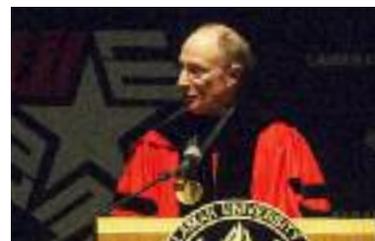


Sights & Sounds

News from Lamar University's College of Fine Arts and Communication



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Student-composed fanfare heralds investiture of Kenneth Evans as 15th LU president

Kenneth R. Evans was invested as Lamar University's 15th president on Thursday, Nov. 7, 2013, calling on students and faculty in his inaugural address to recognize the strengths of the university's heritage while also seeking to invent a promising new future. Before his address, Evans praised Jonathan Blake, a master's student in music, who composed an original trumpet fanfare for the occasion.

"I am both humbled by this gracious gesture, and grateful that Lamar University is fortunate enough to have this talented young man in our music school," Evans said.

"We had several fanfares to choose from for this occasion but we ended up selecting a "spirited one" that graduate trumpet major Jonathan Blake was inspired to write for the investiture," said Kurt Gilman, chair of the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music. "Jonathan said, 'I could write one that fits the bill.'"

Now in the second year of earning his master's in music education, Blake, a 2011 graduate of McNeese State University with a bachelor's degree in trumpet performance, grew up in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana and considers Lake Charles his home.

"I was inspired by the occasion of the investiture. It is a big deal, a very prestigious thing. I just thought I would like to show my support for Lamar and for Dr. Evans. That was my way of doing it, my little creative outlet."

Scott Deppe, assistant professor and director of bands, and Brian Shook, assistant professor of trumpet, offered input and made suggestions for Blake's composition.

"They both liked the fanfare and Dr. Shook suggested some revisions," Blake said. "It was a collaborative effort. We played it in trumpet ensemble, and I made revisions from their suggestions, and that's how it came to be."

In addition to the investiture ceremony, *Investiture Fanfare* was also performed at the fall Lamar Civic Orchestra concert. Blake will complete the classroom portion of his degree in the spring and will continue with student teaching in the fall.

The Dean's Corner



It's been an exciting academic year so far with the arrival of our new president Dr. Kenneth Evans. As indicated in our cover article, the College of Fine Arts and Communication was proud to play an important role President Evans' welcome and investiture.

We've had some significant leadership changes within the college. Dr. Deena Conley has arrived as the new chair for the Department of Theatre & Dance, providing terrific leadership as well as expertise in developing a program in musical theatre. Dr. Monica Harn has assumed the role of chair in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, replacing Dr. Bill Harn, who has taken on the responsibility of dean of the College of Graduate Studies. And lastly, Dr. Jean Andrews has stepped in as interim chair of the Department of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education. She replaced Dr. Tony Martin, who, due to health, stepped down after many years of distinguished service in that role.

During football season, our marching band, the *Showcase of Southeast Texas*, continued to distinguish itself, providing a high level of spirit to support our team.

We are looking forward to a spring semester filled with many exciting "firsts," including a fully-staged operatic production of Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute)* and the initial *Lamarissimo!* performance of a brand-new vocal jazz ensemble, the Cardinal Jazz Singers. Dr. Conley will direct her first production at Lamar, the musical *Sweet Charity*, and in February we will premier a new version of *Chekhov's* dramatic masterpiece *Uncle Vanya*, adapted and directed by Joel Grothe, assistant professor of theatre.

With so many new and exciting things happening on campus, we hope that you will visit us for one or many of these events. We continue to appreciate your valuable support for all of our academic and artistic offerings.

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

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

Sights & Sounds is the newsletter of the Lamar University College of Fine Arts and Communication. It is published twice a year by the Office of the Dean.

Mission Statement

Published annually for alumni, students, faculty and friends of the college, the intent of this newsletter is to strengthen ties of the Lamar community. The contents are selected to stimulate thought and discussion and to demonstrate the breadth and depth of activities within the college.

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Assistant Professor Nandhu Radhakrishnan tests laryngeal function using the newly acquired high-definition laryngoscopy unit at the open house.



Lamar President Kenneth Evans attended the open house for the Voice Lab & Vocology Clinic.

Speech & Hearing Sciences opens voice lab and vocology clinic

“A healthy voice is critical for an individual’s professional and personal well-being.”

The Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences has opened a fully functional voice laboratory and vocology clinic to provide voice therapy and vocal enhancement.

“Nothing can surpass the ability of the voice to convey expression,” said Nandhu Radhakrishnan, assistant professor of Speech and Hearing Sciences. “A healthy voice is critical for an individual’s professional and personal well-being.”

