges. The method of calculating the rate might differ based on the country’s definition of live births. It can vary from counting any born human being, regardless of prematurity or size, who shows signs of life at birth, such

as breathing, voluntary muscle movement, or heartbeat, to only counting infants who weigh at least one pound and were born at or above 26-week gestation.

“No matter how the numbers are registered or which countries Memphis was compared to, what is clear is that this is a major issue in Memphis and many urban centers and rural areas around the country,” Appleby says.

Realizing the severity of the issue, Shelby County Major A C Wharton joined the statewide “1 For All” initiative, launched in spring of 2006. What Appleby and Leake learned, however, is that this initiative wasn’t the first effort to tackle the problem.

“We found newspaper articles on the subject that date back to the 1930s,” Appleby says. Local pediatrician and neonatologist Dr. Sheldon Korones, was troubled when he first noticed Memphis’ grim infant mortality statistics in the mid 1960s. He knew something had to be done and set out to raise money for a newborn intensive care unit (NICU) at The Regional Medical Center (The MED).



Since its opening in 1968, The MED's NICU has treated more than 45,000 critically ill and premature babies, some so tiny that they can fit in the palm of a hand. Until recently Korones still actively roamed The MED's newborn center, from which most infants now leave alive, even though more premature babies than ever are treated there.

Premature birth and low birth weight have been identified as primary reasons for infant deaths, but that knowledge still doesn't provide a quick fix.

"When looking at the problem you may think that there ought to be that one thing that can be changed to make the whole issue disappear," Leake says. "But when you take a closer look you realize that the one thing doesn't exist. It's a very complex problem. What could help offset premature births are healthy, properly nourished women who have access to regular prenatal check-ups and educational materials," Leake continues. "The population most affected by high infant mortality typically comes from poor backgrounds. You'd have to start with good nutrition when those women are children themselves. Lowering the infant mortality rate isn't about solving just one single problem."

Infant mortality is a barometer of a community's health and development, and a factor in the physical quality-of-life index. In an article in the July 2001 issue of *World Politics*, Gary King and Langche Zeng argued that the infant mortality rate is among the best predictors of state failure.

Appleby and Leake began filming in early 2006, after Leake received a faculty research grant that allowed the team to get started. They were able to continue thanks to a substantial contribution from The Urban Child Institute (TUCI), a local non-profit organization that focuses on children and the improvement of their well-being. TUCI has led several campaigns targeting the problems of infant mortality in Memphis.

"What was most gratifying to us is that so many people let us into their lives and agreed to tell us their stories," Appleby remembers. "As we reached out to the community, church groups, inner city ministries and residents of the Douglass and Caldwell neighborhoods, even young pregnant girls provided us with the opportunity and trust to document their stories."

Additionally to the members of those communities, the filmmakers received tremen-

(Opposite) Dr. Sheldon Korones and a nurse examine a premature baby at The MED's newborn intensive care unit (NICU). (Above) Filmmakers David Appleby (left) and Craig Leake (right) at the BirthPlace.

dous support from Korones and his staff at The MED, the Shelby County Health Department, Mayor A C Wharton, Dr. Linda Moses and her staff at the Hollywood Clinic, St. Paul Douglass Church, UT Medical School, the Exchange Club Family Center, and the March of Dimes, to name just a few.

"This was also an incredible experience for the students who worked with us on the project," Leake says. "For them it definitely carried the wow-effect of working on a real project and experiencing a different culture."

"While working on this project I learned a lot about Memphis and about my own presumptions," says Nick Simpson, who teaches film in the Department of Communication and was a graduate student at the time. "Premature babies to me meant babies that wear born five weeks early, and the only images I had were of something I had seen in the media," he remembers. "At The MED you don't just see one premature baby, you see rows of them, some with babies that were born at 25 or 26 weeks." Simpson also said that he



encountered a side of Memphis that he would have never seen otherwise. “We worked in the neighborhoods that everybody tells you to stay away from, but the people I met were good, hardworking, welcoming, and friendly.”

“In the end, it was a cross-cultural experience for all of us,” Appleby says.

When the team started filming, research and learning about the topic always went along with capturing footage.

“This is not a scripted documentary,” Leake adds. “We had a general understanding of the topic when we started and we had identified people we needed to talk to, but once we were immersed in the subject we realized just how complex it is.”

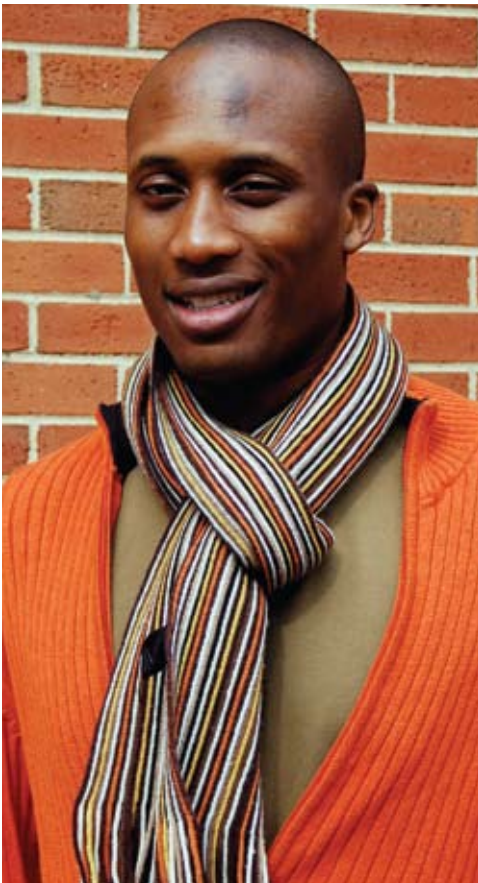
Appleby points out that films often cannot show an issue in its entirety, but rather tell the story by highlighting certain aspects of a bigger picture. It is the filmmakers’ responsibility to look for the images and narratives that add another dimension to the official reports, statistics and numbers. Appleby and Leake see their work as part of a larger initiative that can help to keep attention on the subject.

“Films like this have a tendency to suck the audience in, especially people who just happened to flip through the channels,” Leake says. “Infant mortality is a problem that affects many communities across the country, and when watching the film people will recognize parts of their own community even though the film wasn’t made there.”

“We have the ability to show the faces behind the statistics,” Appleby adds. “It’s not just another story you read in the paper. The film puts you there and shows you the human face of the issue. That has a completely different impact—on the audience, as well as on us.”

The filmmakers expect to be finished with editing this summer, and begin pitching the film for national broadcast in the fall. Because it is still early in the cutting process, neither Appleby nor Leake wanted to make any predictions regarding the length of the film or the title.

“We will make the best film we can possibly make,” Appleby says with a smile.



Tesfa Alexander, first year graduate student at the Department of Communication, was accepted to the Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training (MHIRT) program.

Communication Student Is Part of Minority International Research Training in Uganda

Tesfa Alexander, first year graduate student at the Department of Communication is one of six students who have been accepted to the Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training (MHIRT) program in Uganda. Alexander will spend the summer in Uganda and participate in innovative epidemiological research activities in Mbarara, a district in southwestern Uganda, and potentially in other locations within the country. The program, sponsored by the Mid-South Coalition for Minority International Research and funded by the National Institutes of Health also selects several students every year for research activities in Brazil.

Alexander’s personal interest in socio-economic factors and related behaviors, combined with his professional background in global health care public relations, are his motivation to explore cross-cultural communication strategies that reduce ethnic-related health disparities. In his studies at the U of M, Alexander focuses on the roles that cultural beliefs, self-identity, and socioeconomic development play in the increased incidences of childhood obesity and the recent epidemic of type 2 diabetes among minority children in the U.S.

“Learning about culturally based customs, perceptions and values is crucial for the success of cross-cultural health communication strategies,” Alexander says. “Spending the summer with a research team in Uganda is a great opportunity for me, not just to immerse myself in international community-based training that will hopefully benefit the people of Uganda, but also to gain a grassroots understanding of global health strategies that I can then apply to my current focus—reducing the health disparities among minority adolescents at risk for developing type 2 diabetes.”

An Extraordinary Program: University of Memphis Online Master's of Journalism

If you think that delivering babies is a task reserved for medical school students, think again. As the online master's program in journalism at the University of Memphis celebrates another milestone—the 10th anniversary of its first student graduating—Bill Brody, the program's "midwife" recalls how one of his students had to suddenly leave the chat room to deliver a baby.

"That was something," Brody, professor of journalism and public relations, remembers. "The student was an obstetrician from Cody, Wyoming, who enrolled in the program because he wanted to learn some journalism basics to launch a lower-power television station."

Although it might seem like a practicing obstetrician from Wyoming is an unusual student for a journalism program located in Memphis, for the online master's program he really isn't.

"When the online program started, we wanted to provide graduate level education for working professionals who didn't have access to a university campus and would otherwise not be able to receive a graduate degree," says Rick Fischer, professor of journalism and public relations.

That was exactly what Gus Morgan, the program's first graduate, had been waiting for. After receiving his bachelor's degree in journalism from Texas A&M University he realized that his options for graduate school were very limited, unless he was willing to move. "The universities that did offer graduate programs in journalism were several hundred miles away, and I didn't want to move just to attend graduate school," says Morgan in a recent e-mail.

