

ccfa

WINTER 2010

VOICES

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

U of M's
*Hänsel
& Gretel*
Wins Top
Honor in
National
Competition

CRAIG BREWER RECEIVES
CCFA DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
JOURNALISM GRADUATE
SELECTED FOR
WHITNEY BIENNIAL

IN MEMORIAM:
DR. MICHAEL LEFF



ccfa VOICES

WINTER 2010



A Message from the Dean

As we put together this winter issue of *CCFA Voices*, there has been a lot of attention at the University of Memphis and in the sports news media about winning and winning streaks. Indeed, as a big fan of the Memphis Tigers men's basketball, I too was pleased that the University's teams over the last several years have been doing extremely well. Winning is fun and, as our new men's basketball coach Josh Pastner says repeatedly: "Winning is hard." So let's all join in celebrating the basketball achievements, but we need also to recognize and remember that there are numerous other winners who bring regional and national recognition to the University of

Memphis. I want to take this opportunity to highlight a few of the recent CCFA winners, whose stories you will find in this issue of *Voices*.

We are very excited that the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music's opera program production of *Hänsel and Gretel*, directed by Copeland Woodruff, conducted and musically directed by Mark Ensley, and starring music students Trisha Phillips, Maggie Malone, and Renée Clair, won first place in its category in the National Opera Association's Production Competition. Across the colonnade from the Music Building, the Department of Theatre & Dance's premiere production of Stephen Hancock's *The Horror of the Little Family Farce* was one of four regional plays competitively selected for presentation at the Region IV Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF). The regional success extends to the dance area of the department, as student choreographer Jana Pate's *Respire* was chosen for inclusion in the Southeast Regional Conference of the American College Dance Festival. We have also grown accustomed to the department's students, faculty, and alumni winning multiple Ostrander Awards, the Memphis theatre awards, as was the case again in 2009.

Off the stages, you will discover other CCFA winners. Two of our top national award-winning film professors in the Department of Communication, David Appleby and Craig Leake, have just aired *Beyond Babyland*, another masterful documentary. Melody Lehn, doctoral student in communication, won the top graduate student paper award at the 2009 Tennessee Communication Association (TCA). Photographs by recent journalism graduate Tam Tran were selected for the Whitney Biennial at New York City's Whitney Museum of American Art, journalism alumnae Courtney Meyers won the Elaine Averick PRSSA (Public Relations Student Society of America) Outstanding National Committee Member Award and the National PRSSA Gold Key award. Donalyn Heise, associate professor of art education, won the 2010 Tennessee Art Education Association's (TAEA) Art Educator of the Year award, and her Art History colleague, Carol Crown, received the Southeastern College Art Conference Award for Excellence in Scholarly Research and Publication. Winning standards are also set by the Department of Architecture, with fourth year honors student, Kate Bidwell, receiving the national Special Accomplishment Award from the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS), and the department's interior design student Hannah Huggins winning the "Green" Design Competition sponsored by Highwoods Properties, while Lauren Kane is a finalist in the PAVE 3D Design Challenge at the Las Vegas GlobalShop in March.

I could go on to fill several pages with CCFA winners, but I think you get the picture. The next time you are following the Memphis Tigers winning records, remember that they are only one small part of a winning tradition at the University of Memphis. Also, remember that your gifts help our students and faculty compete for these awards. Without these gifts, such as the Jeniam Foundation's support for theatre's travel to KCACTF, they would be sitting at home while others competed and won.

Just before this magazine was scheduled to go to print we learned of the unexpected death of Dr. Michael Leff, chair of the Department of Communication. Mike was an internationally known scholar of rhetoric and his passing is an immense loss not just for the University of Memphis, his students and colleagues in the communication department, but for anybody in his field.

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

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS

Dreamers. Thinkers. Doers.



Tam Tran, a 2008 journalism graduate, was selected to show her work in the 2010 Whitney Biennial at New York City's Whitney Museum of American Art, which runs February 25 through May 30, 2010. Tran took three photography classes in the Department of Art while at the U of M and went on to independently develop her skills in digital photography. She is the only Memphian and, at 23, the youngest of 55 artists who were selected for the prestigious exhibition that showcases new trends and outstanding work in contemporary American Art. This will be Tran's third exhibition. Prior to the Whitney Museum she has had her work in exhibitions at Memphis' Otherlands coffee shop and in a group show at the now defunct Powerhouse Gallery. She currently works as art director for Splash Creative, a local advertising and communications firm, and plans to pursue her master's degree in art in the near future.

CCFA 2 >

Filmmaker Craig Brewer Honored with CCFA Distinguished Achievement Award

Architecture 3

Partnership Lays Foundation for New Design-Build Course

Art 4

2010 Dorothy K. Hohenberg Chair of Excellence Selected

Communication 5 >

In Memoriam: Dr. Michael Leff

Journalism 7

Journalism Alumni Honored at Annual Awards Banquet

Music 8

U of M Opera's *Hänsel and Gretel* Wins Top Honor in National Competition

Theatre & Dance 11 >

A Big Year for the Department of Theatre & Dance



12 AMUM

New African Installation Opens at AMUM in April

Centers, Institutes, and Affiliates

13 CMA

CMA's Child Impact Statement Reporting System Now Implemented by Shelby County Officials

13 WUMR

14 Advancing the Creative Process

15 Friends of the College

19 Faculty, Staff, Students & Alumni

Visit ccfa.memphis.edu for even more CCFA news.

On the cover: U of M Opera's 2008 production of *Hänsel & Gretel* wins first place in its category in the National Opera Association's (NOA) Production Competition. Story on page 7. Illustration by A. Christopher Drown.

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Craig Brewer



LINDSEY LUSAU

Filmmaker Craig Brewer Honored with CCFA Distinguished Achievement Award

This past October, the legendary Charles Vergos Rendezvous was once again the site of CCFA's annual luncheon celebrating its *Distinguished Achievement Award in the Creative and Performing Arts*. An over-flow crowd of friends, family and admirers joined in the salute to the young and accomplished filmmaker Craig Brewer, 2009 recipient of the award established in memory of Elvis Presley in 1979.

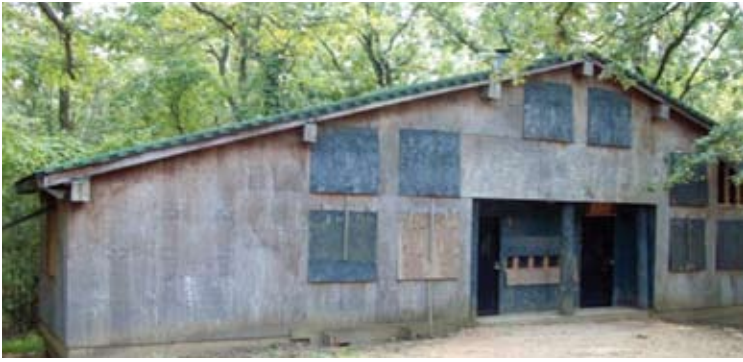
The award recognizes outstanding career achievement and contributions by artists associated with Memphis and the Mid-South. After living most of his life in California, Brewer moved to Memphis in 1999, to his grandmother's old, Midtown home. "The South remains one of the last mythological places in America," he has said. From its people, music, politics, heat and humidity, he has taken inspiration for writing and directing a series of award-winning films including *The Poor and Hungry* (2000), *Hustle and Flow* (2005), starring Terrance Howard, and *Black Snake Moan* (2006), featuring Samuel L. Jackson in an archetypal role as an aging blues guitarist. Brewer is also the creator of *\$5 Cover*, an MTV drama series about Memphis musicians.

The Poor and Hungry, an independent film produced on a \$20,000 budget with his family as crew, and a hand held mini-DV camera, went on to win five awards, including the Hollywood Discovery Award for Best Digital Feature at the 2000 Hollywood Film Festival. *Hustle and Flow* garnered an Oscar for Best Original Song at the 2006 Academy Awards, as well as the audience and cinematography award at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival. All together, *Hustle and Flow* won 18 awards at numerous film festivals and from various film and film related associations and 34 nominations, including an Oscar nomination for Terrance Howard as Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role.

In his films and many other scripts and screen plays, Brewer reveals himself as a master story teller who has made Memphis, its musical heritage, and rich blend of human characters the foundation of his films and their gritty tales, bringing new vitality and international attention to Memphis' film and music industry.

Among those who described and praised the honoree's achievements was Linn Sitler, head of the Memphis & Shelby County Film and Television Commission/MemphisEd. She read a tribute to Brewer by Stephanie Alain, former Columbia Pictures executive and co-producer of *Hustle and Flow* and *Black Snake Moan*. Gale Jones Carson, MLGW executive, relayed a congratulatory message from Samuel L. Jackson. The program included an original documentary about the honoree produced by Steve Ross, respected documentary filmmaker and professor of film at the U of M, and Patrick Buttram, U of M graduate student in film. The program concluded with Dean Richard Ranta's presentation of interim Mayor Myron Lowry's proclamation making October 16 "Craig Brewer Day" in Memphis, presentation of the award, and remarks by Brewer.

The Distinguished Achievement Award is presented each year by the College of Communication and Fine Arts and its Advisory Board. Members serving on the 2009 event planning committee included Bob Chandler, Dean Deyo and Ward Archer. The event was generously sponsored by Phillips Recording Studio, Elvis Presley Charitable Foundation, Memphis & Shelby County Film and Television Commission, Memphis Music Foundation, FedEx Corporation and Charles Vergos Rendezvous.



Partnership with Boys & Girls Club of Greater Memphis Lays Foundation for New Design-Build Course

The spring 2010 semester marks the introduction of the Design-Build Studio in the Department of Architecture. Taught by Kara Pegg, the course offers additional experience for students relative to design, building technology, and construction administration. The Studio is a partnership between the Department of Architecture and the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Memphis, focusing on improving the Club's Camp Phoenix, located on Sardis Lake in Mississippi.

The initial scope of the Studio is the design and construction of an amphitheatre and will expand to address other needs in the future. Research conducted by Jennifer Barker, a second year M.Arch student, includes the design of a master plan and development of Camp Phoenix. Children from the Boys & Girls Club will have input on the design, allowing for a greater sense of ownership, as well as interaction with students, faculty and architects from the community.

Sherry Bryan, associate professor of architecture and architecture program director, coordinates the overall involvement of the Department of Architecture. Bryan is also the principal investigator on a grant proposal to the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB).

Approval of Interior Design Major Will Benefit Students Who Seek to Enter Growing Profession

A new Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with a major in Interior Design was approved, effective January 1, 2010, by the Tennessee Board of Regents and Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Previously, students studying interior design at the University of Memphis received a BFA in art with a concentration in interior design.