“The concept of voice clinic is not new,” continued Radhakrishnan. “However, there are only a few clinics in the nation that have such an array of equipment dedicated to study and practice vocology.”

People who use their voice in their profession, such as singers, speakers or teachers, often seek help for vocal fatigue, anxiety, throat tension or vocal discomfort at some point in their careers. Using voice improperly for long periods of time causes stress on the speech organs. When vocal injury occurs, a specialist may be able to provide help, but the best treatment is always the prevention of injuries through good vocal hygiene and education about voice production.

Likewise, the transgender population can experience stresses on the voice. “As speech pathologists, it will be our goal to aid and make the transition easier,” said Radhakrishnan. The department also intends to conduct short term programs in the near future to promote vocal health both on and off campus.

A successful open house launched the voice lab and vocology clinic on Oct. 15. President Evans, Dean Schultz, and many members of the Southeast Texas and Lamar communities attended the event.

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Department of Theatre & Dance welcomes new chair Deena Conley

“I want people to know the quality of the theatre and dance program at Lamar,”

As the new chair of the Department of Theatre & Dance, Deena Conley looks forward to continuing to build on the partnership between theatre and dance as well as sharing with the community the talents of the department’s students.

“I want people to know the quality of the theatre and dance program at Lamar,” said Conley. “The students are excited with the changes in our department, and their openness to trying new things tells me a lot about the quality of the faculty. They wouldn’t be that way unless they were encouraged to do so.”

An accomplished actor and director, Conley has lived and worked all over the country, including New York City, Washington, D.C., Indiana, and Detroit. She has been a professor of theatre for more than 13 years and previously taught at Drake University, where she was chair of the Department of Theatre Arts and head of directing. She has also taught at Wartburg College and Wayne State University.

She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in

acting and directing from Marshall University, a Master of Arts in theatre history with an emphasis in directing from the University of Oklahoma, and a Ph.D. in directing from Wayne State University.

“We’re very pleased to have Deena providing leadership to the Department of Theatre & Dance,” said Russ Schultz, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication. “She brings a wealth of experience, both as a department chair and in the theatrical arena. We’re particularly glad to have someone whose expertise in musical theatre will allow us to pursue that medium as a stronger part of our academic studies.”

In April, Conley will bring her talents to the Lamar stage when she directs the Tony Award-winning musical *Sweet Charity*, written by Neil Simon, with music by Cy Coleman and lyrics by Dorothy Fields. The production will run April 10-13 in the University Theatre.

To learn more about the Department of Theatre & Dance, visit their new website at lamar.edu/theatredance.

COFAC is proud to welcome the following new full-time faculty:

Art

Julia Fischer | Instructor
Ph.D., Ohio State University

Christopher Troutman | Assistant Professor
M.F.A., California State University - Long Beach

Communication

Mary Rachel Dubois | Instructor
M.A., Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi

Qingjiang Yao | Assistant Professor
Ph.D., University of South Carolina

Music

Bryan Proksch | Assistant Professor
Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Robin Smith | Instructor
Ph.D., Indiana University

Rebecca Windham | Instructor
M.A., Georgia State University

Theatre & Dance

Deena Conley | Professor/Chair
Ph.D., Wayne State University

Brian LeTraunik | Instructor
M.F.A., Western Illinois University

Gene and Elizabeth Arnold fund in audiology established

A new endowment fund has been established at Lamar in honor of respected alumni Gene and Elizabeth Arnold. The Gene and Elizabeth Arnold Innovation Fund in Audiology will provide funds for the development of new and existing programs and support teaching and research as well as student, faculty and professional development activities in Lamar’s audiology program.

The Arnolds established the endowment fund in part to show their appreciation to the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences. As a hearing-impaired client of the

Audiology Clinic, Elizabeth Arnold said she is thankful for the years of care and service in diagnosing and addressing her audiology needs.

Gene Arnold graduated from Lamar University in 1961 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration and in 1980 with a master’s degree in business administration. Elizabeth Arnold attended Lamar until 1964 and has been a devoted supporter of the university.

Gene Arnold said the audiology fund was established to help aid in the “unrestricted” progress of the program.

Keith Carter revives historic photography process



University Art Professor Keith Carter using the large wooden camera to create unique tintypes. Photo by Sam Keith.



Nesting Tree, created by Carter using the wet-plate collodion process.

“It was an honor to explore this serene oasis using the historical wet-plate collodion process as a means of representing the wonder and pleasures found in the natural world.”

patina of odd tonality, which make the images slightly esoteric and visually interesting.”

