

SIGHTS and SOUNDS

FACULTY AND STAFF SPOTLIGHT

February 2024



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

LAMAR UNIVERSITY

—College of Fine Arts & Communication Newsletter—

Hello!

I'm Golden Wright, serving as the Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication at Lamar University. Our college is home to an array of talented and unique individuals, including students, staff, and faculty. This monthly newsletter is crafted to showcase and celebrate the remarkable achievements of these individuals across various disciplines within the fine arts and communication fields.

The College of Fine Arts & Communication is built on a foundation of wonderful and accomplished faculty and staff. Every member of faculty and staff provides unique and valuable viewpoints to foster the education of our students. For this month's "Sights and Sounds" section we have chosen to introduce you to a few of these talented individuals; showcasing and celebrating some of their accomplishments across the Fine Arts & Communication fields.

The College of Fine Arts & Communication thrives on the connections we as students, faculty and staff make with each other through the common thread of communication. Each area within the college relies on communication in distinct ways.

The communication and media sector employs various mediums such as television, radio, social media, and newspapers to disseminate information. Music majors, using voice or instruments, convey emotions and stories through their songs. Speech and hearing sciences contribute to enhancing our ability to speak and hear, ultimately improving our quality of life. Deaf studies focus on empowering individuals to serve as mediators in communication. Theatre and dance offer an immersive escape from reality through movement and text. Lastly, the field of art communicates visually, capturing moments and places, transporting us to new realms.

Communication is pivotal to the success of our departments as a college. I trust that this newsletter will provide fresh insights into our vibrant college and the exceptional individuals who contribute to its greatness.

"The Best Kept Secret..."



Golden Wright
Dean, College of Fine Arts & Communication

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WHAT A CHARACTER!

MEET CHRIS TROUTMAN AND LEARN ABOUT HIS CHARACTER ART CLASS



Professor Christopher Troutman received his B.F.A in Drawing and Painting from Bradley University in 2003 and his M.F.A in Drawing and Painting from California State University, Long Beach in 2008. He is now approaching his eleventh year here at Lamar University where he has taught both drawing and foundational courses.

Heavily inspired by comics and illustration in his own work, Chris often brings that passion to his classes, creating course content and assignments that revolve around illustrative storytelling. This enthusiasm has generated a boom of interest among the student body. Some notable successes are his work with alumni Gonzalo Alvarez and Grace Chadwick, who pursued digital illustration

and comic design for their thesis projects under Chris's mentorship when they were students in 2017. Because of these high levels of student interest, Chris was able to apply for a fellowship for educators to develop digital artwork in their program's course content, which ultimately led to the creation of the very popular Character Art course that is offered today.

Character Art is an advanced level course that establishes entry-level skills in concept art and visualization. The course is flexible; some students choose to develop one character over the course of the semester, focusing on placing them in different scenarios and scenes, while others develop multiple characters over the course of the semester.

Chris has many hopes for the growth of the class, including collaborations with other departments on campus, such as the English department, to give the students experience working with writers and bringing other's visions to life. He has been teaching the Character Art course for two years now, and cardinals continue to 'flock' to the course on enrollment day.



From PR Professional to Academic Leader

PROFESSOR ISAAC BISILKI'S JOURNEY

GUEST WRITER ANA CHAVEZ



Professor Isaac Bisilki, a distinguished addition to Lamar University's Communication and Media Department, brings a wealth of experience and dedication to shaping the minds of aspiring communicators as a doctoral candidate instructor.

Before joining Lamar, Bisilki honed his skills as a seasoned professional in the field of communication. Originating from Ghana, he served as a public relations officer in both the education and security sectors, gaining invaluable insights into the field of Public Relations.

"What I learned is that as a PR professional, you have to be ahead of time, you have to be proactive. If you don't act on an activity, and there was an issue, management always relegated one to the background, or they assigned you a task that you won't be happy with," says Bisilki. "You also need to demonstrate to your managers that your role is relevant and it can contribute to the bottom line."