Over the years 29 students from across the country as well as from around the world have graduated from the program, which enrolled its first students in 1995. Back then Brody was active in several CompuServe forums that met



In 1998, Gus Morgan was the first student to graduate with an online master's degree in journalism from the University of Memphis. Since his graduation from the U of M, Morgan has been an editor with *The Houston Chronicle*.

online to discuss professional, public relations related topics.

"Those exchanges got me thinking," Brody says. "At the time CompuServe charged for its online service, but I knew some of the forum administrators and asked if they would make online conference rooms available for classes. They agreed and paved the way for the program." Although CompuServe provided the virtual classrooms, the program's first students still had to pay the provider's hourly rates for online time.

The journalism online master's program at the University of Memphis was the first of its kind worldwide. It was the first such program at the U of M and the first journalism online program accredited by the Accrediting Council

on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC), and the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). This fall, the department will also offer an online undergraduate degree in public relations.

"We offer a few public relations classes as part of the bachelor's of interdisciplinary and professional studies through the Regents Online Degree Program (RODP), but we wanted to create an option for students who want to pursue public relations," says Dan Lattimore, dean of the University College, vice provost of extended programs, and former chair of the Department of Journalism.

Although some of the undergraduate program's classes still have to be developed for online teaching, Lattimore is confident that in

the fall the program will be up and running.

“We would again be the first University to offer such a program,” Lattimore says.

A lot has changed since the early days of distance education. What may have started on CompuServe as a single specific program in 1995 has evolved into a distance-learning phenomenon with its own course management software, statewide as well as university specific programs.

“When I learned about the online program at the University of Memphis I was skeptical at first,” Morgan remembers. “I proceeded with caution and did more research on the university and the program, which looked well thought out and groundbreaking. I realized that Memphis was ahead of the curve—way ahead.” Morgan felt that the program was the solution to his problem, but also acknowledges that in the mid 1990s, many people were skeptical of “the online concept.” “Everyone was used to gathering at a ‘physical’ classroom and doing things ‘as they have always been done,’” he says.

“I was extremely fortunate to find such an innovative university with instructors who cared deeply about the quality of online communication, academic rigor, and the goals of their students,” says Rich Riski, a 2003 graduate, in a recent e-mail. When Riski enrolled in the program he was an adjunct teacher at Peninsula College in Port Angeles, Washington. He now is the College’s program director for journalism.

Although broadband connections weren’t the standard when the program started, maneuvering the Web was often slow and cumbersome, and communicating to online students equaled typing on the keyboard, the concept prevailed. In addition to advancing steadily through different course management systems, taking and teaching online classes has become much easier because of voice and video tools.

“It’s amazing how fast and how much online education has advanced,” Lattimore says. “The students can actually see me, I can load PowerPoint presentations and videos as additional course materials, and we can in fact talk to each other.”

However, it’s not just the technology that has changed. Through the years it has become clear that the program doesn’t just attract students who “live in isolated wood cabins,” as Fischer puts it.

“Even working professionals who do have access to a college campus that offers a master’s degree in journalism may not be able to attend classes there for different reasons,” Fisher says. “Sometimes the program that is available nearby may not be what the student is looking for. So even though we still receive inquiries and enroll students from across the nation and across the globe, we also know that students seek us out because of other reasons.”

When Beth Morris a 2006 graduate from North Carolina changed jobs from reporter at the *Mitchell News-Journal* in Spruce Pine to publications and public information officer at Mayland Community College she was looking for a program that would allow her to stay in her job while pursuing a graduate degree.

Lattimore knows that students who do decide to get their master’s in journalism through the U of M’s online program are typically adult students who have professional careers.

“Those are our more common online students,” he says. “They typically have very specific reasons for why they want a graduate degree and they do very well in online programs.”

A downside for many of the program’s prospective students, however, is the price. “That has been a real problem,” Lattimore acknowledges. “Anybody outside of Tennessee has to pay out-of-state tuition.”

At many other schools that offer similar programs tuition is the same no matter if the student is a resident of Spain, Washington or Nashville. “We knew we had to do something about this if we wanted our program to be competitive,” Lattimore says. “We started a tuition scholarship pilot program last year and this fall, scholarships will defer the tuition costs for out-of-state online students.”

The students still have to pay an “online fee,” which currently is \$100 per credit hour, but they won’t have to pay the other fees campus students do. Lattimore says this adds up to about the same amount that on-campus students pay.

Students who do enroll in the journalism online master’s program make a commitment to show up for classes just like on-campus students. Most of the journalism online classes are taught synchronously, which means that the class meets together at a set time every week. Many other online programs teach asynchro-

nously, which means the class doesn’t have to meet as a group, but rather each student logs on at a convenient time to check assignments and discussion postings. The new online bachelor’s program in public relations will be taught asynchronously, according to Lattimore.

“We felt that synchronous was the way to go for our master’s program because we still wanted to emphasize student-teacher and student-student interaction,” Fischer says.

There are advantages and disadvantages to teaching synchronously. If the class meets at 5:30 p.m. central time, students from overseas will have to show up for class in the middle of the night because of the time difference. However, synchronous teaching does give online students the sense of actually being in class, of having classmates, and it creates a sense of community.

“At first I thought I would miss physically being in the classroom,” Morris says in a recent email. “But as I got my feet wet in the online program I grew to love it. It became a great network. All the students had to juggle work and family in addition to their classes, the instructors were very supportive and quick to respond to any problems. I feel connected to the University of Memphis even though I did not physically walk onto campus while I was enrolled in the program.”

“I took professor Grusin’s media law course first—as an acid test,” Riski remembers. “I wanted to see if the delivery of the curriculum, the dynamic online exchanges and self discipline required were a good match. Professor Grusin’s guided discussions and insights into media law were utterly inspiring, and I will never forget her sending me a postcard, well after the course was finished, encouraging me to enter a research paper to AEJMC [Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication].”

Morgan, who has been an editor with *The Houston Chronicle* since his graduation from the U of M in 1998, shares a similar experience.

“The program’s professors and staff were great. They helped me get to the next level and pushed me to excel, and today I’m thriving thanks to my work at the University of Memphis.”

Triple Threat: Brody, Grusin, and Redmond retire from U of M

The Department of Journalism bid farewell to three of its long-time faculty members. Professors Bill Brody, Elinor Grusin, and Jim Redmond, the department's chair, spent a combined 60 years at the University of Memphis, teaching and mentoring students who had their hearts set on becoming media professionals. All three professors share many memorable moments from their long careers. Although they no longer will roam the floors of the Meeman Journalism Building, they aren't entirely saying good-bye to teaching.

"I will continue to teach one course per semester in post-retirement," says Grusin; and both Redmond and Brody will be teaching online classes for a while.

"The 'withdrawal' from teaching will be limited," Brody says.

As for his retirement, Brody is looking forward to spending more time with his family—he and his wife Sandy have five children and 11 grandchildren—and having more time to write.

Although Brody's first career wasn't in public relations, he knows that the opportunities to earn a living in print journalism are limited for writers.

"I transitioned to public relations to put my children through college," he says. Despite the fact that PR was Brody's "second choice," he has been an inspiration and role model to many students.

"I met Dr. Brody as an undergraduate," says Joni Janis, now a journalism graduate student at the University of Memphis. "He is a great teacher and mentor to all PR students, and his examples and stories of his experience in the corporate world helped all of us better understand what to expect after graduation."

Although Elinor Grusin is a passionate teacher and journalist, her first love is her family, especially her three grandchildren.

A former newspaper reporter who received her doctorate in mass communication from Ohio University, Grusin wore many hats



(From left) Retirees Bill Brody, Elinor Grusin, and Jim Redmond.

in the department. Aside from sharing her wealth of knowledge in mass media law, one of the classes she never tired of teaching, she also took on the responsibility of editing the *Newspaper Research Journal* with fellow faculty member and associate professor Sandra Utt. Grusin was crucial in setting up and leading *The Teen Appeal*, Memphis' only citywide high school newspaper, supported by the Department of Journalism, Memphis City Schools, *The Commercial Appeal* and the Scripps Howard Foundation.

To many students Grusin was the best teacher at the university. To the Scripps Howard Foundation and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AE-JMC), the national organization for journalism teachers, Grusin was the best teacher in the country. Both organizations recently named her Journalism Teacher of the Year for 2007.

"It is a validation that we—everyone in the journalism department—do some very good things," Grusin says. "I am only one of the many in the department. We care about

students and we want them to succeed."

Jim Redmond, a native of Montana, will retire in his home state and is looking forward to days spent golfing, skiing, traveling, and yes—teaching an online class here and there. Redmond didn't just rely on his PhD. in communication to master the challenges of an academic and administrative career, but also on the skills he learned during his time as ski instructor.

"Being a ski instructor and teaching college students is really very similar," says Redmond. "If you scare the heck out of college students, they retract into a fear and survival mode, just like a skier would if taken onto too steep of a run. When panic sets in, you get nowhere with people."

His tenure as college professor has been a very positive experience for Redmond, and has given him a great sense of contributing to the lives and careers of his students.

—By Reah Nicholson



Connecting Students from Two Continents: A Journey Set in Motion by Music

If Pu-Qi Jiang had to pick a motto that describes his career and journey from Asia to America it would be this—where there is a will, there is a way. It is the essence of his experience, a principle he's truly lived and now shares and passes on to his students.

