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

**SUMMER 2011** 

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ccfa

The Magic of Paint and Ink: Richard Knowles & Steve Langdon

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION NAMES NEW CHAIR

PROPHETS OF FUNK COMES TO U OF M

CMA HONES IN ON PROJECTS WITH COMMUNITY IMPACT

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*Voices* is produced by the Office of the Dean, College of Communication and Fine Arts, University of Memphis

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voir summer 2011



### A Message from the Dean

As I write this column, the "flood of the century" is subsiding, just as the flood of students from this past academic year has as well subsided. In the College of Communication and Fine Arts we survived both quite well and have started a calmer, less stressful summer. Also entering into a calmer phase are three retiring faculty members. Art Terry of the Department of Journalism and Tom Mason of the Department of Architecture are retiring fully. Lawrence Jasud of the Department of Art is entering post retirement, which will still bring him to campus to teach a course in photography each semester for the next several years. I know you will join me in thanking each of them for their years of service to the University and wish them in their retirement

smooth sailing on friendly waters in their retirement.

The cover story in this issue of *Voices* is also about remembrance. CCFA will remember and celebrate the work of two former professors of art who not only gave much to their students, but also to the entire community and beyond. Although Steve Langdon and more recently Dick Knowles are no longer with us, they live on through *Memories: Richard Knowles & Steve Langdon*, the exhibition in the Art Museum of the University of Memphis (AMUM), which will open on October 8. *Memories* is curated by Lawrence Edwards, professor emeritus of art and former chair of the Department of Art.

Staff and faculty members have been remembered by students and friends in many ways. The annual CCFA staff award was named for long-time administrative secretary Ann Dunn who was part of what was then the Department of Theatre and Communication. Most years, Ann is at our fall faculty meeting to present the award. Virginia "Ginny" Brooks Martin, who was the administrative secretary of the Department of Art until her untimely death, is remembered by gifts to the department's art history book fund named in her memory, and by her family's gift to the Art Museum's collection of classical and Egyptian antiquities.

Faculty members have also been remembered through the establishment of endowments, such as the one recently completed for the late Keith Kennedy, our former director of theatre. This fund can be used for a variety of purposes and recently helped to pay for theatre student Katie Zisson's travel to New York City to audition for, and ultimately secure, an internship with The Public Theatre. The *Elinor Kelley Grusin-Journalism Alumni Enrichment Fund* was established to honor Elinor Grusin, professor emeritus of journalism. It can provide students with scholarships or be used in other ways to assist the Department of Journalism. The Band Alumni Chapter created an instrumental music education graduate fellowship to remember and honor Professor Emeritus Sidney McKay, whom you can still see in the CFA building as he directs the community's River City Band.

Former students and others organized and contributed to a campaign to establish a fund in the Department of Communication in honor of Professor Emeritus and former Department Chair John Bakke. This fund has aided graduate students in research projects, supported the Bakke Lecture, and provides funds for graduate students to attend professional meetings to present research. As you can see, there are many ways to remember and honor the wonderful staff and faculty members of CCFA.

You will read in this issue about Leroy Dorsey, the new chair of the Department of Communication and about more honors and honorees, such as CCFA board member Mickey Robinson and his wife Catherine Ladnier, who were the recipients of the 2011 Tennessee Board of Regents' Award for Excellence in Philanthropy. Think of a faculty or staff member who has made a major impact in your life and give back to them through a surprise gift to our College that will honor them forever.

This fall, the U of M kicks off its Centennial Celebration. Come join us for the exhibition of Dick and Steve's work at AMUM and for events throughout the coming year, including the September 30th Centennial Concert at the Cannon Center and a multitude of concerts, plays, performances, exhibitions and lectures that will help everyone remember those who have made the U of M the wonderful university it is.

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

# Content



In April, the College of Communication and Fine Arts presented *Momentum*, a concert of new dances featuring choreography by University of Memphis dance faculty, alumni, and guest artists. Two student works that were presented at the American College Dance Festival (ACDFA) at Florida State University in March were also included in the program. CCFA in collaboration with the University College and the College of Education offers classes in modern and jazz dance, ballet, and dance related subjects, a Minor in Dance and a Bachelor of Professional Studies in Dance Education. Pictured above: Toni Hayes in *I am what I am*, choreographed by Pamela Hurley, instructor of dance.

#### CCFA 2 Longtime CCFA Supporters Receive Award for Excellence in Philanthropy

Architecture 3 Professors Honored with AIA Memphis' Francis Gassner Award

Art 4 U of M's Ancient Egyptian Artifacts at Tennessee State Museum

**Communication** 5 Leroy Dorsey Named New Chair of Department of Communication

**Journalism 6** Department of Journalism Takes News Reporting Hyperlocal

Music 7 Music Students' Virtual Orchestra Shares Love of Music

Theatre & Dance8Prophets of FunkComes to U of M in November



<





**9 AMUM** AMUM Remembers Richard Knowles and Steve Langdon

**11 CMA** CMA Hones in on Projects with Community Impact

**12 Advancing the Creative Process** 

13 News & Notes

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

**On the cover:** For 30 years, the late Richard "Dick" Knowles and Steve Langdon guided art students at the University of Memphis in drawing and painting. The Art Museum of the University of Memphis (AMUM) will remember both men with *Memories: Richard Knowles & Steve Langdon*. The exhibition, curated by Larry Edwards, professor emeritus, will open at AMUM on October 8. Photo by Adrian van Leen.

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## CCFA



Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor John Morgan (left) presents J. Michael "Mickey" Robinson with the 2011 Regents' Award for Excellence in Philanthropy.

### Longtime CCFA Supporters Receive Award for Excellence in Philanthropy

On April 8, Mickey Robinson (BBA '68) and his wife Catherine Ladnier received the 2011 Regents' Award for Excellence in Philanthropy. John Morgan, chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents, and Shirley Raines, president of the University of Memphis, presented the award at the spring meeting of the College of Communication and Fine Arts Advisory Board. Over the past two decades, more than 100 undergraduate and graduate students at the University have benefitted from the Robinsons' generosity.

Mickey Robinson made his first \$10 donation to the University in 1969, the year after he graduated. From that time forward, he has been a committed supporter, making regular contributions to the Fogelman College of Business, the McWherter Library, the College of Education, and the College of Communication and Fine Arts. In the mid-1990s, the Robinsons established the Elizabeth and Harold Robinson Fund, an endowed scholarship fund. "I wanted to honor my parents, repay the people and organizations that helped me during my time at the University, and make it possible for remarkable students to focus on their studies without having to worry about the necessity of outside employment," Robinson says.

Since that first \$10 gift, the Robinsons have donated well over half a million dollars to the University. In addition to being generous with his financial resources, Robinson is equally generous with his time, having served on the Board of Visitors and as a charter member of the College of Communication and Fine Arts Advisory Board.

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



Rachelle Schoessler Lynn.

### Rachelle Schoessler Lynn of Studio 2030 Featured at William R. Eubanks Lecture

Award-winning interior designer Rachelle Schoessler Lynn, FASID, CID, LEED AP BD+C, a founding partner in the Minneapolis-based architecture and design firm Studio 2030, was the featured speaker at the 2011 *William R. Eubanks Distinguished Lecture in Interior Design* at the University of Memphis. The lecture was followed by a reception and exhibition of work by more than 30 architecture and interior design students. In her lecture, Schoessler Lynn, a nationally recognized speaker on ecologically responsible design, illustrated how she and David Loehr, AIA, AICP, LEED AP BD+C, her partner in Studio 2030, holistically integrate architecture, interior design, urban planning, and sustainability into all of the Studio's projects. "Rachelle's lecture was significant to our faculty and students because we use the same approach of natural integration of all of these elements in our teaching about design," says Michael Hagge, chair of the Department of Architecture.

As part of her visit, Schoessler Lynn met with architecture and interior design students to discuss their studio projects. She was accompanied by Dabney Coors, artistic director at William R. Eubanks Interior Design, as well as Hagge and several other faculty members from the department. Among the students participating in the special critiques was first year Master of Architecture student Mario Walker who discussed his *Memphis Art Park* project with an emphasis on interiors and materials. Walker and fourth year interior design student Jennifer Gunter presented the Design+Build Studio project and its sustainability features. Second year architecture student Megan Hoover presented her design ideas for the *LakeHouse for Two Design Competition*, and first year students Elizabeth Hoehn, Ben Vega, and Joshua Wilson also presented their work for review.

"The lecture and workshops were a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn more about the integrative way in which Rachelle and Studio 2030 approach design," says Sherry Bryan, interim director of the Interior Design Program and director of the Architecture Program. "We are grateful to Bill Eubanks for making this event possible and for his continued support of our programs."

## ARCHITECTURE



Michael Hagge and Sherry Bryan.

## Professors Honored with AIA Memphis' Francis Gassner Award

In April, Professors Sherry Bryan and Michael Hagge received the 2011 Francis Gassner Award—the most prestigious honor given by the Memphis chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Memphis) each year. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to Memphis' built environment and achievements in architecture. It was established in 1977 to commemorate architect Francis P. Gassner, FAIA, who practiced in Memphis from the early 1950s until his death in 1977.

Bryan, director of the Architecture Program and interim director of the Interior Design Program, and Hagge, chair of the Department of Architecture, received the award for their professional accomplishments and their leadership of the University's Department of Architecture. The department, which was established in the College of Communication and Fine Arts in 2008, offers graduate and undergraduate degrees in architecture and an undergraduate degree in interior design.