As Bisilki entered the workforce straight out of school, he learned valuable lessons about the proactive nature of PR work. Following this, Bisilki admits underestimating the value of writing skills after realizing its importance.

"I initially didn't really give much attention to writing as a public relations professional. My thoughts were that oh, as a PR I'll be talking most of the time. But when I got to the field, the challenges were different: writing was rather the skill that was required more than talking," says Bisilki. "I had to face it head on and quickly develop in that area. I'm happy to say that I overcame that along the way, and was able to publish quite a number of opinion pieces."

His time in Ghana laid the groundwork for his academic pursuits, igniting a passion for exploring the public relations realm of communication. Bisilki's journey led him to go into public relations campaigns aimed at addressing pressing social issues, including HIV/AIDS awareness and advocating for improved prison conditions.

"One of the companies that embarked on [a campaign], I exclusively used one medium and that medium was articles in national newspapers. I decided to draw my nation's attention to the importance of paying attention to the needs of people that are imprisoned. Their feeding, the quality of feeding, the quality of care, etc. I tried to shed light on the conditions in the prisons, which was the last organization that I worked with before coming here," says Bisilki.

After utilizing national newspapers to highlight the prison conditions, Professor Bisilki reaped rewards in the form of recognition and impact. He expressed fulfillment in shedding light on social problems through communication, emphasizing its impact on campaign designs and newspaper articles.

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"The interesting and exciting part of it was that when these articles were published, stakeholders that didn't know some of these challenges, sent me emails to thank me for sharing those stories and for shedding light on what they did not know," says Bisilki. "Other stakeholders actually told me that they were going to book an appointment with the president to share the issues that were raised in my articles. That for me is something that I have been very excited about."

Bisilki's professional journey encompasses a diverse array of research interests, with a primary focus on the strategic utilization of social media in environmental sanitation campaigns. His dissertation research aims to harness the power of digital platforms to distribute knowledge and foster collaboration in addressing environmental challenges.

"In today's world, environmental issues such as climate change are becoming prominent. It's crucial to leverage the power of social media to share scientific findings and promote collaboration," says Bisilki. "So, I aim to contribute to the knowledge of how professionals can harness social media as a powerful tool for communication."

Though Bisilki focused on his dissertation for over a year, he shared some of his ongoing projects and research endeavors, and expressed enthusiasm for his involvement in a project centered around the Public Relations Society of America's Anvil Awards.

"I've been taking the time to understand the perspective of the judges and to glean insights into what makes a great PR campaign and what reduces the company's ability to make an impact on the target audience and at the same time, meet the goals of the organization," says Bisilki. "Additionally, I've been exploring the challenges faced by environmental journalists reporting on illegal mining in Ghana and Nigeria, and the potential use of drones to navigate dangerous terrains for reporting purposes."

Continuing his academic journey, Bisilki was drawn to Lamar University by its renowned reputation for fostering scholars in public relations and its inclusive, diverse environment. He sought to contribute to the department's esteemed legacy while supporting student growth and development.

"I came here with the intention to contribute and then also learn from the established academics here in my field. My goal is to be a permanent part of the department and contribute the best way I can to students' lives, so they leave Lamar with the confidence to excel in the work world," says Bisilki.

In addition to his research pursuits, Bisilki is engaged in teaching a variety of courses within the Communication and Media Department. His teaching portfolio has a range of courses, including Intercultural Communication, Public Relations Strategies, and the Dynamics of Effective Communication in Diverse Contexts.

"Teaching gives me an opportunity to be able to share the little that I know and what others have said that have been tested and proven to be effective in conveying information to people that need

that information," says Bisilki. "It is an opportunity for me to be able to share what I have learned from the field and to learn from students so I can improve and enjoy this act of sharing knowledge."

Central to Bisilki's teaching philosophy is the belief in cultivating critical thinking skills and fostering a collaborative learning environment. He emphasizes the importance of empathy and understanding in effective communication, encouraging students to embrace diversity and harness the power of dialogue to bridge cultural divides.

