

ccfa

SUMMER 2009

# VOICES

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

Harold and Elizabeth Robinson are Remembered Through Prestigious Scholarship

KEITH KENNEDY'S LEGACY LIVES ON IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE

AMUM FOCUSES ON ARCHITECT PAUL R. WILLIAMS IN MULTIFACETED PROJECT



# ccfa VOICES

SUMMER 2009



## A Message from the Dean

During these tough economic times, it is easy to complain about the budget cuts, loss of positions and decreases in the investments on endowment funds, but this issue of CCFA Voices instead focuses on some wonderful successes, many of which are made possible by loyal and giving friends of the College of Communication and Fine Arts. Our cover story includes profiles of several CCFA students. With backgrounds and interests in different creative or scholarly pursuits, these students are united by the generosity of Mickey Robinson and Catherine Ladnier, who established and continue to fund the Elizabeth and Harold Robinson Scholars and Fellows Fund, named in memory of Robinson's parents Harold and Elizabeth. Each year the

Robinson Fund helps a dozen students complete not only their education, but also their dreams as the stories of six Robinson Scholars and Fellows will tell you.

Other supporters have stepped forward to honor and remember one of their friends or teachers, such as with the recently established Keith Kennedy Endowment, which will help students in the Department of Theatre & Dance. Working under the leadership of fund-raising committee co-chairs, Mike Osborn and John Bakke, this committee, with almost 100 donors, has established the Kennedy endowment, that will keep the memory of the University's first Director of Theatre alive, and also provide much needed help for theatre and dance students.

Bill Eubanks started a scholarship fund to support interior design students and honor a late friend. He also began an endowment to provide a yearly lecture by a nationally or internationally recognized interior design professional. Eubanks' double gift is all the more important because the University no longer provides academic lecture funds that for years have allowed us to host additional non-faculty artists, performers, designers, and scholars that are so vital to our College.

Among our points of pride are the recent reaccreditation of the Department of Art. Under the leadership of Fred Albertson as interim chair, and then Richard Lou as chair, the art department met all the criteria for reaccreditation by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. The Departments of Architecture and Journalism have been successful in securing "Strengthening Communities" grants that will aid not only the departments, but also several neighborhoods in Memphis and the city of Millington. The Art Museum of the University of Memphis (AMUM) has also had excellent success, including a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for the 2010 exhibition on the architecture of Paul R. Williams.

Other stories in this magazine will tell of our faculty and staff's successes. Among those are Pu-Qi Jiang, Steven Ross, and Greely Myatt. Jiang, professor of orchestral studies in the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music and maestro of the University of Memphis Symphony Orchestra, received the 2009 University of Memphis Faudree Professorship. Ross, professor of film and video production in the Department of Communication, received the 2009 Benjamin Rawlins, Jr. Meritorious Professorship, and Myatt, professor of art and associate chair of the Department of Art, will have his sculptures literally exhibited all over the city this fall, to commemorate his work of the past 20 years.

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Larry McPherson, Guggenheim Prize winning photography professor who retired this spring, but who will continue to produce amazing photography. Given the dire economy, his position will not be filled. We also had to bid farewell to Bob Levey, who returned to Washington this summer after a three-year commitment as Hardin Chair of Excellence in the Department of Journalism. As always we like to highlight our outstanding students, including Tesfa Alexander, doctoral student in communication and recently appointed intern at the National Cancer Institute, as well as Clare Torina and Stephen Almond, CCFA painting and photography students and a young artist couple on the rise.

Some of these stories you will find as you flip through the printed version of this magazine; others will be available only online, as we too, make every effort to save costs while still providing you with the best of CCFA.

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

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**MEMPHIS**

**Dreamers. Thinkers. Doers.**



In January, the Fred Mertz Association, the student organization of the Department of Theatre & Dance, together with the Japanese Culture Club, Anime 101, and the University of Memphis Student Event Allocation Committee, brought the Japanese Noh Theatre to the University of Memphis for a performance of Haoroma by Yasuhiro Urata. More than 600 people attended the performance in the Michael D. Rose Theatre and witnessed the first Noh Theatre performance in Memphis. Photo by Veronica Birmingham.

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Harold and Elizabeth Robinson in 1977 at the time of their 50th wedding anniversary. Photo courtesy of the Robinson family.

## Mickey Robinson and Catherine Ladnier Help CCFA Students Achieve College Degree

When J. Michael “Mickey” Robinson and his wife Catharine Ladnier established the Elizabeth and Harold Robinson Scholars and Fellows Fund at the University of Memphis in 1998, they did so for more than one reason. “I wanted to honor my parents, repay the people and organizations that have helped me during my time at the University of Memphis, and make it possible for remarkable students to focus on their studies without having to worry about the necessity of outside employment,” Robinson says.

Robinson’s father, Harold M. Robinson, Sr. was born and raised in Greenfield, Tennessee. He quit high school, venturing off to Detroit to try factory work. “I think he got homesick and returned to Greenfield where his father had a small store before eventually moving to Memphis,” Robinson recalls.

His mother, Elizabeth Horton Robinson, orphaned at age 11, attended West Tennessee State Normal School (now the University of Memphis) for two years in 1924 and 1925, but had to quit for financial reasons. A mutual friend introduced the two in Memphis. Harold and Elizabeth were married on November 23, 1927 at Speedway Baptist Church and celebrated their honeymoon at the Claridge Hotel, at the

time, downtown Memphis’ premier hotel and major center of social and business activity.

When Robinson attended Memphis State University in the 1960s, he received small scholarships, but had to work during most of his time in college. Although he graduated with a BBA in marketing, and later an MBA from Harvard University, Robinson chose to establish scholarships in the College of Education, to honor his mother, who wanted to be a teacher, and the College of Communication and Fine Arts (CCFA).

“We were very impressed with the programs in CCFA under Dean Ranta’s leadership,” Robinson remembers. “We could see that the programs were successful and that gave us confidence that the funds would be well applied.”

“Mickey and Catherine are genuine philanthropists—in the true sense of the word,” says Patty Bladon, CCFA’s director of development. “They see a need and go about fulfilling that need through their own means, without regard for recognition, but with much concern for the welfare of those to whom they offer support.”

Since the Robinsons established the scholarship in 1998, 52 undergraduate and graduate students have benefited from the couples’ generosity. Among them are Christopher “Robin” Nichols, undergraduate art major with a focus in painting; Katarzyna “Kasia” Życińska, graduate student in architecture; Mikah Meyer, recent Bachelor of Music graduate with a focus in voice performance; Clarissa Dunbar, incoming freshman in journalism; Joshua Teal, undergraduate theatre performance major; and Kimberley Johnson, doctoral student in communication. The competition for the scholarship, which carries enough money to pay for approximately half of an undergraduate student’s in-state tuition, is intense. However, the selection process is just as challenging. Students are selected each spring by a committee consisting of Richard Ranta, Dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts, Robinson himself, his niece Beth Mitchell, and her husband Chuck, both of whom graduated from the College of Communication and Fine Arts with a BFA in graphic design.

Although students apply for the scholarship for various reasons, they are united in talent and dedication to academic excellence.

“The Robinson scholarship is a very unusual scholarship in that it is not tied to a specific discipline nor is it exclusively tied to academic achievement,” says Dean Ranta.

Although the scholarship requires students to maintain a certain GPA, it was set up with the intention to provide support to students who complete their academic requirements and excel in their major.

“When discussing the scholarship initially, we wanted to make sure that it provided funds for CCFA students who are talented in their chosen field of study and that we could award the money depending on need, talent, and academic achievement,” Ranta remembers. Originally only available to students in the fine and performing arts, the scholarship has now been expanded to include the College’s communication disciplines.

Robinson’s feelings for his hometown and the University of Memphis are profound. “I received a fine education and grew as a person,” Robinson says about his experience at the University. “I was prepared to excel in my military service, reaching the rank of Lieutenant in the

United States Coast Guard, to earn my MBA from Harvard and, subsequently, did well in my business career.” What’s more is that attending the University of Memphis seems like a Robinson family tradition. Both of Robinson’s brothers attended, several of his nieces and nephews graduated from the U of M, as did various cousins. “In fact, there was probably a member of my family there from West Tennessee State Normal School on,” Robinson says.

Although Elizabeth Horton Robinson never had the opportunity to teach, her son has helped many young students to achieve their dream of a college degree.

“It is a pleasure to see young men and women do well in their studies and move on to graduate school or begin their career,” Robinson says of the rewards.

## The Stories and Faces of CCFA’s Robinson Scholars



Robin Nichols with his daughter, Willow.

**Christopher “Robin” Nichols**  
*(Undergraduate student in painting, Department of Art)*

Robin Nichols grew up near Nashville, Tennessee, in what he calls “a pretty dysfunctional family.” He dropped out of high school when he was 16 years old, starting to work full-time in the construction business. “I realized quickly that I could either go back to school or make \$7 an

hour working as a construction painter. “However, money wasn’t the only thing that kept Robin from finishing high school. Growing up as a Jehovah’s Witness, a religious belief that discourages higher education in the form of a university or college degree, he felt that finishing school was a waste of time if, in the end, he couldn’t go college.

After 18 years in commercial construction, and starting a family with two children, Robin’s wife encouraged him to take the high school equivalency test. He received his GED in 2004, a few weeks before he applied to the University of Memphis as an art major. He has made the Dean’s list every semester since, and won the 2008 undergraduate student award for his painting “Buggers Brawl” in the 26th Annual Juried Student Exhibition at the Art Museum of the University of Memphis. After finishing with his undergraduate studies, Robin wants to pursue a graduate degree and teach painting at the university level.



**Joshua Teal**  
*(Undergraduate student in theatre performance, Department of Theatre & Dance)*

Growing up in a military family, Joshua Teal has only lived in the Memphis area for the past six years. “We moved to Brighton [Tennessee] because of my grandmother, and for the longest time the only thing I knew in Memphis was the Petco pet store. We have a

lot of animals,” Joshua explains. Coming to theatre and dance by cutting short his pursuit of dentistry—a field his parents suggested—Joshua feels alive, now that he finally has the opportunity to follow his dream. “I’ve always felt this draw toward theatre and dance,” Joshua says. “As a child I used to run around in our living room, talking to myself, dancing, moving,” he remembers. “However, I was never really exposed to the arts when growing up because that was just not a part of our life.”

Until he became a major in the Department of Theatre & Dance, Joshua had never had any formal and technical training in dance. When he started college, he felt that this was his one chance to “investigate” the arts. “I think about dentistry occasionally and I’m going to complete my prerequisites for dental school before I graduate, but had I not taken up acting and dancing now, I would have regretted it for the rest of my life. I am definitely going to perform after I graduate.”



**Katarzyna “Kasia” Życińska**  
*(First year graduate student, Department of Architecture)*

Kasia Życińska, originally from Katowice, Poland, first came to the United States in 2003 as a high school exchange student at Valley View High School in Jonesboro, Arkansas. After returning home and a brief stint at the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice, Kasia decided to move back to the U.S. in 2005 and

begin her studies in architecture at the University of Memphis.

“I always knew that I wanted to be an architect and have never considered any other field,” she says. “My ultimate goal is to become a licensed architect and open my own firm.” Kasia graduated this past May, summa cum laude with University honors and honors in architecture, receiving the highest GPA honors award from the department. Although she could have easily chosen an Ivy League school for her graduate studies, Kasia will enter the professional Master of Architecture degree program at the University of Memphis this fall. “I

really like the program at the U of M, the faculty's design mindset and strategy and the curriculum. This is a very intimate program where students get a lot of feedback, which is important to me."



**Mikah Meyer** (*BM '09 in voice performance, Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music*)

When Mikah Meyer had to decide where he wanted to attend College, he was looking for an affordable school that would get him out of his native Lincoln, Nebraska. Initially interested in music industry, he soon realized that finding a job in that business was probably just as difficult as

finding a job as a singer.

"Singing is what I really wanted to do and after looking into both options, I decided to pursue a degree in voice performance." Just recently graduated, Mikah is already a star in his own right. As a countertenor, he has the voice and skill to sing higher than a tenor, in a range that is more often associated with a woman's voice. His ability to sing in that unusual range as well as his talent put him on par with the top young countertenors in the world. He recently was accepted into London's Royal Academy of Music, which selects only the world's most promising voice students. "Last year they didn't accept any countertenors, and this year they accepted six. I was the only non-UK student that was accepted," Mikah says. As an international student at the Academy, he is required to have full funding secured for his program before he can enroll. Although he received a \$24,000 Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship, it isn't enough to pay for his studies at the Academy. "Studying at the Royal Academy would be a dream-come true," Mikah says. "But ultimately, I will be able to learn a lot if I have a chance to study under a countertenor during graduate school." As such, his backup plan is to study in Canada under Daniel Taylor, one of the most sought-after countertenors in the world, and follow his dream to one day sing in the award-winning a cappella ensemble Chanticleer.