"Before the Department of Architecture was established and we started the accreditation process with the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), Memphis was the largest city in the country without an accredited architecture program," says Richard Ranta, dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts. "Now, the program has approximately 120 undergraduate students and more than twenty graduate students, whose projects make an impact in this community."

In addition to growing the program into the Department of Architecture, Hagge and Bryan have established a tradition of community engagement and a reputation for sustainable design practices. The department's students solve real world problems that are crucial to understanding how cities grow and develop. Among the department's recent community partners are: BRIDGES, USA; Door of Hope, Inc.; Victorian Village, Inc; Memphis Arts Park; Town of Henning, TN; City of Millington, TN; Center City Commission; City of Memphis and Memphis Fire Department; and the University of Memphis' FedEx Institute of Technology. "We have established a culture of engagement in the department in which each design studio from second year through sixth year has at least one project per semester with a community partner," Hagge says. "Architecture is a profession and professionals have an obligation to give back to society. Working on hands-on projects that impact the community is one way in which we can give back."

## Donors Fund Architectural Design Competition

This year, students in the Department of Architecture benefitted from the generous support of anonymous donors, who have long been supportive of the College of Communication and Fine Arts, and funded a \$2,500 special design competition open to all students in the department.

The challenge of the *LakeHouse for Two* competition was to design a lakefront residence in Tishomingo County, Mississippi, overlooking Pickwick Lake.

In their designs, students had to consider the specific needs of the clients and create a unique sense of place. The clients were particularly interested in the innovative use of sustainable principles and materials that offer an aesthetically pleasing blend of modern and traditional design. Jurors for the competition were local architects and architecture firm principals.

Ben Cooper, second year architecture student, received the award of distinction and the client's choice award. Huan Tran, third year architecture student, was chosen for the merit award, and fellow third year student, Dustin Collin, for the special citation award.

## ART



(Above, left to right): Richard Ranta, Peter Brand, Carol Crown, Honey Scheidt, and Lorelei Corcoran at the opening reception for the Tennessee State Museum exhibition, *Relics, Replicas, and Revivals*. At right: Blue Egyptian Faience Shabti of Amenhotep (UM/IEAA Cat. No. 1989.3.5). Dynasty 21 (ca. 950 B.C.) Michael J. Fortner Bequest.

## University's Ancient Egyptian Artifacts Part of Exhibition at Tennessee State Museum

For the first time, ancient Egyptian artifacts from the University's collection of the Institute of Egyptian Art & Archaeology (IEAA) are part of an exhibition outside Memphis. The IEAA has loaned more than 120 objects to the Tennessee State Museum for an innovative, three-part exhibition. "We are very excited to share objects from the only major public collection of Egyptian antiquities in the Mid-South with a wider Tennessee audience," says Lorelei Corcoran, director of the IEAA.

The IEAA's objects range from stone tools that are more than six thousand years old to examples of modern American "Egyptomania." Core of the State Museum's exhibition are beautifully crafted replicas of objects from *Tutankhamun: "Wonderful Things" from the Pharaoh's Tomb*, the traveling exhibition of the International Museum Institute of New York (IMINY).

"This exhibition is particularly inspiring for young people who are learning about ancient civilizations and how they have helped shape our modern world," says Lois Riggins-Ezzell, executive director of the Tennessee State Museum.

Visitors are introduced to the culture and history of ancient Egypt in the first part of the

exhibition with authentic antiquities dating from the entire range of ancient Egyptian history. IEAA loaned objects such as combs, jewelry, and furniture illustrate daily life. Papyrus and coffin fragments and statues of Egyptian gods illustrate their ideas about the afterlife. A key piece in the exhibit is a model wooden boat more than three feet long, equipped with miniature sailors and a wrapped figure of the deceased who is being ferried on a final voyage to the cult site of Abydos in accordance with ancient Egyptian religious beliefs. The show also includes several objects from the IEAA collection that rarely have been exhibited, including a ring that is inscribed with the name of Tutankhamun's grandmother, Queen Tiye, a scarab inscribed for his father, Akhenaten, and beads inscribed for Tutankhamun.

The third part of the exhibition speaks to the influence of ancient Egypt on early Tennesseans, which can be seen in the very name of the city of Memphis. In 1819, Andrew Jackson, John Overton and James Winchester christened the city, "Memphis," because of its location on the apex of the Mississippi Delta (the ancient Egyptian capital of Memphis lies on the apex of the Nile Delta). The architectural revival evident



in the design of the 19th century Downtown Presbyterian Church in Nashville as well as in structures like Memphis' pyramid and zoo celebrate Tennesseans' on-going fascination with all things Egyptian. Objects in the exhibition's "Revivals" section range from obelisk-shaped clocks and sphinx-shaped bookends to movie posters with Egyptian motifs and engravings of views of Egyptian landscapes, some of which are on loan from the Frank H. McClung Museum at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Vanderbilt University Special Collections. Recent and current fieldwork in Egypt by the University of Memphis and IEAA are illustrated through objects excavated by U of M faculty and students in Memphis, Egypt in the 1980s and photographs of on-going documentation projects and excavations in Luxor, Egypt.

Patricia Podzorski, IEAA curator of Egyptian art, and Branden Fjerstad, graduate student in Egyptian art and archaeology, were crucial in preparing for the exhibition.

*Relics, Replicas & Revivals*, curated by Candace Adelson of the Tennessee State Museum, is on view in the Changing Galleries through September 4, 2011. Admission is free. Several special events such as lectures and an Egyptian-themed film festival are planned in association with the exhibition. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.

## COMMUNICATION

### Leroy Dorsey Named New Chair of the Department of Communication

Leroy Dorsey, associate head of the Department of Communication at Texas A&M University (TAMU), has been named new chair of the Department of Communication at the University of Memphis. Dorsey, who has been at TAMU for the past 18 years, is an accomplished communication scholar who has also held significant administrative leadership positions. He has been associate head of the TAMU's communication department for the past ten years and also served as interim head of its Department of Journalism from 2001-2003. Dorsey received his PhD in Speech Communication from Indiana University, and his MA and BS from California State University, Hayward.

His research examines the symbols used by political figures to promote their legislative agendas, shape their identities as morally sound advocates, and transform their audiences into seemingly active agents poised to support particular agendas. More specifically, he studies the public discourse of the presidency, most notably the rhetoric of Theodore Roosevelt and, to a lesser extent, presidents such as Woodrow Wilson, John F. Kennedy, and Ronald Reagan. His most recent book, We Are All Americans, Pure and Simple: Theodore Roosevelt and the Myth of Americanism, examines how President Roosevelt used the frontier myth of national origin to create standards for non-whites and immigrants to achieve before they could be identified as Americans. It illuminates how Roosevelt constructed rhetorical safeguards to minimize white Americans' fears about giving non-whites and immigrants the chance to become Americans. He recently began exploring the intersection of politics with popular culture and how the resulting discourse shapes notions of race, ethnicity, and American identity.

Dorsey's research has been published in *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, among others. We Are All Americans, Pure and Simple: Theodore Roosevelt and the Myth of Americanism won the 2008 National Communication Association Marie Hochmuth Nichols Award for the top book in Public Address Studies. Dorsey is a contributor to African American Orators, and he edited *The Presidency and Rhetorical Leadership* (2002). He received the 1995 Aubrey Fisher Award for outstanding article published in the Western Journal of Communication, and the Association of Former Students College-level Distinguished Teaching Award in 2003 and 2010. He is a member of editorial board of Southern Communication Journal.

*Voices* asked Dorsey to share some of his first impressions and talk about his new role at the University of Memphis:

### Had you been to Memphis before you came to visit to be considered for the position of department chair?

No, I had not been to Memphis before but I had the standard cultural knowledge about the city: Elvis, jazz, BBQ, mighty Mississippi River, civil rights. When I visited this spring, I got the sense that people are pretty friendly.



Leroy Dorsey.

#### What is your impression of Memphis and the University of Memphis?

I had a wonderful impression of Memphis. I grew up in Berkeley, California and what I liked about Berkeley I found in Memphis: an extremely active and fun city, but not overwhelming in size. It felt comfortable. I had the sense that the University of Memphis is an institution committed to providing its undergraduate population a first-class education, and preparing graduate students to be the next generation of scholars and artists.

### Does our Department of Communication differ from the one at Texas A&M University?

There are both similarities and differences. The communication department at TAMU has four areas of emphasis: rhetoric, health, telecommunication and media studies, and organizational communication. The U of M's emphasizes rhetoric, health, film and video production, and courses that focus on interpersonal, interracial, and small group communication. The department at TAMU is almost twice the size than the U of M's, with about double the undergraduate majors and a third more faculty. Both departments have accomplished extraordinary things and overcome challenging times. The caliber of faculty in both places—productive scholars, respectful of one another's research and creative endeavors, who believe in always striving for excellence—is exemplary. TAMU was my home for 18 years but, given the similarities I just mentioned, coming to the U of M is like coming home.

#### What do you look forward to in your new position?

I look forward to helping the department continue making an impact in the community. We will accomplish that with our research and commitment to preparing the advocates, artists, thinkers, and leaders of tomorrow. Creating more outreach opportunities between the department and the Memphis community is something I hope to do. I also look forward to the inspiration that I will receive, and to the inspiration I hope to give, when I begin work with faculty and administrators. Finally, I'm excited about the opportunity to provide the leadership that will assist the University in defining its future.