"My teaching philosophy is based on my own experience that every human being has something for them to offer. It just depends on how you see them and the opportunity that you give to them to express themselves" says Bisilki. "I approach every lecture with the understanding that every student has something in them that they can offer to the class, in the form of ideas or the form of classroom contributions that others can learn from."

Professor Bisilki highlights the importance of research and writing skills for communication students, emphasizing their critical role in informing communication activities and ensuring clarity in written communication.

"Communicating information is a central part of organizational success because organizations deal with the public, or what other people call customers and stakeholders. And each day the need for improved communication is something that every organization seeks to do," says Bisilki. "Equipping students with research, writing, and tech skills is crucial for their effectiveness in the communication field."

Looking ahead, as someone who has been in the field for ten years, Bisilki envisions a future of abundant opportunities for communication students entering the field, provided they remain adaptable and prioritizing the needs and understanding of their target audience above all else.

"Communication is about putting words in a way that people can understand, choosing the right words that people can understand and not to impress people," says Bisilki. "It's about putting your target audience at the center of your communication, ensuring they understand the information you want to share."

From growing up in Ghana to working as a public relations officer and now as an educator at Lamar University, Bisilki's experiences have shaped his perspective and dedication to the field. As he continues to delve into research and mentor students, his vision for the future resonates with optimism and opportunity. Bisilki stands as a beacon of inspiration for aspiring communicators, paving the way for a new generation to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of communication with integrity and purpose.

"Embrace the journey, remain curious, and never underestimate the transformative power of effective communication."

mentoring with...

DR. MILLCENT MUSYOKA



Dr. Millicent Musyoka is an associate professor in the Department of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education where she teaches both undergraduate and doctoral students. She received her B.A. in Education at Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya, and her M.A and Ph.D. in Deaf Education from Gallaudet University. Her research focuses on bi/multilingual Deaf learners' early language acquisition and literacy, Deaf with multiple disabilities, multicultural education, Deaf teacher education, and technology integration in deaf education.

Dr. Musyoka is passionate about her students and often serves as a mentor and research partner for their research. In the past year, she has mentored students who have received OUR (Office of Undergraduate Research) Grants, SURF (Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship) Grants, and McNair Scholars Program recipients. This research has included topics such as, capturing stories of Deaf individuals on college and career aspirations to improve advising and mentoring (Undergraduate Student, Cindy R. Sosa Castro), Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Students' knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions regarding Deaf culture (Undergraduate Student, Maddison Smith and Co-Mentor, Dr. Lekeitha Morris), Deaf parents supporting hearing children's language and literacy development (Undergraduate Student, Sarah B. Anderson), and Speech-Language Pathologists' Role: Perspectives from Deaf Individuals and Speech-Language Pathologists (Undergraduate Student, Kendra McDonald and Co-Mentor, Dr. Lekeitha Morris).

Dr. Musyoka is currently working with two students who were awarded OUR Grants this past Fall. Aaron Tabor's research into Deaf interactions within the first responder world is co-mentored by Dr. Musyoka and Dr. Vidisha Worley, and Maddison Bean's research into the exploration of the life of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals who use assistive hearing technologies is mentored by Dr. Musyoka. In Aaron Tabor's work, he will be looking specifically into police and law enforcement, as he is a former police officer. They hope to influence the training of law enforcement officers by sharing their findings with different police departments and attending any of the police and law enforcement conferences. Currently, the police academy only has four hours of training on how police officers can interact with Deaf individuals. Maddison Bean's research will focus on Deaf and Hard of Hearing individual's experiences and perceptions of using assistive hearing technology like hearing aids and cochlear implants. The study adopts a three-dimensional narrative structure to explore the experiences and perceptions of using assistive hearing technologies in place, time, and interactions. Personnel preparation programs that offer programs in Deaf studies and Speech and Hearing Science will benefit from the findings to integrate into their curriculums. Additionally, the information will be shared in related conferences as an educational piece for the hearing and Deaf community members in the way they perceive and interact with D/HH individuals who use assistive technologies.

