

# SIGHTS and SOUNDS

DECEMBER 2025



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

– NEWSLETTER –

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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 speech language pathology, interpretation, and performance. Student success will always be our core mission here in the College of Fine Arts & Communication. In this issue, we would like to take the opportunity to introduce some of our vibrant and talented students to you. These students represent come from an array of different areas and disciplines across our college.

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. From the invaluable contributions of speech and hearing sciences, enhancing our ability to communicate effectively, and improving our quality of life, to the empowering field of deaf studies, which enables individuals to serve as vital mediators in communication. 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

# CONGRATULATIONS!

## OUR FALL 2025 GRADUATES

### GRADUATE

Cristophorus Budidharma  
Diana Marisela Chaparro  
Sheri Lyn Dacon  
Vanessa Diaz  
Bailey RayAnn Doss  
Manuel Gerardo Flores  
Stephen Michael Grant  
Ashlyn Marie Keller  
Rene' Catherine Latiolais  
Hannah Michelle LeTulle  
Crystal Nicole Monk  
Michaela Shelby Potts  
Tammy Wilson  
Kristen Thiel  
Merin Elizabeth Thomas

### UNDERGRADUATE

Adeola R. Adekola  
Okechukwu Brian Anakor Jr.  
Manuel Alejandro Andino  
Jacoby Devon Baise  
Taylor Lynn Balsano  
Domonique Elizabeth Barlow  
Jenna Melyn Best  
Tramale Bethune  
Allan Alejandro Cantu  
Katherine Emily Capps  
Seth Thomas Carl  
Arleth Castro  
Leah Lorraine Daniels  
Addison Mae Dcamp  
Angela Grace de la Rosa  
Infra Delgado Samano  
Landry Larendon Diercks  
Shawn Allen Dupree  
Shelby Nicol Eason  
Rayleigh Reine Elkins  
Jonathan Andrew Farris  
Camryne Lee Free  
Corina Marie Granato  
Nyah Shaee Tara Greene  
Sarah Jessica Hagest  
Ronnie Lee Hamrick II  
Isabelle Renee Hawkins  
Madelynn Holdreith  
Ashley Jennings  
Tamia M. Jones  
Theresa Ann Judge  
Cassidy Hope Kelly  
Rebecca Nell Lee  
Logan Bess Loser  
Erin Elizabeth Medley  
Kristalyn Harley Mitchell  
Dustin Bao Nguyen  
Chloe Parker  
Kiante' Alexandria-Monique  
Phelps-Woods  
Balie Joy Suellen Provost  
Abigail L. Purifoy  
Jada Deann Riven  
Kara Ashlyn Rumsey  
Karla Andrea Saavedra  
Casey D. Shontz  
Ramond Hosea Stevens  
Anna-Grace Elizabeth Stokes  
Reese Katelin Turner  
Rebecca Rae Wallage  
Sarah Marie Weatherford  
Meredith Paige Winkler  
Cassidy Faith Wright



## Meet Seth!

Seth Carl is a graduating senior, receiving his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design with a minor in Art History.

Seth, originally home schooled, attended the Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) before coming to the Department of Art & Design. During his time at LIT, Seth took courses that involved the understanding, appreciation and analyzing of art. Those skills became incredibly useful for his time in the Department of Art & Design and assisted in the creation of his own works.

Seth considered pursuing a degree in studio art, but ultimately decided on graphic design to challenge himself to strengthen the aspects of art and design he was not as familiar with.

*"I understand the creative aspects a lot. That's where my strengths are,"* Seth explains, *"But I also wanted to build on the more analytical side. Like more of the structure of art and design."*

During his time at Lamar University, Seth has had many wonderful opportunities with the art communities both on campus and in the community, including volunteering at mural painting events, taking a museums and exhibitions course, volunteering and

participating in the Le Grand Bal Art Auction and more. Seth currently serves as the student intern for the Beaumont Art League. As an intern, his duties include promoting exhibitions, including the Lamar Student Show that will be closing on December 3rd, organizing and caring for the permanent collection, exhibiting work, and more.

During the Lamar Student Show, he even sifted through the permanent collection to find works done by Lamar Alumni to highlight in the show, making his own mini exhibition.

Seth is looking forward to debuting his thesis, "DECADES."