Jiang is professor of orchestral studies at the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music and maestro of the University of Memphis Symphony Orchestra. He was 42-years-old when his home country, China, finally granted him the opportunity to pursue his graduate degree in orchestral conducting at the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music (CCM).

"I had applied to the Cincinnati Conservatory and in 1981 I learned that I was offered a full scholarship for my graduate studies, so I applied for a passport," Jiang remembers. "My request was denied. At that time I was the resident conductor at Jiangsu Provincial Opera and Dance Theatre in Nanjing and none of my colleagues could understand why I would abandon a professional career to study in another country. Not just in another country really, but the United States."

Chinese-American relations in the early 1980s weren't in Jiang's favor, but he was adamant. Lacking the opportunity for graduate studies in conducting in China, and feeling the desire to be immersed in the culture and music of the West, Jiang applied again, year after year.

"I was promoted to associate music director because my superiors thought that might change my mind," Jiang says. "I kept telling them that they couldn't give me what I was looking for—knowledge. Nobody can give you that. Knowledge has to be earned to be real."

In 1986, Jiang was finally granted a visa and the University of Cincinnati still wanted him to come. He initially intended to return to China after receiving his degree, but in the U.S. he found possibilities that he hadn't dreamed of.

"I couldn't imagine that I would have a career here," he remembers. "I first learned English when I was in my late thirties, and I was 44 years old when I finished my master's degree. I could never have imagined to be so fortunate."

Although Jiang continued his studies and career, eventually receiving his D.M.A. in orchestral conducting from the University of Cincinnati, working as assistant conductor at the Cincinnati Philharmonic Orchestra and as conducting assistant at the city's Symphony Orchestra, taking positions at Ohio University and Penn State before coming to the University of Memphis in 2000, he never forgot his artistic ties to his hometown—Nanjing.

"Music is a universal language, but to experience the truly universal we should visit another country and immerse ourselves in its culture," Jiang says. "This we can not learn from textbooks. If we don't experience another culture, we are still blind in one eye."

Jiang is grateful that in 1986 someone "opened the door" for him to experience another culture, and he wants to make sure that similar opportunities are afforded to his students at the University of Memphis and to students in China. Since his arrival in Memphis, Jiang has visited and lectured in Beijing, Shanghai and Nanjing numerous times, spending his 2005 sabbatical conducting with the

(Opposite, top) University of Memphis music students and faculty during their China tour in 2007. (Opposite, bottom) Students from the East China Normal University visited the University of Memphis this February.

Jiansung Philharmonic Orchestra, and slowly paving the way for a group of U of M students to accompany him.

In May 2007, 26 University of Memphis music students, six faculty members, and three guest musicians traveled with Jiang to China for the University of Memphis Symphony Orchestra China tour. The group visited Beijing, Shanghai, Suzhou, Hongzhou, and Nanjing, gave four concerts and several master classes, and met with students at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, East China Normal University, Shanghai Normal University, Nanjing Arts Institute, and Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

In February, 49 members of the East China Normal University Symphony Orchestra returned the visit and came to the University of Memphis to help Memphians celebrate Chinese New Year with two concerts. In May Jiang returned for yet another visit to the Nanjing Arts Institute, this time with Moira Logan,

the College's associate dean and professor of dance.

"The Arts Institute has invited me to teach master classes in modern dance, and I hope to introduce some of the ideas of American modern dance to its students," Logan says. The trip will also lead to Hubei University, partner in the University of Memphis' Confucius Institute. "Fostering this cultural exchange is exciting for us and our students," Logan adds. "It is an amazing opportunity."

When Jiang visits China he usually makes it a point to introduce American composers to his audience and students there, sometimes accompanying a performance of the Grand Canyon Suite with images of the Grand Canyon's beautiful landscape projected on a large screen.

"With music, it doesn't really matter if the students, or the performer and the audience, speak the same language," Jiang says. "Music is a great communication tool that can overcome barriers and form relationships without words."

"As a member of the University of Memphis Symphony Orchestra, I enjoy seeing people

from different backgrounds with the same passion for music perform together," says Anthony Lu, a sophomore cellist at the University of Memphis.

"At the Shanghai Conservatory we played with the Middle School Youth Symphony, which is a very hardworking and enthusiastic group; and while we learned about each other's culture, we also inflamed the high spirit of the "East Meets West" orchestra festival by performing a program of American music," Lu remembers. "The Chinese students enjoyed the experience as much as we did."

Although Jiang has become somewhat of an artistic and cultural ambassador throughout the years, he remains humble.

"I'm just the person who said this is where we could build a path," Jiang says. "But it takes more than one person to actually build that path, and this is the effort that is supported and nurtured by students and faculty members from both continents. What could be greater than paving the way for future generations who will have the opportunity to experience and share common treasures?"

Farewell to Two Long-Time School of Music Faculty Members

After more than 25 years of teaching, John Peterson, professor of organ at the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music, said good-bye to a long career. Having been around since the early years of the College of Communication and Fine Arts, it's hard to believe that Peterson just finished his last semester. Although he retired, Peterson won't go far. He plans to stay in the Memphis area and spend more time in his garden, as well as continue to teach organ part-time at the University of Memphis.

Becoming a teacher was a natural decision for Peterson, who says that that's what he wanted to be as long as he can remember. At the U of M he has taught organ, music theory and history, and worked as graduate studies coordinator.

"I've been really lucky because I've had a lot of different experiences with classroom teaching and private teaching," Peterson says. "I've enjoyed working in a lot of different areas."

Former student and professional organist Charles Nolen calls Peterson, "a consummate teacher and professional, always pushing you to do more and to do better."

James Richens, professor of composition at the School of Music, retired after teaching at the U of M for 43 years, and he knows one thing for sure: "I won't miss the committee meetings and the evaluations," he says. Just as with Peterson, Richens won't stray too far from campus. He plans to teach part-time and continue to write and compose music. For



(From left) Long-time University of Memphis faculty James Richens and John Peterson retired from their positions at the School of Music this spring.

Richens, teaching has definitely improved as he got older.

"When you're young it's hard because you have to satisfy everyone, and it's extremely hectic when you try to teach, grade papers, and be part of all the committee meetings. There's never a let up."

Richens taught five years in the public school system before coming to the U of M. In addition to teaching, he has written and composed music for the Memphis Symphony and Memphis In May. He has won the College's Dean's Creative Achievement Award for a composition that he wrote for the Symphony's 50th anniversary.

Former doctoral student Scott Hines says that he will miss Richens' sense of humor the most. "He is a wonderful person and teacher and he just goes out of his way to help a student," Hines says.

—By Elizabeth Cooper

(Opposite) Voices of the South company members (from left standing) Steve Swift, Jerre Dye, Todd Berry; (from left seated) Jenny Odle Madden, Gloria Baxter, Virginia Ralph Matthews, and Alice Berry.

our teacher, and we are committed to keeping the form alive.”

Narrative theatre is a term Baxter coined, even though she didn’t invent the form. It can be described as lyrical staging of an original text, “staging the story,” or “performing the book.” Instead of adapting a work of prose fiction or creative non-fiction into the all dialogue form of a play, the integrity of the original prose is preserved in the performance.

“I was an English major as an undergraduate student and came to theatre through my love of literature,” Baxter remembers. “I was first exposed to the narrative style of theatre in the early 1960s in one of Lea Queener’s classes, who was a speech and drama professor at what was then Memphis State University, and became my mentor.”

Queener, however, had studied the form at Northwestern University under Robert Breen, who was a forerunner in this experimental theatre style. Baxter later followed in her footsteps and completed her graduate studies at Northwestern.

“Breen called the form ‘chamber theatre,’ and based his idea of staging prose texts on the work of Bertolt Brecht,” Baxter says.

Brecht, a German poet, playwright, and theatre director, and significant figure in 20th century drama, proposed a form of theatre he called “epic theatre.” As a rehearsal technique for “epic theatre,” Brecht felt that actors should not impersonate, but narrate actions of another person, as if quoting facial gesture and move-

ment, speak aloud the stage directions, and report their actions in past tense.

“Breen experimented with using this kind of language not just in rehearsals, but in the performance itself,” Baxter says. “In the theatre, the text moves from the page to the stage and finds its voice and presence there. Staging the story is a unique experience for the author, the stage director, the performers, and the audience.”

Berry and Madden agree, and the success they’ve had with Voices of the South not just locally, but nationally and internationally, is more than an encouragement to follow a style that has been passed down at the University of Memphis from teachers to students for several generations.

“That’s why this internship is so great,” Baxter says. “Now our students don’t just learn about narrative theatre in my class, but can see it coming to life in a company.”

“We thought that most of what we would be doing is busy work,” says Jason Gerhard, a junior theatre performance major who was part of last year’s pilot project. “But it was not like that at all. All the interns were assigned specific areas and we really had to take charge and run with it. In the end we felt that we were an important part of the company during our internship.”

Gerhard’s experience resonates with Berry and Madden.

“We are a grassroots company, and we expect a lot from our interns, who in turn have the chance to be part of an amazing experience,” Madden says. “The students will typically act in the play that we produce for the festival and tour that play with us in the fall. They will learn about the business side of theatre helping us

organize and stage the Children’s Theatre Festival. We also encourage them to write grants for projects they want to do.”

