

# SIGHTS and SOUNDS

OCTOBER 2024



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

— NEWSLETTER —

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**Can't Miss This!**



I'm Golden Wright, and it is an honor to serve as the Dean of the College of Fine Arts & Communication at Lamar University. Our college is a vibrant hub of creativity and talent, where our students, staff, and faculty excel in a wide range of disciplines. Through this newsletter, we proudly celebrate the remarkable achievements of our community in the fields of fine arts and communication.

Our college is home to an exceptional student body, passionately pursuing careers in artistry, speech-language pathology, interpretation, teaching, performance, and more. Student success is at the heart of everything we do at the College of Fine Arts & Communication. In this issue, we are excited to showcase our dynamic and talented students and faculty, representing the diverse disciplines within our college.

Central to our mission is the strong bond we cultivate among students, faculty, and staff, all connected by the shared foundation of communication. Each department within our college harnesses the power of communication in unique ways, fueling their successes. Whether it's through the diverse mediums of television, radio, social media, and newspapers, the storytelling of musicians through voice and instruments, or the impactful work in speech and hearing sciences that enhances communication skills and improves quality of life. From the empowering field of deaf studies, training essential translators, to the immersive experiences in theatre and dance that offer an escape through movement and text, and the visual eloquence of art that captures moments and places, transporting us to new realms and inspiring our imaginations.

We hope this newsletter highlights the vast opportunities our College offers. We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our community, which generously provides scholarships, new equipment, and invaluable learning experiences. Thank you for your continued support.

“THE BEST KEPT SECRET...”



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



# OPPORTUNITY *KNOCKS!*

## ARTIST COMMON SEARCHES FOR CAMPUS COLLABORATIONS

**A**re you a student looking to join a large group of creatives to exchange ideas and work on collaborative project? Or a faculty member in need of something to spice up their event? Artist Common is the answer to your needs!

Artist Common is the art student organization of the Department of Art and Design at Lamar University. Artist Common is open to all students interested in art at Lamar. Students do not need to be art majors to be a member of Artist Common or to participate in Artist Common activities.

The purpose of Artist Common is to foster collegiality and community among all art students of Lamar and the greater community. Artist Common reaches out to the Lamar community through outreach, exhibition opportunities for students and sponsoring free events such as art movie nights, guest artist lectures and artist workshops. Recently, you may have seen Artist Common at the Grand Re-Opening of the Brook Shivers Dining Hall or at the tailgate for the football game against Weber State, hosted by the College of Fine Arts & Communication. They also help support the Department of Art & Design by setting up tables at various events, including the large tours from Beaumont

Independent School District that took place last week. Students enrolled in Advanced Art classes were able to come and tour the Art Building, meet with current Lamar students, tour other areas of campus including the Dishman Art Museum, and take part in drawing and ceramics demonstrations.

Current Artist Common Faculty Advisor, Eric Johnston, Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Art & Design, is looking to fortify collaborative, creative bonds between Artist Common and Lamar University. *"My goal is to build community. I want to facilitate as many meaningful connections as I can. Not just within our department, but within the overall community of the University. As an alum, the relationships I made as a student are still important relationships for me. They support me professionally and personally,"* says Johnston.

Before coming to Lamar University, Eric Johnston lived and worked in New York City, exhibiting his drawings and designing home textiles for mass-market retailers such as Walmart, Target, and Bed Bath & Beyond. *"I earned my degrees in Painting and Drawing, but I took those skills and applied them to a 15-year career in Design. I believe the more we, as faculty, can encourage students to push the boundaries between the arts and other disciplines, the more well-rounded our students will be,"* says Johnston. *"I think it's important for our Artist Common members to work with other artists and designers. But they also should be working with non-creative types. They'll quickly realize that their unique talents and skills are desired by a much broader range of industries."*

To find out how you can get involved or provide creative opportunities to Artist Common Members, please reach out to Eric Johnston at [ejohnston5@lamar.edu](mailto:ejohnston5@lamar.edu).





# *Master YOUR Message*

**T**he Department of Communication & Media now offers a Masters of Science in Strategic Communication.

The degree focuses on communication out in the world through areas of public relations, advertising, organizational communication and more. ***"The idea is that professionals can come take the courses and brush up on their skills,"*** says Dr. Nicki Michalski, Chair of the Department of Communication & Media. The degree is flexible, but can be finished within a year if desired.

The program offers courses in a wide range of topics, including Global Communication, Health Communication along with Quantitative and Qualitative research courses. This semester, Dr. Michalski is teaching an advocacy course. ***"I'm hoping this expands my student's view on what advocacy is. It's important to realize that when you're out, not just promoting something, but attempting to affect change, that you are acting as an advocate,"*** says Michalski. By the end of the semester, students will have designed a full multi-media advocacy campaign that will

be critiqued by fellow students. ***"Kristen Hunt Cathey is teaching a course on Race and Gender in Media as well. So that's going to be an exciting course,"*** says Michalski.

