LU art students exhibit their work in Italy

Students from Lamar University’s art and history departments visited Italy this summer for a unique study abroad class that offered an experience consistent with the tradition of the “Grand Tour” once considered a rite of passage for young American artists.

Participants displayed their work at Santa Reparata International School of Art, the group’s host institution abroad, and attended a paper marbling demonstration by the master artist at the Papyrus paperie in Florence. Both offered terrific hands-on experiences. Students also received a pass for all public museums in Florence.

“I think study abroad provides a more well-rounded experience than studio studies alone,” said Xenia Fedorchenko, associate professor of color theory, drawing and printmaking. “I think art in Italy is a living thing; it is embodied history that people interact with on a daily basis.”

Fedorchenko co-taught the class with Rebecca Boone, associate professor of history. In addition to drawing and the study of art, the class explored the conflict between the romanticized vision of the Renaissance past and contemporary realities central to the works produced in Florence, Chianti, Venice and Rome. Students took trips to sites such as the Uffizi, Santa Croce, La Specola and the Boboli Gardens.
As you have probably heard or read by now, this academic year marks the end of my tenure as dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication at Lamar University. I’ve had a wonderful 16 years here at Lamar, and I love this university and our college. It is because I am so confident that LU is in outstanding hands with the new administration that I feel it’s time for me to put my “trombone of administration” back into its case and practice my grandparenting skills instead.

Over the years, the College of Fine Arts and Communication has accomplished many wonderful things. And truly it is our many outstanding faculty and staff members who are responsible for making this college special. As you’ll read in the following pages, we’ve added many new faculty this year, and this new crop of educators, I am confident, will continue to elevate Lamar to new heights.

We have lots of other news and “firsts” to celebrate. As I write this, the art department is going through its first review for national accreditation. Our acclaimed Wind Ensemble is preparing for its first performance under Dr. Scott Deppe at the Texas Music Educators Association conference in February. Deaf Studies is preparing to change its current doctoral program from the Ed.D. to a Ph.D., and Speech and Hearing Sciences is looking to initiate a Ph.D. in addition to its Au.D.

As you can see, we have many new and exciting things happening on campus. We hope that you will visit us for one or many of our terrific fine arts events. We continue to appreciate your valuable support for all of our academic and artistic offerings.

For more details on our news and events, please visit us on the web at fineartscomm.lamar.edu or call (409) 880-8137. You may also follow us at Facebook.com/LamarCOFAC and Twitter.com/LamarCOFAC.

Russ Schultz
Dean, College of Fine Arts and Communication
Lamar University

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The invitation to perform at TMEA is a distinct honor and a testament to the high quality of instruction provided by faculty in the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music.

The Lamar University Wind Ensemble has been honored with an elite invitation to perform before the Texas Music Educators Association’s 2015 Clinic and Convention in mid-February. Mark your calendars for Feb. 5, 2015, to get a local preview of this performance when the Wind Ensemble presents its pre-TMEA concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Julie Rogers Theatre.

The Wind Ensemble is conducted by Scott Deppe, director of bands at Lamar, and has about 55 members. Students in the group come from several different colleges and majors throughout the university.

“I am extremely proud of our students and of the high caliber of leadership that Scott has brought to our band program,” said Kurt Gilman, chair of the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music.

Begun in 1920, the Texas Music Educators Association is an organization of more than 11,000 elementary through post-secondary school music educators dedicated to promoting excellence in music education. TMEA is the largest organization of its kind in the world, meeting yearly in San Antonio.

“I think this is a fantastic opportunity for our Wind Ensemble and a credit to the incredible work Scott has done bringing the group back to its highest quality,” said Russ Schultz, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication. “The invitation to perform at TMEA is a distinct honor and a testament to the high quality of instruction provided by faculty in the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music.”

The Lamar Wind Ensemble is one of four university bands to be invited to perform at the 2015 convention.

“It’s an honor to represent Lamar at TMEA, and I think it’s going to be a treat for our many alumni from the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music who have gone on to become band and choir directors and will be present at this conference,” said Deppe.

The Office of Undergraduate Research announced 15 winners of the recent grant proposal contest for students wishing to conduct undergraduate research. Speech & Hearing Sciences major Alyssa Hughes won a grant for her proposal “Vocal loudness across breath support: An exploratory study.” Her faculty mentor is Nandhu Radhakrishnan. Speech & Hearing Sciences major Kaitlin Taylor won a grant for her proposal “A survey of prevention and remediation audiological habits in older adults of Jefferson County, Texas.” Her graduate mentor is Ashley Dockens.