## JOURNALISM



The first MicroMemphis team: (from left) Brennan Somers, Daniel Wilkerson, Louis Goggans, Mye Griffin, Jessie Wilks (not pictured, Nielsen Ferry).

### Department of Journalism Takes News Reporting Hyperlocal

What don't you know about Memphis? Whether you're a local or, heaven forbid, from Nashville, it may be more than you think. That's why we're telling Memphis stories at the micro level. We know it's the small things that make a neighborhood a neighborhood.

This spring, the Department of Journalism launched *MicroMemphis*, an online news site that covers stories in and about Memphis one neighborhood at a time. Aimed at telling community stories that may not get covered by the traditional local media, *MicroMemphis* is also a training lab for the department's aspiring, young journalists. The site is a collection of original reports, videos, and pictures produced by students in the department. It is also a gathering place for community resources and a place where citizens are encouraged to share news about their neighborhood.

Initiated by Lurene Kelley, assistant professor of journalism, the concept is similar to that of the AOL-backed *Patch*, a communityspecific news platform dedicated to providing local coverage for individual towns and communities across the country.

When *MicroMemphis* started taking shape, Kelley's students researched the Cooper-Young neighborhood to find out demographics, information about the business community, and the real estate market. "Most of the students had never been to Cooper-Young and didn't even know the neighborhood existed," Kelley notes. "It has definitely been an eyeopening experience for the class."

Cooper-Young is a very vibrant neighborhood with a solid neighborhood association and a very involved community. It is in many ways an ideal first neighborhood to test the concept. "There is really no other neighborhood like Cooper-Young in Memphis. It turned out to be a perfect learning environment for the students," Kelley says.

However, she was also aware that a lot of existing stories about the neighborhood often focused on negative aspects.

"When I searched for Cooper-Young on the website of a local television station, eight out of ten stories going back to 2008 were about crime. We are not saying there's no crime in Cooper-Young, but we are picking up other stories about this neighborhood and hopefully will contribute to creating a more balanced picture of this community and others."

In addition to providing a real reporting experience for the students who generate most of the site's content under Kelley's supervision, *MicroMemphis* is growing as a community information hub by gathering and linking to a variety of local resources.

"Being part of the first *MicroMemphis* class has been an amazing experience for all of us," says journalism senior Brennan



Mara Leveritt, Arkansas-based author and investigative newspaper and Web reporter, was the featured speaker at the University of Memphis' 27th Annual Freedom of Information Congress in March. Concentrating her reporting mostly on the criminal justice system, Leveritt's 2002 book, Devil's Knot, is an account of the legal irregularities that followed the sensational murders of three eight-year-old boys in West Memphis, Arkansas in 1993, which subsequently led to the conviction of three local teenagers, best known as the West Memphis Three (WM3). In her lecture, Leveritt, who considers the case as much a travesty - and as important to American history - as the Salem witch trials, focused on the role the news media played in helping to convict Damien Echols, Jessie Misskelley and Jason Baldwin of murder and its role in attempting to overturn the convictions. Since the convictions, questions have been raised about the case and whether the three men were responsible. A nationwide campaign was launched to spotlight injustices. The case has garnered attention across the globe thanks to interest from Hollywood celebrities and reports on national television programs. The Arkansas Supreme Court is currently reviewing Echols' conviction to determine if a new trial should be ordered. - Christopher Whitten

Somers. "When we started reporting we would introduce ourselves as a class from the Department of Journalism. Now we say we are with *MicroMemphis* and everybody knows us and knows what we do. It's great."

The first class enrolled six seniors this spring. Reporting will continue in Cooper-Young when the next class of seniors takes over this fall. "This is a brand new class and we want to make sure everything goes smoothly before we move on to the next neighborhood," Kelley says. Starting in the fall of 2011, the class will be the capstone course for all of the department's news majors. It will move on to a new community the following year. Kelley is currently looking at several possibilities such as the University District neighborhood, Binghampton, and Uptown.

Visit micromemphis.com to learn more.

## MUSIC

### Music Students Create Virtual Orchestra to Share Love of Music

When Ionut Cosarca (MM '09) and Ovidiu Corneanu, doctoral students at the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music, and their friend, Liviu Craciun (BM '08), would meet to talk about music, they often lamented that interest in classical music, especially from the social network savvy younger generation, was vanishing.

"We wanted to reignite excitement for classical music especially with young people," Cosarca remembers. It was not long before the three musicians, all originally from Romania, created the *Little Symphony Project*, a virtual orchestra that has room for like-minded musicians from all over the world.

"Young people spend a lot of time with social media and we thought it would be great to do something virtual that would allow us to interact with young people and create a new excitement for classical music," Cosarca notes.

Inspiration for the *Little Symphony* was famed composer Eric Whitacre's *Virtual Choir*, the most recent recording of which includes more than 2,000 people from 58 countries and was released on YouTube in April.

For the first "performance" of their virtual orchestra, Cosarca and his friends chose Johann Pachelbel's *Canon in D*. They built



lonut Cosarca, Liviu Craciun, and Ovidiu Corneanu (seated) started the Little Symphony Project to inspire excitement about classical music in others.

the framework for the orchestra by videotaping Cosarca and Craciun 14 times as they played the string section of the Canon. The conductor is recorded front and back for a three-dimensional feel while the two violinists multiply across the screen, eventually arriving in the configuration of an orchestra. Participants record a video of themselves playing their part of the Canon - cello, trumpet, piano, clarinet, or any other orchestra instrument. When the performance video is submitted, one of the 14 violin recordings will ultimately be replaced by one of the new musician's, slowly forming an orchestra that includes performers of all ages and abilities from across the world.

"We intentionally selected a very flexible piece," Cosarca says. "We want to encourage people to download their parts and excerpts and record themselves. It's really about bringing people together through music."

After the initial piece was released on YouTube in February, the students sent a link to Whitacre.

"He actually responded and wished us good luck," Cosarca remembers.

The current version of the virtual orchestra's performance includes 15 musicians from eight countries. Submissions will be accepted through July 20, with a final video scheduled to be release in early fall.

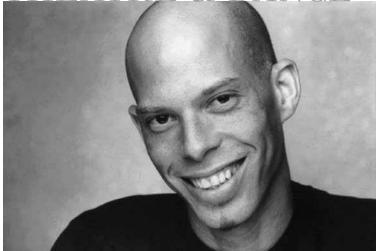
For more information about the project visit *www.littlesymphony.com.* 



## University Singers Travel to Germany and Austria

Frosty temperatures greeted the 24 members of the University Singers on their spring break trip to Germany and Austria, where they performed during regular mass in several of the countries' historic churches. Randal Rushing, director of the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music, and Lawrence Edwards, the director of Choral Activities, accompanied the students. The group focused on American composers and performed as part of the church services in Laufen (Germany), Salzburg, and Regensburg. "The students came back changed, with an excitement and energy about music and how it connects us all," says Lawrence Edwards.

## THEATRE & DANCE



Mark Allan Davis.

### Mark Allan Davis Is New Professor of Musical Theatre

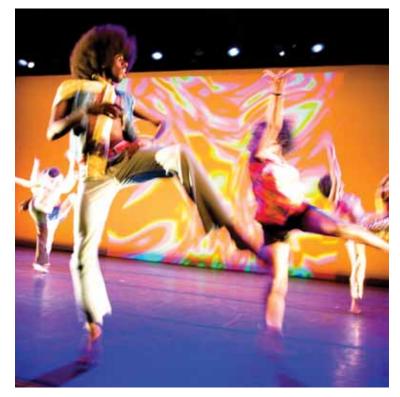
Mark Allan Davis has been recruited by the Department of Theatre & Dance as assistant professor for the department's new musical theatre program. Davis is an accomplished dancer, director/choreographer, actor, writer and instructor. In an international career spanning three decades he has appeared on stage and in film and television on several continents. He has danced with the companies of José Limón, Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane, Peter Goss (Paris) and Clive Thompson. He has performed the works of Alvin Ailey, Talley Beatty, Bill Evans, Joyce Trisler, Paul Taylor, Randy Warshaw and others. He appeared at the Next Wave Festival at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) in Remy Charlip's *Ten Men* and in Bill T. Jones dance opera *The Mother of Three Sons* at the Munich Biennale and the Aachener Staatstheater. He also has been part of numerous other renowned festivals around the world.

Davis is an original cast member of the Broadway production of *The Lion King*, directed by Julie Taymor (Frida) and choreographed by Garth Fagan, in which he performed for four years.

Davis received his MFA in Theatre/Dramatic Literature from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, while working as guest faculty member and choreographer at Mount Holyoke College and full-time visiting artist-in-residence in the Department of Dance at Smith. He received his BA in Dance and Performance from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Before accepting the position at the University of Memphis, Davis was a visiting lecturer in the musical theatre program at SUNY, Cortland.



The Department of Theatre & Dance will hold a special presale November 14 – 18, 2011 for tickets to see the U of M's production of *Phantom* of the Opera, which runs February 16 – 25, 2012. Regular tickets will go on sale January 23. Visit theatre.memphis.edu for more information.



*Prophets of Funk*, the latest project of David Dorfman Dance, will be featured in a one-night only performance on November 1 at the University of Memphis. Photo by Kate Enman.

