

SIGHTS and SOUNDS

**STUDENT EDITION
MAY 2025**



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

LAMAR UNIVERSITY

— NEWSLETTER —

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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 Art & 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 SPRING 2025 GRADUATES

Amy Elizabeth Abraham
Katie Ann Alfsen
Luke Gerald Allen
Austin Andrew Baier
Danielle Marie Barclay
William Odell Barclay
Hannah Renee Bloxom
Milana Antoinetta Boren
Kolbie Ann Brashear
Kevin Andrew Broome
Ciara Jade Broussard
Aaron Taylor Brown
Sophia Rae Brunton
Kasandra Bucio
Paul Alan Busby
Denilson Guillermo Calderon
Willie Gene Carrierre
Emily Helene Chandler
Brad Stuart Cohen
Logan Scott Comeaux
Karleigh Courville
Aniya Larhea Crawford
Maria Cruz
Rachael Suzanne Davis
Cristal De Leon
Janay Aaliyah Lynch
Seraphin Angelina Reyes Defrates
Vi Minh Do
Tuesdae' L. Dunklin
Sarah Elaine Eccles
Aurian Jade Elms
Jaelene Ann Etkie
Karen Yarrelly Figueroa
Karla Vianey Figueroa
Madeleine Remy Fontaine
Victoria Rose Furlan
Myriah Gabrielle Garcia
Yailin Astrid Garibay
Carlos Eduardo Garza

Hannah Anu Gbadebo
Katelyn Leslie Gilley
Major Melvin Goldman IV
Erica Kristin Gonzales
Soleih Gonzalez
Randy Reed Gummelt
Terick Erskin Guye
Bonnie A Haney
Megan Elizabeth Hansen
Bailee Grace Hart
Ashlee Dena'e Haynes
Karissa Lyn Holden
Lisa Anne Hower
Sierra Nicole Hunnicutt
Madison Grace Hunt
Jerardo Alexander Ibarra
Saul Iruegas
Timothy Paul Jacobson
Lorenzo Anthony Johnson II
Julian Sol Jordan
Kaitlin Grace Kedzierski
Meagan LeAnn Lafley
Kendra Rae Laird
Joseph Paul Landrum
Abigale Marie Larson
Alicia Anjola Lawal
Brennan Jace Lawrence
Lana Catherine Leggett
Jacy Leigh Lognion
Peyton Marie Lumpkin
Kaylyn Ikia Magee
Alton Markel
Stephen Michael Matherne
Rachella S Moore
Brandon Morales
Reyna Elizabeth Moss
JaeLynn Rae Mazingo-Rhodes
Kyla Palapar
Alexis Nicole Palominos

Jose Perez
Enrique Alexander Pinti Mr.
Karli Leigh Pruitt
Eva A Pulido
Brian Jared Quijada
Skyla M'lynn Ramsay
Graeson Malyn Ratcliff
Kaitlin Kalani Ratcliff
London Hope Reue
Erik Reynolds
Demi Lauren Richings
Karina Robledo
Emmanuel Rodriguez Zarate
Tricia Marie Romine
Heather Renee' Saunders
Jayne Janice Sepulveda
Aaliyah Ryne' Shanks
Hannah Marie Shearin
Arpitha Susan Sherry
Emily Lynn Siau
Madelyn Elizabeth Sims
Chloe Catherine Smith
Nathan Terry Smith
Emma Mackenzie Specht
Jo Stanford
Shay Abigail Stegemann
Julie Kristen Stevens
Jill Riley Stokes
Samantha K Tentrup
Gehrig George Thompson
Hannah Elisabeth Thrash
Kohner James Trahan
Tania Alexandra Velez
Kelli Lara Vieger
Katelynn Marie Wagstaff
Breanna Nicole Ward
Emily Allison Cottingham
Kalyn Alexia Xayaseng



Sculpting a FUTURE

Meet Rachel! Rachel Durham is a sophomore in the Department of Art & Design, pursuing her B.F.A. in Studio Art – Sculpture. For Rachel, deciding to pursue a Fine Arts degree was an easy decision.

“I’ve always been an art person,” says Rachel, “I was home schooled, but I took lessons with an artist based in Groves, Texas and also found resources online.”

During her time at Lamar University, Rachel has had many opportunities, including participating in the annual Iron Pour. Each student involved creates a relief sculpture out of plasticine clay, which is then used to create a sand mold. These sand molds are then lined up in the Foundry in preparation for the Iron Pour. On the day of, students suit up in heavy leather jackets, protective shoes and helmets, and work together to pour the iron into the molds.