**Clarissa Dunbar** (*Freshman, Department of Journalism*)

That Clarissa Dunbar will be a freshman student in the Department of Journalism this fall is partly the work of her best friend Shauwna Lewis. "Since I was in eighth grade I knew that I wanted to go to Union University in Jackson [Tennessee]," Clarissa says. "The University of Memphis was my back-up school, not my

first choice." That changed when Shauwna convinced her friend to

come along to the U of M's Campus Day last year. "I wasn't even signed up, but Shauwna insisted that I go, and that experience changed my mind about the University." Thinking that she would pursue a journalism degree that would eventually land her a job at a magazine, Clarissa has since then zeroed in on the department's public relations concentration. "I organized a toy drive for St. Jude this past winter and helped with my friend's Make-A-Wish cruise," she says. "I realized then that my skills are in public relations, fundraising, and event planning." Pursuing one of her other interests, Clarissa currently works on getting her portrait photography business, Picturesque Memphis, off the ground. Clarissa's first choice after graduation is a job at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital—right here in Memphis.

**Kimberly Johnson** (*Doctorate student, Department of Communication*)



Kimberly Johnson came to Memphis in 2005 to visit her childhood pastor and mentor, Frank Anthony Thomas, pastor of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church. "I needed some time to think when I came to visit Memphis," recalls Kimberly, who had then just left her job as associate pastor in the Boston area.

"I knew I always wanted to get my Ph.D., I just didn't know in which discipline." Pastor Thomas, a Ph.D. graduate of the Department of Communication urged her to visit the program at the U of M and meet some of the professor. Kimberly discovered that Michael Leff, chair of the department, was one of her professors at Northwestern University, where she received a Bachelor of Science in Speech before pursuing her Master of Divinity degree from McCormick Theological Seminar. "What I love about the program at the U of M is that it connects students to other disciplines and thus is very interdisciplinary," Kimberly notes. "The department's connection and work with the Memphis Theological Seminar is very important for me personally." Drawing on her own, difficult experience as a female minister, Kimberly's dissertation focuses on *The Rhetoric of Womenist Preaching*, evaluating sermons by Cheryl Kirk-Duggan, Claudette Copeland, Elaine Flake, Melva Sampson, and Gina Stewart, some of which have never been published. "I didn't really learn about womenist preaching until I started my doctoral studies in Memphis," Kimberly says. "Learning about this movement, making it my dissertation topic and taking it out into the world is very exciting, as well as ground breaking within my discipline."

## Pu-Qi Jiang Receives 2009 University of Memphis Faudree Professorship

Pu-Qi Jiang, professor of orchestral studies at the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music and maestro of the University of Memphis Symphony Orchestra, received the 2009 University of Memphis Faudree Professorship. Philanthropists Helen and Jabie Hardin established the award in honor of U of M Provost Ralph Faudree. The Professorship honors a faculty member involved in engaged scholarship.

Pu-Qi Jiang has enjoyed an active international conducting schedule as well as university level teaching for the past fifteen years. Since 1990, he has conducted more than ten professional orchestras in the United States, China, Austria, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Jordan, Macedonia, and the United Kingdom. He has led university faculty and student ensembles on concert tours in such cities as Beijing, Nanjing, Shanghai, Salzburg, Prague and Vienna.

Maestro Jiang began his career as both violinist and choirboy in Shanghai. In 1956, he entered the Music Middle School affiliated with the Shanghai Conservatory of Music where he majored in violin. He was selected for admission to the conducting department of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music at the age of 18. His professional career began in 1968 after his graduation from the Conservatory.

Jiang came to the United States in 1986 to pursue graduate studies in advanced conduction, and studied at the College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) of the University of Cincinnati with Maestro Gerhard Samuel.

At CCM, Jiang received his M.M. and D.M.A. degrees in Orchestral Conducting. Jiang was named the Assistant Conductor of the Cincinnati Philharmonia Orchestra in 1989. From 1991 to 1992,



he worked as the Conducting Assistant to Maestro Jesús López-Cobos, Erich Kunzel and Keith Lockhart at the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. Prior to his University of Memphis appointment, he was the Music Director and Conductor at Penn State and Ohio University.

Jiang's M.M and D.M.A orchestral conducting programs have attracted talented young conductors from places such as Australia, Canada, China, Columbia, Germany, Jordan, Korea, Taiwan, and the USA.

## Steven Ross Receives 2009 Benjamin Rawlins, Jr. Meritorious Faculty Award



Steven Ross, professor of film and video production in the Department of Communication, received the 2009 Benjamin Rawlins, Jr. Meritorious Faculty Award. This named professorship was established in honor for the late Union Planters chairman and chief executive officer Benjamin W. Rawlins Jr., an enthusiastic proponent of education and a great champion of the University of Memphis. Recipients of this prestigious award demonstrate exceptional achievement in teaching, scholarship, service, and outreach.

Ross' distinguished career at the U of M spans 28 years. His films have received numerous awards, been widely distributed, and broadcast on local, regional and national public television. For the past six years, Ross raised money from a dozen different sources to support the production of his most recent major film, the 2007 *Winslow Homer: Society and Solitude*, the first full-length documentary about the great American painter. The film is currently distributed by Films for Humanities and Museum Music Inc. Since last September the documentary has been shown by nearly 100 public television stations across the country, including 16 of the top twenty markets.

Ross serves on the University's Film and Video Association Foundation board and is an active panelist and presenter at the Association's annual conference. Receiving this award reflects not only on the entire body of Ross' film work but his devotion to his students, his academic field, the University of Memphis and the Memphis community.

## CCFA Announces Dean's Outstanding Research and Creative Achievement Awards

**Jin Yang**, associate professor of journalism, received the 2009 CCFA Dean's Outstanding Research Award. Yang's research focuses on the impact of the Internet on news-consumption and consumer media use with a secondary research area in comparative studies of Chinese and western media.

Over the course of several years, Yang has contributed papers to national and international journals, written book chapters and book reviews, and participated in refereed conference presentations, as well as conference panels participant. Yang is a dedicated and effective teacher, and the current Web master for the Department of Journalism. She involves her students in the execution of the department's Web developments, integrating her service with her teaching and providing the students with real-world experience. Yang has also uses her Web/publication design talents and journalistic writing skills in the Memphis Chinese community.



**Susan Owen-Leinert**, assistant professor of voice, received the 2009 CCFA Dean's Creative Achievement Award. Owen-Leinert began her operatic career in 1987 and joined the University's music faculty in 2005. She has performed traditional and contemporary operas and concerts both in the United States and in Europe.

With the support of a New Faculty Research Grant, Owen-Leinert completed her research project about German Lieder. From the *Treasure Chest of German Lied* is a recording of 26 German Lieder spanning from 1460 to 1933, featuring Owen-Leinert and pianist Mark Ensley. For another project, Owen-Leinert produced a volume of the Lost and Forgotten Art Songs of Louis Spohr, a German romantic era composer. The entire project includes 110 Lieder in 12 volumes.

A complete recording of Richard Wagner's *Der Ring der Nibelungen*, featuring Owen-Leinert in the role of Brunhilde, is available on 12 compact discs, which were recorded live at the State Theatre of Kassel, Germany by Ars Produktion Schumacher.

Owen-Leinert created and developed, with the assistance of German stage director Michael Leinert, the Memphis Opera & Song Academy, a two-week summer program for singers who wish to pursue careers in Europe. Furthermore, Owen-Leinert is general manager of the Memphis Chamber Opera. The purpose for the chamber opera is to produce and perform contemporary chamber operas in the tradition of the European experimental music theater. The Opera's first production in 2007 was *The Medium*; its second production was *Pergolesi's Home Service*, in 2008.

## CCFA Faculty Honored at 2009 U of M Convocation



**Fred Albertson**, associate professor of art history, won the Thomas W. Briggs Foundation Excellence in Teaching Award. The Briggs Award recognizes teaching excellence at the undergraduate level and an overall commitment to undergraduate education. Since he joined the U of M faculty in 1987, Albertson has been dedicated to improving the quality of the undergraduate

program in art history. He specializes in the art of ancient Rome and Greece, and teaches the introduction to art course as well as upper division classes in Greek and Roman art.

Albertson has received the Distinguished Teaching Award and the Faculty Advisory Award from the College of Communication and Fine Arts. In 2002, he received the Distinguished Faculty Award from the National Association for General and Liberal Studies.



**Rick Fischer**, professor of public relations, was selected for the Alumni Association Distinguished Advising Award.

Fischer began his career at the U of M in 1989. In 1991, he won his first Faculty Advising award and he claimed the same honor again in 1998. He garnered numerous Outstanding Faculty Advisor awards from the Public Relations Student Society of

America (PRSSA). He is an outstanding educator and has received U of M's award for distinguished teaching.



**James E. "Jed" Jackson**, professor of art, received the Alumni Association Distinguished Research Award in the creative arts.

Colleagues and fellow artists frequently referred to Jackson's phenomenal productivity and dedication to work. His national and international exhibition record includes some 108 solo, group, invited or juried exhibitions, 12 fellowships, and 22 invited lectures. Jed Jackson has made and continues to make a distinguished contribution to the creative arts.





From left to right: Michael Hagge, Jennifer Garrigues, and William R. Eubanks

## Jennifer Garrigues Featured at 2009 William R. Eubanks Distinguished Lecture

The second, in this recently established lecture series, was given by Jennifer Garrigues, internationally recognized British designer. The series is made possible by William R. Eubanks.

A large and enthusiastic audience was on hand for the event this past March to hear Garrigues talk about her professional design career and life experience, including her time as a top international fashion model. Her association with icons like Jean Muir, Christian Dior, and James Galanos has provided her with a finely honed understanding of the visual impact of proportion, balance and texture and a thorough knowledge of fine design in all its combined elements.

Garrigues attended the New York School of Design, quickly gaining a reputation through her designs, created for well-known New Yorkers. From her studios located today in Palm Beach and New York, she works with an international clientele that values her sensibilities garnered from continuing travel and exposure to many world cultures and peoples.

The lecture audience, including many interior design and architecture students, was spellbound by photographs of the speaker taken from publications such as *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar*, which illustrated the direct relationship between high fashion and Garrigues' home and room designs. Students and guests from throughout the community

surrounded Garrigues after the lecture to hear more about the international design industry. In addition, students and faculty had a chance to interact with her the following day, when she led a workshop in the Interior Design studios, sharing her zeal and passion for beautiful color and composition.

William R. Eubanks is a pre-eminent interior designer and U of M alumnus whose work is internationally respected. He established both the William R. Eubanks Distinguished Lecture Series in Interior Design and the James Weaver Memorial Scholarship. His designs frequent the pages of major publications such as *Interiors* and *Veranda*.



## Department of Architecture Receives Two Grants to Help with Revitalization of Old Town in Millington and Victorian Village in Memphis

The Department of Architecture received two of the four Strengthening Communities Initiatives Grant awarded for 2009/10. The Strengthening Communities program is managed and administered by the School for Urban Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Memphis and supported by the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis (CFGM), United Way of the Mid-South (UWMS), and the University of Memphis Research Foundation (UMRF). Both of the \$18,000 grants are fully funded capacity building grants. Michael Hagge, chair of the Department of Architecture, is excited that the department received several of the Strengthening Communities Grants over the past two years. "In our project with Bridges USA, which was funded last year, we were able to involve students within the department in a variety of activities," Hagge says. "With these grants, architecture and interior design students from all academic levels, graduate and undergraduate, will be able to participate in meaningful, hands-on projects."

One of the grants will allow Tom Mason and Tim Michael, instructors in the Department of Architecture, to continue their work with the City of Millington, Millington Community Court Services (MCCS), and the Old Town Vision Plan Steering Committee for their proj-

ect "Old Town Millington Vision Plan." This past semester, the department's Design IV Studio students coordinated and moderated a community design workshop of more than 80 citizens to solicit community improvement ideas for Millington's "Old Town."