# **Prophets of Funk** Comes to U of M on November 1

The College of Communication and Fine Arts will feature David Dorfman Dance's *Prophets of Funk*, in a one-night only performance at the University's Michael D. Rose Theatre on November 1. Founded in 1985 and in residence at Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut since 2007, David Dorfman Dance is considered one of the most influential American contemporary dance companies of the past two decades. David Dorfman has received four National Endowment for the Arts fellowships and was a 2005 recipient of a Guggenheim Foundation fellowship. The company has been honored with eight "Bessies," the New York Dance and Performance Awards, as well as an American Choreographer's Award.

Prophets of Funk is a dynamic engagement of movement driven by the popular—and populist—funk sounds of Sly and the Family Stone, an American rock, funk, and soul band from San Francisco that was essential in the development of soul, funk, and psychedelic music. Headed by singer, songwriter, record producer, and multi-instrumentalist Sly Stone, and including several of his family members and friends, the band was the first major American rock band to have an "integrated, multi-gender" lineup.

*Prophets of Funk* was previewed at Vanderbilt University in September 2010, and will be performed at venues and events across the country, including the Carpenter Performing Arts Center at California State University, Bates Dance Festival and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival.

The events at the University of Memphis are made possible in part by South Arts, the Tennessee Arts Commission, National Endowment for the Arts, and the U of M Student Event Allocation Committee.



Above left: Steve Langdon's Shiloh General (ink, graphite, and prismacolor, nd). Image courtesy of Rachel Langdon Doyle. Above right: Richard Knowles' Dottie and the Flow (oil on canvas, 1986). Image courtesy of Carol Knowles.

## The Magic of Paint and Ink: AMUM Remembers Richard Knowles and Steve Langdon

For 30 years, the late Richard "Dick" Knowles and Steve Langdon guided art students at the University of Memphis (then Memphis State University) in drawing and painting. They supported the local arts community and actively pursued their own work. In 1999, both retired from the University with intentions to teach less, travel more, and create painting and drawings with fewer distractions. Langdon died in 2002 and Knowles in 2010.

The Art Museum at the University of Memphis (AMUM) will remember both men with its fall exhibition. *Memories: Richard Knowles & Steve Langdon*. The exhibition opens on October 8, 2011 and runs through January 7, 2012. It is curated by Lawrence Edwards, professor emeritus and former chair of the University's Department of Art.

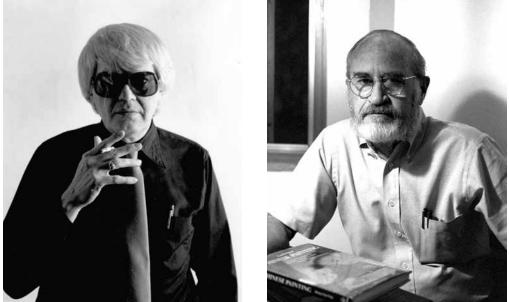
Richard Knowles' painting emerges from abstract expressionism, arguably America's most vigorous and enduring contribution to 20th century art, and one that celebrates the eloquence of the stroke and the lusciousness of paint. "Dick was fascinated with nature and the chaos within nature," says Lawrence Edwards. "His paintings are a reflection of how he saw nature and how he saw men in nature. They are also an attempt to bring a sense of order to nature." More than 20 of Knowles' large-scale abstract paintings will be part of the exhibition, including work from the *Swimmers*, *Southwest* and *Forest* series, the latter a collaboration with Lawrence Jasud, University of Memphis professor of photography.

"Dick's *Southwest* paintings are very abstract, and they are his reaction to what he felt when seeing the region's powerful shapes, big cliffs, mountains and rocks," Edwards notes. In 1989, Knowles explained his inspiration for the *Swimmers* series: "I was struck by some photographs of friends in a swimming pool. The surface wave action displaced their body parts and suggested a blending or dissolving of self into a universal state. An otherwise trivial occasion became a metaphor for personal transcendence."

Knowles, Langdon, and Edwards were at the core of painting and drawing at the University of Memphis during the 1970s, '80s, and '90s. Yet, the three men approached their art-making and teaching very differently.

"I was probably the most flamboyant of us three, with Steve being the most reserved and quiet and Dick falling somewhere in the middle," Edwards says. "There were many faculty meetings when Steve was totally immersed in drawing and making marks on paper instead of paying attention to what was discussed. His work is not expressionistic, and color is not an important element," Edwards remarks. "He would

## AMUM



For 30 years, the late Steve Langdon (I.) and Richard "Dick" Knowles guided art students at the University of Memphis in drawing and painting, fostering and guiding their talents, impacting their professional lives.

start out by making marks, but before long, order and reality would grow out of this mess of dots. It was an amazing process to witness."

The exhibition will include approximately 30 of Langdon's small, carefully rendered ink and pencil drawings from five series, including *Ritual Surgery*, *Cats in Trouble*, *Fireworks*, *Baseball Gloves*, and *Angels*. Their intimate scale and subtle method require the viewer's up close and personal attention and reverent contemplation, which are sometimes rewarded with a punch.

"I took my first class from Steve when I was still a biology major. Dick was part of my thesis committee," remembers Hamlett Dobbins (BFA '93), instructor of art and director of the Clough-Hanson Gallery at Rhodes College. Dobbins says that what he learned from both teachers continues to have an impact on his art and his teaching, but that the drawing class he took from Langdon was truly transformative.

"I remember one lesson in which Steve's only instruction to us was to draw really slow," Dobbins says. "Then he left the room to smoke a cigarette. When he came back he said, 'no, you are drawing too fast, I want you to draw really, really slow." Langdon eventually sat down to show Dobbins' what he meant. "Watching Steve draw was like someone turning on a light switch," Dobbins recalls. "He had this amazing ability to focus on the object in front of him and not on a preexisting idea of the object. He was able to capture every detail. Witnessing this process opened up a whole new world for me and it is something that I still think about a lot in my work today."

JoAnne Paschall (BFA '71), Youth Programs Manager for the City of Atlanta and adjunct professor of art at Georgia State University, shares a similar experience. "I took drawing from Steve as a freshman and he was absolutely fundamental for setting the foundation of my art education," Paschall notes. "He had the gift to see the essence of a line and to disseminate this gift through his teaching." Her first semester drawing experience led Paschall to switch from painting to printmaking. She continued to take drawing from Langdon, and he remained a strong presence in her life.

"Taking classes from Dick was a totally different experience," Dobbins notes. "He was a believer in the magic of paint. He wanted our paintings to come from a place and have a place to live—not be disconnected from the rest of our lives."

Both Langdon and Knowles loved to teach drawing, a fundamental skills class often taught by graduate students. Both men felt that drawing was the foundation for everything their students would do.

"I have great respect for both Dick and Steve," says Kimberly Varnadoe (MFA '91), associate professor of art at Salem College in North Carolina. "Although they were certainly a big part of my experience, it really was the whole package that taught me the important lessons that keep me motivated every day I teach and every day that I immerse myself in my studio."

Though at the University during different times, Paschall, Dobbins, and Varnadoe agree that it was special to be an art student during Knowles' and Langdon's tenures.

"The theatre department had Keith Kennedy and we had Steve Langdon," Paschall says. "He was our artistic, creative, spiritual team guru."

"The graduate students were a very strong group during that time and we often staged critiques in which faculty members were 'guests'," Varnadoe notes. "Afterwards we would all go out to that great little pizza joint by the railroad tracks."

"It was a unique time," Paschall remembers. "The students were extremely competitive, but also watching out for each other. We would sometimes spend 24 hours in the building, making art. We lived for it."

"Steve's and Dick's personalities and approaches were radically different, which in turn exposed students to their distinct points of view and created an exceptionally rich learning environment," Edwards says.

To capture the full magnitude of both artists, and the impact they've had on the students they taught, is nearly impossible. The work included in the exhibition will reveal a lot about them. As Edwards notes, Langdon's work requires patience and a closer look to reveal little details and quirks. Knowles' paintings require a certain distance, a stepping back, so they can step forward and tell their stories.



Point your QR code reader here or visit memphis.edu/amum for information about this and other upcoming exhibitions.



The All Babies Count Initiative (ABC) of the Shelby County Office of Early Childhood and Youth during a canvassing event in a North Memphis neighbor-

### Center for Multimedia Arts Hones in on Projects with Community Impact

The Center for Multimedia Arts (CMA) is finishing up its year-long production of *Birth Days: Uniting to Fight Infant Mortality*, a documentary that focuses on programs designed to improve problems related to infant mortality in Memphis and Shelby County. The Shelby County Office of Early Childhood and Youth (OECY) funded the film, which shows a variety of efforts by local groups and individuals who work to advance the outlook for pregnant women and their babies.

The film, which is scheduled to premier locally during Infant Mortality Awareness Month in September, focuses on pregnant women who seek and receive help during their pregnancies. It features interviews with Memphis Mayor A C Wharton, Jr., Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell, Congressman Steve Cohen, and many agency representatives and volunteers who are leading a variety of projects to improve circumstances related to infant mortality.

"During the research and filming of this documentary, I have learned a lot about infant mortality in Memphis," says Eric Wilson, CMA's multimedia producer. "I have attended many infant mortality awareness events in Memphis and Shelby County and seen a remarkable group of people work very hard to make Memphis a healthier and better-off place." Such events include the BLUES Project's Birthday Parties, which celebrated the successful birth and first birthday of more than 700 babies, and ABC (All Babies Count) neighborhood and information events. The BLUES Project is a three-year, peer-professional, social support intervention targeting low-income, high-risk mothers in Memphis and Chattanooga. The OECY's ABC initiative serves as the leader of a comprehensive coalition of local infant mortality reduction agencies and programs.