Dr. Musyoka is currently enrolled in a one-year mentoring certificate course to develop her mentoring skills to be able to better provide for her students' needs. *"I am very passionate about mentoring undergraduates in research and want to hone my skills to do a better job!"* She finds that her undergraduate students are very fervent, driven and tenacious, which in turn makes her challenge herself. *"They have new minds. They have that drive."* When asked about her mentoring strategies, Dr. Musyoka explained that more than often, mentors often see themselves, the senior person, mentoring the junior person. She prefers mentoring as a learning partnership in which both the mentor and mentee benefit from the relationship. It is a collaborative mentoring strategy, where she enables herself to learn from her students even as they learn from her. She sees all research projects as collaborative efforts, where her students serve as 'Co-Principle Investigators' (Co-PI). *"Most of the time, we see students as participants. But when you give them the role of a Co-PI, you are promoting them to a research partner. I treat them how I would treat my fellow researcher, or faculty."*

Besides mentoring undergraduate research, Dr. Musyoka enjoys teaching the undergraduate research methods class in which she adopts the pedagogy of teaching and learning research by doing. This spring, she is teaching the class, and together with her students, they are learning research as they work through a research project on the use and perception of ChatGPT by university students across disciplines. The research that Dr. Musyoka's students are completing will provide fresh perspectives to the Deaf Studies and Deaf Education fields, as well as the public, and we're all excited to see how these research projects unfold and what future, cutting-edge research will come with Dr. Musyoka mentoring our students.





reflections... with RICK CONDIT

RICK CONDIT RETIRES AFTER 10 YEARS AT LU

Professor Rick Condit, originally from the San Francisco Bay area, has been at Lamar University since the Fall semester of 2014 and will be retiring at the end of the 2023-2024 academic year. Before coming to Lamar, Rick had been on the faculty at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana for 30 years. He retired from McNeese, and three years later, came to Lamar University as an interim professor with the intention of staying for only one year, luckily for us, one year slowly turned into two, which slowly turned into three, and eventually turned into ten. **"After a couple months, I realized I really wanted to stay."** Rick said.

Over the years, Rick has had the opportunity to play in nearly every state, tour with professional bands, have his music published, and has even taught in Romania. He has spent his life jumping from one opportunity to the next, and his final semester here is no different. He has an exciting trip to Spain planned this May for the Cardinal Jazz Orchestra, and just this month he was inducted into the Texas Jazz Educators Association's (TJEA) Hall of Fame. When asked about this

distinction, Rick said, **"It's an honor to be selected for this. Very humbling."**

He was inducted while attending the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) Convention in San Antonio where the Cardinal Jazz Orchestra was given the opportunity to perform with guest artists, Jeff Coffin – the saxophonist from the Dave Matthews Band and graduate of the University of North Texas, and John Calderón – professional guitarist and graduate of Lamar University. This performance at the TMEA conference is a highly coveted honor, with only one college level group being selected to perform each year.

When Rick was asked what he would miss the most about Lamar University, post-retirement, he mentioned, **"I've had some really wonderful students. I think some of the best students I've ever had in my career have been here at Lamar. I attribute that to the rigorous Texas Education System, but also to the local band directors."**

When closing the interview, Rick said, **"It's not like I've been doing some menial job that I've suffered through, It's been a great career! I've remained active as a professional musician as well as being able to teach, so it's really the best of both worlds for a musician."** He will also miss working with such a talented and supportive faculty.

We will all miss Rick Condit, and wish him all of the happiness in the world as he approaches his retirement.

"Rick Condit's retirement is a cadenza of unparalleled virtuosity! For his grand finale at Lamar University, he is showcasing students at TMEA in February and on a European tour in May. Bravissimo, Rick!"