For the second grant, Randle Witherington, associate professor of interior design, partners with the Victorian Village Community Development Corporation to build a new and vibrant residential/commercial community around the 21 historic structures in the district, which reaches from Poplar Avenue to Danny Thomas Boulevard to Madison Avenue and Manassas. The "Heritage Tourism Resident Training" will train low income housing residents, who live in the Victorian Village, to give brief tours and direct visitors to historic sites in Village. Trainees will receive a stipend applicable to their Memphis Housing Authority (MHA) rents once they graduate from the training and participate in the program. The goal is for resident tour guides to wear uniforms and take on a role similar to the existing Blue Suede Brigade in downtown Memphis, giving a safe presence to the neighborhood and notifying authorities of problems in the district.

## Students Honored at Annual Awards Reception

**Katarzyna Życińska** (architecture) received the Alpha Rho Chi Medal for academics and leadership. The medal is awarded by faculty vote at each of the more than 100 schools of architecture in the U.S. and Canada. Kasia was also recognized for graduating summa cum laude with University Honors and Thesis and Honors in Architecture and she received the Highest GPA Honors Award from the department. Kasia will begin her graduate studies in architecture at the U of M this fall.

**Christin Mains** (architecture) received the Alpha Rho Chi Medal for her leadership in the co-ed fraternity. Christin graduated with Honors in Architecture and will enter the professional Master of Architecture degree program at the University of Illinois, Chicago this fall.

**Mary Carroll** (architecture) received the Jonathan King Student Medal for Excellence in Architectural + Environmental Design Research from the Architectural Research Centers Consortium (ARCC). She received the medal for her outstanding work on the TERRA Sustainable Design demonstration house.

**Heather Dacus** (interior design) received the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) – City Center Honor Award for her work as professional liaison between the IIDA Campus Center and the IIDA City Center. This is the first time this honor has been awarded.

The awards reception on April 28 at BRIDGES Center in downtown Memphis was sponsored by the four student organizations active in the Department of Architecture: American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS); International Interior Design Association, Campus Center; Construction Specifications Institute, Student Affiliate; and Alpha Rho Chi. It was hosted by Michael Hagge, associate professor of architecture and chair of the Department of Architecture, and Kelly May, President of AIAS.



Clare Torina, "Consecration" 2009.

## Clare Torina and Stephen Almond: Impressions of a Young Artist Couple

Clare Torina and Stephen Almond have known each other since 7th grade. They started dating in 2002, their junior year at Smoky Mountain High School in Sylva, North Carolina, moved to Memphis in 2004 with "no plans of going to school," enrolled at the University of Memphis in 2005 (she in the Department of Art, he in the Department of Journalism first, then in the Department of Art), and got married on June 5, 2006.

Last year was a big one for Torina. At the beginning of 2008 she was a featured artist in "Brooks Introduces," a series of small exhibitions devoted to local emerging artist at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art. She was part of the "The Price is Right" annual group exhibition at David Lusk Gallery and, together with Almond, did "Dancing on Ground Zero," an installation piece at Forum+ Concertgebouw in Bruges, Belgium. Also in 2008 Torina was accepted into the Yale

Norfolk summer school of music and art where she worked with artists An My Le, Jessica Stockholder, Sam Messer, and art critic/historian Robert Storr. This year she won the 2009 Department of Art Creative Achievement Award and the 2009 College of Communication and Fine Arts Dean's Creative Achievement Award for her work in painting. Most recently, her art has been shown at the United Nation's Food and Agriculture organization in Rome, Italy. Her large-scale figure paintings and multi-panel compositions address ritual versus instinct in both the human and animal subconscious, drawing references from behavioral sciences, religious art, caricature, and nature illustrations. Torina graduated with a BFA in painting this past May, trading spaces with her husband, who was accepted into Yale Norfolk this year and plans to finish with a BFA in photography next spring.



Top left, Steve Almond, "Tank" 2009. Bottom left, Clare Torina. Above right, Family portrait of Stephen Almond and Clare Torina by Maggie Garcia.

Although very much connected for the past decade, Torina and Almond approach their work differently and use different media for their creative expression. Both of Torina's parents as well as her sister were educated in the fine arts. Torina was born in Eugene, Oregon, where her dad, John Torina, received his MFA in painting from the University of Oregon. Originally from Memphis, he moved back to the Bluff City in 1987 to teach at the Memphis College of Art (MCA) before relocating his family to North Carolina in 1996, where he taught at Western Carolina University (WCU).

"My dad taught drawing and painting at Memphis College of Art while I was growing up, and I began working from the model at a very early age," Torina remembers. "He had open figure sessions at our house, and almost everyday of my childhood I went out to the country with him to paint the landscape. He supplied me with the same materials he had—good canvas, paints, brushes—even if it were the last of it."

Almond, born in Greenville, North Carolina, had no fine arts experience when he enrolled in his first photography class at the University of Memphis three years ago. Starting out in journalism with a heavy load of political science classes because of his strong interest in politics, Almond realized soon that he wanted a more creative outlet.

"I don't regret starting in [journalism], because what I learned there has seeped into my work now as an art student," Almond says. "A recurring theme in my work is satire of mass media—using the journal-

ist's main visual tools of documentation to make a comment about the current state of popular media." What attracts Almond to photography and subsequently video is its versatility. "It's very intuitive and experimental and can be endlessly altered and built upon," he notes. His latest project, "Two in the Trunk" is an imaginative four-minute stop-animation video influenced by mass media, the culinary arts (Almond works in the kitchen at Do Sushi when he's not taking photographs), and Almond's childhood. The "gustatory adventure," begins with a pancake breakfast for the two main characters, which are made from eyeglasses stuck into clay feet. The scene escalates into a fork-fight that eventually ends in a rapacious death. "Two in the Trunk" was included in the 2009 Memphis International Film Festival and "Double Date" a group exhibition at Marshall Arts. It will be part of the summer exhibition at the Art Museum of the University of Memphis, which runs through August 22.

Both Torina and Almond plan to move away from Memphis to go to graduate school. "I'm looking at professors first, then location and facilities," Torina notes, citing The University of Texas at Austin, Yale University, Hunter College, The Art Institute of Chicago, and UCLA as her top choices for graduate school.

"We are looking forward to living in a different city for a while, but we'll probably be eager to get back to Memphis when it's done," Torina says. "We love it here."

# Donalyn Heise Establishes Art Education Leadership Award to Recognize Outstanding Students

Erica Glover Edwards, U of M undergraduate student in art education, is the first recipient of the University of Memphis Donalyn Heise Art Education Leadership Award. “Erica is a natural teacher, nurturing, professional, visionary, competent in the processes and content of arts education, who wants to make a difference through quality arts education,” says Donalyn Heise associate professor of art education. The award recognizes an art education major that has demonstrated commitment to the profession through outstanding service and leadership, and understands the role of quality arts education in transforming the lives of individuals and community.

This past semester, Erica participated in the art department’s alternative arts practicum at Martha’s Manor, and adult day center for mentally challenged women in Memphis. Noticing that one of her students needed a pair of glasses, Erica convinced her boss at Eclectic Eye, a Memphis eyewear boutique, to perform a free exam, and Erica herself paid for a new pair of glasses. “Erica always goes above and beyond to do quality work,” Heise notes.



Erica Glover (left) with Micki at Martha’s Manor

# Making Art – Building Community

“Strengthening communities means more than beautifying the area with murals or spending money with local businesses,” says Donalyn Heise, associate professor of art education. “It includes developing human capacity for success and an educated citizenry.”

The University of Memphis Community Art Academy focuses on developing a culture of respect and a passion for excellence in the community by providing a curriculum of comprehensive art activities to local middle school students. The project was established in January with the help of the Department of Art, the Davis Community Center, the Mason YMCA, the University Neighborhood Development Corporation (UNDC), and a grant from the Strengthening Communities Initiative, a program that is managed and administered by the School for Urban Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Memphis.

Heise and Bryna Bobick, fellow assistant professor of art education, lead the ongoing arts-based collaboration, which will resume in the fall. The curriculum, consisting of a variety of thematic and interdisciplinary art lessons that utilize different methods and media such as drawing, painting, weaving, and sculpture was taught by undergraduate and graduate U of M art students. Art Academy participants engaged in critical and creative thinking as they explored themes of hope, belonging, interdependence, safety and cycles.

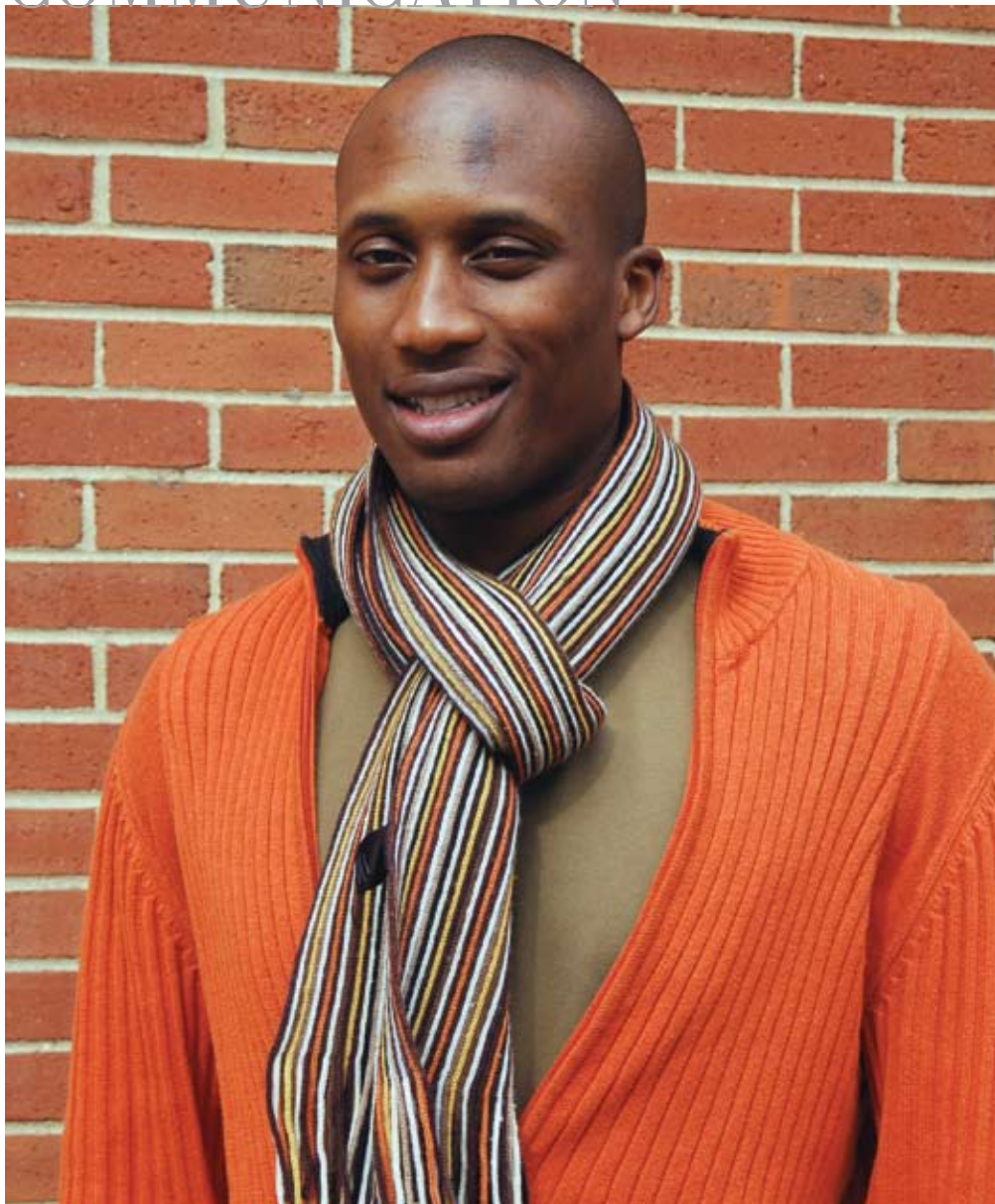
One of the student’s very first projects was the “Art of Hope” mural project, based on an intergenerational postcard exchange with community partners such as the Center for Creative Aging, Latino Memphis, Bridges, Inc. PeaceJam, Trezevant Manor, and others. For the mural, participating groups filled blank postcards with original artwork and text that explored questions of hope. The postcards, similar to fabric pieces used to make a quilt, became part of a mural that communicates individual and collective visions of hope, and shows how art can be a vehicle to understanding and expressing thoughts and feelings. “By basing the mural on the postcard exchange, we used art to develop an appreciation and respect for the variety of human culture,” Heise notes. “The goal was for each group to develop an understanding of community and self, to discover the similarities or differences between individual and collective interpretations of the theme of hope.”