Before students graduate, they must complete either a Thesis or Capstone project. The Thesis option, which involves the creation of a full project or campaign, spans over two semesters. The Capstone option is similar; however the Capstone portion of the degree is only one semester with an extra elective added.

The program is off to a strong start with 30 students accepted into the program. Interested students can apply for the program through Apply Texas and can find more specific information on the program in the University's course catalog. If you have questions about the program, please contact the department at [communication@lamar.edu](mailto:communication@lamar.edu).

***"Whether you're in the Golden Triangle or out and about in the world, this online program can help benefit your professional career,"*** says Michalski.

# DR. CLARK, *signing off...*

DR. M. DIANE CLARK REFLECTS ON HER TIME AS CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT



READ MORE ON PAGE 6...





**A**fter 10 of service, Dr. M. Diane Clark will be stepping down as Chair of the Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education.

During her tenure, she has astronomically expanded the research component of the Department. ***"My goal for the past 35 years in this field has been to develop Deaf researchers, and when I became Chair I was able to make a big impact,"*** says Clark, ***"In the last 5 years, we've graduated 21 students; 17 of those students are Deaf."*** Dr. Clark has continuously fought for her Deaf and Hard of Hearing students to have a voice within the Deaf Community by pushing them to create Deaf-centric narratives within their research projects. ***"Before the expansion of this program, our students would never present their own research at conferences. Now doctoral, masters and even some of our undergraduate students are going and presenting their own research. Before, we would go to conferences and people would tell us that***

***they had never heard of Lamar University, but our students have been able to establish such a strong reputation for the Department. Now, they know who we are and what we represent,"*** says Clark.

When reflecting on her tenure, Dr. Clark has many thanks to give. ***"I give a lot of credit to Tony Martin and Jean Andrews. They both created a strong foundation for the department by choosing to make it bilingual. I couldn't have accomplished all I did without them laying the ground work,"*** says Dr. Clark. Dr. Clark went on to explain that in order to build a community, you have to be able to sign. ***"When you walk in the front door, everyone is signing. We've tried to create an environment where everyone has access. Even when hearing faculty are in my office, we're signing. Very rarely do we speak,"*** says Clark.

When discussing the future of the department, Dr. Clark is optimistic. ***"I want this department to be successful. We've been able to accomplish so much because of the support of our Dean, Golden Wright, and because of the support from the University, and I would like to see that support continue to grow,"*** she explains.

After stepping down, Dr. Clark is looking forward to dedicating more of her time to continuing her bimodal, bilingual research. ***"Right now is a really exciting time in the Deaf Studies research community. Because there are a lot of really good papers coming out about this topic,"*** says Clark. ***"ASL is spreading really well, Deaf people are getting all sorts of exciting new jobs, the community as a whole is getting stronger. I look forward to seeing what is to come from this growth,"*** she says.

The College of Fine Arts & Communication would like to congratulate Dr. Clark for 10 years as Chair, and thank her for her continued dedication to the Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. We look forward to seeing what is to come of her further research!



# MARCHING *Forward:*

## With Eric Shannon

Associate Professor and Director of Athletic Bands, Eric Shannon, has a lot of exciting announcements about the band.

This year, the Showcase of Southeast Texas has grown 7%. Shannon attributes this growth to the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music's dedicated and talented faculty, including a wonderful group of new faculty, and their ambitious outreach and recruiting programs like High School Band Day.

New faculty member, Reese Maultsby, Assistant Professor of Percussion, has been working with Shannon to ensure the percussion section is as strong as it can be. ***"We're excited about Reese joining us. He's doing great work. As our percussion music arranger, he brings a lot of experience and has some brilliant musical ideas. We're so happy he's on our team now,"*** says Shannon.

The band has also welcomed a much-needed, new piece of equipment. ***"We have a new custom band trailer,"*** says Shannon, ***"This will improve a lot of logistical and safety concerns for the band."***

***"We've worked on improving the 'Team Walk' this year,"*** says Shannon. Two hours and forty-five minutes before kickoff at every home game, the football team walks from the dining hall to the locker rooms. The Showcase of Southeast Texas, Cheer and Dance teams rally together to support the team and help the fans get pumped up for the game.

Another way the band is working to improve fan interactions is by creating the "Bird Bands." These bands are small, volunteer ensembles that consist of one instrument per section. The first four "Bird Bands" are scheduled to play at two soccer games and two volleyball games this season, with hopes of expanding their reach. ***"This is a great opportunity for our students to volunteer for service to the University,"*** says Shannon.

*Special thanks to Eric Shannon for all he does to support the Showcase of Southeast Texas, the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music, and the College of Fine Arts & Communication.*



# COMING FULL CIRCLE

ROTARY CHAIR TO BRING NEW LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR STUDENTS



READ MORE ON PAGE 9...