"Being part of a Centering Pregnancy meeting was an especially powerful experience," Wilson notes. Centering Pregnancy is a group prenatal care approach supported by the Tennessee Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination that provides clinical care by creating a supportive community of women going through pregnancy together.

"Although we have worked on this documentary for almost a year, we are really only scratching the surface of what is being done to address Memphis' and Shelby County's high infant mortality rate," says Michael Schmidt, CMA director.

In 2005, *Born to Die*, the landmark feature series about infant mortality in *The Commercial Appeal* portrayed Memphis as practically a third-world country. *Beyond Babyland*, U of M professors David Appleby and Craig Leake's infant mortality documentary, examined the problem again in 2010. However, by then, serious efforts to address the issue had been started. In 2006, the Infant Mortality Summit at the University of Memphis' FedEX Institute of Technology was one of the first events to promote a coalition of state and local politicians, non-profit organizations and faith-based groups to address infant mortality. In 2008, the Shelby County Office of Early Childhood and Youth was created to coordinate programs, advise policymakers, and promote community understanding that all children deserve to be healthy, safe, and nurtured.

"We are at a point where we can say that the hard work of an estimated 37 groups during the past five years is starting to show results," says Julie Coffey, OECY deputy director. "We do see improvements, and this documentary is a good way to show the good things that are happening here to address the problem of infant mortality."

The Center for Multimedia Arts offers expertise in information, interface, print, exhibit, and user-centered design as well as the full scope of video production for on-air, web and direct-delivery. The Center's client list includes St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Duke Children's Hospital, The Urban Child Institute, the Shelby County Office of Early Childhood and Youth, Verso Paper, Smith & Nephew, the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, and the Art Museum of the University of Memphis. The CMA has built a reputation for partnering with local agencies to find innovative solutions for complex problems. Each project is given detailed attention from initiation to completion.

## Advancing the Creative Process



When Professor of Art Richard "Dick" Knowles died in 2010, he left to the University and College of Communication and Fine Arts two large scale paintings that will eventually grace the walls of the newly renovated Art and Communication building on Central Avenue (former location of the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law). His spouse, writer Carol Knowles, has promised another of his compelling works to the Department of Art where he guided hundreds of aspiring artists for more than 30 years. This fall will see a two-man exhibition of work by Knowles and his widely regarded colleague, the late printmaker Steve Langdon. Former department Chair Larry Edwards is serving as curator for this greatly anticipated exhibition. Together the three artists have impacted the lives of thousands of students, and their rich aesthetic will continue to do so through the upcoming event. Shared gifts of talent, such as the paintings of Dick Knowles, are of great value to the University and

its degree programs in the creative and performing arts, and while such gifts are unusual, there are

many creative means of "giving back." Here are a few recent examples of such gifts made in the College of Communication and Fine Arts:

Gifts are currently being received for a fund to honor retiring Department of Theatre & Dance faculty member Gloria Baxter. Her tradition of narrative theatre will be sustained by alumni such as those in the very successful professional theatre troupe *Voices of the South* and by the fund that donors will help create in her honor.

Internationally recognized interior designer and U of M alumnus William R. Eubanks has endowed a lecture series that provides students and the entire professional community with the opportunity to hear speakers on contemporary issues in today's design world. Through this gift and with his additional establishment of the *James Weaver Memorial Scholarship*, Eubanks' legacy represents genuine philanthropy today.

The creation of prize competitions and special awards is another means of "giving back" that reaps immediate results for students. A recent gift by a faculty/staff couple made possible an architectural design competition that benefitted both student architects and the donors who now have "award winning designs" for their planned lake home.

The marching band alumni club has established another valuable prize. Each fall a freshman member of the Mighty Sound of the South marching band who also participated as a high school senior in the alumni club's renowned Bandmasters Championship receives the *Dean Richard R. Ranta Band Award*. This cash prize rewards musicianship, promotes interest in the band and honors the founding dean of our College.

WREG-TV also honored Dean Ranta for his long years of service to their popular Knowledge Bowl program by the creation of a valuable scholarship fund in the Department of Communication.

"Giving back" comes in many guises. One might establish an annual books and materials award for art or music majors; or commemorate an anniversary with an on-air pledge during a WUMR Radiothon; or purchase a table at CCFA's annual Distinguished Achievement Award Luncheon, which has honored celebrated Memphis talents from Marguertie Piazza to Al Green.

We would be pleased to work with you to match your gift with the needs of our students. There is also a vital discretionary fund that assists students with some of the many unforeseen expenses that accompany a quality college education.

Blador

Patty Bladon Director of Development 901.678.4372 *pbladon@memphis.edu* 

Point your smart phone here or visit memphis.aboutgiving.net to learn more about planned gifts that benefit the University of Memphis.



## News & Notes

### Staff

**Hugh Busby**, local support provider II in the College of Communication and Fine Arts, served as a juror for the Memphis City Schools Exhibition of Student Work and the Playhouse on the Square, 32nd Annual Art & Auction.

**Virginia Brown Huss**, administrative associate II in the Department of Art, was elected to serve as Staff Senate President for 2011/12.

**Sara Rose** joined the College of Communication in March as the Dean's administrative assistant. Originally from Buffalo, New York, she received her bachelor's degree in business management from SUNY Geneseo. She continued her studies at Florida State University where she earned her master's degree in higher education administration while working in student affairs at the FSU College of Law. After five years in Florida, Rose returned to Western New York and joined the administration at the University of Rochester, serving as the supervisor of academic records in the academic affairs division of the college. Her husband, Evan Jones, is an assistant professor of voice at the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music.

**Sherri Stephens**, administrative associate II in the Department of Theatre & Dance, was elected vice president of the Board of the University College Alumni Chapter.

### Architecture

### FACULTY

Jennifer Barker, adjunct professor of architecture, received the Architectural Research Centers Consortium (ARCC) Jonathan King Medal for research while in the Master of Architecture program at the University of Memphis. This prestigious medal is given to one student at each ARCC member institution in the USA and Canada. Selection is by a vote of the faculty and based upon criteria that acknowledge innovation, integrity, and scholarship in architectural and/or design research. Barker has presented her research at several venues in the region and beyond and is currently enrolled in the doctoral program Higher and Adult Education in the Department of Leadership at the University's College of Education. Her M.Arch thesis was accepted by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis as a guide for future development at Camp Phoenix on Sardis Lake in Mississippi.

Adjunct professors **Jennifer Barker** and **Jenna Thompson** presented papers at the *National Conference on the Beginning Design Student* at the University of Nebraska. They were invited to discuss their work, which focuses on integrating sustainability into the curriculum through mind-mapping exercises, designed to discover how students relate to the world. They also talked about the use of the tutorial system to build and develop spatial intelligence in first year design students.

**Sherry Bryan**, associate professor of architecture and director of the Architecture Program, won a Course Redesign Fellowship from the University of Memphis. Her work will focus on ARCH 1120, Introduction to Architecture + Design, and the integration of first year courses. An architectural illustration by **Michael Chisamore**, assistant professor of architecture, received an Award of Excellence from the American Society of Architectural Illustrators (ASAI). The illustration will be in included in the Society's publication *Architecture in Perspective 26* and shown at ASAI's conference in Tokyo, Japan, in September.

The Department of Architecture presented its Design+Build Studio Sharecropper Project at the Tennessee Preservation Trust Statewide Preservation Conference in Collierville, Tennessee in April. The focus of the project is the renovation of a sharecropper house in Tipton County, Tennessee into a writer's retreat for Adam and Halle Simpson. The studio, taught by professor Sherry Bryan and M.Arch student Jerry Coleman, included graduate and undergraduate architecture students and one interior design student.

Adjunct professor **Jenna Thompson** gave a presentation on the partnership between the Department of Architecture and the Office of the Shelby County Trustee at the formal launch event for the Memphis and Shelby County Office of Sustainability.

James Williamson, associate professor of architecture, served as chair of the jury selection committee for the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Memphis Design Awards and the AIA TN Design Awards.

### STUDENTS

BFA in Interior Design students and International Interior Design Association Campus Center (IIDA) members **Melissa Pope**, **Morgan Ralph**, **Alexandria Spann**, **Sarah Brock**, **Anita Vongphrachanh**, **Lauren Papageorgeon**, **Darnesha Taylor**, **Melissa Randall**, and **Lindsay Maggipinto** visited Chicago during spring break to tour several major architecture + design firms as well as the national headquarters of the IIDA. The group was accompanied by adjunct professors of architecture Jenna Thompson and **Jennifer Barker**. Professor **Michael Chisamore** serves as faculty advisor to the IIDA-CC.

A silent auction of **photographs of student work**, coordinated by the Memphis Chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students, raised funds for the Department of Architecture at the **AIA Memphis Design Awards Gala and Celebration of Architecture**. Professor Sherry Bryan serves as faculty advisor to the AIAS.

Architectural illustrations by **students from the Experiential Drawing class** of professor **Michael Chisamore** were shown at the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Memphis Gallery in the South Main Arts District this spring. The exhibition showed illustrations using a variety of media focusing on the interpretation of experience in diverse settings from interior environments to large portions of urban fabric.

The Department of Architecture presented the 2011 Design Excellence Awards at its ninth annual Awards Reception. This award is based on a vote of the faculty from a list of nominees from each design studio and thesis studio. Professors Tim Michael and Andrew Parks, design awards coordinators, presented graduate winner Mario Walker and undergraduate winner Anika Munshi with a certificate and a copy of the large-format book *Richard Neutra: Complete Works*. Walker was nominated for his Memphis Art Park Project in the Advanced Architecture Design Studio 2 taught by **Michael Chisamore**. Adjunct professor **Andy Kitsinger**, nominated Munshi for her Urban Islamic Center – Uptown completed in the Architecture Design 5 Studio (Honors).