With the help of visiting artist John Jota Leños, assistant professor of community arts and social practices at California College of the Arts, Bridges Inc. PeaceJam participants, and Jodie Williams, 1997 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, the mural was painted on the east wall of Davis Community Center in February.

An art exhibition of the work of Art Academy participants at the Davis Center was the culminating event of the Academy’s inaugural semester. The Academy will continue as a once a week after school program during fall 2009 semester.



Art Academy students and PeaceJam participants help paint the “Hope Mural” at Davis Community Center in February.



Tesfa Alexander

## Communication Student Accepted into Prestigious Internship Program at the National Cancer Institute

Tesfa Alexander, second-year doctoral student studying cross-cultural health communication in the Department of Communication, has been selected for the highly competitive and prestigious internship in health communication with the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Bethesda, Maryland. Starting in August, Alexander will spend six months in NCI's Communication Planning and Coordination Branch of the Office of Communications. His responsibilities will include using evidence-based strategies to plan for the effective dissemination of NCI's information to diverse audiences and

coordinating cross-divisional communications issues/activities related to special programs and initiatives.

"Current and predicted cancer incidence and mortality rates among African Americans underscore the notion that more needs to be done in the field of health communication to help break down barriers that contribute to higher cancer rates among ethnic minorities," Alexander says. "NCI recognizes this need, along with the significant contribution strategic health communication can make in the reduction of cancer health disparities. It is this unwavering devotion to the field and most of

all, commitment to improving the health of the underrepresented that inspires me to become an active member of the NCI community."

In addition, NCI interns frequently work on high-profile assignments such as, researching and developing briefing materials for the President's Cancer Panel, developing comprehensive communication plans and multimedia presentations for the Science Writers' seminars, as well as assisting with the creation and revision of Consumer Health Profiles (CHP) materials.

Alexander came to Memphis with a professional background in global healthcare public relations and a passion for social justice. He is currently exploring barriers in the development and implementation of effective public health strategies that reduce socioeconomic health disparities domestically and abroad. Since his arrival in Memphis, Alexander has been involved in innovative research that ranges from working with health administrators at Methodist University Hospital in Memphis to developing a communication intervention that enhances relationship-centered care for patients suffering from co-morbidities, to conducting fieldwork in Southwest Uganda that bridges the communication gap between traditional and modern health practitioners to increase quality healthcare access for Ugandans living in rural communities. He was invited to join Phi Kappa Phi this past March, and won the honor society's competitive scholarship.

The NCI, the largest of the 27 institutes of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is the Federal Government's principal agency for cancer research and training. The NCI coordinates the National Cancer Program, which conducts and supports research, training, health information dissemination, and other programs that focus on cause, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cancer, rehabilitation from cancer, and the continuing care of cancer patients as well as the families of cancer patients.

The Institute's Health Communications Internship Program (HCIP) was established in 1975 because the organization recognized that health information distribution is important to raising public awareness about new cancer treatments, support for cancer patients and their families, and prevention strategies.



Walter Leavy and Lynn Norment at the U of M's 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award's Gala

## Journalism Alumni Honored with U of M Distinguished Alumni Award

Walter Leavy and Lynn Norment, former long-time co-managing editors of *Ebony* magazine and U of M alumni, were honored with the 2009 University of Memphis Distinguished Alumni Award. This past October, Leavy was also honored with the Journalism Alumni Club's Charles E. Thornton Outstanding Alumni Award.

Leavy, who received his BA degree in journalism from the U of M in 1975, cut his journalistic teeth at *The Daily Helmsman* and went on to become a sports reporter for the now defunct afternoon daily, *The Memphis Press-Scimitar*. In 1980, he set his sights on Chicago-based *Ebony* magazine. Leavy has held several editorial positions at *Ebony* before becoming the magazine's co-managing editor together with Lynn Norment.

Norment, who received her BA degree in journalism from the U of M in 1973 and was honored with the Journalism Alumni Club's Charles E. Thornton Outstanding Alumni Award in 1991, grew up in Bolivar, Tennessee with her five sisters and parents. All but one of the Norment girls attended the U of M. It was clear from the beginning of her career that Lynn Norment was destined to be a journalistic success.

On her first day as a reporter for *The Commercial Appeal* she was dispatched to cover a shooting in south Memphis just before the end of her shift. She combed the area, knocked on doors to get information, and, to her surprise, "earned" her first byline. She worked for the Memphis newspaper from 1973 to 1977, before looking for freelance work at *Ebony*. After her first two assignments for the magazine—an interview with a college basketball player and a story about legendary gospel and soul singer Al Green—she was offered a job. Since then, Norment has interviewed the famous and the not-so-famous, including some of the biggest names in the entertainment world, such as Tina Turner, Mariah Carey, Whitney Houston, Janet Jackson, and Beyoncé. On August 7, Norment will be inducted into the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) Hall of Fame, along with three other outstanding journalists who made integral contributions to journalism and civil rights.

Both Leavy and Norment accepted buy-out offers from *Ebony's* Johnson Publishing Co. earlier this year.



# A Moment in Time

The moment I'll remember longest occurred one cold November evening in 2007. My journalism class was debating dialects. The question: Can a journalist quote someone fairly if he "cleans up" ethnic speech, or illiterate speech, or a regional accent?

We landed on Southernness. Almost every student in the class had been born and raised in the South, spoke with either a Rebel purr or a full-blown case of Dixie. Students had strong opinions when I asked if when writing a story, a reporter should ever change "y'all" to "you." Our discussion split the room. It grew animated. Students were raising their voices and raising their temperatures. Just the kind of classroom action I had hoped to spur when I signed on at the University of Memphis as Hardin Chair of Excellence in the fall of 2006 after a long career at *The Washington Post*.

After half an hour of debate, Rachel Rucker, raised her hand. "Bob," she asked, "do y'all laugh at us up North?" No, Rachel, we don't. And we certainly don't now that I have spent three years in the South, in Memphis, at the U of M. My journalism pals in Washington are sick of hearing me rave about the University, the students, my colleagues and the city itself. My three years in the Department of Journalism have been among the most rewarding years of my career. My students, who came in all shapes and sizes, have been the chief reason.

I taught journalism majors but also Japanese majors, graduate students but also undergraduates, full-time students but also part-timers, 19-year-olds but also returning 44-year-olds with four children. The common thread is that they want careers in *The Biz*, they are hungry to learn what they'll need to know and they are confident that a University of Memphis degree will help them get there.

One of the toughest tasks in journalism is dealing with unfamiliar people and unfamiliar situations. One student was having big trouble with both. He regularly camped across from me during office hours, bemoaning how much courage it takes to call a stranger, or walk up to someone on the street and get him to talk to you. The big assignment of the se-



Bob Levey

mester was looming. I gave the age-old advice novelists often hear: Write what you know. He nodded and trundled off. I made a mental bet with myself that the student would turn in a paper that was threadbare in concept and skinny in execution.

Shows you what I know.

The student spent an entire eight-hour all-night shift with a Memphis police officer (whom he had never previously met). The ride-along produced an exchange of gunfire, a 100-mile-per-hour chase and a pat-down search of three ex-cons who were suspected drug dealers. To set up the ride-along, the student did what journalists always do. He took a deep breath, straightened the collar on his shirt, walked into his local police precinct and explained what he wanted. The result was an A paper and a lesson that I hope will stay with him: Never give up. Never sell yourself short. Never underestimate your ability to come back with a great story in your notebook.

Chao Lin, a reporting student of mine, faced special obstacles. He had been born in China. He grew up in a tough part of Frayser, a problematic low-income neighborhood in north Memphis, once one of the city's first shining suburbs. He came to the U of M to become a sportswriter. Trouble was, he didn't quite get what a reporter does. Chao was brimming with enthusiasm. But he didn't understand how to build a source, how to tease out of a source what you need and how to find supporting material on the public record. I worked with him across many non-classroom

hours and through several rewrites. When I gave him a B for the course, I wanted to file a note alongside that single letter. It would have read: "This student did more to achieve this B than any student I've ever had, and maybe any student anyone has ever had."

Just before he graduated, Chao won the Outstanding Broadcast Student Award and was invited into the journalism honor society Kappa Tau Alpha at the journalism department's 2009 spring banquet. Some old guy at a corner table clapped very vigorously when Chao came forward to accept his award.

I wish that I could have continued as Hardin Chair for many more years. Alas, all good things come to an end. As I look back, I also look forward. The journalism program at the U of M is excellent, spearheaded by top-flight young faculty and an excellent chair. It will do very well in the years ahead if it remembers the old virtues—fairness, accuracy, thoroughness—and remembers why those virtues became old: They are the essence of journalism, and the essence of journalism education. The people in this Department of Journalism understand that. Their students will understand it, too. As for my role, it was a pleasure to be part of that conversation.

— By Bob Levey

Bob Levey was Hardin Chair of Excellence in the Department of Journalism from 2006 until 2009. He spent 36 years as a reporter, editor and columnist at *The Washington Post*.

## Journalism Project Is Looking for the “Biggest Loser”

In partnership with the Cooper Young Development Corporation and the Evergreen Historic District Association, David Arant, chair of the Department of Journalism, received a Strengthening Communities Initiatives Grant for his proposal, “The Smallest User,” a neighborhood-based energy-efficiency project. The Strengthening Communities program is managed and administered by the School for Urban Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Memphis and supported by the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis (CFGM), United Way of the Mid-South (UWMS), and the University of Memphis Research Foundation (UMRF). The journalism department’s grant is an \$18,000, fully funded, capacity building grant.

The project is outlined as a competition between two distinct Memphis neighborhoods, looking at which can become the most energy-efficient within one year. Memphis Light Gas and Water (MLGW) will be a project participant to establish a baseline for utility usage for each neighborhood. Energy use by residents will be evaluated against that historical baseline during the nine-month period of the project. Vacant and non-residential properties will be excluded from the analysis.

Students in Rick Fischer’s public relations research class will assess residents’ current knowledge, attitudes and behavior regarding energy use. That research will serve as a basis for developing a customized marketing plan for each neighborhood. Beena White’s public relations campaigns class will develop and implement the energy conservation campaigns.

To build momentum and create awareness throughout the campaign, the project team will provide monthly energy tips as well as hold quarterly status meetings, intended to highlight each neighborhood’s progress as well as identify those residents who have made the biggest improvements. Local energy experts will provide additional information, encouragement and help foster new ideas that residents can use in the future. Journalism students and faculty will then conduct an assessment to determine how effective the campaign was in changing residents’ knowledge, attitudes and behaviors regarding energy conservation.





## Powerful Sound and Unique Talent— Sound Fuzion Celebrates 20th Anniversary this Spring

Sound Fuzion, the premier touring ensemble of the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music, celebrated its 20th Anniversary earlier this year. When Lawrence Edwards, the ensembles co-director, professor of conducting, choral, and jazz studies, and director of choral activities came to the U of M in 1987, he brought with him the idea for a vocal ensemble that could draw on the rich musical culture and diversity of Memphis.

“The summer before I came to the University of Memphis, I directed a show at Opryland in Nashville. Coincidentally, several of the kids who were in my show came to the U of M in the fall to study music,” Edwards remembers. Already at the University when Edwards arrived, was the Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and he recruited the Opryland students to join the group. “We wanted this new group to be a music ensemble that would represent the University of Memphis through tours and during recruiting efforts,” Edwards says.

On April 26, 1988, the Vocal Jazz Ensemble gave a special concert to a crowd of a dozen University officials. The event was part of Edwards’ pitch to gather support for the ensemble, which ultimately allowed it to become Sound Fuzion, now the University’s flagship

touring group, playing at more than 20 university and high school functions a year, and performing as part of the music school’s annual concert series.

“A lot of students who see Sound Fuzion on tour call the University of Memphis to find out about the Scheidt School of Music, its programs and the ensemble, as well as other programs at the U of M,” says Richard Ranta, Dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts, who supported and encouraged Edwards’ vision of the group.

“Several of the ensemble’s past members now have successful careers in music,” Ranta continues. “Former member Lashundra Trenyce Cobbins appeared as Trenyce in the second season of “American Idol” in 2003, finishing as a finalist in fifth place, and former member Clay Crosse won the New Artist of the Year (Dove Award) in 1995.”

As for the name, when the Vocal Jazz Ensemble was invited to play with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra in 1990, the Symphony suggested Edwards and his group find a name that can be marketed more easily.