Although the internship is available to all students in the Department of Theatre & Dance, the application process is competitive. Students have to submit an application and audition to be considered for the position. How many students the company selects depends on how much help it needs with the festival and the company’s production.

“Everybody who goes into theatre knows that it is a huge collaborative process,” Gerhard says. “But it wasn’t until I interned with Voices of the South that I realized how much of a collaboration it truly is.”

The Department of Theatre & Dance has always required internships as part of the educational experience, knowing that they are a way of networking and that they help in gaining professional skills. However, Hetherington is especially excited about this partnership, whose popularity is already enormous, as two of last year’s interns have reapplied for this year’s internship.

“When the students returned to school in the fall, I could tell that they had gotten a lot out of this internship and were excited to have such an opportunity in Memphis,” Hetherington remembers. “This is a tremendous boost for the department too. In Voices of the South productions the audience now watches University of Memphis theatre alumni and students perform together. There’s no better way to promote our department, and we hope to grow a garden from the seed that has been planted.”



In April, University of Memphis dance students, faculty, and alumni danced “Every Which Way” in two performances that turned out a full house. Pictured are (at left) LaShonda Mayberry in “Debke,” choreographed by Jasmine Shope. (at right) Cassandra Darrough, Dee Dooley, Holly Lau, and Maxine Silverbird in “Sanctuary III,” choreographed by Silverbird.

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AMUM

Collaborative Art Exhibition at AMUM Provides Opportunities for High School and University Students

In February, eight students from Overton High School, one of CCFA's adopted schools, participated in a workshop led by Anne Beffel, a New York-based artist and associate professor of art at Syracuse University. For her latest exhibition, "Sitting Still: Contemplation and Creation," Beffel collaborated with University of Memphis and Syracuse University students. The installation was on display at the Art Museum of the University of Memphis (AMUM) from February 23 through April 12, 2008.

"Sitting Still" encouraged its audience to discover different perspectives through the simple act of sitting still and observing videos of daily scenes, ranging from those that inspire awe to those that compel to participate and intervene.

"The great thing about these videos is that they can be shared with others," Beffel says. "My hope is that one person at a time we will build a more contemplative, connected culture—a peaceful alternative to conflict. This is a contemporary version of pen pals, using technology to share scenes from our lives."

Beffel's work aims to reverse the common chaos of everyday life into a method that "will inspire people to stop, look, listen, and chronicle their worlds as they unfold."

She drew inspiration from a variety of sources, including her interest in the Dalai Lama and Rosa Parks. Although both individuals come from very different environments and positions, they have drawn strength and courage from stillness, which has impacted the world in profound ways.

Beffel will continue with the project and hold a workshop with eight students from Syracuse and Syracuse area high schools, which also involves students from the "Contemplative Arts and Society" class at Syracuse University. The work from Memphis and Syracuse's high school students is scheduled for a spring 2009 exhibition at AMUM. With the help of Pam McLaughlin, curator at the Everson Museum of Art, Beffel plans a similar exhibition at the Everson Museum for summer 2009.

Kendrea Collins, a junior at Overton High School, participated in the U of M workshop and describes her experience:

Together with seven of my classmates I was invited to the University of Memphis for a workshop with artist Anne Beffel. During the all-day event we explored the ideas of stillness, contemplation, and creation. We took a tour of the exhibition at the Art Museum, and Anne shared with us her concept of "contemplation." Later, each of us was given a camera and we set out to capture campus scenes that might have



(Top) A video still from "Sitting Still," shot by Sam Young who is cleaning off her car. (Above) "Red phone booth," a video still from "Sitting Still," shot by Catherine Watson.

seemed ordinary to passersby, but revealed to be fascinating when observed in stillness for five minutes. Everyday objects and scenes that are often overlooked or seen only for what they are, such as a puddle of water or the reflection of a blade of grass, were some of the most interesting pieces filmed. We soon understood that some of the most ordinary scenes turn into something new and fascinating when given the time to unfold naturally. As we watched our work during group discussion, we found ourselves mesmerized by the screen. As we watched videos of a breeze ruffling the leaves of a tree, the sharp rays of sun reflecting in a pool of water distorted by the wind, we were sitting still.

In the spring, AMUM also hosted two student exhibitions. After a winter hiatus, the Museum opened with "The 25th Annual Juried Student Exhibition," featuring work in all media from U of M art students. 93 students entered a total of 160 art works for the exhibition, which was judged by Chakaia Booker, a New York based sculptor best known for her use of recycled rubber tires. Booker selected 89 pieces for the exhibition. Award recipients of "The 25th Annual Juried Student Exhibition" are:

MERIT AWARDS: Christine Garzonio Heiser for “Untitled” (color pencils, chalk); Cathy Reece for “All’s Fare” (mixed media); “McAmerican Idle.mart” (mixed media). **CITATION AWARD:** Thomas A. Elliott for “Building Shadows” (relief sculpture of mild steel, rusted). **ARTLAB AWARD:** Rebecca Higdon for “Life Epiphytic” (ceramic installation). **PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD:** Jason Miller for “Untitled”(pigment ink on photo rag). **UNDERGRADUATE AWARD:** Niki Johnson for “Women on Washington” (graphite on vellum, dollar bills, relief), “First Ladies” (mixed media, silkscreen prints, graphite on vellum pine, paint foam). **GRADUATE PURCHASE AWARD:** Elisha Gold for “Soldier Boy” (military truck parts, silkscreen). **SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD BY JUROR, CHAKAIA BOOKER:** Eric Painter for “So Real and So True (Meteor Metaphor)” (steel), “Family Portrait (Metamorphosis)” (mixed media, steel and oil painting). **BEST OF SHOW AWARD:** Brooke Foy for “When I Was Smaller”(mixed media, sculpture, wood, sawdust, ceramic sink).

The semester closed with “Final Acts: MFA Thesis Exhibition, Tim Kinard and Melissa Rackham.”

Kinard’s work is a figuratively based carnival extravaganza that attempts to relate the daily human experience to the staging and lime-light of a circus. Poised in action and made of Styrofoam and paper, Kinard’s life-size performers realize more than aerial acrobatics and high wire stunts.

Rackham’s photographs are about place. They explore her personal and our collective search for the place “where we belong.” Her images convey her own experience within a location and offer the viewer a sense of mood through unusual compositions, unexpected juxtapositions, and innuendoes.

AMUM will be closed for renovations during the summer and reopen with Margaret Cogswell’s Mississippi River Fugues in September.

Jones Hall Gallery



One of Melissa Farris’ paintings was part of the BFA senior show held at the University of Memphis’ Jones Hall Gallery in April.



The 3rd Annual Art Education Exhibition was held at the University of Memphis’ Jones Hall Gallery in February.

IEAA

The Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology Holds Annual Family Day Event and Two Lectures

In February, the Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology (IEAA) invited families to the University of Memphis to travel back in time for a day and explore the wonders of ancient Egypt during IEAA’s Ancient Egyptian Family Day at the Art Museum (AMUM).

The Family Day is designed to introduce children to the art and culture of ancient Egypt. Kids learned how to write their name in hieroglyphs, draw like an Egyptian, design an ancient Egyptian amulet, color a mask while learning about ancient Egyptian gods, take a special tour of the Egyptian exhibition at the AMUM, and listen to stories from ancient Egypt.

In April, the Institute held two lectures focusing on “Luxor in the Past Two Millennia” and “Preserving Egypt’s Valley of the Kings.”

Nigel Strudwick, assistant keeper at the Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan at the British Museum in London, and visiting professor of art history at the University of Memphis presented the fifth annual Legacy of Egypt lecture “City of One Hundred Gates—Luxor in the Past Two Millennia.” Strudwick took a closer look at Luxor, exploring the effects of the presence of Greeks, Romans, Christians, Muslims, and Europeans on this ancient city.

Edwin C. Brock, an American Egyptologist, focused on one of the most-visited sites in Egypt in his lecture “Protecting the Valley of the Kings.” Since the early 19th century, archaeologists have uncovered 63 tombs in the Valley of the Kings, and today it is in serious danger of being destroyed. After heavy rainstorms, flash floods enter the Valley’s open tombs, washing in lots of debris.

In 2005, the American Research Center in Egypt completed a flood protection prototype, designed to guard the open tombs in the Valley of the Kings from future floods. The project involved excavations to ex-

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Families enjoy the activities at the Ancient Egyptian Family Day at the University of Memphis.

pose the bedrock surrounding the tomb entrances and to remove debris filling an ancient drainage channel on the hillside above the tombs. Numerous artifacts left by the tomb builders, as well as fragments of tomb relief and pieces of the burial equipment from the tombs were discovered during these excavations.

Brock works with the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities at Karnak and Luxor. His most recent projects include the groundwater control initiatives for Karnak and Luxor temples. He is a past director of the Canadian Institute in Egypt and staff archaeologist for the Theban Mapping Project.

The Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology and the Art Museum of the University of Memphis maintain the largest public collection of ancient Egyptian artifacts in the Mid-South. More than 150 objects are on display, representing 4,000 years of ancient Egyptian history. Exhibits include mummies, royal statuary, amulets, jewelry, tomb furnishings, and items from everyday life.