-ASSOCIATE DEAN, DR. JEANETTE FRESNE

COMMUNITY with Dr. Jilla

Dr. Anna M. Jilla, Au.D., Ph.D. is in her second academic year at Lamar University. She is a native “Houstonian” and her Au.D. and Ph.D. in Audiology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center prior to completing her Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University in the Cochlear Center for Hearing and Public Health under the direction of Frank Lin, M.D., Ph.D. and Nick Reed, Au.D. She previously worked at the Texas Medical Center as a full-time clinical audiologist, assisting patients across the lifespan for both hearing and balance care.

In speaking with Dr. Jilla, you can see how her passion for students influences everything she does. She recalls her own experience with professors and how they were able to help her, not just with educational questions and problems that arise, but personal ones as well, which she has pulled into her own teaching and mentoring methodology along with the other faculty at Lamar University.

“We're not just invested in their [the students'] clinical education, [...] we're invested in their professional and personal education as well.” She mentions that the department often takes students to national-level professional conferences and

to the state capitol for legislative advocacy on related topics in the world of Speech and Hearing Sciences. The department is an active force in finding professional opportunities for their students, but they are also aware that sometimes the students need to unwind and have a release from their rigorous academic lives. Sometimes, they even arrange karaoke nights for their students. ***“It lets them see our humanity as professors [...] allow[s] them that space to be themselves to [...] interact and be in the world outside of the classroom. And it's been tremendous for the development of those relationships.”***

She and her students are using state-level data to help discover where accessibility gaps in hearing care are present for Texans with hearing loss. They currently have a grant through Lamar University's Center for Resiliency to research workforce dispersion across Texas. In the research they have completed so far, they have determined that the Houston-metro area has an extreme shortage of audiologists. Continuing this research, they will also expand their queries into the world of health insurance to see how many audiologists accept Medicaid. There are over three million residents of the Houston-Metro, and only three audiology clinics that accept Medicaid patients for hearing aids and hearing care services.



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Dr. Jilla has also partnered with Carmen Rolf, MSN, RN in the JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing under a United States Department of Agriculture Grant which allows them to serve the rural areas outside of Beaumont, specifically the Sabine County area. This has allowed students in both departments and students in LIT's nursing program the ability to have some hands-on clinical experience with the community and they have also had the ability to raise awareness for public health and prevention knowledge. Students have been able to offer screenings, give presentations on important public health topics like smoking and vaping, and more. ***"We want to provide a sustainable model so we can provide for them, not just today, not just tomorrow, but years from now."***

This research ties back to the idea of community: something that Dr. Jilla is extremely passionate about. ***"Lamar is a community that supports its students. It's a highly welcoming community. [...]I felt welcomed, pulled into the fold immediately."*** She praises her fellow faculty for their dedication to students, community, and the University as a whole. ***"I feel very fortunate to be part of this illustrious faculty and a part of the LU family."***

The Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences offers a B.S. in Speech and Hearing Sciences, an M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology and a Doctorate in Audiology (Au.D.) as well as Vocology and Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certificate programs.



1 Right to Left—Denilson Calderon (LU Class of 2025), Kelsey Spencer (LU Class of 2026), Anna Jilla, Au.D., Ph.D., Lindsey Sanford (LU Class of 2026), Todd H. Porter Student Poster Winners, Texas Academy of Audiology Annual Meeting in San Marcos

2 Lamar University Doctor of Audiology students and alumni at Texas Academy of Audiology Annual Meeting 2023, Mardi Gras in San Marcos

3 Anna Jilla, Au.D., Ph.D. and Sarah McAlexander, Au.D. (Texas Hearing Institute, Houston) at State Capitol in Austin

GENUINELY ME

MEET THE NEW TECHNICAL DIRECTOR



MMeet Brian Steele! The Department of Theatre & Dance's new technical director was born in Brooklyn, New York, raised in the Caribbean, and received his B.A. in Theatre, with a focus in Technical Theatre, from Stephen F. Austin State University (S.F.A). Prior to joining the Cardinal flock, Brian has worked as a lighting designer, assistant electrician for a musical tour, field service technician for lighting system installs, completed a professional internship at Walt Disney World, and worked through I.A.T.S.E Local 51 in Houston while he was in college.