“The students and I sat down and brainstormed for about two hours and finally came up with Sound Fuzion,” Edwards says. “Our

logo, sfz, which was taken from the letters in our name is an abbreviation for the Italian musical term “sforzato,” meaning a powerful, exciting release of sound. We also knew that we wanted a name that reflects what we were trying to accomplish—to play and perform music from pop and rock to rhythm & blues, jazz, alternative, and country. We wanted a name that emphasized the eclectic mix of our music as well as the energy of the group,” Edwards remembers.

Today, Sound Fuzion is an ensemble of nine vocalists, five instrumentalists, and two sound engineers, which continues to represent the University of Memphis at public school concerts, corporate functions and University-sponsored activities. Students from the School of Music’s recording technology program together with Sound Fuzion co-director Jonathan Frazer, associate professor of recording technology, are responsible for the group’s sound. Sound Fuzion is well known for its professional and dynamic style. The group tours regionally every year, backed by the University’s Office of Student Recruitment, has performed with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra on several occasions, and made its international debut in China in 2005.



Mike Osborn, former chair of the then Department of Theatre and Communication Arts, speaks at the Keith Kennedy Memorial, which was held in January.

## Memorial Celebration Launches Keith Kennedy Theatre & Dance Student Enrichment Fund

A celebration of the life of Keith Kennedy, first director of theatre at then Memphis State University, was held in “Big Red,” the U of M’s Main Stage Theatre, in January. More than 100 of Kennedy’s former students, colleagues, friends and family gathered to remember his life and the indelible mark he left on the University and on the region’s theatre community. Kennedy died of congestive heart failure on December 17, 2008.

After 20 years at the University, Kennedy retired in 1986. He was one of three University employees to receive the Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Achievement Award in 1992, and he received the Eugart Yerian Award for lifetime theater service in 1996. Kennedy regularly found audacious ways to expand his students’ horizons beyond the traditional; he inspired a generation of students and set high artistic standards that still prevail at the University today. The memorial event included instrumental and vocal performances and tributes offered by many of those who had been cast and crew members

of Kennedy’s production of *Hair*, staged at Memphis State in March 1970. It was the first non-commercial production, first production in the South, and first college staging of the controversial musical permitted by the play’s writers. *Hair* saw record audiences in the campus theatre, and like many of the other outstanding plays directed by Kennedy, such as *Man of la Mancha*, *Indians and Oresteia*, it helped U of M theatre attain national recognition and become a major cultural asset for Memphis and the Mid-South.

The memorial event launched the *Keith Kennedy Theatre & Dance Student Enrichment Fund*, a permanent memorial in honor of Kennedy. Endeavoring to reach theatre and dance alumni and friends across the country as well as in Memphis, the fund is intended to perpetuate Kennedy’s spirit by supporting a range of special opportunities for deserving and gifted theatre and dance students, such as travel to collegiate theatre competitions, awards for outstanding achievement, advanced training and artists’

residencies. Funding for the endowment is being sought by a committee co-chaired by Kennedy’s close friends, Mike Osborn and John Bakke, former chairs of the then Department of Theatre and Communication Arts, working closely with Richard Ranta, Dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts, and Patty Bladon, CCFA Director of Development. Additional committee members are Tim Finnell, Phil Giberson, Josie Helming, Craig Leake, Joe Mulherin, and Terry Twyman.

For more information or to make a donation to the fund through the University of Memphis Foundation, contact Patty Bladon at [pbladon@memphis.edu](mailto:pbladon@memphis.edu) or (901) 678-4372.

Donors who give \$100 or more to the *Keith Kennedy Enrichment Fund* will receive a copy of the award-winning documentary “When Hair Came to Memphis,” produced by Craig Leake, associate professor of film and video production at the University of Memphis. Those who give \$500 or more receive the *Hair* documentary and a DVD of the January event.



## Japanese Noh Theatre Visits the U of M

In January, the Fred Mertz Association, the student organization of the Department of Theatre & Dance, together with the Japanese Culture Club, Anime 101, and the University of Memphis Student Event Allocation Committee, brought the Japanese Noh Theatre to the University of Memphis for a performance of Haoroma by Yasuhiro Urata.

More than 600 people came to the performance in the University of Memphis' Michael D. Rose Theatre to witness the first Noh Theatre performance in Memphis. Performers also worked with University of Memphis students during a workshop; focusing on the Noh tradition.

The Japanese Noh Theatre is a classical music drama, which is an intricate fusion of music, dance, mask, costume, and language. It evolved from various folk art forms through contributions by members of the Ministry of Dance (Bugaku), Buddhist monks (Dengaku) and female professional dancers (Shirabyoshi). Kan'ami (1333-1384) and his son Zeami (1363-1443) established the Noh Theatre under the patronage of feudal lords in the 14th Century. The Noh Theatre has been performed since then, accompanied by Kyogen Theatre, a kind of comedy.





## Mark Your Calendar for the 2009/10 Season at the Department of Theatre & Dance

### **The Horror of the Little Family Farce**

October 1-10, 2009

8 pm, Main Stage

World premiere of a new comedy by Stephen Hancock, associate professor of theatre at the University of Memphis

Directed by Stephen Hancock

Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival participating entry

### **Twelve Angry Jurors**

October 23-31, 2009

8 pm, Studio Theatre in the round

Drama by Reginald Rose

Directed by Brandon Lawrence

### **Blood Brothers**

November 12-21, 2009

8 pm, Main Stage

A musical by Willy Russell

Directed by Emily Wells

### **Fall Dance Concert**

November 20-22, 2009

CCFA Dance Space

### **2nd Year Grad Shows**

December 4-7, 2009

8pm, Studio theatre in the round

Directed by Alice Berry and Susan Sanders

### **Hay Fever**

February 18-27, 2010

8pm, Main Stage

Comedy by Noel Coward

Directed by Bob Hetherington

Guest actress: Sarah Brown

### **Dark of the Moon**

April 15-24, 2010

8 pm, Main Stage

Drama by Howard Richardson & William Berney

Directed by Heather Wilson

### **Spring Dance Concert**

April 22-25, 2010

CCFA Dance Space



Image: The Department of Theatre & Dance presented *Fresh Moves*, a concert of new dances featuring choreographies of University of Memphis dance faculty, alumni, and guest artist Emily Wexler, this past April. The concert showcased a variety of dance talents drawing on students from across the University. Dance faculty and students will present two concerts in the upcoming season.



Portrait of Paul R. Williams by Jed Jackson, professor of art the University of Memphis.



Residence of Katherine B. Flint, La Canada Flintridge, CA. Photo by Marcello Vavala.

chapter, and the Benjamin F. Hooks Institute for Social Change are collaborating on a multifaceted project, including a traveling exhibition and project-specific Web site to bring Williams' career back into focus.

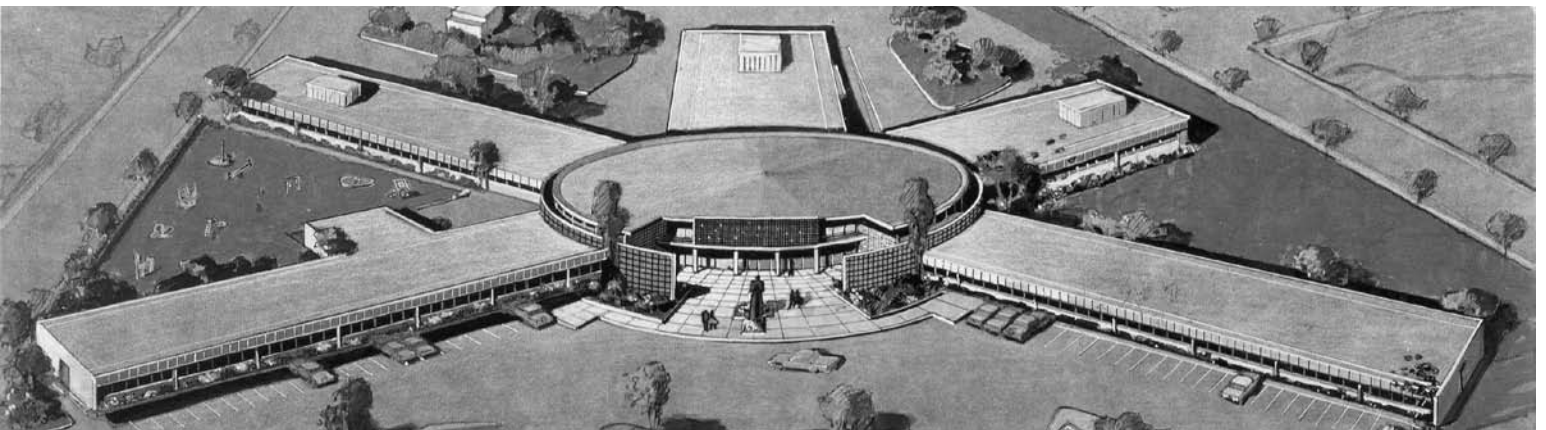
The Web site, designed to facilitate research and discourse about the great American architect, was launched in April. Intended as a resource for art teachers who want to incorporate architecture into their curriculum, the site offers a K-12 education component, exhibition information and a research archive, a photo gallery of Williams' work as well as a Blog. The project is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts.

In February, Leslie Luebbers, director of the Art Museum, and former U M architecture professor, Jim Lutz, led a session entitled "Paul R. Williams: African American Architect to the Hollywood Stars (and That's Just the Beginning)" at the annual College Art Association Conference. The four session papers are the first research on Williams in nearly two decades. In April, Donalyn Heise, assistant professor of art education, presented two sessions on the project's innovative K-12 education component at the National Art Education Association's annual convention in Minneapolis.

Visit [www.paulwilliamsproject.org](http://www.paulwilliamsproject.org) for more information.

## AMUM Focuses on Architect Paul R. Williams in Multifaceted Project

"Architect to the Stars," winner of the 1953 NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) Spingarn Medal for achievement by an African American, first black member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), and its first black fellow, Paul R. Williams (1894-1980) was one of the most admired and successful African Americans of the 20th century. Yet today, he is virtually unknown except to preservationists trying to save his work. The Art Museum of the University of Memphis (AMUM), the AIA Memphis



St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, drawing, 1960. Memphis Press Scimitar, Special Collections University of Memphis

# Summer Exhibitions at AMUM Allow Unique Look Behind the Scenes, Focus on a Famous Family of Artists, and Highlight New Talent

The Art Museum of the University of Memphis (AMUM) allows a unique look behind the scenes, an opportunity to reflect on work by the Wyeth family, and a chance to discover up and coming talent during its summer exhibitions, June 20 through August 22, 2009. The Museum will be closed on July 3 and 4 in observance of Independence Day.

## “Exhibition in Progress: Designing an Installation for the New African Galleries”

In AMUM’s main gallery, visitors will have the rare opportunity to witness how an exhibition is created. “Exhibition in Progress: Designing an Installation for the New African Galleries” shows all African objects in AMUM’s collection, including the recent gift from Martha and Robert Fogelman. During a two-month period, museum staff will assess the objects and consider educational interpretations for the many cultures in this vast and varied continent.

## “Spotlight: Wyeth Family”

Spotlight is a new initiative of AMUM that will highlight specific works of a significant artist or group of artists. The first exhibition in the Spotlight series showcases selected works of the Wyeth family, which spans three generations of artists: N.C. (Newell Converse) Wyeth, his son Andrew Wyeth (who died in 2008), and grandson Jamie Wyeth—all known for their extraordinary and different styles.

## “Two in the Trunk” by Stephen Almond

“Two in the Trunk,” which will be shown in AMUM’s New Media Gallery is an imaginative four-minute video influenced by mass media, the culinary arts, and the Almond’s childhood. Almond, a third year photography student at the University of Memphis, was recently awarded the Ellen Battell Stoeckel Fellowship to attend Yale Norfolk Summer School of Art. “Two in the Trunk” was included in the 2009 Memphis International Film Festival.

## “Unconventional Workings” by Anna Kordsmeier

Anna Kordsmeier’s work in AMUM’s Caseworks Gallery is deeply rooted in the investigation of space and place, using an abstract form of landscape and mapping that is both geographical and anatomical. Her work hinges on the fragility of the piece either in the material sense or the intangible idea of fleeting and fading memories. Born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Kordsmeier received her BFA with an emphasis in printmaking from the Cardinal Stritch University. She is currently an MFA candidate at Memphis College of Art.