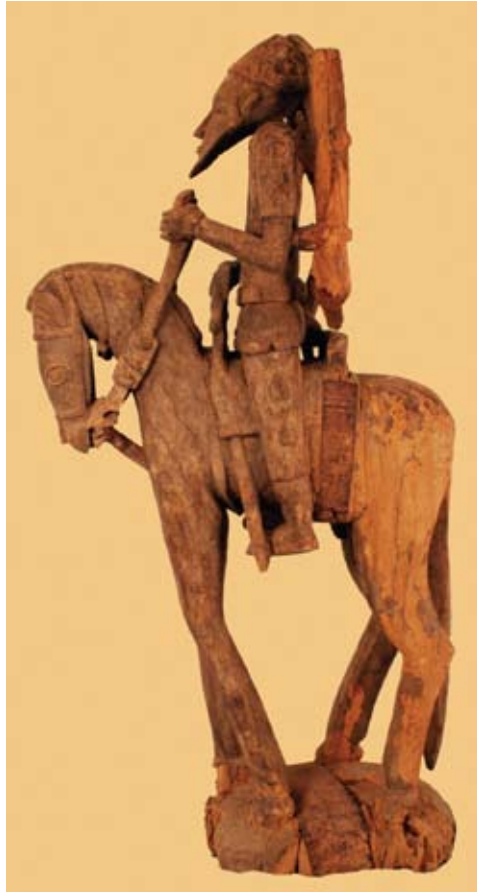
"The change to a BFA in interior design is an exciting step for current and future students because it helps solidify the profession which is relatively new, and growing," says Kristen David who has a professional degree in interior design and is a second-year M.Arch student. "There is a lot of public confusion to the boundaries and responsibilities that define interior designers, and now with the new degree some of the confusion will be cleared up." Establishing a BFA degree in interior design was one of the goals when the program moved into the newly established Department of Architecture in 2007.

Cheryl Durst Gives Lecture on "The Future of Design"

In November, the University of Memphis chapter of Alpha Rho Chi, in collaboration with the International Interior Design Association Campus Center and City Center, and the Department of Architecture, hosted Cheryl Durst, Executive Vice President and CEO of the International Interior Design Association (IIDA). Durst, who has primary responsibility for leading the 12,000 member IIDA, presented "The Future of Design" to more than 100 attendees. The event was held downtown in the lobby of the One Commerce Square amid a spectacular setting sponsored by Natural Stone + Tile with Artistic Tile. Alpha Rho Chi is the co-ed honor organization within the Department of Architecture and is open to architecture and interior design students as well as students in the allied fine arts.



From left: Melissa Pope, third year interior design student, Cheryl Durst, and Robert Paulus fourth year architecture student.



Bottom left: Mikelle Smith Omari-Tunkara. Top left: London carnival artist Clary Salandy drew on African tribal art for designing *A Touch of Africa*, Mahogany's theme for Notting Hill in 2001. Photo by Lesley Ferris. Right: The Dogon Equestrian Figure, modeled after ancient Jenne terracotta sculptures, harkens back to the ascendancy of medieval kings and empires in Sudan and reveals the influence of Islam. Martha and Robert Fogelman Collection. 2008.2.15.

Mikelle Smith Omari-Tunkara Selected as 2010 Dorothy K. Hohenberg Chair of Excellence in Art History

Mikelle Smith Omari-Tunkara, professor of art history at The University of Arizona and a leading scholar in the art of Africa, the African Diaspora, as well as African American art and culture, is the 2010 Hohenberg Chair of Excellence in the Department of Art for the spring semester.

Omari-Tunkara's appointment will boost the newly established concentration in the department's art history master's program, focusing on the art of Africa and the African Diaspora. In addition, she will serve as a great resource for the Art Museum's new African Installation, which opens in April.

"The subject of African art is of interest to a lot of students in different areas," says Earnestine Jenkins, associate professor of art history, whose research and areas of interest focus on visual cultures and arts of Africa, the African Diaspora, American, and African American social history and cultural studies. "We were lucky that everything finally fell into place," Jenkins notes. In 2008 the Art Museum at the University of Memphis received the generous gift of the *Martha and Robert Fogelman Collection of African Art*, from which the Museum will be able to create many new installations. Students expressed an interest in the subject, which ultimately led to the new graduate concentration in African art. Then Mikelle Smith Omari-Tunkara was chosen as the new Hohenberg Chair, who will add tremendous expertise and enable the Department of Art to offer additional classes that focus on the subject of African art.

"A very basic question for us is how to exhibit non-western art and which role does the curator play," Jenkins says. "Many of the pieces are viewed as sacred in the African culture. When exhibiting them in the Western world, we should stay true to the art's context. Because we are now able to offer a variety of learning experiences and additional expertise on this subject, our students will graduate with a sensibility for the issues involved."

Jonathan Brilliant Stirs It Up at the University of Memphis

Jonathan Brilliant, a South Carolina based artist spent two weeks in residence at the Department of Art this past fall, crafting a site-specific installation out of coffee stir sticks in the department's Jones Hall Gallery.

Two forces drive a large body of Brilliant's work: the coffee shop and found objects. For his "Goldsworthy of Coffee Shop Project," which includes the *Have Sticks Will Travel World Tour*, Brilliant assumes the role of a British artist who gathers materials in his natural environment and uses them to execute site-specific installations. In Brilliant's version, the natural environment is the coffee shop and his materials are found within this environment. The resulting work is both ironic and labor intensive with a traditional craft-based sensibility. His delicate, but often monumental installations, which are weaved from up to, and sometimes more than, 70,000 coffee stir sticks, provide a visceral experience for the audience, often engaging new audiences that normally wouldn't consider contemporary art.

Children from the University of Memphis Barbara K. Lipman Early Childhood School and Research Institute visited Jonathan Brilliant's coffee stir stick installation at Jones Hall Gallery after it closed to disassemble the piece and use the salvaged stir sticks in their own art works.

In Memoriam: Dr. Michael Leff

Michael Leff, chair of the Department of Communication at the University of Memphis, died on February 5, after a brief illness. Leff was internationally known as a scholar of rhetoric, having returned only recently from China where he was working to set up a student exchange program. Among his many honors, the National Communication Association (NCA) had designated him as a Distinguished Scholar. At his death he was president of the Rhetoric Society of America (RSA), and had been busy planning the Society's May convention in Minneapolis up until the day before he died.

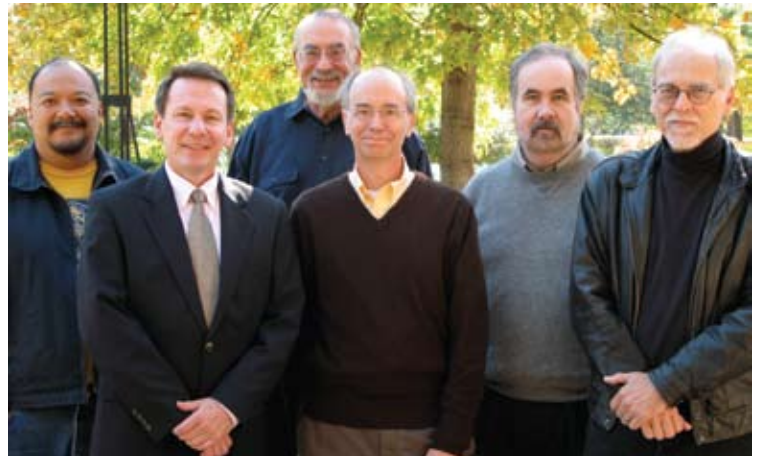
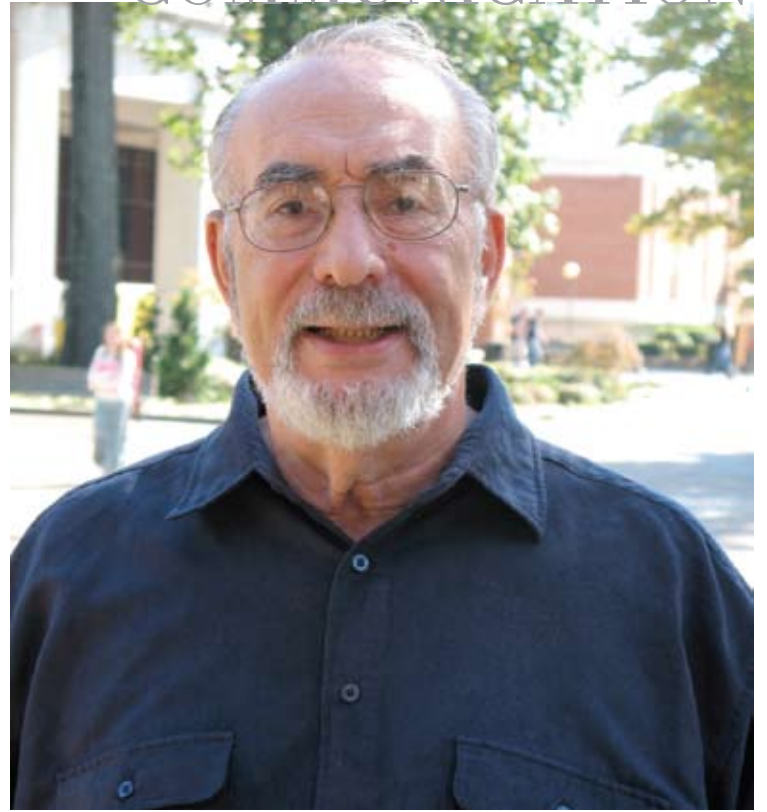
"Mike was an amazing intellectual scholar, and visionary department head," says Richard Ranta, dean of the College of Communication of Fine Arts. "As a friend, he was simply a joyful person who entertained with a wealth of hilarious stories. In recent years he had become a dedicated fan of the Memphis Grizzlies, sharing season tickets with Mike Osborn and me."

Leff was the scholarly leader of a school of criticism that emphasizes close textual analysis of speeches and other rhetorical documents. For his many publications, he had been awarded the NCA's Wichelns-Winans award, the Woolbert award for influential scholarship, and the Ehninger award for a sustained program of research. He had also received the award for Distinguished Scholarship from the International Society for the Study of Argumentation (ISSA). He served as editor of *Rhetorica*, the journal of the International Society for the History of Rhetoric, and as the founding president of the American Society for the History of Rhetoric (ASHR).

While Leff took pride in the many awards he had received, he took most joy in watching his graduate students succeed in establishing scholarly careers of their own. He was a demanding but convivial teacher who inspired students and colleagues by his encouragement of their initiatives and by his dedication to the study of rhetoric in society. As Chaucer might have noted of him, "Gladly would he learn, and gladly teach."