“You have this big ladle. Two people hold the ladle and pour spewing hot, molten, iron lava into the molds,” Rachel says, “Teams of two rotate out until it gets done.”

Rachel has also become extremely involved in the Beaumont Art League; exhibiting multiple pieces each year. In the summer of 2024, she also had the opportunity to show her work at the Archway Gallery in Houston. Each year, the Archway Gallery hosts a juried exhibition. Rachel decided to enter her work, was accepted, and the piece sold!

As she continues working on her degree, Rachel has been weighing her options for the future, including the possibilities of pursuing an M.F.A. so she can become a professor. Teaching is something that Rachel holds near and dear to her heart, as she is currently an intern at the Stark Museum in Orange, Texas in their education department.

“I’m learning a lot about how to teach classes, how museums work, and I’ve done a lot of cool projects!” explains Rachel.

Rachel also gives private lessons with local children, teaching them about the foundations of art.

In addition to her art courses, Rachel has also enjoyed taking a variety of classes like history, art history, psychology, and ASL.

“Art is a lot about who you are as a person. Being able to learn more about the history of your country or the way people think or even how the earth moves and changes is important,” says Rachel.

As Rachel continues her Undergraduate journey at Lamar University, we wish her the best of luck and look forward to seeing everything she is able to accomplish!



THREE TRACKS, ONE GOAL

The Department of Communication & Media is proud to showcase three of their graduating seniors!



Meet Jill! Jill Stokes is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Communication & Media - Public Relations. Jill's mother and grandfather are both alumni of Lamar University, and she was determined to continue the family tradition.

After joining the team at the University Press, Jill learned that her mother used to be a sports reporter for the paper during her time at Lamar.

"I knew that Lamar had a wonderful communication department because my mother is also a graduate from the department. I knew I wanted to do something similar, because I'm an extrovert and I love working with people!" Jill explains.

While Jill has been at the University Press, she has worked on many aspects of the paper, including marketing projects, running the paper's social media accounts, and writing articles.

"I've loved working at the paper. It's really helped me get out and network, and it's also helped me in my job hunt," says Jill.

During her time at Lamar University, Jill has also been able to complete many internship opportunities, including the Gift of Life and Memorial Herman Foundation in Houston.

She has also been able to work many different jobs, often simultaneously, as she has worked on her degree. Currently, she is holding four jobs, including an administrative position with Southeast Texas Hoops, and serving as the Director of Communications and Marketing for The Endometriosis Foundation of Houston.

Through her connections she has made during her time at the University Press and through her internships, Jill was able to secure a job with the Port of Orange. After graduation, she will begin her role as the Manager of Corporate Affairs.

"I'm excited! A little scared, but that's just because I care about being the best I can be," she explains, *"I wouldn't have been able to secure my job without the support of the faculty and the department."*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6...



Meet Willie! Willie Carrierre is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Communication & Media - Broadcasting.

Willie graduated from South Park High School in 1978. Shortly after, he was recruited into the army.

"I liked the army so much that I stayed for 40 years," says Willie, "I retired in 2019."

Willie had earned two prior degrees, but still had some Hazlewood benefits, and decided to put them to work at Lamar University.

In addition to his military record, Willie has also been a professional DJ for over four decades. Which was part of his inspiration to pursue a career in broadcasting - specifically radio.

Knowing that Lamar University was home to KVLU, Willie immediately let it be known that it was his goal to work for the station.

"It just so happened that one of my first professors was the manager of the radio station," says Willie.

Byron Ballentine, the previous Radio Station Manager of KLVU and current adjunct instructor, was happy to give Willie a tour of the studio and worked with Dr. Tony DeMars, Professor and previous Department Chair, to offer him a slot on the air.

During his time at Lamar, Willie has been a contributor for KVLU, hosting his weekly show, "Good Time Cafe" on Friday evenings at 10:00 PM.

"I didn't want the show to be just blues or hip hop or R&B, I wanted to play music for everybody," Willie explains, "And here I am, 138 episodes later!"

Willie is looking forward to graduation. His wife Tonene is also graduating this semester from the Department of Art & Design and they have been able to share many experiences together during their time at Lamar University.

"We got our class rings together and we had a ball! We're having a good time with all of it," says Willie.

After graduation, Willie has travel plans to see his family and take some time to kick back and relax. After he takes some much-needed relaxation time, he plans to come back home and continue his job hunt.

