

# SIGHTS and SOUNDS

APRIL 2026



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION  
**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

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**Can't Miss This!**

**Hello!**

I am Golden Wright, privileged to serve as the Dean of the College of Fine Arts & Communication at Lamar University. Our college is a dynamic hub housing an array of talented individuals, including students, staff, and faculty. Through this monthly newsletter, we aim to shine a spotlight on the exceptional achievements of these individuals across various disciplines within the fine arts and communication fields.

Our college boasts an exceptional student body, each pursuing their passions in fields ranging from artistry to performance. Student success will always be our core mission here in the College of Fine Arts & Communication.

At the heart of our college is the profound connectivity we foster among students, faculty, and staff through the common thread of communication. Each distinct area within our college relies on communication in its own unique way. Communication serves as the cornerstone of each departments' success within the college.

From the multifaceted realm of communication and media, utilizing mediums such as television, radio, social media, and newspapers to disseminate information, to the evocative storytelling of music majors who convey emotions and narratives through voice or instruments, the immersive experiences offered by theatre and dance provide an escape from reality through the interplay of movement and text. And lastly, the visual eloquence of art captures moments and places, transporting us to new dimensions and inspiring our imagination.

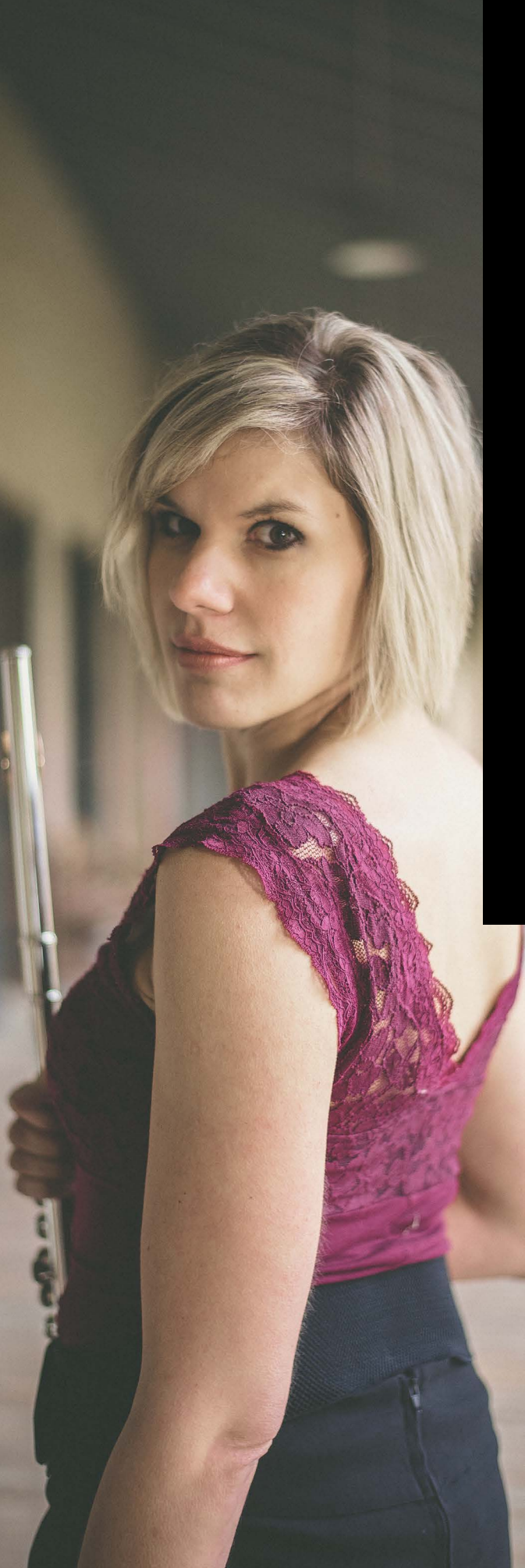
We hope this newsletter illuminates all of the possibilities that our College provides. We are immensely grateful for the unwavering support of our surrounding community, which generously provides funding for scholarships, new equipment, and invaluable learning opportunities.

Thank you!

“THE BEST KEPT SECRET...”



