

# SIGHTS and SOUNDS

JANUARY 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



# SCULPTING SKILLS

Dr. Stephanie Chadwick, Department Chair of the Department of Art & Design, has been working diligently on her upcoming book, *Talking About Art*.

Whether you are an artist or designer, an art student or enthusiast, developing communication skills related to experiencing works of art can enrich your artistic engagement and increase your chances for personal and professional success. This book provides the rationale, vocabulary, visual strategies, and interpretive thinking methods to effectively communicate about artistic objects and experiences. The book approaches the development of speaking abilities related to visual art as a four-fold process that involves learning to actively seek out, closely look at, interpret, and translate experiences with art into words in ways that interest listeners or readers. As you engage in these processes and increase skills in these areas, you will realize that you are deepening your understanding of not only individual or collective artworks and exhibitions, but also of the artistic encounter altogether, amassing a skill set that is widely transferable in a variety of personal, academic, and professional contexts.

Dr. Chadwick was inspired to create this book after seeing students struggle to discuss art, particularly in professional settings like museums and galleries.

*"All of our Art & Design courses help students build the skills and vocabulary to begin discussing works of art,"* explains Dr. Chadwick. However, the art history classes are open to all majors who may not receive this specialized vocabulary through the studio courses.

*"I see that students sometimes need help learning to apply these skills in real life conversations,"* Dr. Chadwick says.

Dr. Chadwick hopes to increase the confidence of all who read her book by providing tools for success when discussing art.

*"The book will help to build the visual analysis and interpretive skills necessary to talk about art," says Dr. Chadwick, "Artists, students, and enthusiasts reading the book will be encouraged to engage with what they see (the materials, elements of art, and principles of design) and to feel empowered to build upon those skills to engage with museum and gallery informational texts. Strategies and conversation starters will be included, as well as information about the importance of talking—and writing—about art to many internship and job opportunities."*

Dr. Chadwick hopes to encourage her readers to step out of their comfort zones and engage in their local art museums and communities.

*"Ultimately, I want the book to empower readers to explore art in community museums, galleries, and public art spaces at home and abroad and to learn that talking about art can enrich the artistic encounter and, for those interested, professional opportunities."*

We wish Dr. Chadwick the best of luck as she continues writing and researching and look forward to seeing her book on the shelves of artists, art connoisseurs and students everywhere!



# FROM SOUTHEAST TO WEST COAST



The Department of Communication & Media is proud to announce that the University Press won four awards at the 18th Los Angeles Press Club National Arts & Entertainment Journalism Awards Gala in December.

The contest is open to all journalists covering arts and entertainment in the US, including International journalists.

The University Press winners included Former Editor Maddie Sims, who earned second place for Best Arts or Entertainment News Story, for her article covering the Evita Tezeno Exhibition at the Dishman Art Musuem and third place for Best Commentary/Critique for her review of the Southeast Texas Stages' production of *Constellations*.

Current UP managing editor Kami Greene also earned second place in the Best Arts or Entertainment Profile category for her a profile of Lamar University alumnae Kate Robards.

Finally, former staffer Sidra Ganni earned third place for Best Arts or Culture Feature for her article over the Dishman Art Museum's exhibition, "Where the Amish Vacation."

Director of Student Publications, Andy Coughlan is extremely proud of the University Press Students.

*"This is the first time the staff have entered this competition, and it is gratifying to see they are competitive on a national level,"* Coughlan said. *"One doesn't do the work for awards, but it certainly doesn't hurt and is a great motivator for the staff to maintain the high standards of the publications."*

In addition, Coughlan also competed in the professional categories and won four awards for his articles at the Beaumont Enterprise where he serves as a contributing arts writer.

Coughlan's awards include a first place award in the Visual Arts/Architecture Feature (Over 1,000 Words) category for his review of the Gauguin exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, a second place award in the Diversity in the Music/Performing Arts/Arts Industry category for his review of the José Villalobos exhibition at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, and a third place award in the Visual Arts/Architecture Feature (Under 1,000 Words) category for his piece on the Orna Feinstein exhibition at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, and a third place award in the Art/Design/Literature Critic category for his overall body of work.

The Department of Communication & Media and The College of Fine Arts & Communication is very proud of these remarkable accomplishments of our students and staff. We look forward to seeing what is next for them!

Read the University Press online at [lamaruniversitypress.com!](http://lamaruniversitypress.com)



# COLLAGE 2026: A Faculty Showcase

The Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music is proud to present *Collage 2026: A Faculty Showcase*, a dynamic fundraising concert celebrating the talents of our esteemed music faculty. The concert will offer a rich tapestry of performances, blending solo pieces with unique collaborations across genres and styles. Attendees can expect an evening filled with captivating performances from seasoned professionals, all in support of our students.

All proceeds from *Collage 2026* will directly benefit our students by supporting music festivals, masterclasses, and educational events throughout the academic year.

*"Funds from Collage have helped fund all areas of the department, including the Woodwind day, the Brass festival, and the Piano festival,"* says Dr. Bartnik, Chair of the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music. *"Thanks to generous support, our vocal professors were also able to bring their students to the National Association of Teachers of Singing conference."*

These funds enable our students to learn from distinguished guest artists, perform alongside celebrated musicians from across the United States, and gain the inspiration and skills needed to lead the next generation in experiencing and appreciating music.

*"The proceeds have helped bring world renowned musicians to perform and teach on the campus. Much of the time, area schools are invited to bring their students as a learning opportunity,"* explains Dr. Bartnik.

Join us for this inspiring night of music, where faculty artistry shines and community support helps nurture the next generation of musicians.