Nominated Master of Architecture students were Jennifer Barker, Architecture + Behavior: The Built Environment, Natural Landscapes and At-Risk Youth, Master of Architecture Thesis; Jenna Thompson, MATCH: Memphis Alternative Transportation Community Hub, Master of Architecture Thesis; Heather Hall, Vehicle Inspection Station, Advanced Architecture Design Studio 3; and Mario Walker, Playable10 Playground Competition, Advanced Architecture Design Studio 1. Nominated undergraduate architecture students were **Robert Paulus**, Redevelopment Plan: Southern Avenue from Highland to Prescott. Architecture Design 6 Studio; Brittain Ball, Visitors Center, Architecture Design 5 Studio; Dustin Collins, Memphis Interfaith Chapel, Architecture Design 4 Studio; Roy Beauchamp, Memphis Art Park Project, Architecture Design 3 Studio; Megan Hoover, Andersen Bork Sustainable Residence, Architecture Design 2 Studio; and Ben Cooper, Sculpture Center, Architecture Design 1 Studio. Nominated interior design students were Melissa Pope, Adytum - Boutique Hotel, Interior Design Studio 4; Heba Ismail, Re-thinking Jones Hall, Interior Design Studio 3; Heidi Dawson, A Redevelopment of The Goyer-Lee Residence, Interior Design Studio 2; and A Sustainable Residence: Levert – St. John Sugarcane Farms, Interior Design Studio 1.

Graduating Architecture honors student **Kelly May** was selected for membership in the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

Graduating Architecture honors students Kelly May and Robert Paulus were awarded the Alpha Rho Chi Bronze Medal by a vote of the faculty. This prestigious award is given at all architecture schools nation-wide and recognizes outstanding leadership and academics. May is a past president of the Memphis Chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) and Paulus is current president of Alpha Rho Chi, the national co-ed fraternity for architecture. Both graduated with University and Department Honors and Honors Thesis. May will enter the professional Master of Architecture degree program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Paulus will pursue the Master of Architecture degree at the University of Memphis. Paulus also received the Department of Architecture Creative Achievement Award.

Master of Architecture first year student **Mario Walker** received the Department of Architecture Graduate Achievement Award. Furthermore, Walker submitted his photo of the Memphis Art Park Performance Facility to the online version of Architectural RECORD. The publication selected the photo to appear in its Student Showcase.

### Art

### FACULTY

**Bryna Bobick**, assistant professor of art (art education), co-authored with Elizabeth Wheeler: "Native American Lesson Plans in School Arts: A Content Analysis." The essay appeared in Volume 2 Number 1 of the *Journal of Art for Life*, published by The Florida State University. Bobick had art work included in Southworks Juried Art Exhibition 2011 at the Oconee Cultural Arts Foundation in Watkinsville, Georgia, and gave a presentation at the National Art Education Association (NAEA) Conference in Seattle, Washington, entitled: "Survey of Tennessee's Elementary and Middle School Art Educators." At the same conference, Bobick was a panel member for a discussion entitled: "Getting Hired in Higher Education."

**Lorelei Corcoran**, associate professor of art and director of the Institute of Egyptian Art & Archaeology, gave an invited lecture at the Art Institute of Chicago on her new monograph, co-written with J. Paul Getty Museum conservator, Marie Svoboda, *Herakleides: A Portrait Mummy from Roman Egypt*.

**Carol Crown**, professor of art (art history), contributed to a book, published by Oxford University Press. The chapter, entitled, "One Bible, Two Preachers: Patchwork Sermons and Sacred Art in the American South," is included in *The Oxford Handbook of The Reception History of the Bible*.

**Beth Edwards**, associate professor of art (painting), won the 2011 College of Communication and Fine Arts Dean's Creative Achievement Award. Edwards is a highly skilled and inventive artist whose commitment to artistic practice is evident in her overall impressive exhibition record (regionally and nationally) and documented history of excellence and successful performance in her research. She has been featured twice on the cover of *New American Paintings*, a magazine that highlights contemporary painting in the United States, and is also included in the magazine's current issue.

Lawrence Jasud, associate professor of art (photography), contributed to *Critical Inquiry*'s special issue "Faith without Borders: The Curious Category of the Saint," edited by Jas Elsner and Françoise Meltzer. Jasud's contribution will be included in the book, entitled *Saints* and augmented by new essays by David Tracy, Bernard Rubin, and Julia Kristeva. The book's estimated date of publication is October 2011. Critical Inquiry is a peer-reviewed academic journal in the humanities published by the University of Chicago Press. It is considered a leading journal within literary studies, and particularly in the field of critical theory.

**Donalyn Heise**, associate professor of art (art education), and professor **Bryna Bobick**, had art work accepted into the juried Tennessee Art Education Association and Tennessee Arts Academy

Inaugural Art Exhibition, Connections, which is at the Leu Center for the Visual Arts at Belmont University through August 26. Heise and **Melody Weintraub**, instructor of art (art education), published "The Indispensable Art Teacher," a two-part essay in the online edition of School Arts magazine.

Jed Jackson, professor of art (painting), had a solo exhibition at the Cedarhurst Museum in Illinois in March. His work has been included in group exhibitions at the Burchfield Penny Art Center in Buffalo, New York and the Castellani Art Museum in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. His work is featured in the current issue of *New American Paintings*, published by Open Studios Press in Boston.

**Richard Lou**, chair of the Department of Art, presented a lecture about his work at the Institute for Latino Studies at the University of Notre Dame in March.

**Mikelle Smith Omari-Tunkara**, University of Memphis Dorothy Kayser Hohenberg Chair of Excellence in Art History, was selected as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar to research the ritual of veiling in Ghana. Omari-Tunkara is a leading scholar in the art of Africa and the African Diaspora, as well as African American art and culture. She is professor emerita of art history at the University of Arizona, Tucson.

Nancy White, associate professor of art (ceramics), won a Legends Award commission for an art piece in honor of Onie Johns, founder of Caritas Village in Memphis. The award is given by The Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis. White also had work accepted into the 26th Annual Positive Negative National Juried Art Exhibition at the Slocumb Galleries at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City.

### STUDENTS

For the 28th Annual Juried Student Exhibition at the Art Musuem of the University of Memphis (AMUM) 73 students entered more than 100 works. Don Gregorio Antón, juror for the 2011 exhibition, selected 81 works to be included. The following students won awards: Ginger Frye, Kathryn Hicks, and Cale Millican won Book Awards. Caroline Cox, and Alexandra Pearson won gift certificates from the Art Center Supply Store. Alex Marzella and Audrey Stimpson won gift certificates from Sharri's Discount Arts. The ArtLab Award, sponsored by Friends of the Art Museum went to Benjamin J. Netterville for Fondue Parties Are For People Too Neat To Grill. Jason Miller won the Graduate Purchase Award, sponsored by the Graduate School, for Caged Trees. and the Undergraduate Award, sponsored by friends of the Department of Art, went to **James** Inscho for The Dissolution of the Hunter and The Condition IV. Christine Ruby won the Best of Show Award, sponsored by friends of the Department of Art, for Xylem.

James Inscho, undergraduate student in art (painting), received the Department of Art Creative Achievement Award. Inscho will pursue a graduate degree in painting at Temple University's Tyler School of the Arts this fall.

Since fall 2007, student artwork by photography majors has been selected for annual exhibitions in the CCFA Dean's office suite. **David Horan**, instructor of photography, and **Wreatha Witte**, senior administrative secretary in the Dean's office, are in charge of the exhibitions. Students, whose work has been featured are **Tim Ashbrand**, **Christia Blankenship**, Connie Candebat, **Aaron T. Closz, Scott Fulmar** (all 2007/08); **Crystal Flake** and **Carie Newton** (2008/09); **Leigh Ann Black** and **Meghan Shaf**fer (2009/10); **Alina Reyes** and **Joo Julie Song** (2010/11); and **Joo Julie Song** and **Thomas D. Spurlock** (2011/12).

Lacie Glover, a graduate student in art history and museum studies, participated as an intern in the Smithsonian Institution's Alternative Spring Break Program. Glover interned at the National Museum of Natural History, assisting with image preparation for the *Encyclopedia of Life*. She and fellow interns contributed to the *Encyclopedia of Life* by creating digital images of individual species taken from drawings and paintings created in the late 19th to early 20th centuries. Some of these images are the only image of that species in existence. In addition, Glover attended lectures on biodiversity and museum collection and toured the botany collection and rare books collection where she was allowed to handle specimens and books.

**Mitzi Igleharte**, an undergraduate student in the art education program, received the 2011 Donalyn Heise Leadership Award in Art Education

### ALUMNI

**Yijun Liao "Pixy"**, (MFA '09) art (printmaking/photography), was selected as a winner of The Magenta Foundation's 2011 Emerging Photographers exchange. The Foundation is planning an exhibition and book launch that will include the work of all winners for October. In April 2011, Pixy opened her first solo show, *Memphis, Tennesse*, at Gallery 456 in New York City. In May she was part of a group exhibition at kunst.licht gallery in Shanghai and in June her work was shown at Kunstwerk Carlshütte's NordArt in Büdelsdorf, Germany.