**Golden Wright**  
College of Fine Arts & Communication, Dean



# Fulbright Flutist

The College of Fine Arts & Communication and the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music are thrilled to announce that Dr. Brielle Frost has been selected as a Fulbright Scholar.

The Fulbright Program is an exclusive and prestigious program, established by Congress in 1946 to increase collaboration and peaceful relations between the people of the United States and countries around the world.

Fulbright Scholars - college and university faculty, administrators, and researchers, as well as artists and professionals - build their skills and connections, gain valuable international insights, and return home to share their experiences with their students and colleagues. Scholars come from and go to all institution types and geographic regions across the United States and around the world.

*"They're looking for exceptional ambassadors for our country who can build strong, friendly, and professional international relationships,"* explains Dr. Frost. *"It's an incredible and highly prestigious opportunity!"*

The Fulbright Scholar Program for academics and professionals awards more than 1,700 fellowships each year, enabling 800 U.S. Scholars to go abroad and 900 Visiting Scholars to come to the United States.

In the spring of 2027, Dr. Frost will be heading to Sweden to live and teach at the Ingesund School of Music at Karlstad University in Arvika.

Dr. Frost will be teaching the flute studio of her colleague, flute instructor Ann Elkjär.

*"I was first introduced to Professor Elkjär through my former flute professor, Torleif Ander, whom I met while pursuing my undergraduate degree at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI),"* explains Dr. Frost. *"Professor Ander participated in a year-long teaching exchange during my time at UNI, and I had the privilege of studying with him. That experience left a lasting impression on me and was the inspiration for me to pursue this teaching project."*

This opportunity was made possible by years of networking, discipline, tenacity, and a rigorous application process. All of us in the College of Fine Arts & Communication are extremely proud of Dr. Frost's accomplishments and wish her the best of luck as she prepares for her time abroad.



# What a CHARACTER!



The Department of Art & Design is excited to host a Character Art Workshop for high school and college level students in conjunction with the Protégé exhibition arriving at the Dishman Art Museum.

*"The workshop is happening right in the middle of the Protégé exhibition, which features some of the strongest work by high school seniors in Southeast Texas,"* says Eric Johnston, Assistant Professor of Studio Foundations, Illustration, and Graphic Design, *"The idea is that workshop attendees can spend time looking at finished, juried artwork in the Dishman, then immediately shift into making their own work. It creates a direct connection between observation and practice."*

Johnston will be hosting the workshop with artist, animator and Lamar University Alumna, Mary Catherine Wilbur.

*"Mary Catherine and I will guide the process so it's accessible if you're new, but still challenging if you already have drawing experience,"* Johnston says about the workshop. *"It's also meant to introduce students to Lamar's Art & Design program in a hands-on way."*

Attendees will work together to create a world for their characters to live in, then will be split into two groups; one creating a victorious hero, the other designing a treacherous villain. This workshop will allow them to focus on how shape, posture and visual traits can communicate personality and opposing ideas.

*"A memorable character starts with a strong, readable silhouette and a clear idea behind it,"* says Johnston, *"Shape language (sharp vs. soft), posture, proportions, and small design details all work together to communicate personality. In this workshop, we'll focus on contrast, especially how a hero and villain can be designed to visually express opposing values."*

We hope that students will consider attending this collaborative, fast-paced and idea-driven workshop.

*"You'll leave with new work, new connections, and a better sense of how artists think through character and storytelling!"* Johnston concludes.

The Character Art Workshop will take place in the upstairs gallery of the Dishman Art Museum on April 9th from 5:30-7:30 P.M.



## CONNECTING COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATION: A CREATIVE CONVERSATION

This March, the Department of Communication & Media was pleased to welcome back two alumnae and one of their regular adjunct instructors as the presenters for the Spring 2026 edition of Creative Conversations. All three are practitioners in the public relations sector.

Kristyn Hunt-Cathey, who has worked as an adjunct for nearly twenty years, is the Chief of Communications and Public Relations for Alief Independent School District. Olivia Malick, a former editor of the University Press, started her career in journalism with the Beaumont Enterprise but has transitioned to serve as a Public and Government Affairs Contractor for ExxonMobil. Brandi Dumas, who spent many hours honing her broadcasting skills at LUTV, is the Communication Outreach Manager for the Harris County Fire Marshall's Office.