As a force in Memphis, Leff helped bring the Ph. D. program at the University of Memphis to both respectability and leadership. He developed a vision for the communication department, which emphasized enriching its outstanding program in film and video production, support of a program in health communication, and the encouragement of a Center for the Study of Rhetoric and Applied Communication (CSRAC). He served on the Board of Directors for the Memphis Urban Debate League, a cause in which he passionately believed, and for FirstWorks, Inc. a Memphis-based non-profit organization that serves children who reside in some of the poorest zip codes of the city. These children have great potential for success, but they have been declared at-risk by the school and juvenile court systems due to homelessness, neglect, and/or abandonment. Their cause became Leff's cause. He also served on the Board of Directors for Humanities Tennessee, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Before coming to the University of Memphis, Leff had taught at the University of California at Davis, the University of Indiana, the



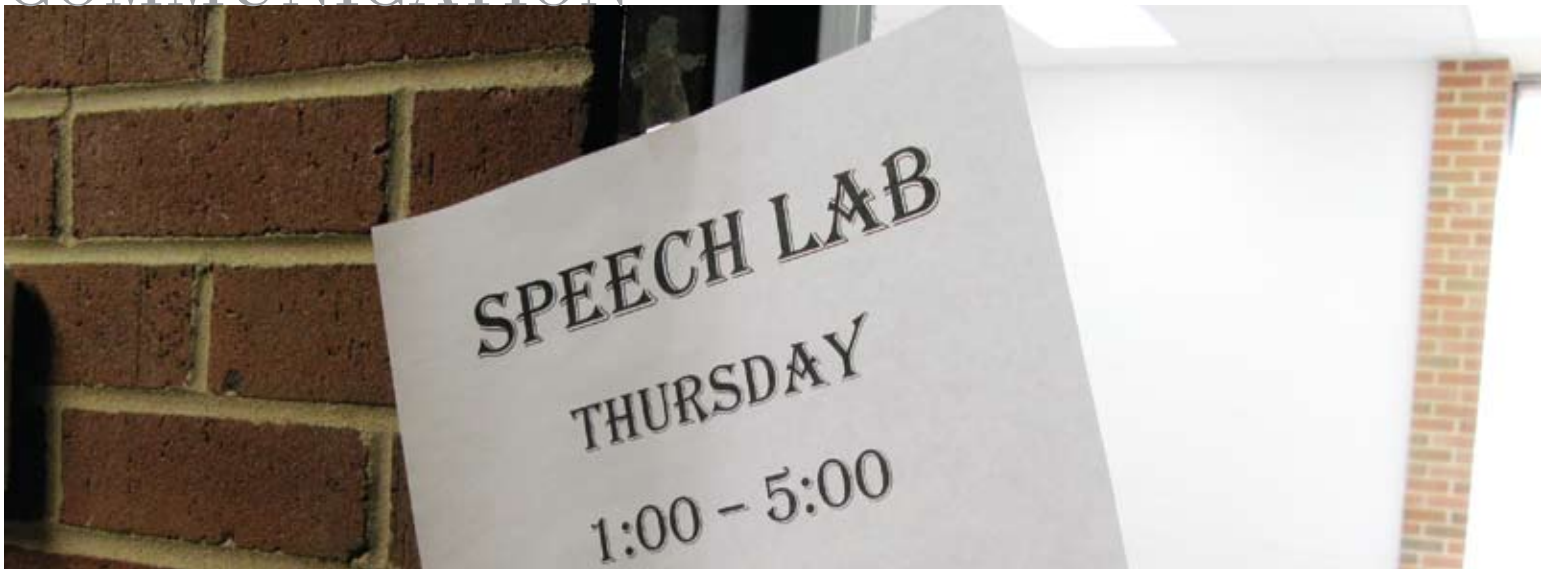
Top: Michael Leff. Above: Michael Leff, with his fellow CCFA department chairs and directors. In the front row from left to right: Richard Lou, chair, Department of Art; Randal Rushing, interim director Scheidt School of Music; David Arant, chair, Department of Journalism; Bob Hetherington, chair, Department of Theatre & Dance; Michael Hagge, chair, Department of Architecture.

University of Wisconsin, and at Northwestern University, where he had served as chair of the Department of Communication Studies. While in Chicago, he took special pride in teaching in the Odyssey program, designed to bring high quality liberal arts education to the lower-income population.

A celebration of Michael Leff's life and career is planned for the RSA convention in Minneapolis in May, as well as the Southern States Communication Association Convention (SSCA) in Memphis in April. While we grieve his death, we will forever be grateful for his life.

— By Michael Osborn and Richard Ranta

Michael Osborn is professor emeritus of communication and former chair of the then Department of Theatre and Communication Arts at the University of Memphis.



Newly Designed Speech Lab Intended to Help Students Improve Their Oral Communication Skills

When Brandon Chase Goldsmith attended Arizona State University, he was a regular at the school's Communication Assessment Learning Lab (CALL), designed to help students and professionals overcome their public speaking anxieties. Goldsmith, however, didn't use the lab to face his fear of speaking; he used it to hone his skills for his political theatre show.

"That's what makes communication and speech labs so great," says Goldsmith, now a doctoral student in the Department of Communication at the University of Memphis. "They are not just for communication majors and they are not designed to only address one issue such as public speaking anxiety."

Speech labs are not a recent phenomenon and several universities across the country offer students a learning lab in oral communication. Establishing such a lab at the University of Memphis has been on the radar of Michael Leff, chair of the Department of Communication for a while. "The lab is an important and desperately needed addition to our program in communication," Leff notes. "The lab allows us to do a better job in our basic course by giving students individual attention that they would not get otherwise, and it also provides a useful service to all students who need help in making oral presentations."

The department offers approximately 40 sections of its oral communication course, which is taught as part of the general education requirement for all undergraduate students enrolled at the U of M. Making sure that every student who wants to practice speech composition and delivery has access to the lab was an important consideration when opening the practice space in the fall. "Other disciplines, such as biology and chemistry, have lab hours for their students," says Gray Matthews, assistant professor of communication. "Setting up a speech lab is similar except that the students will not be graded on their performance, and participation is completely voluntary and open to non-majors. Oral

communication or public speaking is our only 'performance' oriented course. We really want to make sure our students have the opportunity to practice and know how to deliver a speech once they graduate."

Currently the U of M speech lab, staffed by Goldsmith and Heidi Williams, a master's student in communication, is open four days a week. The focus is on three areas: brainstorming for speech preparation, speech organization, and speech practice. Although a steady stream of students visited the lab in the fall, Matthews hopes that even more teachers will refer students to the lab in the coming semesters.

E-mail speechlab@memphis.edu for more information about the Speech Lab.

Memphis Will Host Southern States Communication Association's 80th Annual Convention in April

Communication students and academic professional will meet in Memphis, April 7-11, 2010 for the 80th Southern States Communication Association Convention (SSCA) and the 20th Theodore Clevenger Undergraduate Conference. Both events will focus on the subject of Positive Communication.

"We are very pleased that Memphis was selected as the site for this convention," says Richard Ranta, dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts who, together with Michael Leff, chair of the Department of Communication, leads the SSCA host committee. "This is an excellent opportunity to showcase our Department of Communication as well as CCFA and our great city. Also, our students will have the opportunity to interact with and learn from hundreds of scholars from the southern region as well as the entire nation."

SSCA promotes the study, criticism, research, teaching, and application of the artistic, humanistic, and scientific principles of communication. A not-for-profit organization, SSCA exists for educational, scientific, and literary purposes only.



From left to right: David Waters, Kini Kedigh Plumlee, and Jerry Klein.

Journalism Alumni Honored at Annual Awards Banquet

The University of Memphis Department of Journalism Alumni Club recognized three alumni for outstanding work in journalism, public relations and advertising at its annual awards banquet this past November.

The Washington Post columnist David Waters (B.A., '81) and *Le Bonheur* magazine editor Kini Kedigh Plumlee (B.A., '76) each received the Charles E. Thornton Outstanding Alumni Award, and Jerry Klein, founder and director of Kossman/Klein & Co., received the Dr. Herbert Lee Williams Award.

Waters started his journalism career in 1980 as a copy clerk at *The Commercial Appeal*. In 2007, he took the position of editor for "On Faith," *The Washington Post's* online discussion of religion in the news. During his time at *The Commercial Appeal*, Waters served as copy editor and reporter for various beats including education, politics, special projects and religion before starting his "Faith Matters" column. Waters became associate editor of the paper in 2004. In 2007 Waters won the American Society of Newspaper Editors' Distinguished Writing Award for his religion writing and won the Wilbur Award for best religion column in 2004. He's a member of the Scripps Howard Newspapers Editorial Hall of Fame.

Kini Kedigh Plumlee was the first female editor of *The Daily Helmsman*, the University of Memphis' student newspaper, and has worked as a columnist and editor of *The Commercial Appeal's* Bartlett section. She has served as director of communication for Theatre Memphis, public relations director for Memphis Symphony Orchestra, and public relations and marketing manager for Pink Palace Museum. Under her direction, *Le Bonheur* won the gold award from the Healthcare Advertising Awards and the Prism Award from the Tennessee Society for Healthcare Marketing and Public Relations.

Jerry Klein (B.A., '94) began his studies at then Memphis State College in 1949 but left before completing his degree. He worked for Walker and Associates as well as Buck Jones advertising agencies. In 1981 he and his wife, Juliet Kossman Klein, launched Kossman/Klein, a full-service advertising, marketing and public relations firm. Returning to the University of Memphis in 1989, Klein took one course a semester until he received his degree in 1994.

Klein is chairman of the Economic Development Commission of the City of Germantown and chairman of the Memphis Tourism Foundation. He serves on the board of directors and executive committee of the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Journalism Students Become Local 2010 Census Task Force

Every fall, students in Rick Fischer's public relations research class split up in teams that function as outside public relations consultants to various organizations. Students choose from a variety of teams that represent such clients as the Make-a-Wish Foundation, the Mason YMCA of Memphis, the Memphis Music Foundation, and the American Heart Association.

However, each year, five of Fischer's students enter the Bateman Competition, a national case study competition, founded by the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) in 1973. The 2010 client, chosen by the Public Relations Students Society of America (PRSSA), is the U.S. Census Bureau. The goal of the Census campaign is to encourage participation in and awareness of the Census while targeting college students and university communities.

Sade Barnes, John Graubman, Sarah Hairston, Alison Boyle, and Holly Smith had mixed feelings about the Census Bureau as a client, but couldn't resist the draw of the Bateman Competition.

"This is a very prestigious competition, it's something that students will include on their resume," Fischer says. "Only three winners are selected each year, along with seven to fifteen honorable mentions." Although the University of Memphis team has not yet taken home a top-three win, it has achieved honorable mentions several times.

For the campaign, Fischer's students were able to partner with Terrance Fluker, the local Census Bureau representative, who trained them as a task force known as the Complete Count Committee (CCC).

"This year we could really have a shot at a top three ranking in the competition because of this valuable partnership," Fischer says. "However, it is the student's project and it all depends on how much they are willing to put into this."



U of M Opera's *Hänsel and Gretel* Wins Top Honor in National Competition

The University of Memphis Opera at the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music has won first place in its category in the National Opera Association's (NOA) Production Competition for the 2008 production of *Hänsel and Gretel*. Former recent winners in this category include SUNY – Purchase, Boston Conservatory and Florida State University.

"Rudy Scheidt is fond of saying these days that our singers and musicians are as good as any in the nation," says Richard Ranta, dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts. "Wins such as this for the U of M opera demonstrate that our productions also are *as good as any in the nation*."

Each year NOA selects winners in five categories, based on the production budget and size of the program. The competition is judged blind by a panel of opera professionals who review videos of the entered operas. Productions are critiqued on vocal and orchestral performance, dramatic quality, stage direction, set, lighting and costumes. "This award is another in the series of outstanding accomplishments on the part of our talented students, faculty, and staff. Opera is a truly collaborative effort, involving singers, orchestral musicians, conductor, stage director, set and costume designers, and many more," says Randal Rushing, interim director of the School of Music. "Winning this national award is a testament to how all of the people at the Scheidt School of

Music worked together and achieved a quality, professional result. It is truly gratifying to see the excellence toward which we aspire recognized in such a way."

Hänsel and Gretel, the classic German fairy tale by the Brothers Grimm tells the story of a young brother and sister who are sent into the woods by their parents and can't find their way home. In the forest, the children come upon a house of gingerbread and fall prey to the child-devouring witch who lives there. First published in 1812 in a collection commonly known as Grimm's Fairy Tales, the story has been adapted to various media, most notably the opera *Hänsel und Gretel* (1893) by Engelbert Humperdinck and a stop-motion animated feature film based on the opera.