"DECADES" is a visual history of video game branding, presented through a series of comic-book inspired advertisements. The thesis consists of six 18" x 24" posters, each representing a different era of video game marketing from the 1970s to the 2020s. Through a blend of illustration, photography, and typography, the posters highlight how advertising strategies evolved across five decades and across multiple companies. By framing video games, a relatively young artistic medium, within the language of comic book advertising, DECADES celebrates their impact on design culture.

*"I feel video games are a new medium, and aren't typically regarded as fine art,"* Seth explains, *"I think a lot of that bias comes from the fact that this medium is more commercial."*

To create this thesis project, Seth has pulled from a myriad of courses he took during his time in the Department of Art & Design, including courses in illustration, character art, color theory, brand identity and more.

Seth would like to thank all the faculty and staff of the Department of Art & Design.

*"They work so hard to make sure that there's something for everyone to express themselves artistically,"* says Seth.

After graduation, Seth plans to do contract work, catch up with family, strengthen his portfolio, and continue working with the local art community.

We wish Seth the best of luck as he continues to his professional career!



**Meet Evan!** Evan Wolford is a junior in the Department of Communication & Media, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Communication with a Film emphasis.

While attending Port Neches-Groves High School, Evan was involved with PNG Primetime, a sports-centered broadcast program, where he served as an anchor.

In the summer between his junior and senior years of high school, during an appointment with his barber, Evan was given an opportunity to assist on film sets with Instructor, Jeremy Hawa.

*"My hairdresser knew our film professor, and said I should see if they need any help for the summer film,"* says Evan, *"So that was my first real film set experience."*

After receiving a scholarship, attending Lamar University became an easy choice.

During his time at Lamar, he has worked on eleven film sets. Most recently, he served as the producer for "NOLA," a Red Beak Production that tells the haunting story of a woman who escapes her home only to find herself entangled with a murderous sisterhood.

*"We got to film at the La Maison Beausoleil Museum in Port Neches,"* said Evan. *"That was probably the most fun I've had on a film set."*

In addition to his work behind the camera, you can catch Evan's LUTV segment, "Red Beak Reel Rant," where he discusses different movies.

He has also worked as a research assistant for Stephan Malick on the BUDMAC project, run by the Center for Resiliency. He also currently works for the Department of Communication & Media in the equipment room.

He's also been working on a variety of research projects. Over the summer, he received a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) where he researched and compared Kendrick Lamar's Superbowl halftime performance from 2025 and his Grammy performance from 2016, focusing on the reactions from the public. As part of the fellowship, he was able to present his research both here at Lamar University and travel to Alabama to present as well.

The Department of Communication & Media is proud of the work Evan has completed so far in his undergraduate studies, and we look forward to seeing more to come!



## Meet Brianna!

Brianna Navarro is an undergraduate student studying American Sign Language (ASL) in the Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education.

Brianna began her journey at Lamar University in 2017, originally majoring in biology with a dream of being a dental hygienist. By the second semester, she realized that biology was not a path she was passionate about, and decided to pause her education.

She spent the next four years working full-time in her hometown before returning to Lamar as a guest in 2022.

*"My friend was graduating from the Department of Communication & Media, and I went to her graduation,"* explains Brianna, *"The Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education was also a part of that graduation ceremony, and I saw a girl signing with her mom. They were crying and hugging and next thing I know I started crying!"*

This story is one that Brianna herself is very familiar with. As a bilingual individual, she often had to interpret for her parents, who spoke Spanish, from as young as the age of five.

Inspired and motivated by this interaction and resonating with the deeper theme of communication, Brianna returned to Lamar University as a student in the Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education.

Brianna was able to pick up ASL very quickly. And she has had many rewarding opportunities during her studies, including working the 50th Anniversary celebration for the Departments of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education and Speech & Hearing Sciences. She has also done interpreting for four of the Department of Theatre & Dance's theatrical productions, her favorite was Peter Pan.

She also serves as the president of Signers of Color, a student group on campus, which has allowed her to make a lot of friends across the department and across campus.

*"I've loved making friends with the Deaf community. I've learned, in their culture, they're very straightforward and blunt. There's a term for it, 'Deaf Blunt,'"* Brianna explains.

This is often because ASL a communication style rooted in the need for visual directness and clarity. But Brianna has been able to take this culture and learn how to advocate for herself and become more assertive as a result.