*"My hope is that everyone who attends this concert truly enjoys a night of music and the opportunity to see the immense talent that we have on campus!"* Dr. Bartnik shares.

**Collage 2026 will take place in the Rothwell Recital Hall on Friday, January 30th, 2026. Tickets for Collage 2026 are \$50 per person and include access to an after-concert reception with the performers starting around 8:15 p.m. in the Wiley Rehearsal Hall. Tickets can be purchased in advance at [lamar.edu/collage](http://lamar.edu/collage). We look forward to welcoming you to a memorable night of music and celebration in support of our students!**



**SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION!**





# Passion, Performance, Purpose

**Meet Chloe Parker!** Chloe is a December 2025 graduate from the Department of Theatre & Dance. She has been dancing since she was 18 months old and has loved every second of it.

*"I started out dancing with my studio, then I joined their competition team, then I joined my High School Drill Team,"* Chloe explains.

It was during auditions for the Dance program at Lamar that Chloe fell in love with the campus and the professors and began envisioning her life as a Cardinal.

While at Lamar University Chloe has had many professional opportunities, including an internship at the Hamshire-Fannett High School Drill Team, the Golden Girls.

*"It was very hands-on. I really enjoyed it!"* says Chloe, *"When I was on my high school's drill team, I was very dedicated. It's a family*

*tradition, too. Both of my sisters have joined drill team as well."*

Chloe has also had the opportunity to work with a variety of guest artists, perform at TDEA (Texas Dance Educator's Association), ACDA (American College Dance Association) and so much more.

*"If it wasn't for the professors here, I would not have grown,"* Chloe says, *"They push you to your farthest point. Even the amount of life skills I've learned through the program is insane. I've learned responsibility, maturity; things you need to succeed not only as a dancer, but as a professional and as an adult."*

Chloe works for two local dance studios, Mariposa Dance Studio of Beaumont and June Badon Elite School of Dance and Acrobatics of Port Neches. With recital season soon approaching, not only will she prepare young dancers for their time in the spotlight, but she will also spend the next few months preparing for her audition for the M.F.A. program at Sam Houston State University.

Chloe would like to thank Amy Elizabeth, Amy Wright and Golden Wright for providing her with experiences that she would not have had outside of Lamar University. She would also like to thank Lou Arrington.

*"I struggled really hard in some of those tap classes!"* Chloe jokes, *"But she always pushed me to be the best I can be."*

We wish Chloe the best of luck as she prepares for her M.F.A. program audition!

# “the tether that binds us”



The Dishman Art Museum is proud to announce the upcoming arrival of their newest exhibition, “the tether that binds us” by artist, Luis Corpus.

Using actual water from the Rio Grande and charcoal made from the trees of the area, Corpus has created a variety of works ranging in size from 18” by 24” to 7 feet tall.

Corpus, a 2009 graduate from Texas A&M Corpus Christi, currently serves as an art instructor at South Texas College. He draws from his lived experiences as a child of undocumented immigrants.

*“Seeking to communicate truth, I was led back to the Rio Grande, the river that physically separates Mexico and the United States,”* explains Corpus, *“I wanted to allow the river itself to speak for the people who have origin in its waters, like me.”*

Corpus’s work focuses heavily on portraiture.

*“I held the river in my hands and began to draw people,”* says Corpus, *“Some born here, others born in Mexico, but all American at heart.”*

This exhibition will also feature what the artist calls, carbonic drawings. After studying in Slovenia under photographer Borut Peterlin, Corpus was able to transfer his drawings onto glass. Ink and water sourced from the Rio Grande are suspended in a light-sensitive gelatin and set onto glass.

*“The clear substrate allows me to project my drawings onto a wall using an overhead projector while maintaining the conceptual integrity of the work,”* Corpus explains.

This exhibition is not one you will want to miss! “the tether that binds us” will be on display at the Dishman Art Museum from January 23rd from April 2nd. The opening reception will be held on January 23rd from 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. We hope to see you there!



# TIME WARP HOUR

## FRIDAYS @ 10 PM



### A MUSICAL JOURNEY THROUGH DECADES AND GENRES

## STORMING THROUGH THE DECADES

Travel across time and genre on Fridays at 10:00 P.M. with Time Warp Hour on KVLU, 91.3 FM!

Impeccably curated snippets of time, niche genres, loads of interesting and fun tracks, Time Warp Hour has something for everyone.

Show runner, Emilee Storms, is pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Communication. After graduation, she aspires to work behind the scenes at a TV station while working on her second degree in Meteorology.

Storms has covered music from the Vietnam War Era, 2010s Indie Folk, a variety of Christmas tunes, and a special New Year's broadcast.

*"I try to find one or two songs and find a theme to*

*work with them," says Storms, "I think of new themes and genres every week!"*

Fan of Time Warp Hour and Major Gifts Officer, Jordan Williams weighed in with his comments.

*"I had one of those classic public radio 'driveway moments' while listening to 'Time Warp Hour.' I couldn't get out of the car because the music was so good! It was the classic, extended remix of 'Last Dance.' It's fun listening to KVLU's continued evolution. I'm a big supporter of our traditional news and music programming, but, as someone who got their start working for a college radio station, I'm a big believer in student-led programs like this."*

We hope you tune in and find a new favorite song, genre or artist!

# CAN'T MISS THIS!

JAN 23 — APR 2

**“the tether that binds us”**

Dishman Art Museum

*Closing Reception: January 23rd, 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.*

JAN  
30

## COLLAGE

Susan and Jimmy Simmons Music Building, 7:00 P.M.

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

FEB  
8

## Wind Ensemble Concert

Julie Rogers Theatre

4:00 P.M.

FEB  
19-22

## Middletown

Studio Theatre

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

## 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.



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