CSD

Donors Provide Innovative and Sustainable Products for TERRA House

Insulation & Thermal Coatings, Inc. is donating the spray foam insulation for the TERRA House (Technologically and Environmentally Responsive Residential Architecture), a project led by the University of Memphis' Center for Sustainable Design (CSD). The next generation of spray polyurethane insulation, used for the house, is made of soy-based materials and recycled plastics to conserve non-renewable resources, providing substantial ecological benefits. The product provides high thermal resistance and an excellent air-barrier without releasing ozone-depleting gasses into the atmosphere.

The TERRA House is being built at the northeast corner of North Main and Greenlaw in Memphis' Uptown neighborhood. Architec-



(From left) Karen Bryant, district sales representative and Tom Powell, vice-president of Insulation & Thermal Coatings, Inc. with Jim Lutz, assistant professor of architecture.

ture and interior design students at the University of Memphis have designed the two-story, 1,565-square-foot home over a two-year period. It will incorporate features drawn from several sustainable building programs to produce an economical reproducible structure. Once finished, the house can be used as a model to educate the public about sustainability.

CSRAC

Annual Conference Explores Relationship of Health and Rhetoric

In March, the Center for the Study of Rhetoric and Applied Communication (CSRAC) held its fourth annual conference, which focused on the relationship of health and rhetoric. One of the University's research centers, CSRAC coordinates interdisciplinary projects and education in the Departments of Communication and English and among different institutions in the Memphis area.

"Effective communication among health care providers and in their interaction with patients is crucial," says Amanda Young, assistant professor of communication at the U of M. "However, these interactions also bear many communication challenges, such as unfamiliar terms, differing interpretations of symptoms, language barriers, cultural beliefs and customs, and differences in education, and socio-economic status, to name just a few."

The role of medical rhetoricians and health communication scholars is to study the strategies individuals and institutions use to navigate these communication challenges. Their work has impacted communication in such areas as preventive care, end-of-life care, pharmaceuticals, chronic pain, risk behaviors, and health and technology.

Conference speakers included: Athena DuPré, professor of communication at the University of West Florida; Judy Segal, professor of English at the University of British Columbia; and Gary Gunderson, senior vice president of Health and Welfare Ministries for Methodist Healthcare.

Remembering Bob McDowell

An outcry went through the local community when, in 1980, the College of Communication and Fine Arts selected Jerry Lee Lewis, one of pop culture's most colorful birds, as recipient of its Distinguished Achievement Award. Bob McDowell, long-time general manager of WUMR, the University of Memphis's radio station, who at the time worked at WDIA Radio, felt it was a great choice. He didn't hesitate to send a letter to the College, praising the decision.

"It was a quirk of fate that we hired Bob two years later, because we needed a general manager for the University's radio station," says John Bakke professor emeritus and former chair of the University's Department of Communication. That was more than 25 years ago, and it is no surprise that the campus community as well as many members of the Memphis community mourned when "Dr. Bob," as he was lovingly known, died this March after a short battle with cancer.

McDowell was a great influence in every aspect of the broadcast industry, not only in Memphis and the surrounding area, but also nationally. He was the backbone of WUMR, "The Jazz Lover," the University's educational radio station where he nurtured a new generation of professionals. He founded the early Memphis Area Radio Stations Association, was program director for WDIA, as well as program director, station and general manager for WRVR before he took the position at the U of M in 1982.

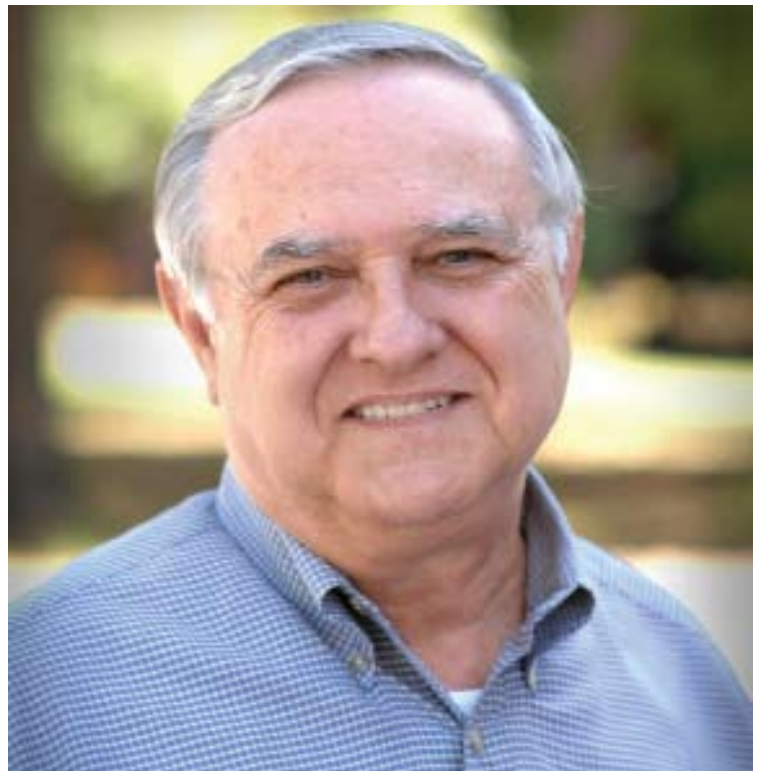
"Many people don't know that before coming to the University, Bob was a rock and roll performer," says Richard Ranta, dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts.

"He also did Barney Fife imitations," says Jerald White, WUMR's broadcast engineer. "He rode a motorcycle, was a pitcher in high school and for the Memphis Men's Senior Baseball League—he was a dynamite ball player."

Through the years Memphians have come to recognize McDowell's signature timbre: For the past 18 years he pronounced the Tennessee Regional Spelling, he was the long-time voice of Memphis CrimeStoppers, as well as the voice for many commercials and public service announcements, such as the Keep Tennessee Beautiful campaign. For thousands of U of M students, graduation wasn't complete until they were called to the stage to receive their diploma by the voice of "Dr. Bob" during commencement ceremonies. McDowell was interim chair of the communication department in 2001/02, as well as its associate chair for more than 10 years, and he never let an opportunity pass to encourage his students or his team at WUMR to pursue education.

"He convinced me to go to school and take classes in broadcast journalism," says Malvin Massey, WUMR's music and public affairs director.

"Bob was a stickler for education," adds Michael Rhodes, the radio station's chief engineer. "He wanted me to continue my education, and the first time he met my wife he encouraged her to go to school to be a teacher—he had a way with people."



The late Bob McDowell, who was lovingly called Dr. Bob by his students and colleagues at the University of Memphis.

"Bob was a very dedicated teacher, and students responded well to him and liked him," says Ranta.

McDowell also worked tirelessly to make the University's radio station what it is today.

"When Bob was hired as general manager, the radio station was hardly more than a training mechanism," says Michael Osborn, professor emeritus and former chair of the Department of Communication.

McDowell's experience with the FCC made him an irreplaceable source of stability within the local media industry and at the University.

"Bob was crucial in getting the station from 200 watts to 25,000 watts, which means it's broadcasting almost all the way to Jackson now," Ranta adds.

"When you talk about Bob McDowell, you talk about a guy who was looking for a job and discovered that the university is the place he ought to be," Bakke says. "Here he had an opportunity to do what he does best, lead a radio station, and discover his eminent passion for passing on his knowledge to the next generation."

A tribute to the late Bob McDowell will be held as the culminating event of this year's WUMR Jazz in June Radiothon. The tribute is on June 29, 2008 from 6 to 10 p.m. at Owen Brennan's, 6150 Poplar 901.761.0990. Proceeds from the event, which features renowned jazz saxophonist Bill Easley and a line-up of popular Memphis jazz musicians, will help establish a fund at the University of Memphis in McDowell's memory and to support WUMR. Advance tickets for the event can be purchased at Davis Kidd Booksellers, 387 Perkins Ext. 901.683.9801. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

If you are unable to attend the tribute, but wish to make a memorial donation, please make your check payable to the University of Memphis Foundation, and mail to Patty Bladon, Development Director, CFA Building 232, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN 38152.



Why They Give

Almost everyone is familiar with the phrase “give back.” University of Memphis alumni like businessman Mickey Robinson (Class of ’68) do just that—give back to their alma mater in valuable ways that answer a variety of needs. In Robinson’s case, his generous gifts support students whose needs are often similar to his own collegiate experience.

He says, “I give because other people gave to me when I needed help. I am proud to be a graduate of the University of Memphis. My dear mother had to stop attending (then) West Tennessee State Teachers College when her uncle, and guardian, died suddenly, leaving the family without an income.” The scholarships that Robinson has established in his parents’ memory are awarded annually to 12 students from across the College of Communication and Fine Arts. This alumnus’ generosity is an invaluable model for these students in the future.

After 20 years of outstanding teaching and career guidance of thousands of students, alumna Elinor Kelley Grusin (Class of ’62) retired from the U of M journalism faculty this spring. Grusin’s devotion to learning is attested by financial gifts in her honor from students and colleagues that will combine with monies raised by the Journalism Alumni Club to create an endowed fund for the support of journalism programs.

“It is so important to give to the University of Memphis because it is a wonderfully diverse school: culturally, racially, ethnically. It is a microcosm of the world in which we live,” Grusin says. “I can’t think of a better place to teach or learn than this great urban University, which is so dedicated to solving real problems and to making life better—one student at a time.”