Brianna looks forward to what the next few years hold for her as she finishes her degree. She would like to thank Dr. Zanthia Smith, Interim Chair for the Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education for always encouraging her. She would also like to thank her friends Andrew and Cristo for welcoming her with open arms. We wish Brianna the best of luck in her studies!



**Meet Kara!** Kara Rumsey is a graduating senior from the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music. She will be receiving her Bachelor of Music in Music Education – Band.

Kara, a Lumberton native, comes from a family full of Cardinal pride! Her parents were both first generation students at Lamar University. Her sister was also a student and recipient of the presidential scholarship. It was at Lamar University that her sister met her husband.

When it came time for Kara to attend University, it was an easy choice.

*"I was like, well, of course I have to go to Lamar. It's the only option at this point!"* Kara laughs.

Kara praises the amazing scholarships provided by Lamar University, which allowed her to complete her degree without the looming worries that financial stress can cause.

Kara also met her boyfriend, a Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music graduate, while attending Lamar.

*"We both play the clarinet. And he just graduated from basic training for the Army School of Music!"* she boasts.

Not only did she make wonderful, life-long friends during her time at Lamar University, but she also got to make many memories due to her involvement in the department.

She was a member of Kappa Kappa Psi, a diverse fraternity dedicated to advancing college and university bands, had many opportunities to perform, including being a part of the Opera Orchestra and more.

She also did the Chamber Music Outreach Program, where she worked with other performers to create a clarinet quartet and performed for various school districts around Southeast Texas.

As Kara prepares for graduation, she is excited to announce that she already has a job offer.

*"As of right now, I'll be starting January 5th!"* She says, *"It's very fun, very scary, but I feel prepared. Lamar is great about preparing us. They give us all the tools we need to teach our students well. Not only in a way where they consume the content they need to, but they enjoy being in your class."*

Kara would like to thank Dr. Jennifer Iles, Dr. Michael McAndrew, Tim Pallone and all the faculty and staff in the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music.

Kara is extremely proud to become a Lamar University graduate and continue her family's long-standing traditions. We look forward to hearing more about her future successes!





COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION  
**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**  
Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences



***The Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences is excited to introduce students who will be applying to their graduate programs!***

**Meet Dallas!** Dallas Lopez (Left), originally majoring in Math, is earning his Bachelor of Science in Speech & Hearing Sciences.

Inspired by his cousin who was also in the program, Dallas has flourished in the Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences. He has recently found a love for Audiology and is in the process of applying to the Doctoral program.

***"I went to an audiology clinic, shadowed them, and I felt the rhythm. I was in the zone!"*** Says Dallas.

He still has a deep appreciation and love for Speech-Language Pathology, but now his passion is Audiology. He hopes to help the older population as they navigate hearing loss.

He would like to thank God, his parents, Dr. Johanna Boult, Dr. Raul Prezas and Mrs. Chelsea Lyles for always inspiring him and pushing him towards greatness.

***"I was not very confident, but their confidence in me is what pushed me to be better. That's how I knew that Lamar was the best choice. Because if you're lacking the confidence in yourself, the professors are confident for you,"*** says Dallas.

**Meet Jillian!** Jillian Tassin (Center), a Port Neches native, decided to stay in the area and attend Lamar University so she could stay close to her family. After receiving scholarships and aid from Lamar, that choice became even easier.

***"I love it. If I could go back, I don't think I would choose to go anywhere else!"*** Says Jillian.

Joining the Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences was an even easier choice for Jillian. Four of her cousins work as Speech-Language Pathologists.

***"I always new I wanted to work with kids, but I didn't want to be a teacher. Speech-Language Pathology was the best choice,"*** Jillian explains.

***"She is excited to pursue a new path in Pediatric Audiology after taking a Hearing Anatomy and Physiology course."***

***"I'm so passionate about it,"*** says Jillian.

She would like to thank, Abigail Procter, a graduate student in the Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences who taught the Hearing Anatomy and Physiology course that changed her mind.

**Meet Audrey!** After high school, Audrey (Right) began her collegiate journey at Stephen F. Austin University. After wanting to be closer to her hometown of Bridge City, she decided to transfer to Lamar University.

*"I love it here. I joined NHSSLA and met a lot of friends!"* Says Audrey.

Originally wanting to work in pediatrics, after working in the motor clinic, Audrey has now shifted her interests to the older population.