Meet Maddie! Maddie Sims is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Communication & Media - Journalism.

Maddie began her journey at Lamar in the Fall of 2021 with aspirations to join the University Press team.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the paper was operating with a 'skeleton crew' and only consisted of two other team members aside from Maddie. But this didn't stop her from pursuing her passion. Her first assignment was covering the KVLU Fall Fundraiser.

"I didn't have much experience writing at the time," said Maddie.

While in high school, Maddie competed in the University Interscholastic League (UIL), where she dabbled in many aspects of the journalism world, including features and headline writing.

"I thought about how I would write if these were UIL prompts," Maddie explains about her first few columns.

After taking many journalism classes and having a one-on-one mentorship with Andy Coughlan, Director of Student Publications and Instructor, Maddie soon became a pro.

"I would sit down with him and we would go through my articles and he would say, 'Okay, here's where you struggle, and here is how you can fix it,'" Maddie explains.

Maddie moved up the ranks of the University Press quickly. Starting out as a contributor, moving up to a staff writer, then a news editor and manager, and now she is the editor for the entire University Press.

In addition to working in the University Press, Maddie was also a tuba player in the Showcase of Southeast Texas. She also assisted with Southeast Texas Press Club Events, which allowed her to network and eventually resulted in her securing a job with the Beaumont Examiner.

She was offered a part-time position that would graduate to a full-time position after graduation.

"It's been good. It's really a different environment because they print once a week. A lot of it is more 'go-go-go,'" explains Maddie.

As Maddie reflects on her time at Lamar University and looks towards the future, she would like to thank Andy Coughlan and Stephan Malick for always supporting her aspirations.

"They've really helped me become the writer I am today," says Maddie.



Photo by: Hailey, Upshot Photography



Meet Emma! Emma Specht is originally from the Abilene area but came to Lamar University to pursue a degree in American Sign Language.

"Lamar University is the only school in Texas with my degree, but although it was my only choice, I knew it was the best one. I came here for a tour after I got accepted and fell in love with it even more. I loved the dorms, the campus, everything!" explains Emma.

Moving across the state is no easy task, especially for Emma.

"I moved here all by myself. I don't have any family on this side of Texas and it was a lot to move over 500 miles at the age of 18. It was very scary. But I toughed it out and made a lot of good friends," says Emma.

During her time at Lamar University, Emma has had many wonderful opportunities and experiences, including working as a Resident Assistant in the Gentry dorm.

"Working as an R.A. was a great opportunity. I got to be way more involved and engaged. I got to meet a lot of students and form amazing relationships while being a leader on campus," says Emma, *"Not everyone likes the pressure of being a leader, to have those kinds of responsibilities, but I thrived."*

Emma also had the opportunity to study abroad with the Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education last summer in Nova Scotia, Canada. The group attended the National Deaf Arts and Culture Festival.

"It was a life changing experience that I will keep with me for the rest of my life," Emma reflects.

Emma will be graduating this month with Latin Honors with a Bachelor of Arts in American Sign Language – Teaching of ASL. Emma has passed all the state certifications to become a teacher and has also passed her bilingual certification for ASL. She has also completed her clinical teaching this semester and is now looking towards the future by applying to different positions across Texas.

She aspires to pursue a Masters degree in the future, but would like to spend some time working in the field.

Although Emma is excited about her prospects, she will miss her time at Lamar University.

"It's been a great four years. This has been my home, and I'm not ready for my time to be over here. It's very bittersweet," says Emma.

Emma would like to thank her parents for their emotional and financial support during her time at Lamar University.

We wish Emma the best of luck in her future and remind her that Lamar University will always be her home, no matter how far her journey takes her.



Encore!

Meet Cameron! Cameron Montgomery is a recent, two-time graduate from the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music. He earned his Bachelor of Music in Music Education, then returned to Lamar University and obtained his Master of Music in Performance.

Cameron was born in Beaumont and graduated from West Brook High School and graduated in 2018. With a passion for the saxophone, he applied to multiple universities, but ultimately decided on Lamar University after being offered a scholarship.

During his time at Lamar University, Cameron was proactive in finding opportunities that would help elevate his educational pursuits.

"I was jumping into every music opportunity I could," Cameron says, "I played saxophone in music ensembles, incorporated clarinet and flute performances in the Cardinal Jazz Orchestra, sang in ensembles, and found teaching opportunities both inside and outside of Lamar."

Cameron also traveled to Canada and Spain last year with the Cardinal Jazz Orchestra.