Yoruba beaded mask, Nigeria, 20th century, Gift of Martha and Robert Fogelman, 2008.2.17



## CMA

### Is it Good For the Children? Center For Multimedia Arts Collaborates on Project that Helps Local Legislation Focus on Child Well-Being

We've all heard the old axiom, "Teach them well, for today's children are tomorrow's leaders." This is conventional wisdom, inspiration for faculty lounge posters and Graham Nash songs. Everyone agrees that ensuring a prosperous future for our children is a just and worthy cause. But turn this simple adage around — so we become students of our children's lives — and suddenly we're confronted with much more to consider than our conventional wisdom can process.

For the past year, I have served as the lead designer on a county-initiated project to focus local legislation on the well-being of children. As our team's first task, we interviewed 52 of Shelby County's local officials, administrators and staff. Many of the people we interviewed work for entities jointly operated by Shelby County and Memphis. Respondents, who included almost all of our county's elected leadership, overwhelmingly supported the creation of a system that would consider the needs of and potential consequences for children in legislative initiatives and decisions.

The county's unified concern for its children and the consequences for the entire community directed the design of our recently unveiled Child Impact Statement (CIS) Reporting System. This Web-based decision aid provides county officials with tools to review data and expert studies on child well-being from several trusted state and national sources. The primary aim of the system, however, is to facilitate the use of this information in planning and decision-making. Feedback from county officials and the public will determine how the system grows in purpose, scope and access.

The intended outcome holds that the CIS Reporting System will further enable county government's decisions to be both responsible for and accountable to children, youth, families and ultimately, our entire community. This goal, which has received wide support, has been particularly championed by County Mayor A C Wharton, Community Services Division Director Dottie Jones, Commissioners Mike Carpenter and George Flinn, and comprises a key mandate of the Shelby County Office of Early Childhood and Youth, directed by Julie Coffey. As the mayor recently acknowledged, this initiative stems from the child well-being research of Dr. Doug Imig, University of Memphis political scientist and director of the Center for Urban Child Policy at The Urban Child Institute.

We can all recognize that critical focus on the lives of our children is imperative. Without it, we simply cannot know, beyond the serious limits of conventional wisdom, what actions will promote healthy and prosperous adult lives for today's children. And without this foresight, we will not have the vision to promote the healthy and prosperous Mid-South of tomorrow.

— By *Michael Schmidt*



The user interface of the Child Impact Statement Reporting System, developed by the Center For Multimedia Arts.

**Michael Schmidt** is an associate professor of art and director of the Center for Multimedia Arts in the university's FedEx Institute of Technology. This is an abbreviated version of a column published in *The Commercial Appeal (CA)* on May 20, 2009. You can read the unabbreviated version in the online issue of *Voices* at [cfa.memphis.edu](http://cfa.memphis.edu). The column was one in a series of monthly CA guest columns, designed to focus public attention on issues that affect children. It is part of a Shelby County initiative to remind everyone, in every aspect of daily life, to "Ask First: Is It Good for the Children?" Call the Shelby County Office of Early Childhood and Youth (901) 526-1822 ext. 249, or visit [shelbycountychildren.org](http://shelbycountychildren.org) for more information.



## WUMR

### Jazz Lover Launches New Website

WUMR has recently launched its brand new Web site. The new site includes Jazz Lover news and events as well as DJ profiles, the station's on-air schedule, and Podcasts from previous shows. We encourage you to visit WUMR online at [wumr.memphis.edu](http://wumr.memphis.edu), where your favorite jazz tunes are just a mouse-click away.

# Advancing the Creative Process



The expense of higher education continues to soar at colleges and universities across the country. Although tuition at the University of Memphis rises every fall, these costs (approximately \$6,100 per academic year in 2008 for in-state, undergraduate tuition and fees, and \$7,400 for graduate students) are still less than those charged at UTK or CBU, and considerably less than those at near-by, out of state schools like Ole Miss or Mississippi State. The Hope Scholarships, funded by the Tennessee Lottery, have reduced some of the pressure of college fees for qualified students, but for many others and their families, these mounting expenses are a primary concern.

In recent decades, the U of M has been fortunate to acquire a number of significantly endowed scholarship funds, such as the Elizabeth and Harold Robinson Scholars and Fellows Fund, which pays a large portion of tuition for 12 talented and deserving students in the College of Communication and Fine Arts (CCFA) each year. A few of these large funds also cover major expenses beyond tuition, such as room and board. Yet, many students face a seemingly endless assortment of expenses directly related to classroom and studio instruction. These additional financial requirements are prevalent among the various majors within CCFA. In some cases they even rival tuition and fees. Foremost among these are the particular costs born by art and architecture students.

This year we counted 440 declared art majors; add the more than 150 architecture and interior design majors (all of these students are required to pay an additional \$20 per semester hour for studio classes), and you have a lot of students who spend a lot of additional money on materials and supplies. Good brushes for a painting student, for instance, cost anywhere from \$20 to \$30 each. Fine printing papers can start at \$6 per sheet. One “best” print can result from the use of 10 sheets of paper. Aspiring graphic designers must learn to use industry standard software applications like Photoshop, InDesign and Illustrator. These tools require a considerable initial investment.

Other areas have similar extra supply expenses. In addition to costly design software, architecture and interior design students have to pay for model building materials. In the Department of Communication, film and video students bear the expense of editing software. For music majors there is the primary expense of instruments and then private lessons in addition to classroom instruction. For music and theatre majors, there often is travel expense associated with performance and competition. Additionally, the textbook industry has moved to multi-media products, and while digital texts are somewhat less expensive than traditional textbooks, an average “book” still costs \$100 to \$120. With changing technologies, many supplemental texts are not “buy back” items, as new editions rapidly appear or publishers charge a sizeable Web hook-up fee.

The University’s Advancement Division and the Office of Financial Aid work closely together to help provide students the best possible opportunities for meeting the challenges of these escalating costs. We encourage alumni and friends to consider helping students defray some of the many expenses crucial to a full and enriching program of studio and classroom instruction, or of performance and exhibitions. There are many ways to assist students that do not require large or endowed gifts. A “Book Award” can be established for as little as \$500 a year; this could offer a young designer \$250 a semester for texts or software. The same amount would help pay travel expenses for two students to attend the American College Dance Festival Association’s (ACDFA) Southeast Region Festival. A \$500 gift would provide a prize for an outstanding work of art entered in AMUM’s Annual Juried Student Exhibition or help purchase studio supplies for a painting or sculpture major. Gifts in any amount can be made to one or more of the enrichment funds established in every department. These support a range of specific needs and opportunities not covered by tuition scholarships. For example, the new Keith Kennedy Fund will help theatre and dance students with such expenses as travel to portfolio presentations and auditions; the Osborn and Bakke Communication Funds support, among other things, graduate student needs in research and attendance at fee-based professional meetings and special lectures.

If you have an interest in the arts or communication disciplines, join us by helping provide the means for our student artists, performers, filmmakers, musicians and writers to attain their educational goals. In return they will enrich all our lives.

Patty Bladon  
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# Faculty, Staff, Students & Alumni

## Faculty News

### ARCHITECTURE

**Sherry Bryan**, associate professor of architecture, and **Jeanne Myers**, adjunct professor of architecture, are working with Valentina Shands-Puppione, at Architecture, Incorporated, and the AIA Memphis Women in Architecture organization to expand the architecture and design related holdings in the U of M library.

**Michael Chisamore**, assistant professor of architecture, was appointed Director of the University of Memphis' Center of Sustainable Design.

**Chere Labbe Doiron**, assistant professor of interior design, led a team of interior design students participating in the Tennessee Interior Design Coalition Day on the Hill. **Alexandra Taylor**, **Rachel Vaughn**, **Laura Barnhart**, **Melanie Henry**, **Patty Bailey**, **Melissa Pope**, and **Emily Garner** took part in the event.

**Michael Hagge**, associate professor and chair of the Department of Architecture, Ken Reardon (U of M City and Regional Planning) and Bill Ferguson (Askew Nixon Ferguson Architects) were primary coordinators in the first Urban Design 101 series hosted by the Memphis Regional Design Center. Hagge also presented a session at the eight-week series entitled "Principles of Good Practice for Contemporary Urban Design."

**Michael Hagge**, associate professor and chair of the Department of Architecture, and **Pam Hurley**, graduate student of architecture at the U of M, work with the University's School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy on a project for Henning, Tennessee. Also involved in the project were first year Design Visualization studio students of **Sherry Bryan**, associate professor of architecture, and **Brent DeLatte**, interior design program coordinator and multi media supervisor for the Department of Architecture. The students designed mall habitation places for the proposed "Creative village." The overall project was recognized as an example of successful engaged scholarship.

**Randle Witherington**, associate professor of interior design, was a key participant in a grant from the Assisi Foundation for the design of renovations to the First Congregational Church Conference Center.

### ART

**Marima Ayad**, associate professor of art history and assistant director of the Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology (IEAA), presented a paper at the 60th Annual Meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt held in Dallas, Texas in April. Her presentation "Opening of the Mouth Ritual in the Tomb of Harwa (TT 37): A Preliminary Report," focused on preliminary results of her work at the tomb of Harwa (TT 37). Ayad taught two summer session classes at the American University in Cairo (AUC), her alma mater. The undergraduate classes are: "Introduction to Ancient Egypt" and "Egyptian Hieroglyphs I." Ayad also gave a lecture at the Cairo office of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE). Her lecture, "The God's Wife of Amun: Avenues to Legitimacy," focused on a chapter of her recently published book, *God's Wife, God's Servant: The God's Wife of Amun*. Later this summer, Ayad will present on the God's Wives at an international colloquium on the Egyptian Renaissance. The colloquium will be held in Montepulciano in Tuscany, Italy.

**Bryna Bobick**, assistant professor of art education, presented at the National Art Education Association (NAEA) Conference in Minneapolis in April. The topic of her presentation was "Forming a Partnership Between an Elementary School and a University."

**Hugh Busby**, CCFa's local technical support provider and instructor of graphic design, was elected team coordinator of the Shelby County chapter of the Tennessee State Employee Association (TSEA). Busby served as a juror for the Memphis City Schools Exhibition of Student Work in April and participated in "AIDS Project 3" at the multi-media performance space Odessa, located on Broad Street in Memphis.

**Lorelei H. Corcoran**, director of the Institute of Egyptian Art & Archaeology and associate professor of art history, delivered a lecture to the Classics Club of Tulane University, New Orleans, in April. The subject of her invited talk was "Red-Shroud Portrait Mummies from Roman Egypt," a topic related to her research on a red-shroud mummy at the J. Paul Getty Museum, Malibu, that will be published in September as a monograph in the Getty series, *Studies on Art*.

**Gary Golightly**, associate professor of graphic design, won gold in the 2009 Memphis Advertising Federation's Addy Awards for the Talk Radio poster he designed for the Department of Theatre & Dance's 2008 production of Eric Bogosian's Pulitzer Prize-nominated drama. The Talk Radio entry competed in the regional Addy Awards, and won silver in the District 7 Southeast Regional Addy Awards in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Golightly won a silver award for his Eurydice poster, designed for the play that premiered on the U of M's Mainstage in November 2008. He also designed the two official logos for the 2009 Memphis in May International Festival.

**Richard Lou**, professor and chair of the Department of art, was awarded the University of Memphis NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) Mahogany Awards Advisor of the Year 2009 for working with the Hispanic Student Association.



Larry McPherson

**Larry McPherson**, associate professor of photography, retired from the Department of Art this spring. McPherson was born in Newark, Ohio and "grew

up professionally" in Chicago in the late 1960s and 70s. He received his B.A. from Columbia College in Chicago and an M.F.A. in photography from Northern Illinois University in Dekalb. He has taught photography at the University of Memphis for the past 30 years. McPherson's photographs have been exhibited extensively in the U.S. and Europe. His works are in numerous permanent collections, including those at the Art Institute of Chicago, the Dayton Art Institute, the New Orleans Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, the International Museum of Photography in Rochester, New York, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. McPherson has received two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships in Photography, a Guggenheim Fellowship in Photography, and a Tennessee Arts Commission Fellowship in Photography. He is the author of three books.

**Todd Richardson**, assistant professor of art history, received the Historians of Netherlandish Art 2009 Research Award for his forthcoming book *Pieter Bruegel the Elder: Art Discourse in the Sixteenth-Century Netherlands*. He also published, "Landscaping the Soul: Pieter Bruegel's Conversion of St. Paul," in Denis Ribouillault and Michel Weemans (eds.), *Paysage sacré et exégèse visuelle / Sacred Landscape and Visual Exegesis* (Florence: Leo S. Olsch, 2009).