Growing up in the Caribbean, watching American television, and having Disney's Pirates of the Caribbean film near where he was raised all influenced him to pursue a career in theatre. He originally had auditioned as an actor when he was applying to S.F.A. He ultimately switched his focus to technical theatre. When asked about his choice to leave the acting world, he said, "I don't really like not being myself. I like being 'genuinely me' at all times." Although Brian is a 'lighting guy' he dabbles in a little bit of everything. "That's why my office door says 'entertainment tech guy,' because I'm not tied to any one thing. As long as it's within that industry? I'm all about it."

Before joining Lamar University full-time, he was employed on a part-time basis back in 2019. His wife, Nikki Burch, was working at the Lutch Theatre in Orange and ran into someone from the University needing a lighting designer and she passed on his information. "I don't believe in coincidences. Had she not passed my information along in 2019, I probably wouldn't be here today."

Brian has a lot of big dreams for the department and for the students of Lamar University. He hopes to open students' eyes to the many possible careers that having a B.S. in Theatre and Dance from Lamar University can provide. "There are many fields that their skills can apply to," he says. He goes on to explain that even car manufacturers hire sound engineers and designers, and that you would be surprised at all the opportunities that are out there. He also hopes to be able to teach the students transferable skills that can apply to any type of machinery. In the live entertainment world, there are many different types of soundboards, lighting systems, rigging systems, and more, and what a certain company uses often comes down to preference. Brian wants to make sure that what our students learn here at Lamar will be able to carry them into their professional careers so they can feel confident on any piece of machinery in the industry.

When speaking with Brian, it's easy to see the passion he has for his work and for the students of Lamar University. I know we are all excited to see what he is able to accomplish for the department.

true renaissance man: **DENNIS KIEL**

GET TO KNOW THE GENIUS BEHIND THE GALLERY



Dennis Kiel has been the Director of the Dishman Art Museum at Lamar University for nine years. While we all know him as the genius behind so many wonderful exhibitions at the Dishman, some may not know all the hidden talents and interests that make up Dennis Kiel.

Dennis received his B.F.A. in Graphic Design from Ohio University and his M.F.A. in Art History from the University of Cincinnati. While he was in graduate school, he worked for a small printing company in Cincinnati in their music division. He had the opportunity to create backstage passes for Bruce Springsteen's "The River" tour in 1980, design tickets for the 'Tattoo You' Rolling Stones tour, and design backstage passes for Stevie Nicks's "Bella Donna" tour. The latter of these opportunities was recalled in "The Art of Rock: Posters from Presley to Punk" by Paul Grushkin, where Dennis was mentioned by name. After he graduated with his M.F.A. he put the field of graphic design behind him and moved on to his true passion: curating.

Before coming to be the Director of the Dishman Art Museum, Dennis worked in the department of Prints, Drawings and Photographs at the Cincinnati Art Museum for twenty years. During his time there, he curated most of the photography shows as the Associate Curator. The first show he organized there showcased the work of Hollywood photographer, George Hurrell, and was picked up and toured by the Smithsonian. While he was working at the Cincinnati he simultaneously taught the History of Photography at Northern Kentucky University. He then moved on to The Light Factory in Charlotte, North Carolina where he served as Interim Executive Director and Chief Curator. After a few years, he was recommended for the Museum Director position at Lamar University.

After coming to Beaumont, Dennis knew he wanted to get involved any way he could. He saw Beaumont as, "a small town with a lot of potential." He serves on the acquisition committee for the Art Museum of Southeast Texas (AMSET) as well as participating in their book and collector's clubs, serves on the advisory board for the Stark Museum in Orange, serves on the Board for the Center for History and Culture at Lamar University, and has previously served on the board for the Beaumont Art League and the Homecoming Committee for Lamar University.