The U of M production of *Hänsel and Gretel* was set in modern times and used rising accounts of homelessness as its basis. In this version, home was under a bridge in a decaying urban area. The forest was a deserted bus terminal where the homeless had been herded onto a bus to get rid of them. Hänsel and Gretel missed the bus and had to wait in the frightening environment until dawn. The witch, a creature who fed on children to maintain her beauty and youth, lured the children back to a deserted warehouse on the outskirts of town.

"Recreating the immediacy of the tale was a very important aspect of this production," says Copeland Woodruff, assistant profes-

sor of music and opera stage director at the University of Memphis. "We were careful to choose a topic and an environment that would have a direct connection with the audience and our performers. If you create a modern setting around current topics such as homelessness, a piece like *Hänsel and Gretel* takes on a different relevance."

This is Woodruff's second production to win at NOA. His *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, produced for Temple University, won First Place for Best Opera Production in NOA's 2006 competition. *Hänsel and Gretel*, which was directed by Woodruff with Mark Ensley, associate professor of music and director of opera studies, as conductor and music director, included Matthew Strampe, set and lighting design, and Michael Montgomery, costume design. The production starred Trisha Phillips as Gretel, Maggie Malone as Hansel, and Renée Clair as the Witch. The cast also included Shannon Unger as the Mother, John Faulconbridge as the Father, Lily Stegall as the Sandman and Dew Fairy, plus the children's chorus from the University of Memphis Campus School under the direction Susan van Dyck, the school's music teacher.

As for the reasons to choose a modern setting, Woodruff points to limited resources and students' preparedness for today's opera world.

"If you want to be creative you have to learn to work within the budget. No matter



Previous page and above: Scenes from the U of M's 2008 production of *Hänsel & Gretel*.

if you direct at a regional opera company or a university, big romantic costumes and multiple sets are expensive. If you allow those restrictions to affect you, it will affect your creativity," he notes. "On a different level, we want to prepare our students for what is happening in opera today," Woodruff says. "Many of the new productions are modern. Opera in the United States and its audience are changing, and just like we have to cultivate new audiences, we have to prepare our students for a changing landscape in opera."

Part of that preparation is to emphasize acting for opera as well as voice training. Schooled in *Viewpoints*, an acting technique of improvisation that breaks down the two dominant performance issues of time and space into a physical vocabulary, Woodruff now teaches Acting for Opera separately from the Opera Workshop, which used to cover both topics. A standard training in most of the well-known theater programs, Woodruff has started to adapt *Viewpoints* for opera. Both Oberlin College and The Juilliard School have hired him to expose students to the technique.

"I know of no one else in the opera field who currently trains with this technique," Woodruff says. "Knowing how to act as an ensemble has become so much more important in opera. Yes, you will still find the star soprano in a beautiful gown, virtually standing in one spot while singing the most beautiful arias, but you will also find more and more pieces like our 2008 production of *Hänsel and Gretel*, in which ensemble acting is tremendously important."

Woodruff accepted the award in January at the 55th Annual National Opera Association Convention in Atlanta, where he was one of the headline presenters and gave a workshop focusing on the *Viewpoints* technique.



Music Industry Program Offers Students Exceptional Education

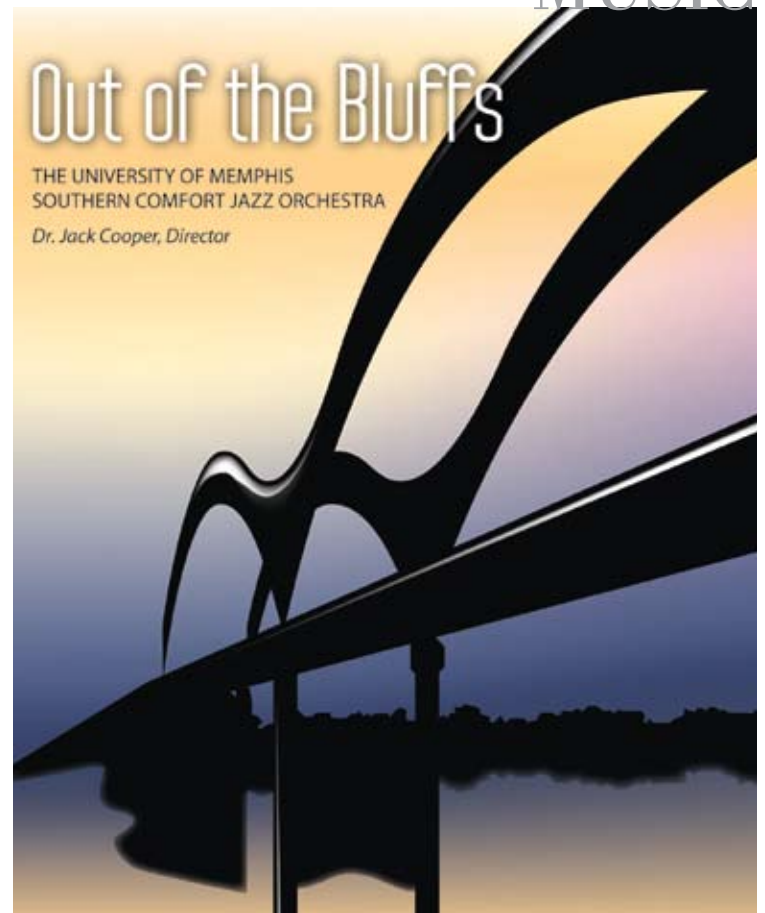
Occasionally getting up at the crack of dawn or staying up late to study for the next day's exam isn't unusual for college students. However, the wee hours are not an exception, they are the rule for University of Memphis students in the recording technology concentration of the music industry program.

"Each semester the studio is pretty much booked 24/7," says Jeff Cline, head of the music industry program at the U of M, which offers a Bachelor of Music degree in music industry with concentrations in music business and recording technology. The program is one of a few comprehensive music industry programs in the country that are fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). The program was moved to the College of Communication and Fine in 1981. It was started as commercial music program in the University College in the mid-1970s, when Richard Ranta, CCFA dean, then interim dean of the University College, created the program with the help and input of local music professionals.

Now, the U of M's music industry program is one of the longest running and preeminent programs of its kind in the U.S. Its on-campus facilities include a comprehensive multi-track recording studio outfitted with 5.1 high resolution recording and mixing technologies, a digital audio workstation suite, electronic music lab, and a multi-channel high resolution mixing suite.

"We are very careful that we educate our music industry students in music as well as in recording technology and music business," Ranta points out. This concept resonates with Brenna Vick, who was accepted into the U of M's Music School on a vocal scholarship.

"Before I found out about this program I thought that maybe I have to do a music major and accounting minor to acquire the skills for a job in the music business," says Vick, a recording technology senior originally from Morris, Minnesota.



Southern Comfort Jazz Orchestra Strikes Again with *Out of the Bluffs*

Two years after its 2007 release *Voices*, the University of Memphis Southern Comfort Jazz Orchestra (SCJO) is back with *Out of the Bluffs*. “We record the work of our student composers and performers on a regular basis,” says Jack Cooper, head of the University’s jazz studies division and SCJO’s director. “Putting the material on CD is just taking the next step in making our music available for everybody.”

Out of the Bluffs is a U of M production start to finish. Produced by Cooper and David Peoples, award-winning music graduate student, the tracks were recorded entirely at the University of Memphis with Jonathan Frazer, associate professor of recording technology, as recording engineer and students from the music industry program as his assistants. Music industry alumnus Mark Yoshida of Audiographic Masterwork in Memphis mastered the CD.

“*Voices* was recorded at the U of M and Young Avenue Sounds and even though that was a good experience, it’s nice to show that you can do it all in house,” Cooper says. Just like *Voices*, *Out of the Bluffs* features full-time U of M music students on all tracks as well as original compositions by the jazz program’s student composers.

In the liner notes to the title track, Cooper remarks, “When talented composers and instrumentalists are brought together in our program, it is time to utilize those elements so students experience musical art that is designed specifically for them.” *Out of the Bluffs* is available at the Tiger Book Store and Cats Music in Memphis.

Dean Richard R. Ranta Bandmasters Championship Senior Class Award

The Senior Class Award was established by the University of Memphis Band Alumni Chapter in honor of Richard Ranta, dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts, because of his long time support of the annual Bandmasters Championship. The event, organized and hosted by the Band Alumni Chapter, is Memphis’ major high school marching band competition, held each fall at Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium.

Award applicants must be seniors who participate with their high school band in the Bandmasters Championship in the fall preceding their enrollment at the U of M. Applicants must also demonstrate their interest in becoming a member of the U of M’s Mighty Sound of the South marching band.



A Big Year for the Department of Theatre & Dance

The Department of Theatre & Dance opened its 2009/10 season with a premiere production of *The Horror of the Little Family Farce*, a play written and directed by Stephen Hancock, associate professor of theatre at the University of Memphis.

The play was selected to attend the regional Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, February 2-6, 2010.

The KCACTF is a national theater program that has served as a catalyst in improving the quality of college theater in the United States. It has grown into a network of more than 600 academic institutions throughout the country, where theater departments and student artists showcase their work and receive outside assessment by KCACTF respondents. Regional festivals showcase the finest of each region's entered productions and offer a variety of activities, including workshops, symposia, and regional-level award programs. Four to six of the best and most diverse regional festival productions will be showcased in the spring at the annual national festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington.

The U of M production is one of just four selected from the nine-state Region IV.

"We are only able to take the whole production on the road because the Jeniam Foundation has offered its generous support for our program once again," says Bob Hetherington, chair of the Department of Theatre & Dance. The Jeniam Foundation was instrumental in touring the department's 2002 entry, Nate Eppler's *Keeping Up with the Joneses*, which ultimately was selected as a runner-up for the national festival.

In addition to the cast, crew and set of *The Horror of the Little Family Farce*, seven student actors, who have been nominated for the prestigious Irene Ryan National Acting Scholarships, will travel to Murfreesboro to compete for a place in the scholarship's national finals.

"This regional recognition is wonderful for our students and the department as a whole, and we look forward to showcasing Stephen Hancock's wonderful play to a wider audience," Hetherington says.

Memphis Theatre Alumni Company Produces Original Play for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Gloria Baxter, professor emeritus of theatre at the University of Memphis, and Voices of the South, a theatre company consisting of Memphis-based U of M alumni, have been commissioned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to create an original stage production as one of the key events in the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Baxter is both playwright for the original script and stage director of the production entitled *Wild Legacy*, currently scheduled for preview performances in Memphis this November before traveling to Alaska for the premier and a two-week tour in December, with additional tour dates in other states in 2011.

Wild Legacy is based on the 1956 Sheenjek expedition of Olaus and Mardy Murie, which was a pivotal event in establishing the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Baxter was an invited guest artist for a one-month residency at the Murie Center in Grand Teton National Park this past July and in December was invited for a one-week guest residency at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia. Both locations house significant archival documents regarding the life work of Olaus and Mardy Murie and the history of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

New African Installation Opens at AMUM in April

In April AMUM will open its new African installation. The installation, which features selections from the *Martha and Robert Fogelman Collection of African Art*, a 2008 gift to the University of Memphis, as well as AMUM's permanent collection, will showcase new objects annually. It will draw upon methodologies in art history and anthropology to interpret the symbolism, form and purpose of African art works as integral to living cultures.