"The touring aspect of the trip was new and exciting. We were in a different city every day," explains Cameron.

In addition to the ensembles on campus, you may have also seen Cameron perform in the Night and Day Orchestra.

"My high school band director introduced me to the opportunity," Cameron explains, noting that the Orchestra needed a substitute. Five years ago, he was given a permanent spot in the Orchestra.

Since graduating with his Master of Music in Performance this past December, Cameron has spent a lot of his time auditioning for Doctor of Musical Arts programs and traveling to and presenting at conferences.

"I've been trying to put myself out there by presenting at these conferences so I can share some of my findings on the saxophone," says Cameron.

This fall, Cameron will be attending the University of North Texas to pursue his Doctor of Musical Arts.

"I'm nervous about this new chapter, but I'm ready to play!" Cameron says.

As Cameron continues his education, he would like to take the opportunity to thank Dr. Eric Shannon, Dr. Andrew McMahan, Dr. Logan Banister and Rick Condit.

"Every single one of them have made an impact on my life," says Cameron.

We wish Cameron the best of luck and success as he continues his education and thank him for his many years of hard work and dedication in the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music at Lamar University.



THE *Abbies*

The Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences is proud to celebrate two graduate students who have received Clinical Inspiration Awards, lovingly nicknamed "The Abbie."

"The award is named The "Abbie" inspired by and originated by one of our previous clinical students Abigale Larson who demonstrated all of the above qualities of a student. She is the reason we started this award!" explains Sarah Saldana, Clinical Supervisor.

The Clinical Inspiration Awards are given to students who show exceptional clinical promise as exhibited by demonstration of consistent preparedness, a proactive attitude and learner's mindset, prioritization of client needs and ability to inspire others to strive for greatness; making others feel free to be their authentic selves while welcoming them as part of the group.

Congratulations to two winners of "The Abbie," Kristen Devillier and Toluwalashe Esho!



Meet Kristen! Kristen Devillier is pursuing a Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology from the Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences.

Kristen grew up in Winne, Texas. She comes from a long line of ranchers and farmers and was encouraged by her family to pursue a college education.

She began her journey at Lamar University in the Nursing program, when her best friend, Abigale Larson, encouraged her to pursue a career in Speech & Hearing Sciences.

"She said, 'You need to come do what I'm doing,' and I was opened up to a whole new world of possibilities," says Kristen.

Now, years later, Kristen received an award named after her best friend who encouraged her to learn more about the world of Speech & Hearing Sciences.

"It's extremely honorable to receive an award that not only exemplified strong, kind characteristics, but also characteristics that were based on Abigale," Kristen explains.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10...

Inspired by her time in the department and her best friend who encouraged her at the beginning of her educational journey, Kristen works to educate those around her about the profession.

"I think a common misconception is that Speech-Language Pathologists only work in schools. But we work in hospitals and nursing homes, we treat swallowing disorders, and work with a variety of clients from all age ranges," explains Kristen.

She also works to provide awareness about Aphasia.

"85% of people who undergo a stroke end up developing Aphasia. I think it's important that we as a society learn to be mindful of people with communication disorders and allow space for access," says Kristen.

Kristen would like to thank all of the faculty and staff in the Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences.

"They're such amazing people. They support us in such an amazing way and it's become such a wonderful program because of them," remarks Kristen.

Meet Toluwalashe! Toluwalashe Esho is also pursuing a Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology from the Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences.

Toluwalashe spent most of her childhood in Texas and then lived in Georgia for a period before attending high school in Nigeria. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Communication Disorders at the University of Houston before coming to Lamar University.

"I originally wasn't planning to study communication disorders. Up until my third year of university, I was on the pre-med track in psychiatry," says Toluwalashe.

After the passing of her father, she considered her plans for the future and realized she no longer wanted to pursue psychiatry.

"I was looking for something I was passionate about. I knew I had a passion to help people," says Toluwalashe.

She began asking all of her friends and classmates what it was they were studying and how they enjoyed it. One of her friends who was studying social work encouraged her to look into Speech-Language Pathology.

After the doing research into the profession, Toluwalashe met with someone at her church who was a practicing Speech-Language Pathologist. She was then invited to observe her at her place of work. It was then that she realized that this was the passion she needed to follow.

After switching her major and graduating with her Bachelor of Science, Toluwalashe applied to the masters program in the Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences.