What some may not know, is that Dennis has also worked in public radio and is very involved with KVLU. His show "Rock Therapy" which he previously debuted at WAIF, 88.3 FM, a community radio station in Cincinnati, now broadcasts on KVLU, 91.3 FM, on Sunday evenings at 8:00 P.M. Dennis has also collaborated with KVLU through the Dishman Art Museum by starting a collaborative program called, "Listen at the Dishman," where KVLU is broadcasted through the speakers at the Museum between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. and then again from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Dennis Kiel truly is a renaissance man. He has been able to seamlessly blend his love for music and art, and we are so lucky that he has been a part of the cardinal family for almost a decade.

The current exhibition at the Dishman Art Museum, Legacy: The Art of Lowell Daunt Collins and Michael Roqué Collins will be on display until March 2nd, make sure to catch it while you can!

a year in the life with...

JASON MILLER



Jason Miller, KVLU station manager and Southeast Texas native, graduated from Lamar University in 2001. Miller has dabbled in multiple forms of communication over the years, including television and print media, but ultimately it was radio that stole his heart.

Jason has worked for the university since he was a student in 1997. After exploring careers in teaching, television and print post-graduation, he returned to Lamar in 2005. He is approaching the end of his first year as KVLU's station manager. When reflecting on the past year, he talks about his team proudly. They foster an environment of creativity, learning and collaboration, where everyone is happy to help each other learn about editing, producing, handling archival material, you name it! Jason explains that the station is in the process of digitizing and organizing their files so they can air material that has not been aired for decades. "Right now, Aaron Johnson, our work study student has been helping us out dubbing archives. He's working with tape from the mid-90s that we're going to use for our anniversary!" This year, on April 30th, KVLU will celebrate 50 years on the air. They have so many exciting plans for their celebrations throughout the year, so make sure you stay 'tuned-in' for more updates!

Lately, the station has hosted many more voices from across the campus community. He mentions that they have been able to add so many student and faculty voices due to the "On Campus @ Lamar University" show that airs on Monday mornings at 7:50am.

Jason has worked with radio since he was in high school and loves interacting with the community, but he also has seen how much radio has had to adapt and change because of the technology boom; this ever-evolving technology has kept him on his toes. He explains the shift of radio being seen as a 'scheduled listening' to more of an 'on demand' experience; going into the pros of being able to pause and come back to it, listen while you walk the dogs, the ability to listen at your leisure, to continuously serve the listener. He states, "We podcast about every show we do... what's really important is how it serves your audience."

Jason has a love for the history of KVLU combined with all the promise for tomorrow. It will be exciting to see how KVLU continues to grow and evolve with Jason at the helm.

For more information and to stream KVLU, visit kvl.org.

CAN'T MISS THIS!

JAN 20 — MAR 2

Legacy: The Art of Lowell Daunt Collins and Michael Roqué Collins
Dishman Art Museum

FEB 17

Woodwind Day
Susan and Jimmy Simmons Music Building
1:00 PM

MAR 4

John Alexander Lecture
Dishman Art Museum
12:45 - 1:45 PM

MAR 22

Iron Pour
Department of Art & Design
TIME TBA

MAR 23

Le Grand Bal
Dishman Art Museum and Setzer Center
6:00 PM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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



LE GRAND BAL

March 23, 2024 | 6:00 P.M. | DISHMAN ART MUSEUM AND SETZER CENTER

Established in 1973, the Friends of the Arts staged its first ball in 1975. Activities, decor and entertainment are designed to reflect the talents of LU art, theater, music and dance faculty and students. Since 1975, the event has raised more than \$3- million dollars for the College of Fine Arts and Communication. These funds enable the Friends of the Arts to contribute to scholarships and educational enhancements such as master classes, visiting artists and trips to clinics and workshops that expand learning opportunities for students and add to faculty members' academic credentials.

To purchase tickets, please visit
www.lamar.edu/legrandbal





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