The evening began with all three women describing their journey into the public relations field. Hunt-Cathey was the first public relations officer for Port Arthur ISD, where she ran the entire department on her own. She had to be ready to handle any situation at any time, always on call. Moving to Goose Creek ISD, and now Alief ISD, has landed her as the head of a six-person office. While each day brings new challenges, she now has additional staff

to help meet the needs of the office. Malick landed her job with The Enterprise right out of school based on an internship she had while she was a student. Although she had always wanted to be a journalist, she couldn't pass up the offer to work with ExxonMobil and moved into a new field. Dumas worked as a producer on the morning news program for KBMT. Eventually, she decided she would like to try a job with more regular hours and moved into public relations.

The three professionals credited their college experiences as providing them with necessary skills and connections to thrive in their careers but acknowledged that it was the additional elements like learning patience, the hustle, and the value of saying "yes" that really helped pave their roads. In addition, they acknowledged how the contacts they made in college are contacts they still use today. They regularly hire individuals, who were with them at Lamar University, as outside contractors. This is a manifestation of what Hunt-Cathey referred to as the "magic of the department" and its tight-knit nature.

At the end of the event, the presenters were happy to stay around and answer further questions from current students thus building new contacts for the next generation.



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music



# *SLIDING* Into Year Four

**T**he Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music and St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica are excited to host the fourth annual Trombone Festival, marking a continued tradition of growth and impact in the Southeast Texas community.

Directed by Dr. Timothy Dueppen, the festival will feature masterclasses, recitals, rehearsals and clinics, and more!

*"The festival is a collaborative initiative between the Lamar University Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music and the Diocese of Beaumont's, "Soul of the City" Concert Series,"* explains Dr. Dueppen, *"As a shared endeavor, it reflects a strong commitment to community engagement and outreach, aligning directly with the university's mission to connect artistic excellence with public service. The festival provides a platform for both university and community participation, offering high-quality performances and educational opportunities that enrich the cultural life of Southeast Texas."*

The event will host guest artists, Justin Cook and Brad White, to lead masterclasses, coach ensembles, conduct and perform throughout the festival.

*"This year's festival features outstanding guest artists,"* explains Dr.

*Dueppen, "Dr. Cook is a nationally recognized educator and performer with extensive experience at major festivals and universities. Additionally, Brad White, Associate Principal Trombonist of the Houston Symphony, will be featured in performances and collaborative events. Together, these artists bring exceptional artistry and pedagogical insight to the festival."*

Dr. Dueppen hopes that trombone enthusiasts of all levels will come and support the festival, citing that participants gain significant and personal benefits like performance experience, enhanced technical and musical skills, and a strong sense of belonging in the larger musical community.

*"The festival is designed to blend performance, education, and collaboration at every level,"* says Dr. Dueppen, *"The festival has cultivated a shared sense of pride, collaboration, and artistic identity, particularly meaningful as it remains the only event of its kind in the greater Southeast Texas and Houston region."*

We hope to see you at the festival. See the full schedule on page 7! If you have any questions or wish to get involved, please reach out to Dr. Timothy Dueppen at [tdueppen@lamar.edu](mailto:tdueppen@lamar.edu).

**SCHEDULE ON PAGE 7**

# WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

11:40 AM – 1:40 PM

St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica

**Trombone Choir Rehearsal & Masterclass with Justin Cook**

7:30 PM

St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica

**Trombone Day Concert**

*Dr. Justin Cook, Dr. Timothy Dueppen, Brad White  
Accompanied by Dr. Michael McAndrew*

# THURSDAY, APRIL 30

11:40 AM – 1:40 PM

St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica

**Trombone Choir Rehearsal & Masterclass with Justin Cook**

5:45 PM

St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica

**Mass Trombone Choir Rehearsal – Dr. Timothy Dueppen**

7:30 PM

St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica

**Trombone Day Concert**

*Featuring Lamar University Ensembles,  
Mass Trombone Choir, and High School Groups*

# FRIDAY, MAY 1

12:30 PM – 3:00 PM

St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica

**Trombone Choir Rehearsal  
Soundcheck and Masterclass with Justin Cook**

7:30 PM

St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica

**Gala Concert Lamar University Trombone Concert**

# *DANCE* **UNLEASHED**

**UNIVERSITY THEATRE**

April 24th | 7:30 P.M.