Like Grusin and Robinson, award-winning architect Frank Ricks (Class of ’77) has helped create a permanent legacy through an endowed scholarship that bears the name of his Memphis firm, Looney . Ricks . Kiss. He has also given freely of his professional talents as a visiting lecturer and mentor, and his firm provides internships to aspiring architects and designers from the University. A tireless spokesman for and about quality learning at the U of M and quality of life in Memphis, Ricks says, “the University and City together need to make Memphis a place where students will want to live after graduation; creation of ‘place’ must become a value held by the University, but it cannot do this alone. Alumni and business leaders must help. This is why I give—both time and money.”

Many of the ground-breaking documentaries of journalists like Tom Brokaw and Peter Jennings have been a part of the remarkable career of eminent filmmaker Craig Leake (Class of ’66). Leake returned to the U of M in 2004 to become a member of the communication department’s sterling group of filmmakers. He now gives back—with knowledge and experience, and his personal financial giving lends credence to his leadership in the annual faculty and staff giving campaign. In a letter to his CCFA colleagues he described the importance of contributing to the University:

This level of commitment is a very telling sign to our peers, prospective students and companies and foundations considering our grant applications. There is no better indication of our commitment to the University than our willingness to send money.

The College of Communication and Fine Arts boasts a distinguished faculty, talented students and stellar achievements in the creative and performing arts and in scholarly research. Faculty, staff and students are building a tradition of educational excellence at the University of Memphis. Retired faculty members and long-time donors professors Michael and Suzanne Osborn give back to the University because “we want to help build its greatness. As a public university, it opens its doors wide, especially to the people of this community, and helps validate their dreams and the American dream.”

The Osborns along with many others are also building a tradition of giving at the U of M. Please join them by making your gift to the College or to one of its departments or funds. We are happy to help you build your own legacy to benefit the University of Memphis and its students.

Patty Bladon
Director of Development
901.678.4372
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Faculty News

ARCHITECTURE

During its annual "Celebration of Architecture" in April, the Memphis chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) honored **Jim Lutz**, assistant professor of architecture at the University of Memphis, with the 2008 Francis Gassner Award.

Lutz was recognized for his help in establishing the Memphis Regional Design Center, and for his work in promoting sustainable design.

Michael Hagge, associate professor of architecture received the 2007/08 Excellence in Honors Teaching Award.

Michael Hagge, Sherry Bryan, both associate professors of architecture, and **Jim Lutz**, assistant professor of architecture, participated in the 2008 VP Hall of Fame Design Competition along with students enrolled in the "Parameters in Architecture Studio." Participating students were Jaclyn Affatato, Kate Bidwell, Ryan Dobbs, Jeffrey Johnson, Kelly May, Colby Mitchell, and Will Sealock.

The Memphis chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) honored Architecture faculty member **Tim Michael** with an award of merit for the Woodard residence on behalf of Archimania.

David Pohl, associate professor of interior design, has received a substantial grant from the Tennessee State Board of Examiners for Architects and Engineers, for exhibition lighting for the corridor on the third floor of Jones Hall.

As part of his interests in historical preservation and adaptive re-use, **Randle Witherington**, associate professor of interior design, wrote a paper entitled: "Caraway Place: Circa 1852—Evolution of a House and A Family." The paper has become the subject of an exhibition that will be held at Memphis Heritage in September.

Witherington and **Chere Doiron**, assistant professor of interior design are revising the interior design curriculum of the MFA program to address the critical need for interior design educators nationally and internationally. The focus of the revised curriculum will involve interdisciplinary collaboration with the College of Education, educational models at other universities, as well as the higher education task force through the Interior Design Educator's Council (IDEC).

ART

Mariam Ayad, assistant professor of art history and assistant director of the Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology, organized the international symposium "Coptic Culture: Past, Present, and Future," which was held in May in Stevenage, England.

Lucas Charles and **Gary Golightly**, associate professors for graphic design, won several awards in this year's Ten Show—the best design in Tennessee. It was the second year that University of Memphis graphic design faculty and students entered in the competition. Charles took home a gold and silver award and several merit awards for Web site and poster designs. Golightly received a merit award for "The Everyday Parade" poster.

Lucas Charles also won a silver award at the 2008 Memphis Advertising Federation's Addys for a Ballet Memphis campaign, which he created together with Michael Carpenter.

Carol Crown, professor of art history, is the recipient of the 2008 College of Communication and Fine Arts Outstanding Research Award. Crown received the award for her expertise and research in the field of contemporary, self-taught Southern art. She has become a nationally recognized scholar in this area of art historical study, and most recently was invited by the editors of The Oxford Handbook of Reception History of the Bible to contribute a chapter entitled "Artists, the Bible and the American South."

Ernestine Jenkins, associate professor of art history, published *A Kingly Craft: Art and Leadership in Ethiopia*. Lanham: University Press of America, 2008.

Richard Lou, professor of art and chair of the Department of Art, was one of the participants in "Common Ground: Conversations on Race. Communities in Action," a six week series of in-depth discussions on race relations at Lindenwood Christian Church in Memphis. Lou has also been elected to the national board of the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture (NALAC). Lou presented at NALAC's regional conference "Creative Responders—Latino Art in Action: Re-Affirming and Transforming the Future," at the University of Georgia in April. Additionally, Lou had some of his work selected for the exhibition "Arte ≠ Vida: Actions by Artists of the Americas, 1960-2000" at El Museo Del Barrio in New York.

Greely Myatt, professor of art and associate chair of the Department of Art, had one of his works commissioned for "Interactions/Interruptions," a public art exhibition celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Memphis UrbanArt Commission (UAC). Myatt's "Cloudy Thoughts" was on display at a billboard on the northwest corner of Madison and Belvedere in Midtown. Myatt also had seven pieces in the Dixon Gallery and Garden's "Memphis Flower Show: M3D On the Edge," which was on view in May.

Briarcrest Christian School named the **Melody Weintraub** Drama Award in honor of its former art teacher Melody Weintraub, who taught art education at the University of Memphis during a one-year appointment in 2007/08. During her seven-year tenure at Briarcrest, Weintraub taught middle school art and initiated a middle school drama program. The Melody Weintraub Drama Award will be given to two middle school student who show outstanding leadership in the drama program.

CMA

Juliane Richter joined the Center for Multimedia Arts as art director in the spring. Richter has worked for the CMA on a series of temporary contracts and projects, most notably St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and The Urban Child Institute.

Michael Schmidt, associate professor of art and director of the Center for Multimedia Arts at the FedEx Institute of Technology, received the Alumni Associations 2008 Excellence in Engaged Scholarship Award.

Eric Wilson, multimedia producer at the Center for Multimedia Arts (CMA), recently created a new public service announcement (PSA) for Memphis and Shelby County's Operation: Safe Community (OSC), the anti-crime initiative of Memphis Fast Forward. The most recent spot, produced in cooperation with executive producer Howard Robertson of Trust Marketing and Dan Conaway focuses on the efforts of Memphis Police Department's (MPD) Blue C.R.U.S.H. initiative.

COMMUNICATION

Allison Graham, professor of communication, led an honors spring break study tour of Peru, together with **Jane Henrici**, at the time assistant professor of Anthropology at the University of Memphis. Thirteen undergrad and graduate students toured through Peru for nine days and performed service work in a non-profit school for poor children in the Andes. The focus of the course/tour was Fair Trade, Eco-Tourism, and social justice.

Craig Leake, assistant professor of film, won two Emmys for his documentary about teachers at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The award was presented at the 22nd annual Mid-South Emmy Awards in Nashville in January. "The Chemo Ate My Homework" won awards in the categories of best documentary/topical and best director/non-news. The University of Memphis was the only university to win in two categories.

During the past year, **Steven Ross**, professor of film, has accepted invitations to present his film "Winslow Homer: Society & Solitude" at a number of well-known museums around the country. The film also played at The University Film and Video Association National Conference, where it received the award for artistic achievement. Ross was invited to present the film at its European premiere in May at the Dulwich Picture Gallery, the oldest public art gallery in London. American Public Television will offer the film for broadcast to public television stations around the country in September.

JOURNALISM

Elinor Grusin, professor of journalism, was named "Journalism Teacher of the Year" by the Scripps Howard Foundation and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC).

Joe Hayden, assistant professor of journalism, received the 2008 Thomas W. Briggs Foundation's "Excellence in Teaching" award.

Marcus Matthews is the new coordinator of *The Teen Appeal*, a city-wide high school newspaper produced in the Department of Journalism by Memphis City School students, and supported by the Scripps Howard Foundation and *The Commercial Appeal*.

Jin Yang, assistant professor of journalism, attended the Southern States Communication Association (SSCA) annual conference in Savannah, Georgia in April. Yang presented a paper entitled "The Role of New Media Tools in Young Adults' Engagement" in the conference's Popular Communication Division.

MUSIC

Lily Afshar, professor of classical guitar, received the 2008 Alumni Association Distinguished Teaching Award. During the spring, Afshar performed concerts and taught master classes at the Fajr Music Festival and the Sorayesh Music Academy in Tehran; the Sundin Music Hall at Hamline University in St. Paul, the University of St. Thomas, and Crossings at Carnegie in Zumbrota, Minnesota. She also performed and taught at the Ethical Society and Washington University in St. Louis, the Virtuoso Series at the University of Utah, Pomona College, St. Luke's Episcopal Church and Chapman University in California, as well as the Skokie Public Library in Illinois.