*"I love this field because it is so diverse,"* Audrey explains, *"You can work with anyone!"*

Audrey expresses her sincere gratitude to the faculty and staff in Speech & Hearing Sciences at Lamar for their warm welcome and consistent encouragement throughout her journey. Their support has played a significant role in her decision to continue her Master's education at Lamar University, where she hopes to further her studies and ultimately give back to her community.

She would also like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Boul, who has gone above and beyond and thoughtfully addressed every question she has had. Her dedication has made a meaningful impact on her academic experience.

Finally, she wants to thank her family for being her greatest supporters. Their unwavering belief in her has been invaluable.

Audrey is currently in the process submitting her application for the Master's program. We look forward to seeing what she will accomplish!

**Meet Kayla!** Kayla decided to pursue a career in Speech and Hearing Sciences after her grandfather experienced a stroke and began working with a Speech-Language Pathologist.

*"It was a really pivotal moment. I had been deciding between nursing, pharmacy and speech,"* Kayla explains.

Another influential person in Kayla's life is her godmother, who works as a Speech Therapist.

*"I started looking for programs in Texas and Lamar popped up!"* Kayla says.

As soon as her classes began, Kayla knew she had found her home.

*"I just fell in love with the curriculum, the professors and my classmates. I felt like I was finally learning something I was passionate about,"* says Kayla.

During her time at Lamar, Kayla has had many opportunities, including running track and field, volunteering at Camp InterACT, and working in other clinical experiences.

Kayla is in the process of applying to the Master's program. We are so excited to see all she accomplishes!



**Remember Harvest?**  
Learn more about her exciting updates on the next page!



**Remember Harvest?** Harvest has been up to a lot of exciting stuff since she was featured in the Student Edition of Sights and Sounds from May 2024.

We are excited to announce that Harvest was recently awarded the David J. Beck Fellowship!

The David J. Beck Fellowships reward outstanding academic achievement and allow top students to further challenge themselves with unique opportunities for undergraduate research and creative study.

Fellows receive full academic scholarships covering all tuition, books, fees and on-campus room and board. They also receive funding for a summer project, which may entail research, an internship or international study.

Harvest's summer project focused on clinical research in aphasia, specifically supporting a randomized controlled trial investigating oral reading treatment. Responsibilities included transcribing participant responses and scoring them using the NORLA-6 scale, a multidimensional tool that evaluates naming and oral reading performance. The work involved detailed analysis of speech patterns, error types, and treatment outcomes across multiple time points. Contributions also included inter-rater reliability checks and collaborative data review, reinforcing the importance of consistent scoring in

documenting language recovery. The experience deepened understanding of clinical research methods and the practical application of assessment tools in speech-language pathology.

*"My time in Chicago enriched both my personal and professional growth, offering exposure to diverse communities and helping me build confidence in navigating adult responsibilities,"* says Harvest.

Congratulations, Harvest!





**Meet Shelby!** Shelby Eason is a graduating senior from the Department of Theatre & Dance. She will be receiving her Bachelor of Science in Theatre & Dance with an emphasis in Acting.

During her senior year of high school, Shelby's grandmother was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer and passed away, making Shelby re-think her original plans for higher education.

*"I had the opportunity to go off to different colleges, but I felt it was best to stay home with my family, and Lamar University made that possible,"* Shelby says.

You may have seen Shelby in roles like Charlotte Corday in *The Revolutionists*, Kacie in *Ugly Lies the Bone*, and Nutella in *The Self-Destruction of Emma James*.

Shelby praises the education she has received in the Department of Theatre & Dance, stating that she was always encouraged to branch out into all areas of show production, including acting, costume design, and more.

*"Lamar's theatre program is the best fit for my learning style,"* Shelby explains, *"They encouraged me to go into tech and experience the different branches that I don't think other universities would have allowed me to do."*

In addition to her time in front of the spotlight, Shelby also works behind the scenes, specializing in costume design under the mentorship of Tanner McAlpin, Assistant Professor of Theatre.

In her first semester at Lamar, Tanner chose Shelby to serve on the costume crew for *Clean House*.

*"That sparked something in me. Ever since then, working in costumes has just felt right,"* says Shelby.

One of the highlights of her time at Lamar University is when she had the opportunity to work on the costume for her character Charlotte Corday in *The Revolutionists*.