April 25th | 2:00 P.M. and 7:30 P.M.

Tickets available at [lamar.edu/lutdtix](http://lamar.edu/lutdtix)



CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



The Department of Theatre & Dance is proud to present its final show of the season, *Dance Unleashed*.

This concert will feature our wonderful student performers pushing boundaries and bringing innovative ideas to the table. The audience can expect to see different genres of dance including modern, contemporary, tap, and jazz. This semester's guest artist was Billy James Hawkains III, a young artist from the Atlanta area.

*Billy James Hawkains III is a dynamic performer, choreographer, and educator known for integrating physical rigor, somatic practice, and creative innovation. Based in Atlanta, GA, he holds an MFA in Dance Choreography from University of North Carolina Greensboro and a BFA from University of North Carolina School of the Arts, with performance credits including works by Merce Cunningham, Paul Taylor, Doug Varone, Juel D. Lane, and many more. A former Lecturer of Dance at Kennesaw State University and the*

*department's first full-time Black professor, Billy taught a range of courses including Choreography, Improvisation, and Safety Release—a somatic-based contemporary technique in which he is one of only three certified Master Teachers. He regularly leads national workshops and holds leadership roles with Dance Canvas and The Black Artist Dance Collective.*

The students worked with Billy at the end of March on a piece titled, *HE WHO HAS AN EAR*.

*HE WHO HAS AN EAR* emerges from a critical reflection on the current social climate, drawing conceptual and philosophical grounding from the writings of James Baldwin, who posed questions such as “what does urgency feel like in the body?” and “how does moral insistence reorganize our sense of time, proximity and responsibility?”

Through physically rigorous, ensemble-driven movement, the dancers enact a collective responsiveness where clarity and chaos coexist. Reckoning here is neither tidy nor resolved, but embodied as an ongoing negotiation of presence, action, and moral accountability.

The Department is also thrilled to welcome guest performers to the University Theatre stage this semester. Theatre & Dance students will be joined by dancers from Collin College in Dallas, under the direction of professor Tiffanee Arnold. This partnership is an exciting opportunity for our students to make connections with their peers from across the state of Texas, sharing their love of dance with the Southeast Texas community.

We hope you will join us for this exciting and collaborative performance!

*Dance Unleashed* will take the stage on April 24th and April 25th at 7:30 P.M. There will also be a matinee performance on April 25th at 2:00 P.M. All performances will be held in the University Theatre between the Dishman Art Museum and the Jimmy Simmons Music building on the campus of Lamar University.

Tickets are available through [lamar.edu/lutdtix](http://lamar.edu/lutdtix).

# *The Artists of the Future,* **TODAY!**

The Dishman Art Museum is excited to announce the arrival of the 40th Annual Protégé exhibition.

*“Protégé was created to inspire senior artists who are getting ready to go out into the world and become professional artists,”* says Karissa Norfleet, Assistant Curator of Education and Programs at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. *“We want to send them off with professional knowledge of entering an original artwork into a competition, learning how to frame their artwork professionally using archival materials, and giving them the opportunity to exhibit their work and begin building a professional portfolio.”*

Graduating seniors within an 80-mile radius of the museum are eligible to enter the competition and submit an original artwork.

This year’s juror for the competition was Loc Huynh, a contemporary visual artist whose work is currently on display at AMSET until April 12th.

Protégé is a traveling exhibition; it begins its journey at AMSET before traveling to five different locations, one of which is the Dishman Art Museum.

Winners receive scholarships to Lamar University and gift certificates to Blick Art Materials.

Last year’s winner, Alleigh Rios is a current double-major student in the Department of Art & Design and the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at Lamar University.

Her winning work, “The Space Between,” stemmed from her Advanced Placement (AP) portfolio that she completed in high school.