Faculty, Staff, Students & Alumni

Leonardo Altino, assistant professor of music, performed in solo and chamber recitals in South Korea, Brazil, and the U.S. Altino also gave master classes at the Hanyang and the Dongduk Universities in Seoul, and most recently at the College of Charleston, where he performed with Anita Vamos and Monique Duphil at the Charleston Music Festival.

The **Ceruti String Quartet**, a faculty ensemble-in-residence at the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music has had a busy year, performing recitals at the Memphis Chamber Music Society and the Fine Arts Center in Greenville, South Carolina. The group was also invited to perform at the National Assembly of South Korea, a performance that received an enthusiastic welcome. In February, the Quartet performed at the Goethe Institute in New York City. To finish an exciting academic year, the ensemble recorded a CD in May, composed of two pieces from this year's repertoire—the "String Quartets" by Debussy and Brahms.

Members of the Ceruti String Quartet are **Soh-Hyun Park Altino** (violin), **Timothy Shiu** (violin), **Lenny Schranze** (viola), and **Leonardo Altino** (cello).

Jack Cooper, associate professor of jazz, was the invited guest conductor of the All Middle Tennessee Senior High Honor Jazz Ensemble, held in Murfreesboro in January. He performed with the Overton High School Jazz Ensemble as featured guest artist during the school's "Cool Breeze of Jazz" concert in February. Cooper was also invited as guest lecturer and artist at the University of South Florida (USF). He conducted the USF Jazz Ensemble in a concert of his music and was a guest lecturer for master classes in jazz composition. Cooper was a featured performer and composer at the Tennessee Music Educators Conference in Nashville in April and the North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference at the University of South Carolina School of Music. He served as an invited adjudicator at the Reno Jazz Festival, the El Cajon, Riverside City College, and the Hilltop Jazz Festivals in California.

David Evans, professor of music, spoke in Chicago on "The Limitations of Diaspora: The Case of African-American Music in the Southern United States," at the Center for Black Music Research's 25th Anniversary Conference.

Nicholas Holland, assistant professor of music and associate director of bands, presented a paper entitled "Noise Doses in a University Marching Band" at the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) Southern Division Conference in February.

Susan Owen-Leinert, assistant professor of voice and general manager of the Chamber Opera of Memphis, performed the Opera's production of Peter Maxwell Davies "The Medium" at the Hamburger Kammeroper and the Robert Schumann Hochschule in Düsseldorf, in the spring. The demanding 50-minute solo, produced and directed by Owen-Leinert's husband Michael Leinert, the Opera's artistic and stage director, premiered at the University of Memphis in October 2007. The Chamber Opera's next production, Bent Lorentzen's "Pergolesi's Home Service"—a contemporary "La serva padrona," will premier at the U of M on October 16, 2008.

John Peterson, professor of organ, is the recipient of the 2008 College of Communication and Fine Arts Creative Achievement Award for faculty. Peterson is

a consummate musician on organ and piano, a passionate teacher of music theory and history, as well as a scholar and composer. Peterson retired from his full-time teaching position at the University of Memphis at the end of the spring semester.

Lenny Schranze, associate professor of music, presented a viola recital at Charleston's Piccolo Spoleto Festival, and performed with renowned Bassist, J. B. Vandemark and members of the Kandinsky Trio in Roanoke, Virginia. He was featured on the opening performance of a new chamber music series in Denver, Colorado, and was director of strings at the Interlochen Center for the Arts summer program. His CD of music for viola and piano with Johannes Brahms, with fellow faculty member **John Peterson** has just been released on the Centaur label.

David Russel Williams, professor emeritus and former chair of the Music Department, recently published "Music Theory from Boethius to Zarlino: A Bibliography and Guide," together with Matthew Balensuela.

THEATRE & DANCE

Reginald Brown, assistant professor of theatre, will perform his solo piece "Performing Richard Wright" as a part of the Richard Wright Conference at the American University in Paris, France. Brown also initiated and coordinates the Richard Wright Centennial Conference, scheduled at the University of Memphis October 2-3, 2008. The keynote speaker for the U of M conference is Wright's daughter Julia Wright.

Stephen Hancock, associate professor of theatre, received the 2008 Alumni Association Distinguished Research Award in the creative arts. He was also named one of the "Outstanding Teaching Artists" for playwriting in region IV, by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

Anita Jo Lenhart, associate professor of theatre, will perform in "Into The Woods" at Roanoke's Mill Mountain Theatre in Virginia this summer. She will be "skipping and quipping" through the woods as Cinderella's stepmother. Mill Mountain is a professional theatre in the Shenandoah Valley.

Rick Mayfield, assistant technical director in the Department of Theatre & Dance, published "Open Source Software for Technical Theatre," in the spring 2008 edition of *Southern Theatre*. This article, along with "Build an Air Brake System To Lock Movable Scenery," was also published in the Southeastern Theatre Conference's field guide *Outside the Box: 25 Design-Tech Strategies to Save You Time and Money*.

Student News

ARCHITECTURE

Graduating architecture student **Jeffrey Johnson**, was awarded the Alpha Rho Chi bronze medal for his scholarship and leadership. **Alzbeta Bowden** received the Architecture Research Centers Consortium Jonathan King Medal for her outstanding research projects. Both Johnson and Bowden, along with Francis Mah award's recipient **Linda Šuhajdová**, graduated summa cum laude with university honors and honors thesis in May.

Students in the architecture senior thesis class taught by Tim Michael had the opportunity to enter several competitions. **Seleena Park** and **Linda**

Šuhajdová (team) entered work in the Social Housing Competition sponsored by the Bauhaus-Dessau Foundation; **Alzbeta Bowden**, **Ashley Cox**, **Heather Kelsey**, and **Philip Jaynes** (individual) submitted work to the Temporary Outdoor Gallery Space sponsored by the Art Alliance Austin; **Jeffrey Johnson** entered work in Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial Design Competition; and **OB Harris** entered work in Concrete Thinking for a Sustainable World: Concrete Building Element Competition sponsored by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA).

ART

Several graphic design students won awards in this year's Ten Show—the best design in Tennessee. Student awards went to **Mauricio Olivera** (gold award), **Isaac Roethe** (silver award), **Chris Walker**, **Katie Sinclair**, and **Cathy Reece** (bronze award). Merit awards went to **Cody Maple**, **Willis Porter**, **Cathy Reece**, **Katie Sinclair**, **Megan Price**, **Wade Kimble II**, **Matthew Donaldson**, **Markelo Foster**, and **Amber Iacopelli**.

Graphic Design students also won several awards at the 2008 Memphis Advertising Federation's Addys. **Isaac Roethe**, **Willis Porter**, and **Cody Maple** are the students who received a gold award; the latter two also received a silver award together with **Martina Y. Igberaese**, and **Kevin Woods**.

Allison Bukeavich, a graduate student in art history, received the 2008 College of Communication and Fine Arts Academic Achievement Award for students.

Graphic design student **Justin Burns** won first place in the college division of NASA's "Life and Work on the Moon" art contest. Burns piece "Traffic Jam" was rated for creativity and originality, artistic elements, and validity for lunar environment. He originally designed "Traffic Jam" as an assignment in Gary Golightly's Image Design class last fall.

Margaret "Maggie" Norville, who graduated with a degree in art history in May, received the 2008 Art History Undergraduate Award, for her outstanding work.

Alanya Smith, an art major, has been accepted to the Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training (MHIRT) program in Brazil. Smith will spend the summer in Brazil to provide art therapy to the local community.

Meghan Strong, a graduate student in art history, received the 2008 Art History Graduate Research Award, for her outstanding initiative and research.

Clare Torina, a studio art major, was accepted into Yale Norfolk, the Yale summer school of music and art. Earlier this year, Torina showed her work in the exhibition "Brooks Introduces: Clare Torina," at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art.

COMMUNICATION

Meredith Hausauer, **Mark King**, **Brittany Fisher**, **Joey Thorsen**, **Jason Weter**, **Ellis Fowler**, **Brian Wurzburg**, **Ron Carney** and **Den Johnson**, film and video production students in the Department of Communication, worked as production assistants on the Beale Street set of *Soul Men*, a Hollywood movie starring Bernie Mac and Samuel L. Jackson, scheduled to hit theatres nationwide in October.

Shirley Oakley, doctoral student in the Department of Communication, was awarded a study abroad scholarship by the University's Center for International Programs and Services. Oakley will use the scholarship to defray the costs of her dissertation research in Argentina this summer.

Chris Oldenburg, a graduate student in the Department of Communication, won the Owen J. Peterson Award for the top graduate student paper in rhetoric and public address at the Southern States Communication Association (SSCA) conference in Savannah, Georgia in April. The title of Oldenburg's winning paper is "The Use of Anecdote and Synecdoche as Probative and Ethical Arguments in the Presidential Debate Rhetoric of George W. Bush and Al Gore."