After graduation in December, Shelby will immediately begin her career, as she has secured a job at Orangefield High School, where she will serve as their theatre teacher. This job is a full circle moment for Shelby, as it is the school she graduated from and the community she loves.

*"I'm looking forward to getting to work with my students on the UIL One Act Play competition,"* says Shelby.

She plans to direct *Tracks* by Peter Tarsi, a story about a group of strangers in a subway station after their deaths. Ultimately, they must learn what their fate is and how they will spend eternity.

Shelby is grateful for her time at Lamar University.

*"Coming here and experiencing love and friendship, getting to know my peers and professors has been so transformative,"* says Shelby, *"My best friends came from my time here at Lamar University, and I know they'll be friends for life."*

We look forward to seeing Shelby's continued success as she enters her professional career. Best of luck!

# Hues In Harmony

**Every semester, the Dishman Art Museum partners with the Department of Art & Design to host the senior thesis exhibition. Dishman employees collaborate with artists and teach proper installation methods, furthering the educational experience that the thesis course offers.**

**Meet some of the artists who will be debuting their work at the Dishman Art Museum this month!**

**Meet Cassidy!** Cassidy Kelly is graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design. Her thesis project, "Always, Almost" is a love letter to the chronic pain community. This thesis features six artworks depicting scenes of struggle, emotional weight, and frustration, with words from individuals in the chronic pain community and hand-painted watercolor flowers.



**Meet Angela!** Angela De La Rosa's thesis project, "Essence in Portraiture," examines intuition, expression, and process through a Feminist lens within contemporary portrait painting. Rather than striving for photographic likeness, this thesis seeks to capture the subject's presence and humanity through expressive mark-making and conceptual decision-making. Visible revisions and layered textures document the painting process, allowing pentimenti to bridge the space between academic portraiture and abstraction.



**Meet Taylor!** Taylor Balsano is graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art – Painting. Her thesis project, "The Joys of Life," features seven varying sized paintings displayed salon style. These seven paintings depict and celebrate the daily happiness of dogs. Inspired by dogs that she interacts with every day at her dog daycare, Balsano intends to focus on what brings dogs joy through vibrant patterns and expressive color.

**Meet Adeola!** Adeola Adeola is graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design. Her thesis project, "A Mermaid's Grief," tells the story of a mermaid going through the five stages of grief. Using a combination of drawing and graphic design, Adeola creates story-driven illustrations centered on a mermaid protagonist who becomes a vessel for emotional transformation.



**Meet Erin!** Erin Medley is graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art – Drawing. Erin's thesis project, "For My Own Good," examines the effects of trauma on the mind and how the brain will create maladaptive coping mechanisms as a self-defense system. This project features five drawings, each featuring a different emotion. This project aims to give a voice to trauma survivors and challenge the stigma surrounding their experiences.

**Meet Nyah!** Nyah Greene's thesis, "Genetic Makeup," explores the experience of embracing multicultural identity. Nyah aims to embrace both sides of her family, combining and contrasting a Texas sunset and the clear waters of The Bahamas. This three-piece portrait series features portraits of Nyah's parents and herself, symbolizing the blending of two worlds. Through research into the landscapes, histories, and visual elements that define each place, she merges personal narrative with cultural memory. This work reflects the tension of feeling estranged from one's own communities, and the growth that comes from learning to belong to both.





**Meet Dustin!** Dustin Nguyen is a graduating senior, earning his Bachelor of Science in Communication with an emphasis in Film Studies. He is currently one of the student workers for KVLU.

Dustin found out about employment opportunities with KVLU from a friend and is so happy that he decided to reach out and pursue this opportunity.

*"It's been really fun,"* he says, *"I was surprised to see how much equipment they use!"*

Dustin works behind the scenes, editing show's audio files to ensure they fit within the time limit and avoid any filler words or "flubs," as he called them.

*"Also, when guests are recording in the studio, it's easy to go over the time limit,"* Dustin explains, *"It's my job to fix that."*

Dustin meticulously goes through each audio and laser-focuses on the words being said, efficiently curating them into the perfect audio files for every occasion.

After graduation, Dustin hopes to find a job at a radio station and move to Japan.

*"This semester here at KVLU has been so much fun. I've been learning a lot and hanging out here a lot. I think working for a radio station would be a nice transition for me,"* says Dustin.