Carter invited his photography students from Lamar to his studio to demonstrate the wet-plate process and give them the opportunity to create their own unique images.

He also created a stunning series of photographs of Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center commissioned by Lamar State College-Orange to hang in their new Nursing and Classroom Building, which opened in October.

Carter worked on the project for nine months and made close to 80 plates. The plates were then scanned to make varying size prints, ranging from 20 x 24 feet to 4 x 6 feet. Forty-two images from the series are currently on display in the Nursing and Classroom Building.

“From an artistic standpoint, the commission was a really generous offer,” said Carter. “I suggested the Shangri La Gardens because, to me, they represent the best of what this region has to offer the state and the nation: dense woods, bayous, cypress swamp, lakes, and the accompanying flora and fauna.”

Located in Orange, Shangri La Gardens is a 252-acre nature preserve.

“It was an honor to explore this serene oasis using the historical wet-plate collodion process as a means of representing the wonder and pleasures found in the natural world,” said Carter.

Carter is the recipient of the Texas Medal of Arts and holds the endowed Walles Chair in Visual and Performing Arts at Lamar. His work has been exhibited widely in more than 100 solo exhibitions in 13 countries. His art is included in numerous private and public collections, including the National Portrait Gallery, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the J. Paul Getty Museum, Houston’s Museum of Fine Arts, the George Eastman House and the Wittliff Collection of Southwestern and Mexican Photography.

Internationally acclaimed photographer Keith Carter, university professor of art, is sharing the unique process of wet-plate collodion photography with his students and with the broader Southeast Texas community.

The labor-intensive process of wet-plate collodion requires the transport of a portable darkroom, a 70-pound camera, and heavy glass plates. Invented in 1851, wet-plate collodion photography is achieved by adding a soluble iodide to a solution of collodion (cellulose nitrate) and then coating a glass plate with the mixture. Next, the plate is immersed in a solution of silver nitrate to form silver iodide. While still wet, the plate is then exposed in the camera to create a negative.

“It’s such an imperfect process, and it’s about as far as you can get from the perfection of the digital world,” said Carter. “But the resulting images are one-of-a-kind, full of wonderful swirls and celestial bits of silver crystals. It adds this gorgeous



Participants at the first bowl-making marathon held at the Dishman in November.

Art students hold bowl-making marathon to aid the Southeast Texas Food Bank

“The bowl-making marathons are important events because they bring Lamar University and the Southeast Texas community together in a common goal to feed the hungry,”

The Dishman Art Museum and Feldspar, the Department of Art’s ceramics club, held a bowl-making marathon in November, with another one planned for the spring semester. At these events, the public has the opportunity to make bowls that will be donated to an Empty Bowls auction later this year to raise money for the Southeast Texas Food Bank.

The Empty Bowls Project is an international grassroots effort to raise both money and awareness in the fight to end hunger. The proceeds from the auction of the bowls will go directly to the Southeast Texas Food Bank.

Students from the Department of Art were on hand at the bowl-making marathon to guide participants through any process they wished to try, from pinch pots and coil pots to throwing a bowl on a ceramics wheel.

“The bowl-making marathons are important events because they bring Lamar University and the Southeast Texas community together in a common goal to feed the hungry,” said Megan Young, assistant professor and director of the Dishman. “It also gives everyone a chance to be creative and have some fun.”

Feldspar plans to hold its next bowl-making marathon this spring. After the group has time to fire and glaze the bowls, there will be a fundraising dinner in May to sell the bowls and raise money for the Food Bank. Most Empty Bowls dinners consist of a simple meal of soup and bread to remind attendees of how little some people have to eat. For more information, or to find out the date of the next marathon, visit lamar.edu/dishman.

Janice Trammell Scholarship in Communication established

The Lamar University Foundation has established a new endowed scholarship for undergraduate and graduate students majoring in communication. The Janice Trammell Scholarship in Communication was funded through donations from the LU Foundation Board of Trustees in honor of Trammell upon her retirement as executive director of the Foundation.

“The department gets good students,” said O’Brien Stanley, chair of the Department of Communication. “Because this scholarship is available to junior, senior and graduate level communication students, this will help encourage them to stay in school.”

Trammell began working for Lamar in 1983 as a staff member for Continuing Education and as an adjunct faculty member for the Department of Communication. In 2001, Trammell became the executive director of the LU Foundation, also serving as the director of development for the Division of University Advancement. The retirement gift from the board of trustees was all the more appropriate since her work included seeking gifts that would establish student scholarships.

“After many years of securing gifts to establish scholarships that would reduce a student’s cost of obtaining a higher education, I am honored to have my own named scholarship that will exist in perpetuity at Lamar University,” Trammell said. “I am grateful to the board of trustees for their kindness and generosity with such a thoughtful and appropriate retirement gift.”