**Robin Nichols**, (BFA '10) art (painting), has been accepted into the graduate program at Hunter College in New York City.

**Clare Torina**, (BFA '09) art (painintg), is pursuing a graduate degree in painting at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC).

**Roger Cleaves**, (BFA '07) art (painting), received his MFA in painting from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Cleaves was born in Memphis and studied at the University of Memphis. As an undergraduate student he attended the Yale Norfolk Summer Program for the arts after receiving the Ellen Battell Stoekel Fellowship. His works have been featured in many juried exhibitions across the country. In 2008 Cleaves was awarded the GOF and the Louis G Roberts Fellowship to attend graduate school at the University of Wisconsin. His most recent publication is the 2011 International Drawing Annual published by Manifest Gallery.

### Communication

### FACULTY

Katherine Hendrix, associate professor of communication, won the 2011 College of Communication and Fine Arts Dean's Outstanding Research Award. Hendrix has spent the past 30 years in post-secondary education and more than 15 years with the University of Memphis. Starting with her book, The Teaching Assistant's Guide to the Basic Course, her writing has served both the theoretical and practical functions new teachers needed to successfully orient graduate teaching assistants to their respective departments and colleges/universities as well as the Communication Studies discipline. As her career has progressed, she has pushed the boundaries in instructional communication to champion research on the intersections of race, nationality, gender, class and other cross-cultural dimensions. Hendrix has filled the research void regarding professor credibility and revealed and critiqued the "taken-for-granted" issues of the research and publication processes themselves. Much of her research relies on critical research methods including ethnography and autoethnography.

**Kris Markman**, assistant professor of communication, and her co-author John Overholt have published their essay "Becoming 'the right people': Fan-generated knowledge building in Mystery Science Theatre 3000" in the new book *In the Peanut Gallery with Mystery Science Theater 3000: Essays on Film, Fandom, Technology and the Culture of Riffing*, published by McFarland.

New films by **Steven Ross**, professor of communication (film and video production), and students, **Shelby Baldock** (I Can't Turn It Off) and **Eric Huber** (The Notorious Jesse James), were included in the lineup of the 12th Annual On Location: Memphis International Film and Music Fest in April. **Dancing on a Volcano** is Ross' first fiction film in more than a decade. The contemporary story focuses on the current economic recession as a constant presence. Lindsay, the film's main character, played by Cynthia Moore Sengel, is an attractive and dependable real estate agent in her 40s. She excels in her job, is active in her church, and has a "surprising" romantic indiscretion.

For the project, Ross has recruited **Ryan Parker**, U of M film & video alumnus and Indie Memphis winner, as director of photography and recent film & video graduate **Miller Pipkin**, as associate producer. On Location: Memphis is a competitive film and music festival that features a diverse mix of local and global films. Awards are given in five categories: Live Action Short, Feature, Music Video, Documentary and Animated Short. Previous attendees include Morgan Freeman, Alan Bloomquist, Holly Hunter, Ed Solomon, Isaac Hayes, Cybill Shepherd, Mari Kornhauser, Del Shores, Don Hertzfeld, Rob May, Macky Alston, John Vanco, and Ira Sachs.

### STUDENTS

**Shelby Bladock**, undergraduate student in communication (film and video production), received the 2011 Department of Communication Creative Achievement Award. Baldock was a sound intern for *Dancing on a Volcano* a film by professor Steven Ross. He was the producer, director and director of photography for *I Can't Turn It Off*. He is CEO of Piano Man Pictures.

**Kristen Hungerford**, a doctoral student in communication, is the author of "The Male 'White' House of Hollywood: A Feminist Critique of What it Means to Be Presidential," in the Ohio Communication Journal (Vol. 48, 2010).

**Steven Snyder**, undergraduate student in communication (film and video production), was a recipient of the 2011 Dean's Academic Achievement Award.

### ALUMNI

**Amber Carter**, (BA '10) communication (film & video production), has recently been hired as the publications coordinator in the Communications and Marketing division at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Sarah Fleming, (MA '04) Communication (film & video production), is the co-owner of Live From Memphis (LFM) where she has been working since 2004. LFM, founded by Christopher Reyes in 2001, is a grassroots multimedia organization representing Memphis music, film, arts, and culture. Among LFMs' clients are The Memphis & Shelby County Film and Television Commission, ArtsMemphis, the Center City Commission, and the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau. A for-profit company, LFM creates relevant videos and other multi-media content for these (and many other) local organizations, which can also be viewed at YouTube or the Live From Memphis website, ivefrommemphis.com. The organization's website is a rich resource for the arts community in Memphis and includes artists' directories, databases, blogs and videos, developed with such co-creators as Edward Valibus Phillips (BA '04, film & video production), Brad Phelan (BA '07, film & video production) and Chris McCoy.

Very active within the Memphis community, LFM creates and produces many public events including the Music Video Showcase, currently in its seventh

year, Bikesploitation! and various others throughout the year. Currently LFM is curating a series of art and culture events in Court Square Park every Tuesday afternoon.

In 2007, **Live From Memphis** was awarded the "Arts Leadership Award" by the Rhodes College Center for Outreach in the Development of the Arts (CODA) in recognition of outstanding service to the arts; and in 2008 the company received the "Moving Memphis Forward" award from MPact Memphis.

Anwar Jamison, (MA '09) communication (film & video production), released his first motion picture, Funeral Arrangements, in February. The movie is a comedy that focuses on a character named Drew, who lies about attending a funeral to skip work. Jamison directed the film and wrote the script, William Johnson, media specialist at the Department of Communication, is the film's producer. Funeral Arrangements developed from an assignment in Jamison's first screenwriting class. The cast and crew were made up mostly of film and theatre students. The film premiered at the 2009 Indie Memphis Film Festival and was released nationwide through Select-O-Hits this February. In addition to his degree in communication, Jamison also holds a master's degree in English from the U of M.

### Journalism

### FACULTY

A Twitter scavenger hunt assignment that **Carrie Brown-Smith**, assistant professor of journalism, created was recently featured in Converge, a national education magazine.

### STUDENTS

Chelsea Boozer, undergraduate journalism major and reporter for The Daily Helmsman, has won a prestigious IRE (Investigative Reports and Editors) award. The awards, given by Investigative Reporters and Editors Inc. since 1979, recognize the most outstanding watchdog journalism of the year. The contest covers 18 categories across media platforms and a range of market sizes. Boozer won in the student category for her piece "Inside the RSOs," which was published in The Daily Helmsman. The award announcement notes: "A student reporter at the University of Memphis' Daily Helmsman, Chelsea Boozer did what journalists do: Question authority, scrap for refused public records and then stand up for the defenseless. Boozer tapped into a difficult and under-covered topic on campus: how student fees were spent. She shined a light on the perks of student government leaders, including their paid tuition, parking and stipends, all funded by a mandatory student activity fee. Her digging found budgets tapped for student travel and T-shirts for the student senate. Her efforts forced a student senator to be dismissed. Student leaders now post their budget publicly."

**Scott Carroll**, undergraduate journalism student and editor of *The Daily Helmsman*, won fifth place nationally in the spot news competition of the Hearst Journalism Awards. The award came with a \$1,000 scholarship. Carroll won for the story, "Nightmare on Southern," his harrowing account from the University of Memphis student victims of a violent home invasion robbery and assault in a rental house on Southern Avenue, near campus. He joins Chelsea Boozer, undergraduate journalism major and Helmsman reporter, who placed third in the in-depth competition of the Hearts Awards earlier this semester for her investigative piece about the University's Student Government Association.

**Derek Smith**, an undergraduate journalism major in the advertising program, was selected as a 2011 recipient of The Home Depot Most Promising Minority Students scholarship by the American Advertising Federation's Mosaic Center on Multiculturalism. The Home Depot Most Promising Minority Students scholarship was established in 2009 to recognize deserving underclassman multicultural students pursuing advertising, marketing or communications as a career path. "Our goal is for those scholarship recipients to be chosen as one of our 50 Most Promising Students by their senior year" states Tiffany Foxworth, program manager for the Mosaic Center. "Last year, seven out of the fourteen scholarship winners were inducted into the Most Promising Class of 2011."

### Music

### FACULTY

The University of Memphis Symphony Orchestra has been selected as one of six semifinalist for **The American Prize**'s orchestral performance competition. Each year, The American Prize rewards the best recorded performances of music by individuals and ensembles in the United States at the professional, community/amateur, college/university, church and school levels. The University of Memphis was selected for a recording of the live performance of Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 2, Resurrection, performed under the direction of Maestro Pu-Qi Jiang at the Germantown Performing Arts Centre in February. Other semi finalists include Pacific University Philharmonic (Oregon); Ithaca College Symphony Orchestra (New York) NY; The Mannes Orchestra (New York), Cornell Orchestra (New York), and University of Michigan Symphony Orchestra (Michigan).

**Lily Afshar**, professor of music (classical guitar), performed at the 26th Fadjr International Music Festival in Iran. She gave two concerts at the Niavaran Cultural Center in Tehran and the Shahid Avini Concert Hall in Bushehr. Afshar also performed at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Professor Emeritus **Shirley McRaev** has been honored with the Distinguished Service Award from the American Orff-Schulwerk Association. The award recognizes exemplary service to the Association and to the growth of Orff-Schulwerk in the U.S. She taught at the U of M for 25 years and served as coordinator of music education for seven years. Her publications include many articles in church and music education journals. Also a composer and arranger, she has published nine books of folk and original songs arranged for treble voices and Orff instruments.