Peoples of the Sudan: Art in the Land of Sundiata will be the opening exhibition, celebrating AMUM's new installation, along with *Sogo Bò: The Animals Come Forth*, a temporary exhibition.

Peoples of the Sudan: Art in the Land of Sundiata

According to oral tradition, Sundiata, the lion king of medieval Mali, united the empires of Western Sudan and promoted international trade. The trade routes were instrumental in cultural exchange including the expansion of Islam. The Western Sudan stretches from the Sahara Desert in the north to the tropical rain forest of the Guinea coast and is populated by small village based societies. Most of the peoples in this area resisted Islam for centuries, preserving their cultural traditions into the twenty-first century.

Sogo Bò: The Animals Come Forth Malian Puppets and Masks from the Collection of Mary Sue and Paul Peter Rosen

Sogo bò, was organized and originally presented in 2009 by The African Art Museum of the SMA (Society of African Missions) Fathers, under director Robert Koenig at Tenafly, New Jersey. Sogo bò is a colorful and lively puppet masquerade performed in south central Mali. The rural Sogo bò festivals are a public celebration of farming and fishing cycles closely aligned with the changing seasons. A tradition dating from the pre-colonial era and organized by the local village youth associations, the masquerade draws upon a historical and contemporary repertoire

of characters which are presented through dance, drumming and song and illustrates the dynamics of social relationships and cultural values of everyday life.

To celebrate the new installation and opening exhibitions, AMUM will host *A Fresh Look at African Art* on Saturday, April 24, 2010. Together with panel moderator Earnestine Jenkins, associate professor of art history and curator of *Peoples of the Sudan: Art in the Land of Sundiata*, three scholars will introduce topics related to traditional African art and performance, the Caribbean carnival and its evolution from traditional African masquerade, and African Diaspora and contemporary art.

Event participants:

EARNESTINE JENKINS

*Associate Professor of Art History,
program director of M.A. concentration
in the Arts of Africa and the African Diaspora
University of Memphis*

MARY JO ARNOLDI

*Curator: Africa, Art and Ethnology
Smithsonian Institution
Curator, Sogo Bò: The Animals Come Forth*

LESLEY FERRIS

*Arts and Humanities Distinguished
Professor of Theatre
The Ohio State University
Curator, Midnight Robbers:
The Artists of Notting Hill Carnival*

MIKELLE SMITH OMARI-TUNKARA

*Professor of Art History
The University of Arizona
Dorothy Kayser Hohenberg Chair
of Excellence in Art History
University of Memphis*

These programs are supported
by First Tennessee Foundation
and private contributions.



Top: Senufo standing bird figure/hornbill, Western Sudan, wood and metal, 20th century. Martha and Robert Fogelman Collection. 2008.2.3

Above: Sogo Bò Puppet, Mali, wood, cloth, metal, rubber, paint. Mary Sue and Paul Peter Rosen Collection.



CMA

CMA's Child Impact Statement Reporting System Now Implemented by Shelby County Officials

Shelby County recently launched a new Web application designed and developed by the University of Memphis' Center for Multimedia Arts. "The Child Impact Statement reporting system (CISRS) is a policy creation, planning, and evaluation application containing a suite of information and decision-making tools designed to frame local policy around the needs of children and families," says Michael Schmidt, CMA director and associate professor of art at the U of M. The first child impact statement was submitted this past October as part of a proposal to provide free child passenger safety seats to low-income families. In early February, the Shelby County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to mandate Child Impact Statements on proposed resolutions and ordinances coming before the commission. While several county and joint county/city agencies were already employing child impact statements on a voluntary basis, the commission's mandate will greatly expand the use and benefits of child impact statements countywide.

In an effort to facilitate greater responsiveness by local government and further informed planning and decision-making by its elected officials, division administrators, and mayoral appointees, the Shelby County Office of Early Childhood and Youth (OECY) partnered with the University of Memphis to develop the child and youth-focused planning and decision aid. The University's centers for Urban Child Policy and Multimedia Arts combined their expertise and design for decision support, respectively, to develop the Shelby County Child Impact Statement Reporting System.

The goal of this Web-based application, and of child impact statements in general, is to generate systemic changes in thinking, planning, and decision-making to improve the overall community by valuing foremost the conditions, experiences, and opportunities of its children and youth. It is the first Web-based application of its kind in the United States, and is designed to improve the quality of information available to decision-makers including members of the Shelby County Board of Commissioners, other elected officials, and employees of Shelby County Government.



WUMR

Meet Malvin Massey

Malvin Massey, Jr. has been appointed general manager of WUMR, U92 FM, the radio station of the University of Memphis, also known as *The Jazz Lover*.

Massey began working for WUMR (then WSMS) in 1988 while he was a student at the then Memphis State University. He began as a volunteer, but later became an employee. Before being named general manager, he had served as the station's music director, program director, traffic director, and production director.

In addition to his duties as station manager, Massey also hosts two public affairs programs on WUMR: *Spotlight 92* and *Focus on the Arts*, as well as *Images of Jazz*, which airs every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A Memphis native, Massey graduated from Hamilton High School and from the University of Memphis, where he earned a B.A. degree in communication with a concentration in broadcast and electronic media.

WUMR is the only jazz radio station in the Mid-South. The 25,000-watt station serves listeners within a 60-mile radius of Memphis as well as world wide through live Internet streaming. Its playlist blends contemporary and traditional jazz with a touch of fusion, Latin and New Age music.

The station is staffed almost exclusively by students and volunteers. Additionally, WUMR serves the area with educational, sports, and community service programming. For the students, it functions as a learning laborator, providing them experience in announcing, news reporting and writing, talk show hosting, and sports broadcasting.

Advancing the Creative Process



When you visit the University's home page at www.memphis.edu and click on *Giving to U of M* on the left navigation bar, you will arrive at the Advancement Division's homepage. On the right are the faces and stories of some current students whose lives have been directly impacted by annual gifts to the University. In the center of the screen is a list of Giving Options, and first on that list is *Annual Giving*. For many years colleges and universities across the country have promoted and encouraged contributions to the "Annual Fund." It's a name that continues to prompt questions—What is an annual fund? Who benefits from an annual fund? Is it a collegiate piggy bank?

Annual funds are just what the name suggests: They comprise gift monies that come to a university each year from a core constituency of alumni, parents, and friends who provide ongoing financial support for a wide variety of campus programs and initiatives. Donors can designate their gifts to particular areas or make unrestricted gifts. It's entirely up to the donor, and gifts can be any amount, from very small to very large. In fact, annual gifts can be applied to just about any endeavor that enhances the educational experience of students.

In recent months, the U of M has purposefully modified the name of its Annual Fund to *Annual Giving*. This more clearly reflects the multitude of ways in which annual donations are used, but the purpose remains the same—gifts made on a regular basis that help sustain teaching, learning, and research. Visit www.memphis.edu/annualgiving to learn more about *Annual Giving* at the U of M.

This year, the University and its *Annual Giving* staff have established a new and very viable goal of reaching an alumni-giving rate of 12 percent by 2012, the University's centennial year. By increasing the number of alumni donors, colleges can score a higher ranking in such publications as *U. S. News & World Report's* "America's Best Colleges." The number of alumni donors is universally regarded as the best measure of satisfaction and pride those alumni have in their alma maters.

The College of Communication and Fine Arts Advisory Board has issued its own challenge to alumni of the College. During this fiscal year, advisory board members will DOUBLE each new gift and gifts from long-lapsed alumni up to \$5,000. A gift of just \$20 becomes \$40; a gift of \$150 becomes \$300. If you're a graduate who has never made a gift to the CCFA, or if you can't recall when you last made a gift, please join the DOUBLE UP! campaign. At this time, we are well on our way to making \$5,000 become \$10,000. Help make this happen while helping the University reach an alumni-giving rate of 12 percent. It's easy.

Give online at www.memphis.edu/giving. Or send your check, payable to the U of M Foundation for CCFA, to Dept. 238, The U of M Foundation, P.O.Box 1000, Memphis, TN 38148-0001. Or simply call (901) 678-3953. DOUBLE UP!

Patty Bladon

Patty Bladon

Director of Development

901.678.4372

pbladon@memphis.edu

It's easy!

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Faculty News

ARCHITECTURE

The Department of Architecture was invited to participate in a design competition sponsored by the Volkswagen AG, RiverCity Company, and the Chattanooga Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

Three faculty members in the Department of Architecture received Strengthening Communities grants in the last round of funding. **Tom Mason**, assistant professor of architecture and **Tim Michael**, instructor of architecture, were funded for the "Old Town Millington Vision Plan" project along with community partners City of Millington, TN, Old Town Vision Plan Steering Committee, and the Millington Community Court Services. **Randle Witherington**, associate professor of interior design, received funding for the "Heritage Tourism Resident Training" project in partnership with the Victorian Village Community Development Corporation.

Michael Chisamore, assistant professor of architecture and director of the Center for Sustainable Design at the University of Memphis, received funding for the "TERRA Monitoring Project" from the FedEx Institute of Technology. This project consists of monitoring the energy usage and conducting a post-occupancy evaluation at the TERRA (Technologically + Environmentally Responsive Residential Architecture) sustainable demonstration house designed by students and faculty in the Department of Architecture and constructed in the Uptown Neighborhood in downtown Memphis.

Michael Hagge, chair of the Department of Architecture and **Jimmie Tucker**, adjunct professor of architecture, presented their research and professional work in urban design and community revitalization at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) "Community Design" session in St. Louis.

David Pohl, associate professor of interior design, was crucial in securing the 2009 Planning and Visual Education Partnership (PAVE) Helping Hand Fund grant for the Department of Architecture. Funds from the grant will be used to improve the department's existing lighting lab and create a retail lighting laboratory based on LED technology. Pohl is now also offering a lighting-focused one-hour independent study associated with all interior design studios.

James Williamson, associate professor of architecture, and his colleagues at Williamson Pounders Architects are recipients of a 2009 Religious Art and Architecture Award sponsored by *Faith & Form* magazine and the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art & Architecture. Williamson recently delivered a lecture and participated in a panel discussion at a conference on religious architecture sponsored by the Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects in Richmond. He spoke on "The Worship Environment: Traditional and Inspirational Influences."

Randle Witherington, associate professor of interior design, will again be serving on the Preservation Plan Committee of the Memphis and Shelby County Division of Planning and Development. The committee was closed for a period of two years primarily due to cutbacks in city government. The Preservation Plan addresses historic properties, education, planning and regulation, and economic development as it relates to preservation in Memphis.

ART

Mariam Ayad, associate professor of art history and assistant director of the Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology (IEAA), was invited to lead a three-week project this past December, focusing on the reconstruction of the texts of pillars and walls of the second pillared hall in the Tomb of Harwa (TT 37), in the cemetery of Asasif in the Theban necropolis.