### CMA

The **Center for Multimedia Arts (CMA)** completes the design and development of the Child Impact Statement (CIS) Reporting System, version 1.0, for Shelby County legislators, officials, administrators, and staff. **Michael Schmidt**, associate professor of graphic design and director of the CMA, and his staff, are currently working on version 2.0 of the CIS Reporting System.

An early-stage prototype of the CMA-designed "Compass" is used in pediatric patient studies by Duke University's School of Nursing. "Compass" is a preference assessment and decision aid for children ages 7-12 years. The CMA collaborates with the Center for Urban Child Policy at The Urban Child Institute (TUCI) to frame messages on child wellbeing.

### COMMUNICATION

The **Department of Communication** "adopted" the Model U.N. Program at American Way Middle School. The Model United Nations is an authentic simulation of the U.N. General Assembly and other multilateral bodies in schools throughout the U.S. The program promotes student and teacher interest in international relations and related subjects, increases the capacity for students to engage in problem solving, teaches aspects of conflict resolution, research skills, and communication skills, and creates the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends.

This past fall, communication students from the honors section of the department's Oral Communication course, taught by **Allison Graham**, professor of communication, tutored honors students at American Way. The middle school students prepared for their Model U.N. presentations in New York City this spring. Coordinator of the program at American Way Middle School is Elisabeth Silverman.

**Kris Markman**, assistant professor of communication, published an article entitled, "So what shall we talk about?" *Openings and closings in chat-based virtual meetings in the January 2009 issue of the Journal of Business Communication*. Markman currently serves as co-vice chair for programming for the Human Communication & Technology Division of the

National Communication Association (NCA), and she lectured at the Social Media Expedition Breakfast. The title of her talk: "A Species Driven to Connect: Studying Social Media."

**Sandra Sarkela**, associate professor of communication, was appointed to a three-year term on the National Communication Association (NCA) Doctoral Education Committee.

## JOURNALISM

**Joe Hayden**, associate professor of journalism, recently published *A Dubya in the Headlights: President George W. Bush and the Media* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2009). The book explores the curious interaction between America's 43rd president and the people who write about him, talk about him, photograph and draw him. The book details the Bush administration's mistakes in its communication strategy, focusing in particular on the period since Hurricane Katrina. Hayden is currently writing on a new book, *Negotiating in the Press: American Journalism and Diplomacy, 1918-1919*, scheduled to be released with Louisiana State University Press in early 2010. As part of the journalism department's m3+zdf German-exchange program, Hayden taught a seminar entitled, "American Presidents and the Press" at the University of Mainz, Germany.

## MUSIC

**Lily Afshar**, professor of classical guitar, gave master classes and performed numerous concerts in the spring 2009 semester. Venues in California included The Coffee Gallery Backstage, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, the Polish-American Club, and California State University Northridge. In Hammond, Louisiana, Afshar performed at the Southeastern Guitar Festival. She gave a chamber concert performing Castelnuovo-Tedesco's *Romancero Gitano* with the Memphis Vocal Arts Ensemble at St. George's Episcopal Church in Germantown. She taught master classes at California State University in Sacramento and Northridge, and at Southeastern Louisiana University.

**Leonardo Altino**, associate professor of cello, performed the Villa-Lobos cello concerto with the Symphony Pro-Musica in the greater Boston area in March. He followed the performance with a recital at the Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio.

**Victor Santiago Asuncion**, director of collaborative arts studies in piano and professor of piano, performed as soloist with the Paducah Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Jordan Tang, performing Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*.

He has been actively performing with the cellist Lynn Harrell, in venues such as the Library of Congress, the University of Utah at Salt Lake City, Emory University, Laguna Beach Music Festival, the People's Symphony Concerts in New York City, and the State University of New York at Purchase. Recitals with Harrell include chamber music performances in San Francisco, Minneapolis, at the University of Georgia, and the Germantown Performing Arts Centre, among others. As a solo recitalist, Asuncion appeared at Kent State University in Ohio, the Pera Piano Festival in Turkey, the Virtuosi Music Festival in Gravata, Brazil, the InterHarmony Music Festival in Germany, as well as in France, Singapore and the Philippines.

**Angeline Case-Stott**, professor emeritus of harpiscord, has been re-elected to the Board of Directors for the Midwestern Historical Keyboard Society. Recently, Case-Scott presented a program on "Historical Performance Practice at the Keyboard" to the Greater Memphis Music Teachers Association. She also adjudicated several competitions including the Mississippi Music Teachers State Honors Piano Competition.



Jack Cooper

**Jack Cooper**, associate professor of jazz and area coordinator of jazz studies, adjudicated the West Tennessee School Band Directors Jazz Festival as well as the Reno, Nevada Jazz Festival. He is also serving as an invited adjudicator at the Riverside City College Jazz Festival and the Brea Jazz Festival in California. Cooper performed as guest artist with the U.S. Army Jazz Knights in New York City, and his chamber music CD with Centaur Records will be released later this summer.

**Bruce Erskine**, professor of flute, was a judge for finals of the National High School Flute Soloist Competition. The competition, sponsored by the National Flute Association (NFA), was held at the NFA's convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

**David Evans**, professor of musicology, toured France, the Czech Republic and Austria during the spring 2009 semester. He lectured and gave recitals on Mississippi Blues at Masaryk University (Brno, Czech Republic) and the University of Vienna. He performed concerts in Paris, Vienna, Brno, Most, Mariánské Lázně, Sumpperk and Prague.

**Susan Owen-Leinert**, assistant professor of voice and president of The Spohr Society of the United States, was invited by the Wagner Society of Northern California to give a lecture about Louis Spohr (1784 – 1859) and his influence on the composer Richard Wagner. Owen-Leinert's lecture will be published in the Society's well-known journal *Leitmotiv*. Owen-Leinert gave another lecture about Spohr at the Wagner Society in Düsseldorf, Germany.

**David Spencer**, associate professor of trumpet, and pianist **Sin-Hsing Tsai**, assistant professor of music at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga (UTC), joined the UTC Symphony Orchestra for a concert in February. The performance featured Beethoven's *Ruins of Athens Overture*, Purcell's *Sonata for Trumpet and String Orchestra*, and Shostakovich's *Concerto #1 in C minor for Piano, Trumpet and Strings, Op. 35*.

**Copeland Woodruff**, stage director for the University of Memphis Opera, was invited to teach a series of four master classes at the Juilliard School. The classes for graduate students in the Opera Center and Opera Theatre centered on traditional and non-traditional acting techniques, aria interpretation and staging scenes and recitatives. Woodruff introduced *Viewpoints*, a method deconstructing theatrical time and space. The method was devised by Mary Overlie and developed for theater by Anne Bogart. Woodruff has worked with Bogart at New York City Opera and used the methodol-

ogy to mount productions of Conrad Susa's *Transformations* at Oberlin College and Cavalli's *L'EGisto* at Temple University Opera Theatre.

The **Memphis Brass Quintet** (MBQ), the faculty brass ensemble in residence at the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music, flew to Brazil to perform recitals and teach master classes in late 2008. The trip included recitals at the Amazon Music Foundation in Belém, Pará and the Convent Santo Antonio in Joao Pessoa, Paraíba. The following month the Quintet, along with Albert Nguyen, University of Memphis Marching Band Director, toured nine high schools and two universities in Arkansas, performing for approximately 2,000 people. Members of the Memphis Brass Quintet are **David Spencer** and **Ben Lewis**, trumpets; **Dan Phillips**, horn; **John Mueller**, trombone, and **Kevin Sanders**, tuba. In January the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music hosted the **2009 Low Brass Day** for students and professionals in the region.

## Student News

### ARCHITECTURE

**Kate Bidwell**, architecture student, received the Presidential Leadership Award for Distinguished Service, won the Department of Architecture Creative Achievement Award and was chosen Runner-Up for CCA's Student Creative Achievement Award. Bidwell passed the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) AP exam, won first place in the education category for the Annual Student Research Forum, was selected for *Who's Who in America's Colleges and Universities*, and was chosen by the University Honors Program to represent the University of Memphis at the Posters at the Capitol in Nashville.

**Aļzbęta Bowden**, second year graduate student in architecture, passed the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) AP exam

**Mary Carroll**, architecture student, received the Jonathan King Student Medal for Excellence in Architectural + Environmental Design Research from the Architectural Research Centers Consortium (ARCC). She received the medal for her outstanding work on the TERRA Sustainable Design demonstration house.

**Heather Dacus**, interior design student, received the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) - City Center Honor Award for her work as professional liaison between the IIDA - Campus Center and the IIDA - City Center. This is the first time this award has been made.

**Holly Hendrix**, fourth year architecture student, passed the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) AP exam.

**Christin Mains**, architecture student who graduated in May, received the Alpha Rho Chi Medal for her leadership in the co-ed fraternity. Mains graduated with Honors in Architecture and will enter the professional Master of Architecture degree program at the University of Illinois Chicago in the fall.

The following architecture and interior design students won scholarships: **Holly Hendrix** received the Phi Kappa Phi Scholarship; **Alysa Butterfield** won an Emerging Leaders Scholarship; Kate Bidwell was awarded the Women in Construction Scholarship; **Rachel Vaughn** won a scholarship from the study abroad office and secured a prestigious summer internship in London, England.

**Katarzyna Źycińska**, architecture student who graduated in May, received the Alpha Rho Chi Medal for academics and leadership. She was also recognized

for graduating Summa Cum Laude with University Honors and Thesis and Honors in Architecture, receiving the Highest GPA Honors Award from the department. She will also enter the professional Master of Architecture degree program at the University of Memphis in the fall.

## ART

**J. Lafayette Gaston**, MA student in art history with a concentration in Egyptology, received the 2009 Graduate Research Award in Art History.

**Amber Iacopelli**, U of M art senior with a concentration in graphic design, took home silver awards in the 2009 Memphis Advertising Federations' Addy Awards student competition.

**Lindsay Vosburg**, MA student in art history, with a concentration in Egyptology, took a summer job with the Luxor office of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), Vosburg will return to the U of M this fall to complete her MA.

## COMMUNICATION

**Carolyn Block**, MA student in applied communication and **Melody Lehn**, MA student in rhetoric, were inducted into Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

**Morgan Ginther**, Ph.D. student in rhetoric, was accepted into the Oral History Institute at the University of California at Berkeley, where she will continue her research on the Mississippi Democratic Freedom Party and the rhetoric of Fannie Lou Hamer.

**Amanda Gresens**, MA student in rhetoric, was awarded the Eastern Communication Association Centennial Scholarship for MA Students to support her research on "First Lady and Surrogate: Eleanor Roosevelt's Presidential Campaign Rhetoric, 1932-1945."

**Sarah Kenney** undergraduate student in communication with a concentration in film and video production, spent the spring 2009 semester in Los Angeles as intern for the Jim Henson Company. Kenney was accepted into the company's Creative Affairs Internship program. The internship requires students to support the Jim Henson Company Creative Affairs team in the development of science fiction and fantasy genre films and television, to working inter-departmentally on special projects, such as reading scripts and books, writing coverage, conducting creative research, writer, director, design research, and compiling artwork. Working directly with the Henson executives allows the students to interact with the staff, share thoughts on material, and form valuable relationships. Kenney said that what she learned in communication professor Steve Ross' screenwriting class helped her when she had to write coverage for a script during the interview process.

**Melody Lehn**, MA student in rhetoric, was accepted into the Rhetoric Society of America 2009 summer institute on "Women, Rhetoric and Political Agency."

**Christopher Oldenburg**, Ph.D. student in rhetoric, was awarded the University of Memphis graduate assistant meritorious teaching award for 2009.

## JOURNALISM

**Guy Campbell**, graduated student in journalism, was invited to present his paper "Branding a Firm's DNA" at the plenary interactive poster session at the Reputation Institute's 13th International conference on Corporate Reputation, Brand, Identity and Competitiveness, in Amsterdam. The Reputation Institute is the leading international organization devoted to advancing knowledge about corporate reputations and to providing professional assistance to

companies interested in measuring and managing their reputations proactively. Founded in 1997, Reputation Institute has been and remains a pioneer and global leader in the development of measurement tools and in offering advice and counsel to leading companies around the world.

Department (U.S. State Department) fellowship to study Arabic in Jordan. She was also awarded second place at the Annual University of Memphis Student Research Forum. Chandlee plans to continue her studies in Egyptology and pursue a Ph.D. in the field.