Kevin Richmond, assistant professor of music (class piano), and Tonya Butler, assistant professor of music (music industry), presented at the 32nd Southern Regional Conference of the College Music Society (CMS) at Rhodes College in February. Butler's session was entitled "Copyright Protection and Registration for Music Majors...FINALLY!", and Richmond's session, which included a demonstration was entitled, "Extended Techniques at the Piano: Notation and Performance Practice."

### STUDENTS

**Simona Barbu**, a doctoral student in cello performance, has been appointed professor of cello at The University of North Dakota. Simona is an international student and has won several competitions, including last summer's Duxbury Festival Chamber Music Competition in Massachusetts. Prior to her appointment she taught part-time at Mississippi State University and performed in several local ensembles, including the Memphis Symphony Orchestra.

**Laura Brown**, undergraduate student in music with a concentration in music industry, was a recipient of the 2011 Dean's Academic Achievement Award.

Quiana Lamb, graduate student in the Scheidt School of Music, is the 2011 graduate winner of the Music Education Achievement Award. Lamb, who is currently pursuing her Master's in Music Education, was formerly a middle school orchestra director and high school band director in North Carolina. Lamb has been instrumental in the revitalization of the Collegiate Music Educators Association at the University of Memphis.

**Steffanie Smith**, a junior music education major, is the 2011 undergraduate winner of the Music Education Achievement Award. Smith is actively involved in many organizations, including the University of Memphis chapter of Collegiate Music Educators and the Delta Beta of Sigma Alpha Iota.

**Rebekah Wineman**, an undergraduate student in the Scheidt School of Music, received the School of Music Creative Achievement Award as well as the Presser Scholarship Award. Wineman is a Music Industry major with a concentration in Recording Technology. She is President of the Music and Entertainment Industry Student Association and is a founding member of Sigma Alpha Iota, which is an international music fraternity for women. She is also a talented musician and was the recipient of the 2010 Raymond Lynch Oboe Award.

Four students from the School of Music vocal arts area won awards at this year's Metropolitan National Council Auditions. **Stafford Hartman** and **Jeremiah Johnson** were district winners, and **Eugene Johnson** and **Katherine Liesner** won encouragement awards.

### ALUMNI

Army Sgt. 1st Class Harold Yager, (BM '01) music education, has been awarded the Volunteer Service Medal. The medal was created to recognize exceptional community support over an extended period of time. Yager plays trumpet in the U.S. Army Field Band, Fort George G. Mead, Laurel, MD. He is currently working on his doctorate at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

**T. André Feagin**, (MM '08) conducting, will lead the 2012 U.S. All-American Marching Band instructional staff in January, after serving on the staff in 2009-2011. Feagin is associate director of bands at University of Texas at El Paso. He received a master's degree in instrumental wind conducting from the University of Memphis and is a doctoral of musical arts candidate in conducting from the University of North Texas.

### Theatre & Dance

#### FACULTY

**Gloria Baxter**, professor of theatre (performance), and **Voices of the South**have been invited back to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) this summer for another performance of *Wild Legacy* in front of a national gathering of 120 high school students from across the country.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service commissioned Voices of the South, made up of U of M theatre alumni, to create an original stage play for the 50th anniversary celebration of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, located in northern Alaska. The NCTC hosted "The First Fifty: A Historic Symposium on Arctic National Wildlife Refuge 1960-2010" in Shepherdstown, West Virginia in February. The event explored the history, science, and uniqueness of the nation's largest national wildlife refuge. Featured speakers included former President Jimmy Carter, historian and author Douglas Brinkley, and renowned biologist George Schaller, among others. The event also featured a showing of the film America's Wildest Refuge, a staging of Wild Legacy, and the Arctic Sanctuary photo exhibit

Sarah Brown, assistant professor of theatre (performance), who spent the 2010/11 academic year as a Fulbright scholar at the University of Haifa in Israel, was invited to perform a piece of her new one-woman show, Bloodshed, Miracles, Deliverance, Good Food! at a banquet hosted by Deputy Chief of Mission to Israel, Thomas Golberger and his wife in honor of all the Fulbright Scholars in Israel. Brown was the only Fublright Scholar invited to make a presentation at the banquet. Previously, she had performed the play, which she wrote while in Israel, at the International Theatronetto Festival in Tel-Aviv in April. In May she performed the full show at the University of Haifa to an audience of students, faculty and many people from the Haifa community. The play is a funny and darkish journey of an American Jewish woman who has an identity crisis after traveling to Israel and decides to purge herself of everything by "traveling" to hell.

**Jo Lenhart**, associate professor of theatre (performance), was Queen Margaret in *Richard III* at Theatre Memphis. The show was directed by University of Memphis theatre alumnus **Bo List** (MFA '03).

In March, Lenhart gave a workshop at the Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) in Atlanta, entitled: "Refresh Your Day with a 'Lessac-Yoga' Voice and Body Tune Up." Earlier this year she gave a workshop at the 6th Annual Lessac Conference at the Lessac Institute for Training and Research in State College, Pennsylvania.

**Rick Mayfield**, assistant technical director in the Department of Theatre & Dance, passed the Entertainment Technician Certification Program's (ETCP) Certified Rigger-Theatre examination.

**David Nofsinger**, assistant professor of theatre (design), returned to California this summer to design *Two Gentleman of Verona* at the Theaterfest at Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts of Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria.

#### STUDENT

**Rachel Know**, a graduating student in the theatre design program, has been awarded a highly competitive Allen Hughes Fellowship at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. She will work at this Tony Award-winning regional theatre for an entire season. Founded in 1950 by Zelda Fichandler, Arena Stage is one of the nation's original resident theaters and has a distinguished record of leadership and innovation in the field. One of the first not-for-profit theaters in the U.S. and a pioneer of regional theater movement, it was the first regional theater to transfer a production

to Broadway, first invited by State Department to tour behind the Iron Curtain, and first to receive a Tony Award.

The fellowship is named for Tony Award-nominated lighting designer Allen Hughes. It is designed to increase the participation of people of color in professional theatre. Dedicated to providing the highest standard of training, it aims to break the cycle of exclusion and disengagement that has created a severe shortage of trained minority arts administrators, artisans and technicians.

**Chris Carter**, second-year theatre design graduate student, won the Southeastern Theatre Conference's (SETC) William E. Wilson Award. The award named for longtime SETC member and patron William "Bill" Wilson, supports a secondary school teacher who is pursuing a graduate degree in theatre or speech and theatre. Carter was also awarded the RP Tracks Award for being a wonderful theatre community mentor.

### ALUMNI

Candice Salyers, who graduated from University of Memphis in 2000 with a BLS in Interdisciplinary Arts that was primarily focused on dance, received her MFA in dance from Smith College and is currently pursuing a PhD in dance from Texas Woman's University. Salyers is a choreographer and performer who creates intimate interactions with audiences, landscapes, and architectural spaces. Her work welcomes viewers to explore the moving body as a site and process for outgrowing limiting perceptions of human nature. As a solo performer, she creates kinetic installation pieces that juxtapose slow-moving body transformations with visual environments. Her melding of dance and conceptual art results in provocative and inviting performance works that bridge the visual and performing arts with a particular focus on interactions in which desire is a productive force of the imagination. She has enjoyed dancing with a variety of choreographers, including Li Chiao-Ping and Victoria Marks. Her interest in making artistic practice relevant for the ecology of a community led her to found pARTners, a volunteer organization of artists dedicated to sharing their art form with a variety of people, for which she won the Alma Bucovaz Award for Urban Service in 2001. She has pursued a commitment to performance marathons as a way of raising funds for local food banks. These four-six hour performances include both site-specific choreography and improvisation structures. Her solo performance work has been presented recently by New England Foundation for the Arts, Bates Dance Festival, Ko Festival of Performance, Vermont Performance Lab and numerous university dance departments.

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



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## *Memphis Heavyweight* Exhibition Will Open at AMUM July 18

*Memphis Heavyweight: Collaboration with Nick Cave*, which is based on a project initiated by the Art Museum of the University of Memphis (AMUM) and Chicago-based installation and performance artist Nick Cave, is the final event of a three-part effort that included creative teams from the University of Memphis, Overton High School, the Natural Learning School, Art for Life's Sake, and the community. The culmination of the first part, a semester-long collaboration, was a parade on the University of Memphis campus in April, showcasing the work of eight teams and their interpretation of the theme: *Memphis Heavyweight*.

"Memphis Heavyweight was an accessible subject for the various groups," says Leslie Luebbers, director of the Art Museum at the University of Memphis. "I think the idea was that we all have a lot of burdens, institutional, political, economic, or whatever they may be. A major component of Nick's work is community, bringing people together despite perceived or actual differences and engaging them in the process of creating something beautiful and uplifting."

Cave, who is best known for his signature "Soundsuits," currently featured in the acclaimed traveling exhibition *Meet Me at the Center of the Earth*, agrees: "That's what is so fascinating, to be able to leave yourself at the door and to be open for a collaborative kind of shift."

The exhibition will include a documentary of the Memphis parade, which includes interviews with Cave and leaders of the participating teams. Several of the works that were created for the project will be on display along with photographs and videos of Cave's work. The exhibition will be on display at the Art Museum through September 28.



Nick Cave, Chicago-based installation and performance artist, during the *Memphis Heavyweight* parade at the University of Memphis in April.



Point your QR code reader here to watch a video of the *Memphis Heavyweight* parade.