Bryna Bobick, assistant professor of art education, presented a paper entitled "Curricular Frames Being Taught in Tennessee Elementary and Middle School Art Classrooms," at the Southeastern College Art Association (SECAC) Conference in Mobile, Alabama this past October. Bobick had work included in "Art in Academia: Southeastern College Art Conference Members Juried Exhibition," and the "First Biennial Art Alumni Exhibition" at the University of West Georgia. Bobick's article "A Study of Cooperative Art Education in Elementary Art Classrooms," was published in *Australian Art Education*, Vol. 32 n. 1.

Lorelei H. Corcoran, associate professor of art history and director of the Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology (IEAA), and co-author **Marie Svoboda**, senior conservator of the J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu, California, submitted their manuscript, "Herakleides: A Red Shroud Portrait Mummy from Roman Egypt," to the J. Paul Getty Press. The monograph is an interdisciplinary study of the only Roman era mummy in the collection of the Getty Museum. This past October, Corcoran travelled to Basel, Switzerland, to investigate a red shroud mummy with similar characteristics in the collection of the Antikenmuseum Basel und Sammlung Ludwig. Corcoran's contribution to the most recent publication by the Epigraphic Survey of the University of Chicago: *Medinet Habu IX. The Eighteenth Dynasty Temple, Part I: The Inner Sanctuaries*, is acknowledged in the list of epigraphers that constitute a part of the corporate body of egyptologists, artists and professional staff of the Epigraphic Survey that have worked for more than three decades documenting the scenes and texts from the small temple of Amun in Luxor, Egypt.

Carol Crown, professor of art history, was invited to participate in an international symposium hosted by the China Folk Art Research Center of Shandong University of Art and Design, Jinan, China. Crown, along with scholars from China, Korea, Japan, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States, attended the two-day international symposium on folk art. Crown's paper looked at the economica and community-building impact of contemporary folk art in the American South. Crown was also appointed a guest professor of Shandong University from September 2009-August 2012. In October, Crown hosted a panel on contemporary folk art at the Southeastern College Art Conference (SECAC) in Mobile, Alabama. During the conference Crown received SECAC's Award for Excellence in Scholarly Research and Publication, which is given for outstanding research shown in a recent publication. Crown was presented the award for her book *Sacred and Profane: Voice and Vision in Southern Self-Taught Art* by the University of Mississippi Press.

Elizabeth Edwards, associate professor of painting, showed work in "Radius 250," an exhibition at the Mississippi State University, the New Talent show at the Scott Richards Gallery in San Francisco, and in "When Animals Talk" at the Tory Folliard Gallery in Milwaukee.

Donalyn Heise, associate professor of art education and art education program coordinator, won the 2010 Tennessee Art Education Association's (TAEA) Art Educator of the Year award. Heise's book chapter, "Dare to Be Positive," was published this past

December in *Teach Boldly!: Letters to Teachers about Contemporary Issues in Education* (Counterpoints: Studies in the Postmodern Theory of Education).

David Horan, photography instructor, showed two series of work at the Memphis Theological Seminary this past fall: *Sacred Places*, a series of images of Japanese Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines, and *Earth Abstracts*, a series of work based on abstract impressionist paintings.

Jed Jackson, professor of art, is the 2010 artist who will paint the image for the Memphis in May Poster. Two of Jackson's paintings were included in permanent collections. One in the Burchfield Penny Art Center in Buffalo, New York and another in the Castellani Museum at Niagara University, Niagara Falls, New York. Jackson received the president's award for service to arts education from Niagara University and his work is currently in an exhibition at the Mitchell Museum in Illinois.

Greely Myatt, professor of sculpture, had several of his pieces included in Art Miami, the longest running contemporary art fair in Miami, this past December. Myatt's work was also included in "Radius 250," an exhibition at the Mississippi State University, as well as in "From the Mississippi to the Hudson," a group show of small works at Allen Projects in New York City. Myatt's "Cloudy Thoughts" billboard, a project produced for the Memphis Urban Art Commission's 10th Anniversary series of temporary projects in 2008, was included in the prestigious Public Art Year in Review rankings of top public art projects nationwide for 2008-2009 by the Washington, D.C. based Americans for the Arts organization.

Todd Richardson, assistant professor of art history, lectured at the Memphis Brooks Museum of about "Pieter Bruegel's Peasants," and at the C. Carlos Museum at Emory University a lecture entitled "Landscaping the Soul: Pieter Bruegel's Conversion of St. Paul."

Melody Weintraub, adjunct professor of art education, played the history teachers in the Warner Brother's movie *The Blind Side*, which opened in theatres this past November. The movie tells the story of Memphian Michael Oher, a homeless African-American boy who became All American football player and first round NFL draft, and the family that took him in and nurtured him.

CCFA

Richard Ranta, dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts, was a panelist on, "Communication Department Public Relations—Up, Down, and Out," and "This Modern World: Coping With a Changing Economy," at the 2009 Tennessee Communication Association (TCA) conference. Ranta also served as a facilitator and session leader at the 46th Annual Conference of the International Council of Fine Arts Deans (ICFAD) in Salt Lake City this past October. Ranta facilitated a discussion on "Student Demographics and Faculty" during the session that focused on "Predicting Future Challenges for the Arts in Higher Education: Leadership Insights from the Delphi Findings." He also led a session on "How to Involve College Friends and Alums in Fundraising."

COMMUNICATION

Beyond Babyland a new documentary by **David Appleby** and **Craig Leake**, professors of film at the University of Memphis and award-winning filmmakers premiered on WKNO in January. The film explores the issue of infant mortality.

Roxie Gee, associate professor of broadcast communication, welcomed members of the South Side High School media production class to the University of Memphis television studio for a tour this past December. The purpose of the trip was to allow the students to explore the latest advances in industry technology and postsecondary opportunities.

Sherre Hudgins, administrative associate in the Department of Communication and business coordinator for WUMR, U92 FM, the University of Memphis radio station, will retire at the end of the spring 2010 semester. Hudgins began her career at the University of Memphis in July 1987 working in various offices before coming to the Department of Communication in 1993, where she earned a B.A. in communication in 2002.

Kris Markman, assistant professor of communication, presented the paper "Convergence Comes to Radio: Exploring the Motivations of Independent Audio Podcasters" at IR 10: Internet Critical, the 10th annual conference of the Association of Internet Researchers on in Milwaukee this past October. Markman was also a featured guest on the podcast "Everything is Wonderful" where she discussed her research on independent podcasters. She was also invited to speak at Social Media Expedition Breakfast at the University of Memphis Holiday Inn, where she gave a presentation on "Current Trends in Social Media Usage."

Sandra Sarkela, associate professor of communication, had her essay "Freedom's Call: The Persuasive Power of Mercy Otis Warren's Dramatic Sketches, 1772-1775," published in *Early American Literature*, 44:3 (2009): 541-568.

Craig Stewart joined the Department of Communication as an assistant professor. Stewart's research focuses primarily on the intersections of science and politics, investigating controversies over so-called "reparative therapy" for homosexuality, gender and spatial cognition, and embryonic stem cell research using a variety of qualitative and quantitative methods. Before coming to Memphis, Stewart was an assistant professor at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. He holds a Ph.D. in rhetoric from Carnegie Mellon University.

Tony de Velasco, assistant professor of communication, was a panel respondent at the 2009 Tennessee Communication Association (TCA) conference.

JOURNALISM

David Arant, chair of the Department of Journalism, presented his paper, "Publishing on the Wild, Wild Web: Challenges to Legal and Ethical Standards for News Reporting Online and in Social Media," at the National College Media Convention, in Austin, Texas this past October.

Carrie Brown, assistant professor of journalism, was on the panel "Extra Extra! Tweet All About It: An Online Discussion With Journalists About Twitter" hosted by the University of Oregon. Her reporting students participated in the discussion and were able to talk about the impact of social media on journalism with some high-profile practicing journalists, academics, and other students from around the country.

Joe Hayden, associate professor of journalism, won honorary mention for best faculty paper at the American Journalism Historians Association's annual convention this past October for his paper "Stirring the 'Wild Waves': The Press, the Senate, and the Treaty of Versailles, 1919."

MUSIC

Lily Afshar, professor of classical guitar, was awarded a substantial grant from the New York City-based Augustine Foundation to organize the

Memphis International Guitar festival at the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music in May 2010. The Festival will feature Afshar, along with Massimo Delle Cesse and Marcin Dylla, as well as a classical guitar competition. Throughout the summer and fall, Afshar gave numerous master classes and seminars, served as adjudicator, and played in more than ten concerts at local, national, and international venues. Her concerts included performances with the Symphony of Southeast Texas, the University of Memphis Symphony Orchestra, she performed solo concerts at the Universidad de Puerto Rico, Capilla Gitica del Centro Cultural in Mexico City, and Khaneyeh Honarmandan in Teheran, Iran.

Leonardo Altino, associate professor of cello and **Soh-Hyun Altino**, associate professor of violin, gave a performance and masterclasses at the tenth Festival y Academia Nuevo Mundo in Maracaibo, Venezuela. Prior to the Venezuelan trip, Leonardo Altino performed and taught chamber music at the Duxbury Music Festival near Boston and Soh-Hyun Altino performed the Mendelssohn Concerto with the Festival Orchestra at Masterworks Festival in Indiana. The Altinos have been directing the String Intensive Study Program at Masterworks for the past seven years.

Victor Santiago Asunción, associate professor and director of collaborative arts studies in piano, performed solo recitals and chamber music at the Beethoven Festival in Minnesota, Grand Tetons Music Festival in Wyoming, San Francisco Chamber Music Series, Pera Piyano Festival in Istanbul and the Virtuosi Festival in Gravata, Garanhuns and Recife, Brazil. In October, Asunción gave a concert with renowned cellist Lynn Harrell at the Germantown Performing Arts Center.

Jack Cooper, associate professor of jazz and studio music, recently released "Chamber Wind Music of Jack Cooper" on Centaur Records. Cooper was a guest artist with the U.S. Army Jazz Knights in New York. He also wrote and arranged the music for the opening concert at the Bartlett Performing Arts concert season in August; the performance was a tribute to Duke Ellington, and also featured U of M music alum **Mike Waldrop** on percussion.

Mark Ensley, director of opera studies, returned to Israel for his ninth year on the conducting and vocal coaching faculty of the International Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv, where he conducted the Israel Chamber Orchestra in excerpts from *Le nozze di Figaro*, *La Bohème* and *Rusalka* at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art.

Chip Henderson, adjunct professor of jazz guitar, had three books published by Hal Leonard Publishing in 2009. Two of the books are part of Hal Leonard's Essential Elements educational series and consist of arrangements of popular jazz ballads and classical themes for four piece guitar ensembles. The third book is part of Hal Leonard's solo guitar series that focuses on solo guitar arrangements of standard repertoire pieces from the Bossa Nova genre. Henderson co-wrote this book with guitarist Gabriel Davilla. Henderson's jazz guitar studio received a generous gift to start a jazz guitar artist series at the University of Memphis. The inaugural concert is planned for this year.

Nicholas Holland, associate director of bands and area coordinator of instrumental music education, submitted a manuscript entitled "Noise Doses in a University Marching Band" for publication in the *Music Performance Research Journal* published by the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, UK. He also submitted a manuscript entitled "Temporary Threshold Shifts in a University Concert Band" for publication in the *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*. Furthermore, Holland served as an adjudicator for several marching band competitions throughout West Tennessee this fall, including the Arlington High School Marching Invitational, the Crockett County Marching Invitational, the Huntingdon High School Marching Invitational, and the Humboldt High School Marching Invitational.