While you may not hear Dustin's voice on the air, his work is vital to the operation of many of the shows you know and love. We look forward to seeing what Dustin accomplishes as he begins a new chapter in the professional world.



# CELEBRATING A LEGACY

**This month, we celebrate Joe Elwell as he retires from KVLU after a long and dedicated career journey.**

Joe Elwell came to KVLU in February of 1986 from KKED (now KNCT-FM) in Corpus Christi. He had previously worked at WOI in Ames Iowa and KMSU in Mankato, Minnesota.

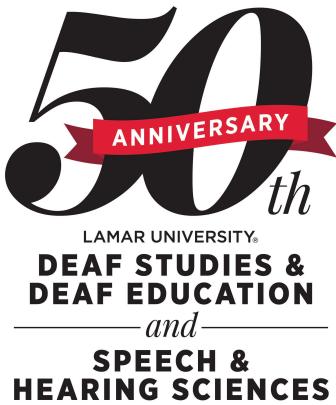
Self-taught in classical music and with interest in jazz, blues, folk, Irish and 70's Rock-and-Roll, Joe was a most versatile broadcaster. Upon signing on to KVLU as Music Director and host of the main classical program, he also became the arts reporter and immersed himself in the arts community in Beaumont, including both the art and music departments at Lamar University.

During his nearly 40 years with KVLU, he taught a course in audio production, had a starring role in a play presented by the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music, participated in two live, on-stage broadcasts for KVLU's 20th and 21st anniversaries, and made many on stage instructional presentations before performances by the Symphony of Southeast Texas. Additionally, he hosted three daily classical music shows, a weekly blues show and "Behind The Music", a weekly program making classical music more accessible to general listeners. He was always available to fill in for anyone who was sick or on vacation.

Behind the scenes, he was responsible for increasing the music library at KVLU to over ten times its previous size. He also established the filing system (still in use) to allow easy access to the classical music collection.

Joe was also a powerful voice during KVLU's fund drives. It is a special skill to ad-lib on live radio for hours at a time and Joe was never at a loss for words. He has been an enthusiastic proponent of public broadcasting in Southeast Texas. We wish him the best of luck as he begins his retirement.

**-Written by Byron Valentine**



Over the past 50 years, our students have had the opportunity to grow, learn, research and teach in the necessary fields of Deaf Studies, Deaf Education, Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

The creation of these departments began in 1975 when Dr. Olen "Pete" Pederson, an audiologist, Dr. Robert "Bob" Moulton, a speech-language pathologist and Dr. Jess "Freeman" King, a deaf educator initiated a Bachelor of Science degree program in communication disorders, and three Master of Science degrees: Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Deaf Education.

In 2006, due to the rapid growth in student enrollment and the vision of Dr. Russ Schultz, Former Dean of the College of Fine Arts & Communication and Dr. Gabriel "Tony" Martin, the former department chair, the Communication Disorder program was divided into two new departments, the Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences and the Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education.

On Friday, November 7th, 2025, the Departments of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education and Speech & Hearing Sciences celebrated their 50th Anniversary. The night was filled with fond memories, old friends and new friends, and celebrated the past, present and future for both departments.

In January 2026, both departments will be leaving the College of Fine Arts & Communication and moving to their new homes where they can continue to grow, learn and serve the community.

The Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education will now be a part of the College of Education and Human Development, while the Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences will join the new College of Nursing and Health Professions.

**We wish both departments the best of luck as they turn the page on a new chapter. We thank all the faculty and staff for your support and camaraderie over the years. Know that you will always have a special place in our hearts!**



# CAN'T MISS THIS!

DEC  
2

**Cardinal Jazz Orchestra Concert**  
University Theatre  
7:30 P.M.

DEC  
5

**Choir Holiday Concert**  
Wesley Methodist Church  
7:30 P.M.

DEC  
5 - 15

**Hues in Harmony: Senior Thesis Exhibition**  
Dishman Art Museum  
*Closing Reception: December 12th, 3:00 P.M.*

JAN  
31

**COLLAGE**

Susan and Jimmy Simmons Music Building  
*Tickets available at [lamar.edu/collage](http://lamar.edu/collage)*

## 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!**



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



**COLLABORATE - INNOVATE - CREATE**

To support the College of Fine Arts & Communication, please visit  
[www.lamar.edu/cofac](http://www.lamar.edu/cofac)