*The Teen Appeal scholarship class*

**The Teen Appeal** scholarship students had a wonderful time at The University of Memphis Journalism Awards Banquet. The 2008/09 Scripps Howard Teen Appeal Scholarship Class consists of (from left) **Christopher Cody**, Hollis Price Middle College; **Dominique Stem**, Central High School; **Tario Dunlap**, Northside High School; and **Joe Guyton**, White Station High School. Christopher, Tario and Joe plan to major in journalism at the University of Memphis, Dominique will major in journalism at Loyola University in Chicago.

## MUSIC

**Meghan Lyons**, undergraduate music performance student, received scholarships to attend the Brevard Festival in North Carolina during the summer.

**Simona Barbu**, **Matthew Kiefer**, and **Paul Vest**, graduate students in music, received the apprentice fellowships at the MasterWorks Festival in Indiana. All three students will be performing and working with faculty in the festival orchestras to lead students from high schools and colleges in the U.S. and other countries this summer.

## THEATRE & DANCE

**Taylor Burnside**, theatre performance freshman, is the new U of M Tiger mascot, Pouncer. To see if he was fit for the job, Burnside had to audition at the Cincinnati game in front of 18,000 fans. No problem for the theatre student who has since then worked to make Pouncer into a real character.

Burnside played the lead role in the U of M theatre department's production of *Spitfire Grill* earlier this year, and Troy, one of the lead roles, in Disney's *High School Musical 2* at the DeSoto Civic Center in April. At Collierville High School, he played the Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz*.

## Alumni News

### ART

**Sarah Chandlee**, MA '09 in art history, with a concentration in Egyptology, received a Critical Language

**Auna R. Hearne**, BA '09 in art history, was selected as Yates Scholar at the University of Cincinnati, where she will pursue her graduate degree.

**Danilele Phelps** and **Lana Hill**, MA '09 in art history, with a concentration in Egyptology, were awarded first place at the Annual University of Memphis Student Research Forum.



**Cathy Reece**, BFA '09 in art with a concentration in graphic design, won gold in the 2009 Memphis Advertising Federations' Addy Awards student competition for her poster *Salon Des Refuses*, an exhibition of rejection, and gold for *felt* an over-sized, 34 page book that she wrote and illustrated. Reece won a silver award for the identity package **Cathy Reece**.

**PJ McCormick** and **Martina Igberaese**, BFA '09 in art with a concentration in graphic design, took home silver awards in the 2009 Memphis Addy Awards student competition.

**Patrick Salland**, MA '08 in art history with a concentration in Egyptology, currently a Ph.D. Student

at the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University, has been awarded the William Kelly Simpson internship at the Metropolitan Museum of Art this summer.

## COMMUNICATION

**Linda Brigrance**, MA '91 in communication, is associate professor of communication at SUNY Fredonia, in Fredonia, New York. She joined the Department of Communication at SUNY after receiving her Ph.D. in communication from the University of Iowa in 1999. Her most recent presentations and publications have focused on the representation of gender by women's history museums and historical sites.

**Joel Hurd**, BA '93 in communication, with a concentration in broadcasting, first worked at WKNO-FM in Memphis, before becoming production manager at North Country Public Radio (NCPR) at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, in 1998. "Every day I find myself applying the skills that I learned in my studies at the U of M, as well as my time as music director for the former WSMS [now WUMR]," Hurd says. In 2007, Hurd traveled the Adirondack/North Country of New York State with a remote multitrack recording system, capturing the music of this region for the listeners of North Country Public Radio. He held recording sessions with more than 500 musicians, which were professionally mastered and released as a three-disc compilation titled, *Music Heard UpNorth*. The compilation includes a 20-page full color booklet explaining the **UpNorth Music Project**, for which the CDs were produced, along with information for the 40 acts included on the discs.

**Joey Watson**, BA '98 and MA '03 in communication with a concentration in film and video production, is working on his Ph.D. at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Watson teaches film and media arts at LSU. He was most recently recognized for his film *South of Lost*, which follows in the footsteps of experimental cinema, paying homage to the late Robert Altman, who directed more than 50 films, documentaries, and television shows, but is most often associated with his 1970 movie, *M\*A\*S\*H*, and his 2002 film, *Gosford Park*. Locally, Watson has been associated with Old School Pictures, an independent film group that originated in Watson's 1998 film and video class at Houston High School.

## JOURNALISM

**Connie L. Burk** was honored at the Journalism Awards Banquet in April for her endowment of the **Bill E. Burk Journalism Student Travel Fund**. The endowment was established in memory of **Bill Burke**, her late husband, who died in April 2008. It will provide funds for undergraduate and graduate journalism students to support their travel to professional and academic conferences. Bill Burk, who graduated from the Department of Journalism 51 years ago, enjoyed a successful and rich media career. He graduated from (then) Memphis State University in 1958 with degrees in journalism, history and psychology. In his journalism career, Burk distinguished himself in several areas of media practice. He began a 35-year career at the *Memphis Press Scimitar* in 1957 where he worked first as a general assignment reporter, later as aviation editor, real estate editor, assistant city editor, sports columnist, and nightclub/restaurant editor. In 1974 he began producing his signature Good Evening column for the *Press Scimitar*, which he wrote until the afternoon paper closed in 1983. His columns were syndicated in 61 newspapers from Seattle to San Juan. While reporting for the *Press Scimitar*, Burke also covered Elvis Presley. He wrote 13 books, most of them about Elvis. In 1986 he founded *Elvis World* magazine which gained a worldwide readership.

**Elinor Grusin**, professor emeritus of journalism, was honored at the Journalism Awards Banquet in

April for her contributions in establishing the new Elinor Kelley Grusin Journalism Enrichment Fund. Grusin's gifts together with monies raised by the Journalism Alumni Club have created this fund, which will be used for student travel to professional meetings and seminars, undergraduate and graduate research, special lectures, student awards and prizes including the Elinor Kelley Grusin Excellence in Writing Award.

**Jessica Otwell Swink**, BA '09 in journalism, won the top paper award in the Scholastic Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) for her research involving The Teen Appeal. Swink will present her findings at the AEJMC Convention in Boston in August.

**Gloria Trotter** BA '74 in journalism, who has been co-publisher of the Oklahoma *Tecumseh Countywide News* since 1983, and *The Shawnee Sun* (now *The Countywide & Sun*) since 1990, was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame this year. A native of Bristol, a twin city located directly on the Tennessee-Virginia state line, Trotter worked at the *Bristol Virginia-Tennessean* in high school and covered news for News 5, WCYB-TV. She was news director for WOPI, 97.9 FM in Bristol, Tennessee, and continuing education marketing director at then Memphis State University from 1974 to 1977. Trotter is the incoming president of the Oklahoma Press Association. She has served on many committees and has been active in numerous journalism groups. She is past president and board member of Freedom of Information (FOI) Oklahoma, Inc. Her awards include the National Newspaper Association's McKinney Award and the Outstanding Journalism Alumni award from the University of Memphis' Department of Journalism.

## MUSIC

The **Music Industry Division** at the School of Music connected with many of its former student for an inventory of alumni successes. The achievements of the Division's alumni are a reflection of their quality and the Division's excellence. **Alan Burcham** works as engineer for Ardent Recording in Memphis; **Melanie Clegg** is associate manager for artistic projects at Carnegie Hall in New York City; **Jason Gillespie** works as sound engineer for Ardent Recording; **Cheryl Humphrey**, also known as "Candy Girl," after making the Hollywood round of *American Idol* relocated to Atlanta, Georgia, where she writes, produces and provides background vocals for a variety of popular recording artists such as Angie Stone and The Roots. **Lucia Kaminsky** was production coordinator at Walt Disney Entertainment in Sao Paulo, Brazil and is now chapter assistant at The Recording Academy in Memphis, where she has recently moderated a panel featuring hip hop drummer and producer, Questlove, and banjo master Bela Fleck; **Jeff Lusk** is mastering engineer/sound designer at 615 Music Productions in Nashville; **Evanthia Mataragas** works as assistant for Walt Disney World Entertainment's Show Development and Production Division in Orlando; **Daniel Russo** is studio manager at Ardent Recording; **Jonathan "Stump" Sterling** works at Ocean Way Recording in Los Angeles; **Shana Simms** is coordinator of business and legal affairs at Rhino Records/Warner Music Group in Los Angeles. Simms also provides production and photography services for some of LA's most popular venues, including the Hollywood Palladium and the Wiltern Theatre.

**Sharon Oh**, BM '09 in music performance, was chosen to attend the prestigious Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival in Blue Hill, Maine on a full scholarship. Each year, the festival attracts some of the most gifted string and piano students from leading conservatories and universities.

**Victor Hugo Agudelo Ramirez**, a native of Columbia who graduated from the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music with a D.M.A. in composition in 2008, has won the Morton Gould Young Composer Award for his composition *Continental Prism*. The award is presented by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) in memory of the late Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Morton Gould, whose lifelong commitment was to encourage young, up and coming composers.

"*Continental Prism* is a re-creation of the world music I have heard through the years, built on serialist compositional processes but with a tonal-modal approach," Agudelo says. The piece is divided into seven movements. Each movement is associated with one of the seven colors found in the refraction of the white light and one of the seven continents of the world. The prism effect is found at the beginning of each movement as a musical gesture that helps connect them.

**Carina Nyberg Washington**, a clarinetist and founding member of the Prizm Ensemble, a new chamber music group in Memphis, commissioned the work.

## THEATRE & DANCE

**Caren Carson**, BFA '08 in theatre design, was selected by Teach for America, to head the theatre program in a high school in Forrest City, AR.

**Jason Blank** and **Ann Marie Gideon**, BFA '09 in theatre performance, were accepted into SpringboardNYC, a two-week college-to-career intensive summer transition program for exceptional theatre students, hosted by The American Theatre Wing, the producing organization of the Tony Awards, which Blank and Gideon attended on June 7, 2009. Each year SpringboardNYC selects 35 student actors and directors from universities across the country to participate in its program. To be accepted, students need to demonstrate outstanding talent and the desire to begin their theatre careers in New York City. SpringboardNYC provides young artists with job seeking skills, auditioning skills, insight into the business of theatre, and urban survival tools that will translate academic training into a productive career. The curriculum includes a series of workshops, seminars, master classes and field trips, placing students in the center of New York's theatrical community, with access to influential working artists. The American Theatre Wing brings in leading Broadway actors, directors, casting agents and producers for the workshops.

# The Hand, the Eye, the Heart, and the Mind—Greely Myatt Reflects on his Work with a Multi-Venue Exhibition

"Greely Myatt and exactly Twenty Years," is a survey of works by the Mississippi-born sculptor that will be on display at museums and galleries throughout Memphis this fall. The largest body of work will be shown in a collaborative exhibition at the Art Museum of the University of Memphis (AMUM) and Rhodes College's Clough-Hanson Gallery. The two-part exhibition opens with a reception on Friday, September 11 at 4:30 pm (AMUM) and 6 pm (Clough-Hanson). Myatt will give an artist talk at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art on Thursday, September 10 at 7 pm. The lecture and opening receptions at AMUM and Clough-Hanson are free and open to the public. Myatt will show new works at David Lusk Gallery, September 1-26, with an opening reception on September 4 at 6 pm.

Originally from Aberdeen, Mississippi, Myatt lives and works as a sculptor in Memphis. He teaches sculpture at the U of M and is currently associate chair of the Department of Art. Myatt's sculptures and installations have been exhibited in more than 25 solo shows and numerous group exhibitions across the United States, Europe and Japan. He has received grants and fellowships from the Tennessee Arts Commission, the University of Memphis, the University of Georgia, and Alternate Roots, Atlanta. Myatt is the recipient of the 1994 Mississippi Arts and Letters Visual Arts Award, and was an exchange artist to Israel in 1998. "In my work I have consistently attempted to combine art historical references with vernacular influences. As a native of the rural south I have a tremendous respect for work that is made by hand and guided by the heart and eye.



Greely Myatt in front of his quilts in 2009.

However as an educated artist I understand the importance of the mind in the process. To state my approach to the making of art in the simplest and most direct manner, I have tried to use these—the hand, the eye, the heart, and the mind—to shape my work in both the making and the viewing," Myatt explains.

"And let's not underestimate Myatt's stunning inventiveness and freedom in selecting materials to create his sculptures and installations," writes James Yood, visiting professor of modern and contemporary art history at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, in the exhibition's catalog.

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