"I applied to Lamar because when I was looking for grad schools, I saw that Lamar offered diverse clinics, and I wanted to experience what it was like to work with different kinds of patient cases," explains Toluwalashe.



During her time in the program, Toluwalashe has worked extremely hard in her studies and received a Clinical Inspiration Award.

"I was surprised to receive the award! I was so focused on my clients and my studies, but my hard work was obviously noticed," says Toluwalashe.

Toluwalashe is looking forward to her clinical placement next year. She has been placed in an inpatient rehabilitation center where she will have a variety of adult clients struggling with Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBIs), which is where she would like to eventually end up in her future practice.

"With adults, you're not teaching them a new skill, you're teaching them how to adapt to or regain their lost skills," explains Toluwalashe, ***"These patients often come with their own goals and you have to work with them to figure out how to get to that goal."***

Toluwalashe would like to thank all of the faculty and staff in the department.

"I'm really grateful to all of them because they provided such different experiences with their professional backgrounds and they've been so forthcoming and helpful by providing applicable feedback," she says.

We wish both of these students the best of luck as they continue in the masters program in the Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences!



ACT TWO

Meet Juliana! Juliana McManus is graduating this month with her Bachelor of Science in Theatre & Dance with an Acting emphasis.

Juliana is originally from Port Neches, Texas and became interested in the performing arts after taking a theatre arts class in middle school.

While learning about the history of theatre, they read aloud the script from "My Fair Lady."

"I started to read it and began acting it out, putting in a little more effort, and realized I liked performing. That's what sparked the flame!" explains Juliana.

This classroom experience inspired her to audition for a steam punk version of "A Christmas Carol."

"The beautiful thing about this program is that it's a Theatre AND Dance major, so I had the opportunity to take dance classes. I'm not a good dancer at all... but it really does translate well on stage and helps with understanding character development," explains Juliana, *"For example, if you're playing an 'uppity' character, you can have more of a ballet inspired presence."*

You may have seen Juliana as Athena in Athena, Tinkerbell and Tiger Lily in Peter Pan, Inner Emma in the world-premiere of The Self-Destruction of Emma James and Rosalind in As You Like It.

"I really love stepping into these characters. Realizing that I don't have to choose to be a doctor or a firefighter or a pilot, but that I can be all these things in one lifetime through the power of theatre," says Juliana.

After graduation, Juliana would like to move to Houston and audition for different roles. After a few years of working, she plans to attend graduate school and pursue studies in stage combat, which she found a passion for while studying for the role of Athena.

"Athena was one of my favorite roles I have ever played. I got to learn how to fence! Which made me realize that once I get to graduate school, I want to hone in on stage combat," says Juliana.

Juliana has loved her time at Lamar University and wants to give thanks to all who supported her during her time here.

"I want to thank all my professors, Joel Grothe, Alan Brincks, Tanner McAlpin, and Lee Barker for giving me opportunities. They have been so patient with me any time I have made mistakes or had frustrations," says Juliana.

We all wish Juliana the best of luck in her future endeavors and thank her for her years of persistence and dedication to the Department of Theatre & Dance!



Creatively **COLBY**

Meet Colby! Next semester, Colby Robin will be entering his junior year in the Department of Art & Design, pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art – Painting.

Colby received his associates degree in arts from Lamar State College - Port Arthur where he was incredibly active in the arts scene on campus. He had many opportunities presented to him, including entering work in exhibitions and creating a painting to be used in a theatrical performance on campus.

Working at the Dishman Art Museum has provided Colby with a plethora of opportunities, including designing ads for the museum, assisting in hanging exhibitions, and getting to spend quality time with visiting artists, such as Evita Tezeno.

"It was nice to have such a prestigious artist come in and talk with us. She was insightful and helped me have a new perspective on what art can accomplish," says Colby.

Colby also assisted in painting and decorating a reindeer sculpture as part of the Stark Museum of Art Reindeer Trail in December of 2024. The reindeer was inspired by the work of John Alexander, appropriately named "John Alexan-DEER."

"I had to mimic his brushwork. It was an interesting project because I got to step into his mind. A wonderful opportunity," says Colby. Colby has also had the opportunity to see the full process of the senior thesis project, viewing multiple oral defenses, watching and

hanging strategies for their work.

"Being a part of the action 'behind the scenes' gives me a reference to what I can do as a student to prepare," says Colby.

"There's a lot of different art that comes through the museum. It inspires me to try new mediums," says Colby.