“Janice has always been such a kind and appreciative person, and we are so grateful the scholarship was established for the communication department,” Stanley said. “This scholarship absolutely dovetails into everything we do.”



Host Josh Yawn with the eight families who participated in Season Two of *Family Knows Best*.



The Weaver family celebrates during filming of *Family Knows Best*.

Communication students gain valuable experience on the set of *Family Know Best*

Produced and hosted by Department of Communication graduate Josh Yawn, *Family Knows Best* is Southeast Texas's first and only family game show. The show is a collaborative effort between students, alumni, staff and faculty of the Department of Communication and the Department of Theatre.

"The students have an opportunity to gain work experience in a genre of production that normally isn't available in this region," said Gordon Williams, LUTV studio operations manager and producer for "LUTV on Fox."

The second season of *Family Knows Best* was filmed in August and aired on Fox 4 on Saturdays, October through December.

In each weekly episode, two families competed for points in four

rounds of messy games and trivia challenges in order to advance to the finale. The winning family received a vacation package to La Paz Bed & Breakfast on the banks of the Angelina River, near the Sam Rayburn Reservoir.

"For the second season, several improvements have been made to increase the production value of the show and to strengthen the learning experience for our students," said Williams. "This collaboration of the communication and theatre and dance departments has greatly benefited students and our college."

Visit familyknowsbest.com for more information on this exciting endeavor.

Music students donate *The Nutcracker* tickets to needy children

The Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music is the home of the Omicron Beta chapter of the Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity, which promotes and supports excellence in music and musicianship. In December, students from Delta Omicron visited Girls' Haven and Buckner Children's Services to distribute tickets to the Beaumont Civic Ballet's annual production of the *The Nutcracker* at the Julie Rogers Theatre for the Performing Arts.

"*The Nutcracker* is such a holiday classic, and we wanted them to be able to experience holiday magic right before their eyes," said Keenen Kelley of Peoria, Ill., vice president of Delta Omicron.

The Omicron Beta chapter of Delta Omicron received a grant of \$125 from the national office for the community service work they completed in the last year. They also hosted their 2nd Annual Holiday Benefit Concert in November at Calder Baptist Church in Beaumont, where members performed to raise money for the chapter.

"As music majors, we have the opportunity to pursue our goal and passion in music," said Kelley. "We wanted to give the kids a chance to experience music, dance and art, so that they may be inspired to enjoy their lives and pursue their dreams."



Keenen Kelley, right, distributed tickets with Robin Smith, center, faculty advisor for Delta Omnicron and instructor of voice at Lamar, to Sarah Jones from Buckner Children's Services.



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION
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Spring 2014 Fine Arts Calendar

This is a selection of events from our exciting spring line-up.
Visit fineartscomm.lamar.edu for the full list or more details.

Jan. 18 – Feb. 28

One Heart: Pok Chi Lau
Reception: Jan. 18 at 6:30 p.m.
Dishman Art Museum

Feb. 27 – March 2

Uncle Vanya
By Anton Chekhov
Studio Theatre

March 4

Lamarissimo!
Wind Ensemble & Concert Band
7:30 p.m., Julie Rogers Theatre

March 22

Le Grand Bal
7 p.m. – 12 midnight
Dishman Art Museum
& Montagne Center

March 24

*Industrial Carillon Concert with
Chen Yi*
*60 Years of Chinese-American
Contemporary Music*
7:30 p.m., MobilOil FCU

April 8

Faculty Brass Quintet
7:30 p.m., Rothwell Recital Hall

April 10 – 13

Sweet Charity By Neil Simon
University Theatre

April 11 – 12

The Magic Flute
by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
7:30 p.m., Rothwell Recital Hall

April 15

Lamar Civic Orchestra
7:30 p.m.
Lamar State College –
Port Arthur P.A.C.

April 24

Lamarissimo!
Cardinal Jazz Singers
7:30 p.m., Julie Rogers Theatre

April 25 – 26

Spring Dance Concert
7:30 p.m., University Theatre

April 28 – May 16

Student Thesis Exhibition
Dishman Art Museum

April 29

Student Brass Ensembles Concert
7:30 p.m., Rothwell Recital Hall

May 23 – July 6

Mark(ing) Time: Works on Paper
Invitational
Reception: May 23 at 6:30 p.m.
Dishman Art Museum

May 4

*A Cappella Choir
& Grand Chorus Concert*
3:30 p.m.
St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica

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.

LIVING THE
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INVENTING
THE **Future**