JOURNALISM

The staff of *The Daily Helmsman*, independent student newspaper at the University of Memphis, broke a U of M record by winning in seven out of 10 categories in the Southeast Journalism Conference (SEJC). Among the awards won by the *Helmsman* staff was the competition's most prestigious award, College Journalist of the Year, which went to **Trey Heath**, former *Helmsman* editor-in-chief. Heath also ranked third in editorial writing. He graduated in December 2007 and now is a staff reporter for *The Memphis Business Journal*. Three other writers also won individual recognition. **Nevin Batiwalla**, *Helmsman* editor-in-chief, ranked second in feature writing; **Travis Griggs**, *Helmsman* managing editor, ranked fifth in the news category; and former staff reporter **Tim Miller** ranked fourth in sports writing. *The Daily Helmsman* won first place in the public service category for a special issue detailing school fees that ran in the fall of 2007. The newspaper also placed ninth in the "overall newspaper" category.

Brandi Hunter, a broadcast journalism graduate student was one of 12 top minority broadcast students selected from colleges across the country for the 2nd Annual Meredith-Cronkite Minority Fellowship, held in Phoenix, Arizona in January. Hunter, a Memphis native, graduated with an M.A. in journalism in May. She also received her B.A. in broadcast journalism from the University of Memphis.

Shunitra Ingram (Trezevant High School) and **Branden Asemah** (Middle College High School) staff members of *The Teen Appeal* won the "Al Neuharth Free Spirit Award" for the state of Tennessee. *Teen Appeal* students have won six of the eight awards given in Tennessee over the past four years.

Additionally, three Scripps Howard *Teen Appeal* scholars will attend the University of Memphis in the fall. **Erica Horton** (White Station High School), and **Shunitra Ingram**, who additionally to receiving the Al Neuharth Free Spirit Award is a Judith G. Clabes Outstanding Journalist Award recipient, will major in journalism. **Jodie Johnson** (Carver High School) will major in education with a minor in journalism.

Advertising students in the Department of Journalism won second place at the recent 2008 7th District National Student Advertising Competition (NSAC) sponsored by the American Advertising Federation. Students included **Malorie Bridget**, **Richard Collins**, **Terita Hudson**, **Jesse Jacks**, **Jay Kalkbrenner**, **Michael Knight**, **Jen Lee**, **Amanda Lott**, **Jerad McFarlin**, **Megan Morris**, **Ben Nicol**, **Zach Ryles**, and **Wendy Walker**. The annual competition, held this year in Chattanooga, was sponsored by America Online (AOL). The Memphis team placed behind Louisiana State University (LSU), but beat the University of Alabama and Loyola University New Orleans. Sandra Utt, associate professor of journalism was the U of M team's adviser.

MUSIC

Molly Anderson, a music education major with a vocal emphasis, received the 2008 College of Communication and Fine Arts Academic Achievement Award for students. She will return to the U of M in the fall for her graduate studies in music performance.

BlueT.O.M. Records released its second compilation album *Volume II: School's In Session* in April. BlueT.O.M. (Tigers of Memphis) Records is the University of Memphis' first official, independent student-run record label, operated and maintained by the record company operations class of the music industry program at the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music.

Volume II: School's In Session is available via Internet distribution and at BlueT.O.M.'s exclusive retailer Spin Street Music in Memphis.

Kofi Martin, a senior in music performance, was one of six students selected for the Washington Center Internship for the spring 2008 semester from the University of Memphis. Martin, originally from Jonesboro, Arkansas was accepted for the Center's advocacy, service, and arts program with the National Endowment for the Arts. During his time in Washington, Martin was selected from among 300 interns to write a Blog about his daily activities in Washington. Through an NEA recommendation, Martin received a summer fellowship with the Arts & Business Council of New York. The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars is an educational, nonprofit organization serving hundreds of colleges and universities in the U.S. and other countries by providing opportunities for students to work and earn academic credit in our nation's capital. The program has more than 35,000 alumni, many of whom are now leaders in their professions and in civic affairs in their home countries.

Suzanne McPherson, a graduate student in music education, received the Scheidt Music School's 2008 Music Education Achievement Award for graduate students.

Allen Moody, a music education major, received the Scheidt Music School's 2008 Music Education Achievement Award for undergraduate students.

Sharon Oh, a senior in music performance, received the Scheidt Music School's 2008 Presser Scholarship Award.

THEATRE & DANCE

Anne Marie Gideon, a theatre performance major, was awarded a study abroad scholarship by the University's Center for International Programs and Services. Gideon will use the scholarship to defray the costs of her studies in Arezzo, Italy in the fall.

Joshua Sellers, a theatre performance major, was awarded a study abroad scholarship by the University's Center for International Programs and Services. Sellers will use the scholarship for his studies in Ghana in the fall.

Alumni News

COMMUNICATION

Eric Yang, 2003 graduate in communication and part-time instructor of film and video at the University of Memphis, received the 2007 Director's Guild of America (DGA) student award for his MFA thesis film "The State of Sunshine." Yang received his MFA from the Florida State University Film School. The DGA award honors minority and women student filmmak-

ers. He also won the 35th Annual Student Academy Awards in Region II in the narrative category. Yang will now go on to compete for the Academy Award nationally.

JOURNALISM

The University of Memphis Alumni Association bestowed its highest honors at the Distinguished Alumni Awards gala in February, honoring, among others, journalism alumna **Johanna Edwards** with the Outstanding Young Alumna award. At the age of 25, Edwards signed a six-figure book deal. In the five years since then she has become the best-selling author of the novels *The Next Big Thing*, *Your Big Break* and *How to be Cool*, which belong to the hugely popular genre known as "chick lit." She is an award-winning journalist whose work has been featured in such publications as *USA Today*, *Us Weekly* and *The Boston Globe*.

Tiger fever was at an all-time high when the University of Memphis **Journalism Alumni Club** held its annual Mentorship Mixer at the Alumni Center in March.

More than 50 students, mentors, journalism alumni, faculty and administrators attended the event to bid farewell to faculty members **Jim Redmond** and **Elinor Grusin**, who retired from the Department of Journalism at the end of the spring semester.

For 2008/09, the Journalism Club's mentoring program pairs 18 professionals with students in concentrations that include public relations, news editorial, advertising and broadcast. The program is now in its fourth year.

Alumni currently serving as mentors include: **Beena White** with Thumbprint Creative; **Chris Sheffield** of *The Memphis Business Journal*; **David Williams** with Leadership Memphis; Memphis City School's **Debbie Baker**; **Holly Thompson** and **Tara Milligan** of ALSAC St. Jude; **Jacinthia Jones**, **Jason Terrell**, **Paul Jewell**, **Eric Janssen**, and **James Overstreet** of *The Commercial Appeal*; **Kini Plumlee** with LeBonheur Children's Hospital, **Lynne Rooker** with Chandler Ehrlich; **Mark Heuberger** with the City of Collierville; **Mark Thompson** of TV II Productions; **Bert Kelly** with Medtronic; **Ginger Morgan** of the Memphis Humane Society; and **John Koski** with Fox 13 Memphis.

MUSIC

The University of Memphis **Band Alumni Chapter** will host its annual high school marching band contest on Saturday, October 18, 2008. Known as The Bandmasters Championship, the competition will be held at Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium, which is also the home of the University of Memphis Tigers football team. Proceeds from the event will benefit scholarships for the University of Memphis Band, the Mighty Sound of the South. Contact Greg Nelson at gregnelson1@aol.com for more information.



Image created for The Urban Child Institute by the Center for Multimedia Arts at the University of Memphis.

CMA Procudes PSA to Create Awareness for Infant Mortality in Memphis

As the Center for Multimedia Arts (CMA) continues its involvement with The Urban Child Institute (TUCI), a local non-profit organization that focuses on children and the improvement of their well-being, it is now producing a public service announcement that is aimed at creating awareness for aspects of infant mortality in Memphis.

Memphis has repeatedly been ranked with the highest infant mortality rate among the 60 largest cities in the U.S. More babies die in some parts of Memphis than in certain Third World countries. Although premature birth and low birth weight still rank among the top reasons for infant deaths, the statistics also include babies born to mothers who don't know about sudden infant death syndrome, good nutrition, regular check-ups, or who don't have the means to seek proper care. Black women in Memphis are almost three times more likely to lose babies before their infant's first birthday than white women,

and educating those women, who often come from low-income backgrounds, has become a priority. "There are resources available for expecting women from low-income backgrounds, but for various reasons, those resources often don't reach them," says Michael Schmidt, director of the CMA. "What we are trying to do in our television spots for The Urban Child Institute, is to get the message out about what's available, and how using those resources can make a difference for the mother and the child."

In 2006, alarmed by continuously being ranked 48th in the nation for its infant mortality rate, the state of Tennessee launched "1 For All," an infant mortality initiative that targets several aspects of the problem. In Shelby County, this initiative is supported by the Health Policy Division on Infant Mortality in partnership with TUCI.

"Many campaigns that focus on infant mortality tend to highlight only the tragic facts," says Juliane Richter, art director and project coordinator at the CMA. "Undoubtedly, infant mortality is a huge problem in Memphis, but there's more to it than just bad news, and we want to show the good news in our PSA. The community is addressing the problem, and there are success stories."

The public service announcement is just one of the collaborative projects between the CMA and TUCI. The Center's design team is continuing its work on an exhibit at the Institute that addresses the needs of children from conception to age three.

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