After graduation, Colby plans to move to the Pacific Northwest to build his portfolio with on-site painting. Colby's artwork focuses on the connection of human existence and nature and how they connect, which makes the Pacific Northwest incredibly enticing.

"The landscape up there is something I really want to be immersed in," explains Colby.

During a trip to The Menil Collection in Houston, Colby got a chance to meet with one of the curators who also has a background in cross-country art handling, which inspired him to consider pursuing that career in the future as well.

"I really found a lot of inspiration from that experience. Seeing someone who is an artist, a curator and an art-handler and had the ability to handle the multiple hats helped show me that I could see that lifestyle for myself," Colby explains.

The College of Fine Arts & Communication wishes Colby the best of luck as he works towards finishing his undergraduate degree, and wishes the best for him in his future endeavors!



ON AIR with Anessa

Meet Anessa! Anessa Wiles is a freshman at Lamar University and works as a student worker at KVLU. She is currently a Criminal Justice major, but plans to join the Department of Theatre & Dance in the fall; pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Theatre & Dance and a minor in Legal Studies.

Anessa plans to be a theatre teacher while she prepares for law school. She aspires to one day be a judge.

After running into the KVLU booth at orientation, Anessa reached out to see if she could be their work study student and Jason Miller, Station Manager, was thrilled to offer her a position.

This semester at KVLU, Anessa was able to learn how to conduct interviews, splice and compile audio files and more.

"At first, the job was really complicated. But everyone is so patient. They take the time to teach you everything," says Anessa.

Anessa conducted her first solo interview while the Department of Theatre & Dance was performing *As You Like It*.

"I have to do research about the subject matter and the people I'm interviewing in detail. Make sure I know what I'm looking for so I can ask the right questions," explains Anessa.

In Anessa's first year on campus, she has been able to find her favorite spots and activities with ease.

"I love Lamar. I really appreciate how they try to make it fun for people, especially through CAB (Cardinal Activities Board) activities," says Anessa.

"The campus is so pretty. Sometimes I'll wake up early and go to the duck pond and listen to music," she explains.

Lamar has truly become Anessa's home.

We wish Anessa the best of luck as she adapts to her new major and hope to continue hearing her stories and perspectives at 91.3 KVLU!

CAN'T MISS THIS!

MAY 2 — MAY 17

Palettes & Perspectives: Senior Thesis Exhibition

Dishman Art Museum

Closing Reception: May 17th, 12:00PM - 3:00 PM

MAY 14

Student Film Showcase

Jefferson Theatre

Doors: 5:00PM, Films Start: 6:00PM

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER! SEE YOU IN AUGUST, CARDINALS!

SUMMER EDITION OF SIGHTS AND SOUNDS AVAILABLE AUGUST 4TH

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 TO DONATE TODAY!

COFAC CAMPS!



June 8-12, 2025

A tradition for more than 70 years, the LU Summer Band Camp offers a great opportunity for instrumental students to improve playing skills while having fun! A staff of outstanding band directors and instructors offer a variety of daily classes, including full band rehearsals, group lessons (master classes), electives and daytime recreation.



June 30 - July 26, 2025

Children 8 and up of any ability are eligible to participate. Tuition costs \$275 and includes four weeks of rehearsal and two evening performances run by theater staff and language enrichment supported by LU MS SLP clinicians.



June 11-13, 2025

Get ready to unleash your creativity in our Teen Mobile Filmmaking Summer Day Camp presented by SWAMP and the Lamar University Department of Communication & Media! Learn storytelling, lighting, editing, audio and so much more.



July 7 - 19, 2025

Committed to offering movement, theory, and design sessions that will take the movement artists to the next level, ADSF 25 offers two laboratory style tracks: choreography and performance. Dancers ages 14+ are invited to participate in the Pre/Professional Intensive for either one week or two full weeks. Artists enrolled in the performance and choreography labs will take the stage with Aimed Dance and special guests in the weekend Festival Concerts.



June 16-20, 2025

The LU Summer Art Camp is an intensive week of exciting hands-on integrated learning activities and art projects. The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) curriculum has been adapted to place "Art" back into the center of learning, creating STEAM.



July 20-23, 2025

9th through 12th grade students can study under guest clinicians, Denise Eaton Glaw - Full Rehearsal Conductor, Heather Orr - Soprano, Amanda Robison - Alto, Sean Stultz - Tenor, Cameron Carnley - Bass. Other activities include a talent show and camp banquet. The camp closes with a concert for participants friends and family.



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

LAMAR UNIVERSITY

LAMAR UNIVERSITY

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