*“It’s a representation of wealth in Africa. The lower 50% of the population has less money than the seven richest people in the country,”* Rios explains, *“I wanted to create a piece that showed the differences between a young, malnourished child in Africa compared to a rich aristocrat.”*

In addition to winning the 2025 Protégé Exhibition, Rios was also awarded the Presidential Scholarship from Lamar University; a testament to her academic excellence.

*“These scholarships have truly been a blessing,”* says Rios.

We wish Alleigh the best of luck as she continues her education at Lamar University and look forward to meeting the winners of Protégé 2026.

Protégé will be on display from April 8th through April 10th. You won’t want to miss this exciting exhibition featuring the artists of the future, today!

# CULTIVATING SOUNDWAVES

GROWING. STRONGER. TOGETHER.



CHECK OUT THE SPRING GIVEAWAY  
**KVLU.ORG**

It's that time again! The KVLU Spring Giving Campaign will run from April 20th through the 28th, but you can help KVLU grow stronger TODAY!

KVLU is made possible by listeners like you. Your support helps support shows you already know and love like Night Light, Rock Therapy, and Country 101, while also creating space for a variety of exciting new, student-run programs like Vocals and Valor, Phil's Headphones, K-Pop Collections, and some new shows starting this month!

The newest student-run show, Cryptid Raiders, hosted by Engineering students, Giovanni Lopez and Luis Moreno, explores the horrors around the world and on the net. Each week features a new monster or creepy tale. Listen in and see what it will be. Tune in on Sundays at 11:00 P.M.

As an added incentive, all gifts received now through April 27th at 6:00 P.M. will qualify for automatic entry into KVLU's spring giveaway of a Bluetooth Record Player Turntable with Stereo Speaker, CD, Cassette, Radio, and built in Amplifier, courtesy of the Museum of the Gulf Coast located at 700 Procter Street in Port Arthur.

Open 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday through Saturday, the Museum of the Gulf Coast tells the stories of the Gulf Coast region from pre-history to the present, including the newly expanded Sports and Music Halls of Fame. Available for special events, meetings and reunions. Get more info at [museumofthegulfcoast.org](http://museumofthegulfcoast.org).

The giveaway winner will be announced live on the air on Tuesday, April 28th at 9:00 A.M. Give NOW at [kvl.org](http://kvl.org), and for information on volunteer opportunities, reach out to station manager Jason Miller at [jmiller@lamar.edu](mailto:jmiller@lamar.edu).

# CAN'T MISS THIS!

APR  
8-10

**Protégé**  
Dishman Art Museum

APR  
24-25

**Dance Unleashed**  
University Theatre  
Tickets available at [lamar.edu/lutdtix](http://lamar.edu/lutdtix)

APR  
9

**Character Art Workshop**  
Dishman Art Museum, Upstairs Gallery  
5:30 P.M.

APR  
24-25

**Opera Theatre**  
Rothwell Recital Hall  
7:30 P.M.

APR  
9-12

**Next Draft: Student Work Series**  
Studio Theatre  
Tickets available at [lamar.edu/lutdtix](http://lamar.edu/lutdtix)

APR  
28

**Wind Ensemble Concert**  
Julie Rogers Theatre  
7:30 P.M.

APR  
16

**Collaborative Conversations**  
Communication Building, Room 127  
12:45 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

APR - MAY  
29 - 1

**Trombone Festival Concerts**  
St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica  
7:30 P.M.

APR  
18

**Jimmy Simmons Jazz Festival Concert**  
University Theatre  
7:30 P.M.

MAY  
1-2

**Piano Festival Concerts**  
Susan and Jimmy Simmons Music Building  
7:30 P.M.

APR  
23

**Student Film Showcase**  
Jefferson Theatre  
5:30 P.M.

## GIVE NOW, EMPOWER THE FUTURE!

Your generous support for the College of Fine Arts & Communication at Lamar University ensures that the arts and communication fields continue to grow and thrive. Your contribution, no matter the size, makes a lasting impact.

Donate today and invest in collaboration, innovation, creation and excellence.



SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT [lamar.edu/cofacgiving](http://lamar.edu/cofacgiving) TO DONATE TODAY!



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**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

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***COLLABORATE - INNOVATE - CREATE***

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