Grant recipients were honored in a formal program in October 2014 and presented with certificates of recognition by President Kenneth Evans and Provost Steve Doblin. Each student received up to $1,000 for undergraduate research support along with a $500 stipend.
The Department of Theatre & Dance opened its 2014-15 season with Jane Martin’s Anton in Show Business, a fast-paced, satirical look into the world of theatre as three women pursue their dream of performing a play by Anton Chekhov in Texas. It was directed by faculty member Brian LeTraunik, and ran Oct. 2-5 in the Studio Theatre. The season continued in early November with Eleemosynary, one of Lee Blessing’s most acclaimed works, directed by Deena Conley, department chair.

Fall & Recovery, the annual fall dance concert, will be Nov. 21-22 in the University Theatre. Directed by Associate Professor Golden Wright, the concert will feature a variety of dance styles.

Spring 2015 brings Tennessee Williams’ classic drama, The Glass Menagerie, directed by Joel Grothe, assistant professor, Feb. 26 - March 1. The spring dance concert will be April 10-11, and Alfred Uhry’s The Last Night of Ballyhoo, also directed by LeTraunik concludes the season on April 30-May 3. For more details on these terrific productions, visit lamar.edu/theatre.

London Theatre Study Aboard

The Department of Theatre & Dance is pleased to announce its first study abroad course, a 10-day immersive experience in the history of theatre and contemporary performance in London, England. LU students will experience workshops at Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre, backstage tours of the National Theatre and the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, as well as a full day in Shakespeare’s birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon. Excursions are also planned for such landmarks as the Tower of London, British Museum, Buckingham Palace and Westminster Abbey. Contact Brian LeTraunik at brian.letraunik@lamar.edu or Jeffrey Palis, director of study abroad at jpalis@lamar.edu for more information.

Dean Schultz honored by International Council of Fine Arts Deans

Dr. Russ Schultz, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication, was awarded the honor of “Emeritus Member” at the recent annual meeting of the International Council of Fine Arts Deans. Over his 16 years at Lamar University, Dean Schultz (pictured, right, with his wife, Susan) served ICFAD with two terms on the Board of Directors and four years as Chair of the Arts in Education Committee, in addition to presenting several papers and workshops and chairing panels.
Lamar University hosted Judith Jamison, artistic director of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, for a free public lecture in the Lamar University Academic Lecture Series, Nov. 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the University Theatre. An American dancer and choreographer, Jamison is an icon in the world of the performing arts.

In her decades at the helm of one of the most respected dance companies in America, she has taken the company to unprecedented heights and received numerous honors, including an Emmy Award, an American Choreography Award, the Kennedy Center Honor and a National Medal of Arts. She was listed in “TIME 100: The World’s Most Influential People” and honored by First Lady Michelle Obama at the first White House Dance Series event.

Sponsored by students and hosted this fall by the College of Fine Arts and Communication, the Lamar University Academic Lecture Series enhances the university experience by allowing Lamar’s academic community to feature prominent speakers from disciplines represented by each of the university’s colleges.

TIME 100: The World’s Most Influential People

Lamar choirs perform Handel’s Messiah

Ring in the holiday season with Lamar University’s A Cappella Choir and Grand Chorus as they perform selections from George Frideric Handel’s Messiah at 3:30 on Sunday, Nov. 30, at St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica in Beaumont.

“Handel’s Messiah is one of the pieces that inspired me to become a musician,” said James Han, director of choral activities at Lamar. “It’s one of the most beautiful and well-written choral pieces I know.”

Admission to the concert and reception is free.

Department of Communication alumnus Bill Macatee delivers commencement address

Lamar University conferred 1655 degrees at the May 2014 commencement in the Montagne Center. LU alumnus and professional sports broadcaster Bill Macatee delivered the commencement address. Macatee earned a Bachelor of Science degree in speech from Lamar University in 1978 and is a member of Delta Tau Delta International Fraternity. He was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus in 2011 and serves on the Board of Advisors for the College of Fine Arts and Communication. Macatee is a prominent network sports broadcaster who has anchored network coverage of the Olympics, covered 24 Masters golf tournaments and 24 US Open Tennis Championships and has called 16 years of NFL play-by-play for CBS Sports.

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Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music

Jacob Clark, Assistant Professor - Piano
Jacob Clark specializes in applied and group piano instruction. He received his musical education primarily in Texas, completing his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees and his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance at the University of Texas at Austin, where his primary solo instructors were David Renner and Nancy Garrett. Previous faculty appointments include assistant professor at South Carolina State University, adjunct instructor at Northern Virginia Community College and piano instructor at the prestigious Levine School of Music in Washington, D.C. An active performer, he has presented recitals in venues such as the Kosciuszko Foundation Auditorium in New York, the historic Church of the Epiphany in Washington, D.C., the Mansion at Strathmore and many others. In addition, he performed his Washington, D.C., concerto debut with the Washington Sinfonietta orchestra and has appeared as a concerto soloist with the SC State Wind Ensemble and Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra. Clark and his wife, pianist Sujung Cho, perform together as Duo Korusa, a versatile piano duo/duet team dedicated to the performance of lesser-known works of the 19th and 20th century, as well as new works of the 21st century.