James Richens, professor emeritus of composition, has received an ASCAP Award (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) in composition for 2009. His *Prelude & Dance* for solo clarinet & piano was performed by Peter Wright (principal clarinetist with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra) at the "Clarinet Fest 2009" in Porto, Portugal. Performances of his orchestral arrangements were performed by the Nashville Symphony, the Tacoma Symphony, in Washington, and the Stockton Symphony in California.

Allen Rippe, assistant professor of saxophone, was a featured soloist at the World Saxophone Congress XV at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand this past July.

Frank Shaffer, associate professor of percussion, attended the Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this past November. During the conference he received the 2009 Outstanding Chapter President's Award for his work in revitalizing the activities and educational initiatives of the Tennessee State Chapter over the last six years.

Lenny Schranze, professor of viola, was a featured performer in a national broadcast of NPR's "Performance Today," the most listened-to classical music radio program in America, with more than 1.2 million weekly listeners on 237 stations around the country. This past summer, he was coordinator of strings and on the viola faculty at the Interlochen Center for the Arts. Schranze and pianist John David Peterson, professor emeritus, received positive reviews in *New Klassik Reviews* for their new CD, *Songs and Sonatas for Viola and Piano*.

Copeland Woodruff, opera stage director, has been a guest faculty member at the Juilliard School this year, teaching acting classes and giving private dramatic coachings to graduate opera students in the Vocal Arts Department. His work has centered on teaching singing actors traditional and avant-garde techniques including the post-modern acting technique Viewpoints and Viewpoints Composition to aid them with stage work in operatic repertoire. Woodruff directed Juilliard's production of Aaron Copland's opera *The Tender Land* in January with members of the graduate and pre-professional program.

The University of Memphis Marching Band, **The Mighty Sound of the South**, was awarded the "True Blue Tradition Award" during halftime of the Homecoming Football game on October 9. The award recognizes the Band's outstanding representation of the University with enthusiasm and pride throughout the nation. Director of Bands, **Kraig Alan Williams** and Director of Athletic Bands, **Albert Nguyen** received the award on behalf of the The Mighty Sound of the South.

The University of Memphis Wind Ensemble, under the direction of **Kraig Alan Williams**, director of bands and area coordinator for wind studies, has been invited to perform at the College Band Directors National Association/National Band Association (CBDNA/NBA) Southern Division Conference scheduled for February 2010 in Oxford, Mississippi. The U of M ensemble's application was screened by a panel of distinguished conductors and chosen from more than 20 entries of outstanding applicants.

THEATRE

The 26th annual **Ostrander Awards**, the regional equivalent to the prestigious Tony Awards held at the Memphis Botanic Garden this past August, were a reason to celebrate for the University's Department of Theatre & Dance. Its faculty and students won a total of 13 awards, represented in both the college and community divisions. **Josie Helming**, U of M professor emeritus of theatre, was honored with the Eugart

Faculty, Staff, Students & Alumni

Yerian Award for Lifetime Service to Memphis Theatre. University of Memphis theatre alumni won nine awards, ranging from Best Original Script (**Steve Swift**, **Latrell Bright**, and **Jerre Dye** for *Voices of the South's Present Present*) to Lighting (**Ken Friedhoff** for Theatre Memphis' *Oklahoma*), Supporting Actress in a Drama (**Ann Marie Caskey** in Theatre Memphis' *Our Town*) and Leading Actor in a Drama (**Jerre Dye** in the Theatre Memphis/U of M co-production of *Cyrano*). *Cyrano* split five awards between the college and community divisions, with **Bob Hetherington**, chair of the Department of Theatre & Dance, receiving the Best Direction award and **John McFadden**, director of lighting and sound, and production manager in the Department of Theatre & Dance, winning for Lighting Design. Hetherington and **Emily Wells**, third-year graduate student in theatre, won top awards for Circuit Playhouse. Hetherington received the Best Musical Production and Direction of a Musical awards for *1776*, and Wells took home the award for Best Dramatic Production for Circuit's *Third*. 2009 Ostrander Awards for University of Memphis Productions went to: *The African Company Presents Richard III*, which was directed by **Jo Lenhart**, associate professor of theatre at the U of M, won for Set Dressing/Props (**Morgan Yeates**) and Ensemble Acting. *Eurydice* won the Special Award for Small Ensemble Acting (**Claire Hayner**, **Doug Johnson**, **Liz Sharpe**), Supporting Actor in a Drama (**Sean Christian Taylor**), Makeup (**Jason Blank**), Set Design (**David Nofsinger**) and Costumes (**Joyce Bamman**). *Talk Radio* won Leading Actor in a Drama (**Darius Frye**) and Cameo (**Dylan Atkins**).

Sarah Brown, assistant professor of theatre, directed and starred in *No Exit* at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art as part of the Sartre Conference sponsored by The Marcus W. Orr Center for the Humanities. Students **Jason Gerhard** and **Davis Fancher** were also in the cast. **David Prete**, former adjunct professor of theatre, rounded out the ensemble. Brown was also crucial in bringing Randy Lutterman, Director of SpringboardNYC, to the University of Memphis. Lutterman will meet with theatre students to speak about SpringboardNYC, an intensive summer boot-camp for college students planning careers in the theatre and a life in New York.

Bob Hetherington, chair of the Department of Theatre & Dance, directed Circuit Playhouse's *The Seafarer*, an Irish dark comedy about a basement poker player on Christmas Eve playing for his soul. Hetherington's production of Noel Coward's *Hay Fever* played the University Theatre Main Stage in February. He also continued his association with prominent Canadian theatre festivals by authoring an article on the production history of *Peter Pan* for the Stratford Festival of Canada for their upcoming season. His production essay about the American classic comedy *Harvey* will be featured in the house programs of The Shaw Festival of Canada.

Janice Lacek, assistant professor of costume and theatre, designed the make up for the Tennessee Shakespeare Company's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Undergraduate student Daniel Mathews assisted her.

John McFadden, professor of theatre, director of lighting and sound, and production manager in the Department of Theatre & Dance, was the lighting designer for *The Storytelling Ability of a Boy* by Carter W. Lewis at Florida Stage in Manalapan, Florida. It was the world premiere of this original production.

David Nofsinger, assistant professor of theatre design, was the Scenic Designer for *Macbeth* at Pacific

Conservatory of the Performing Arts (PCPA) in Santa Maria, California. He will return this summer to design the set for *Sylvia* and *Songs for a New World*.

Michael O'Nele, associate professor of theatre design, conducted an iron pour at the National Ornamental Metal Museum with Bob Rogers, an environmental engineer, and guest artist Jeannie Tomlinson.

Student News

ARCHITECTURE

Kate Bidwell, fourth year architecture honors student, received the national Special Accomplishment Award from the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) for her outstanding work with the "Ordinary to Extraordinary: Learning and Leading Green" project and other "green" design projects. Bidwell, past-president of the University of Memphis AIAS chapter, attended AIAS Forum in Minneapolis where she represented the Department of Architecture and was presented the award.

Holly Hendrix, fourth year architecture honors student, was selected to participate in Posters at the Capitol in Nashville in February. Holly will present her research on the "Old Town Millington Vision Plan" to Tennessee state legislators and their staffs. The Posters at the Capitol program is particularly important to let legislators know about the types of undergraduate research being done in Tennessee, especially as they develop the budget for funding universities and academic programs. Hendrix was also selected by the University of Memphis Honors Program to present her work at the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council Conference in February. This is a statewide conference featuring the top undergraduate researchers from all the honors programs in Tennessee. In 2010, for the first time in over ten years, the University of Memphis will host the conference.

Hannah Huggins, fourth year interior design student, won the "Green" Design Competition sponsored by Highwoods Properties, the largest owner and operator of suburban office properties in the Southeast and 2009 National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP) Developer of the Year. The project was the design of an office space within the Triad Centre III building which will be the first LEED-certified office building in Memphis. The winning design was chosen based on several criteria including the space plan, creativity and realism of the concept, finish selections, presentation (boards and video), furniture selection and coordination, and implementation of LEED credits within the space.

Lauren Kane, third year interior design student, had her entry in the PAVE 3D Design Challenge selected as one of the twelve finalists. The competition was sponsored by B&N Industries, which will construct a prototype of each of the twelve designs and display them at GlobalShop in Las Vegas. Lauren will attend GlobalShop in March for the announcement of the winner.

Kelly May and **Robert Paulus**, both third year architecture honors students, had a project from their Design Studio II class selected for inclusion in the "Environmental Systems Enhancement Plan for the Mississippi River Corridor in Tennessee," a document prepared by the University of Memphis Regional Economic Development Center (REDC). This document has been selected by the University Economic Development Association (UEDA) as one of three

national finalists for its Excellence in Community Development award.

At the 2009 **Tilt-Up Concrete Association** international design competition M.Arch students took three of the top eight awards. **Jenna Thompson** (second place), **Jennifer Barker** (third place), and **Alzbeta Bowden** (honorable mention). The students did the project as a part of their graduate studio taught by **Michael Chisamore**. This was the two-week "start of semester" project for the eight students in the studio. The students will receive a monetary prize to be split with the Department. These three M.Arch students along with architecture honors student **Will Sealock** accompanied **Sherry Bryan** and **Michael Hagge** to Chattanooga and continued to work on the VW plant competition.

ART

Jenny Butterworth, **Sarah Chapman**, **Jennifer Hornby**, **Elaine Slayton**, and **Michelle D. Williams**, M.A. students in art history, presented papers at the Southeastern College Art Conference (SECAC) in Mobile, Alabama this past October.

Jenny Butterworth and **AJ Walker**, M.A. students in art history with a concentration in Egyptology, were awarded scholarships from the Study Abroad office to work at the tomb of Harwa this past December.

Yijun "Pixy" Liao, an undergraduate student in photography, won an honorable mention in the 2009 PDNedu Student Photo Contest in the travel/landscape category. PDNedu is a magazine for emerging photographers and photo educators and part of *Photo District News* (PDN), the award-winning monthly magazine for the professional photographer. PDNOnline's photo essays and galleries explore the work of photography's masters and today's emerging talent.

Raleigh Roger and **Stephen Almond**, photography students, were published in the *Photographers Forum Annual*, a publication for photography students.

Christine Virost, MFA graphic design student, was awarded an Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation Scholarship.

COMMUNICATION

Mittie Carey, a doctoral student in the Department of Communication, was awarded a Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) scholarship. SREB is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that works with 16-member states to improve public pre-K-12 and higher education.

André Johnson and **Sally Paulson**, recent Ph.D. graduates in communication, presented papers at the 2009 Tennessee Communication Association (TCA) conference.

Melody Lehn, doctoral student in communication, received the award for the top graduate student paper at the 2009 Tennessee Communication Association (TCA) conference for her essay "The Rhetoric of 'Vote for my Mom.' Chelsea as Speaker and the Employment of Localized Condensation Symbols in the 2008 Election." Additional papers were presented by communication graduate students **Reggie Bell** (Bell presented doctoral student **Mittie Carey's** paper), **Merci Decker**, **Jennifer Jackson**, **Kimberly Johnson**, and **Caroline Sawyer-Downes**. **Sandra Sarkela**, associate professor of communication chaired the conference's panel on Rhetoric and Public Address.

Shirley Oakley, doctoral student in communication, had her entry "Argentina" accepted for publication in the SAGE Reference project *Encyclopedia of Motherhood*.

JOURNALISM

Ebony Ferguson, undergraduate student in journalism, received a scholarship for a study abroad program in England.

Carol Matthews, undergraduate student in journalism, received the national Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) President's Citation Award.

MUSIC

Marcus Anthony, recording technology major, recently spent three months as an intern with the Memphis Chapter of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. He used the opportunity to learn about the importance of staying abreast of the latest music industry trends, music news and legislation affecting the industry.

James Harr, D.M.A. student in vocal performance, was hired by Opera Memphis as a vocal coach in their Junior Opera Conservatory. For two weeks he worked with area high school students on Gian Carlo Menotti's one act opera *The Boy Who Grew Too Fast*. In July, he was in residence with the Union Avenue Opera in St. Louis, Missouri staging and performing *Die Lustige Witwe* (The Merry Widow) by Franz Lehar. He sang the role of Raoul St. Brioche.

Christopher Myles Jackson (M.M., bassoon performance, 2008), D.M.A. student, performed Weber's Andante and Hungarian Rondo this summer with the Camp of the Woods Orchestra in Speculator, New York.

William M. Johnson, a doctoral student in music education, has been appointed the 2009-10 MENC (National Association for Music Education) Collegiate Southern Division Student Representative.

Michael McManus, music business major, played drums on the latest album release by the group Sick Puppies. The band is currently signed to Capitol/Virgin/CMI. He also made recent recordings with Norwegian artist Sáivu.

Emrah Halil Ozturk, who recently completed his course work for the D.M.A. in clarinet, has been selected as a member of the orchestra for an opera in Izmir, Turkey. He was among eight clarinetists who auditioned for the position.

Suraj Parthasarathy, a student of the Community Music School, was selected by the United States Tennis Association to sing at the 2009 U.S. Tennis Open Championships. The invitation was based on his audition at the U.S. Open casting call held at Radio City Music Hall in New York. More than 200 boys and girls from across the country competed in the auditions.

Brenna Vick, recording technology major, represented the University of Memphis in the Rock/Pop division of the Student Recording Competition at the Audio Engineering Society's International Conference in New York City.

THEATRE & DANCE

Alice Berry (B.F.A., theatre performance, 1994), director of public relations for theatre and dance, directed undergraduate students **Alex Berry**, **Danielle Carr**, **Spencer Miller**, **Ellen Saba** and **Lena Wallace**, in an original production of *Frindle*. The play toured schools in Memphis and the surrounding areas and was performed for more than 3,000 school children.

Jay Inn Rarity, first year M.F.A. design candidate, was the lighting designer for *A Streetcar Named Desire* at Hattiloo Theatre in Memphis. He also designed the set for *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow is Enuf* at Hattiloo Theatre.

Emily Wells, third year M.F.A. directing candidate, directed *Hank Williams: Lost Highway* at Circuit Playhouse in Memphis.

Alumni News

JOURNALISM

Courtney Meyers, (B.A., journalism/public relations, 2009), was selected for the Elaine Averick PRSSA (Public Relations Student Society of America) Outstanding National Committee Member Award, and earned the National PRSSA Gold Key award.

Katie Wiederhold, (M.A., journalism/public relations, 2009), had her paper, "Not So Black and White: Using Q-Method Analysis to Identify Racial Perceptions in Memphis, Tennessee," published in the Journal of Human Subjectivity, Vol. 7, Iss. 1. The paper was also accepted at the 25th Annual Q Conference, presented by the International Society for the Scientific Study of Subjectivity in St. Louis this past October. Since graduating, Wiederhold has been working as a public relations assistant at The Deciding Factor, a marketing firm in Mason, Ohio.

Janis Wilson, (B.A., journalism, 1972), has received the highest possible rating for legal ability and professional ethics from Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Ratings. An attorney with Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker LLP in Philadelphia, Wilson received a rating of AV. This rating is afforded to attorneys who are deemed to be pre-eminent in their areas of practice.

MUSIC

Peter Colin (B.M., music education, 2009) participated in the 2009 World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles inaugural Young Conductors Mentorship Project, held at their biannual convention at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music in July. He spent a week attending professional development clinics and received individual instruction from two mentor conductors: Joseph Missal of Oklahoma State University and Glenn Hayes of the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater. He was one of six participants selected from an international pool of applicants. Colin is currently on the music faculty at Munford High School where he directs the choirs and is assistant director of bands.

Sandra Cox (D.M.A., flute performance, 2009) has been invited to present her dissertation topic, an in-depth description of performance-related injuries in woodwind musicians, at the Tennessee Music Educators Association (TMEA) in April. Cox together with **Kennith Freeman**, better known as the Cox-Freeman Duo, performed a recital at Emporia State University in Kansas. The Duo have been invited to perform at the Hawaii Music Educator's Association Conference in Honolulu in February, where they will also give a presentation based on Cox's dissertation topic. In August 2010, the Cox-Freeman Duo has been invited to perform at the International Society for Music Educator's Biennial Conference in Beijing, China. The Duo will perform at least twice at this conference and one of the pieces will be a premiere written for the conference, based on the conference theme of Harmony. **Scott Hines** (D.M.A., composition, 2008) is composing the piece and will be accompanying Cox and Freeman to China.

Charlton Hughes (M.M., bassoon performance, 2008), who was accepted into the orchestral performance program at the Manhattan School of Music, was invited to perform at the 2009 International Festival Institute at Round Top and at the 2009 National Orchestral Institute.

Yigit Kolat (M.M., composition, 2007) has been named the 2009 Tennessee Music Teachers Association Composer of the Year and received a commission to compose a work, which will be premiered at the next TMTA conference. Kolat's music has received several awards including the First Prize in the Nejat F. Eczacıbası Composition Contest, the most prestigious composition award in his native country, Turkey. His works have been performed by various groups and artists, including the Presidential Symphony of Turkey, the Argento New Music Project of Columbia University, Peter Sheppard-Skaerved and Aaron Shorr, and the Athelas Ensemble of Denmark. Kolat is pursuing a D.M.A. in music composition at the University of Washington.

David Lisik (D.M.A., composition, 2006), accepted a position on the faculty of the New Zealand School of Music in Wellington, New Zealand, where he teaches jazz composition, arranging and theory. Dave completed his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in composition with a jazz emphasis. Before taking the position in New Zealand, Lisik, a native of Canada, was assistant professor of music and director of jazz studies at LeMoyné-Owen College in Memphis (2003-2006). From 1998-2003, he was director of bands at Murdoch MacKay Collegiate in Winnipeg, Canada where his ensembles were awarded 12 Gold ratings at regional music festivals, 2 National Gold Awards and a Downbeat Magazine Student Music Award for H.S. Instrumental Soloist.

Mikah Meyer (B.M., vocal performance, 2009) performed with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and Rhodes Master Singers Chorale in November. He sang the countertenor solos in Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*. Meyer was also featured in the November issue of *Classical Singer*. He is a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar and is pursuing a master's degree at McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

Keel Williams (B.M., bassoon performance, 2006) was winner of the 2009 Concerto Competition at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music where he is pursuing his Master's degree in bassoon performance. He was also selected to perform at the National College Music Society Conference in Portland, Oregon.

Xiaou Zhao (M.M., orchestral conducting, 2005) was invited by the The United States and China Foundation based in New York to conduct a celebration concert at Lincoln Center in October. The performance marked the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and China. The concert featured Gerad Powers, tenor, and Jennifer Rowley, soprano. Zhao is assistant dean of the conducting department at Shanghai Conservatory of Music. At the U of M she studied with Pu-Qi Jiang.

THEATRE

Amelia Byrd (B.P.S., dance education, 2007; B.F.A., dance, 2005), is the dance teacher at Colonial Middle School in Memphis. She brought students from her class to the University of Memphis this past fall to perform at the end-of-semester dance informal.

Slade Kyle (B.F.A., theatre performance, 2009), played the role of Puck in the Tennessee Shakespeare Company's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The University of Memphis, a Tennessee Board of Regents institution, is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University. It is committed to education of a non-racially identifiable student body.

Dance Program Picks up Momentum

The Southern Arts federation (SAF) selected the College of Communication and Fine Arts as one of the participating presenters in its dance touring initiative, a major new effort to develop dance presenting and audiences for modern dance and contemporary ballet in the South.

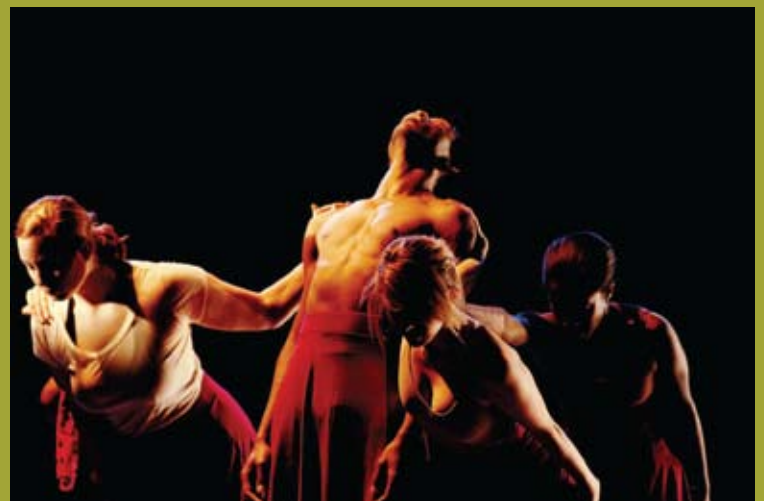
"What it means for us is that we will be able to offer students and our community the opportunity to experience dance as a significant force in our common cultural life," says Moira Logan, CCFA associate dean and director of research and graduate studies, who will coordinate and lead the program's activities at the U of M.

The initiative's participants will receive intensive professional development, peer mentorship, and tour development assistance, as well as substantial touring subsidies during this three-year project.

In addition to preparing the ground for the SAF venture, the Department of Theatre & Dance and CCFA presented *New Voices*, a concert of original student choreography this past November.

New Voices marked the beginning of the 2009/10 dance season at the University of Memphis. Thanks to a vital and thriving dance program, the College will now feature two dance concerts per season with the fall concert featuring student work and the spring concert focusing on faculty and guest artists.

Respire, one of the eight *New Voices* student pieces, choreographed by Jana Pate, freshman dance minor, as well as Emily Wexler's spring 2009 guest artist piece *There There* will enter the adjudication concert at the American College Dance Festival (ACD-



Student dancers in CCFA's *New Voices*, a concert of original student choreography.

FA) Southeastern Conference at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, March 6-9, 2010. Dorse Brown's (music industry junior with a dance minor) *From Dreams To Reality* will be performed at the conference's informal, non-adjudicated concert.

Since 1973, ACDFA has been sponsoring annual regional conferences and a biennial national festival usually held at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

"Students and faculty have the unique opportunity for their dances to be reviewed and to receive constructive feedback from well-known dance professionals," Logan says. Students are also able to experience master classes, gain performance skills, meet students from other college dance programs, and widen their dance horizons beyond their usual academic setting.