Eric Shannon, Instructor - Director of Athletic Bands
Eric Shannon directs Lamar’s marching band, the “Showcase of Southeast Texas,” and teaches the marching band techniques course, designed to prepare music education students for the administrative and pedagogical challenges unique to marching band. He also directs the Concert Band and Basketball Pep Bands and assists with many other aspects of the Lamar University band program. Most recently, Shannon served as a doctoral conducting associate at the University of Oklahoma, where he has completed all coursework requirements for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in instrumental conducting. He earned his Master of Music degree in instrumental conducting from the University of Houston in 2012 and his Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Oklahoma in 2007. In 2006, he served as the 56th drum major for the Pride of Oklahoma Marching Band. His conducting and teaching mentors include William K. Wakefield, David Bertman, Brian Britt, David Gorham, Marion West and Michael Raiber.

Timothy M. Dueppen, Assistant Professor - Trombone
Timothy Dueppen received his bachelors of music from UCLA, masters of music in performance and literature from The Eastman School of Music, and his doctorate in performance with a minor in music history from the University of Houston. Prior to his appointment at Lamar University, Dueppen was visiting assistant professor of brass, jazz, and music history at Montana State University, adjunct professor of low brass at Nazareth College, and the assistant director of the Eastman Trombone Choir. Dueppen has toured with John Marcellus, was a member of the international brass quintet “Metales M5,” and has been seen on international television for his performances in Colombia, Canada and the United States. As a researcher, Dueppen is one of only a handful of trombone scholars in music history, and is currently working on a project that examines the trombone’s use by Joseph Krottendorfer in the symphonic medium 40 years prior to Beethoven. Dueppen is proud to perform as a member of the Lamar Faculty Brass Quintet, The Symphony of Southeast Texas, and the Alias Brass Company.
Department of Communication

**Shenid Bhayroo, Assistant Professor - Broadcasting**

Shenid Bhayroo holds a Ph.D. in media and public affairs from the Manship School of Mass Communication at Louisiana State University. His research and teaching interests focus on critical communication studies and the political economy of media. His research explores issues of media ownership, diversity of news content, ethnic and immigrant media, and digital media industries. He taught courses in documentary and film production at the University of Johannesburg and journalism, ethnic media, and study abroad courses at Temple University in Philadelphia. Bhayroo worked as a radio and television news reporter, an investigative documentary producer, and a news photographer for foreign media in southern Africa.

Department of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education

**ChongMin Lee, Assistant Professor - Deaf Studies**

ChongMin Lee earned a Ph.D. in education from The Ohio State University and holds a masters in deaf education and a bachelors in mathematics from DanKook University in South Korea. During her doctoral and postdoctoral training, Dr. Lee's work explored the way deaf students understood and solved mathematics word problems and factors that affected mathematics achievements in terms of socio-cognitive and reading comprehension perspectives. After earning her Ph.D, she served as an assistant professor in the ASL and interpreting program at Bloomsburg University. She also worked as a postdoctoral researcher in the Center for Education Research Partnerships at the Rochester Institute of Technology/National Technical Institute for the Deaf, and as an adjunct instructor in their Department of Science and Mathematics. Lee's interests in teaching and research are grounded in her experience as a deaf learner, multiple language learner, and instructor of deaf and hard of hearing students as well as hearing students.

Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences

**Ashley Dockens, Instructor - Audiology**

Ashley Dockens teaches hearing anatomy, physiology, and disorders, introduction to audiology, and problems and projects. She will receive dual degrees from the University of South Alabama in 2015: a Ph.D. in communication sciences and disorders, as well as a doctor of audiology degree. She holds a B.S. in communication sciences and disorders from the University of Montevallo and an A.A. in Theater Arts from North Alabama Community College. Her specialties include psychoacoustics, hearing aid success predictors, gender differences in audiometric measures and cochlear physiology.

Speech and Hearing Sciences study participants needed

Instructor Ashley Dockens in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences is currently conducting research examining potential relationships of behavioral auditory dynamic range and loudness preferences. The purpose of this study is to investigate whether comfortable loudness preferences and behavioral dynamic range are related or not, and if these measures are affected by hearing sensitivity. Implications of this study may lead to better clinical hearing aid fittings. Participants between the ages of 60 to 90 years old with normal and impaired hearing are needed. Contact Dockens at 880-8181 or ashley.dockens@lamar.edu to be a part of this study.
We want to hear from you
Share your news and success stories with other College of Fine Arts and Communication alumni. If you have news to share, please send it to sharon.forret@lamar.edu.

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