**T**he Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences is proud to announce the arrival of a new rotary chair. ***"The rotary chair is a key tool used by audiologists to assess balance and diagnose vestibular (inner ear) disorders. It evaluates how the vestibular system responds to rotational movements, providing highly accurate measurements essential for diagnosing a range of balance conditions,"*** says Dr. Lilian Felipe, Associate Professor and Associate Chair for the Doctor of Audiology Program.

The rotary chair will benefit the Department in three key ways:

- 1** ***Enhance the educational experience for Lamar University students by providing hands-on training with state-of-the-art vestibular testing equipment***
- 2** ***Support research on balance issues, enabling studies not just in Audiology, but also multidisciplinary studies, evaluating different populations with balance disorders***
- 3** ***Allow our audiology clinic to offer improved assessments, providing the best possible care to our patients and community***

In addition to providing for current Lamar students and clinic patients, Dr. Felipe also looks to the future. ***"Not only will this new equipment attract students by offering advanced technology for learning, but it will also draw new faculty to the department and Lamar University as a whole, given the broad opportunities for multidisciplinary research. Additionally, this investment opens doors for partnerships with hospitals and clinics interested in collaborating on vestibular research or clinical***

***trials, further expanding the department's impact and outreach,"*** says Felipe. There are no specific studies planned at this time, but Dr. Felipe believes that future research projects could focus on the effectiveness of new therapies for vestibular disorders. There is also a future research proposal plans to evaluate the impact of language disorders on balance in children. Some studies suggest a link between balance issues and delays in language acquisition, so a potential study could involve assessing pediatric patients from our speech and language clinic to determine if their balance is affected and how we might address this.

The Department would like to thank everyone who made this acquisition possible. ***"Our Dean, Golden Wright, worked diligently with Lamar University administration to secure funding from Lamar University, and I would like to take this moment to thank him for all his support. This collaborative effort enabled us to acquire the new rotary chair, which will support both clinical and research advancements. As a result, our students and patients will benefit from an enhanced learning experience and improved balance disorder assessments, respectively, while faculty will have the opportunity to propose and conduct cutting-edge research in this field,"*** says Felipe

The installation of the new rotary chair fortifies the department's commitments to excellence, research, collaboration and community. ***"It will provide our students with the highest level of cutting-edge technology and ensure they receive top-notch training,"*** says Felipe. Be on the lookout for future research projects, and if you're interested in becoming a patient at the clinic, please visit us at the Speech & Hearing Building on campus, or call at (409)880-8976 or (409) 880-8171 to schedule your appointment.





COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

Department of Theatre & Dance

# HOOKED

## *On Adventure*

### **PETER PAN TAKES FLIGHT AT LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

Are you ready to take flight? The Department of Theatre & Dance is proud to present their second show of the season, *Peter Pan*, directed by Ashley Dennison and Tanner McAlpin.

*JM Barrie's spell bindingly, classic tale Peter Pan takes flight in a way Southeast Texas audiences have never seen. When Peter Pan, leader of the Lost Boys, loses his shadow, headstrong Wendy helps him to reattach it. In return, she is invited to Neverland, where Tinker Bell the fairy, Tiger Lily and the vengeful Captain Hook await. A riot of magic, music and make-believe ensues.*

The students, staff and faculty are working diligently to prepare this show. Ashley Dennison says, *"It's very exciting to work with the majors in a new capacity and to present a show that our community is familiar with. I'm also grateful to work together with Tanner on this production—he is brilliant!"* Tanner McAlpin, an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Lamar University, specializes in costume design, and is excited to showcase his directing skills with *Peter Pan*.

**Experience the wonder and magic of *Peter Pan* at the University Theatre from October 31st through November 10th. Tickets can be purchased at [lamar.edu/lutdtix](http://lamar.edu/lutdtix) or by calling the box office at (409)880-2250.**

**Off to Neverland! We hope to see you there!**

# TIMELESS TREASURES



**I**n addition to the rotating exhibitions the Dishman Art Museum hosts, the museum is home to the Heinz and Ruth Eisenstadt Collection.

Donated by Dr. Heinz Eisenstadt and his wife Ruth posthumously in 1991, this collection includes pieces from the seventeenth century to the mid-twentieth century.

Dr. Heinz Eisenstadt was born in Berlin in 1905 and earned his degree in medicine in 1930 from the University of Berlin. In 1936, Dr. Eisenstadt met Ruth Haase and they were married within the year. In 1937, the Eisenstadts fled Germany due to the impending threat of Nazi invasion, taking with them many pieces of their art collection. The couple settled in Temple, Texas before moving to Port Arthur where they lived for forty years.

In 1973, Dr. Eisenstadt was one of the founding members of Lamar University's "Friends of the Arts", an organization that brings awareness to the College of Fine Arts & Communication by raising scholarship funds for educational enhancements within the college.

Dr. Eisenstadt also served as the organization's first president.

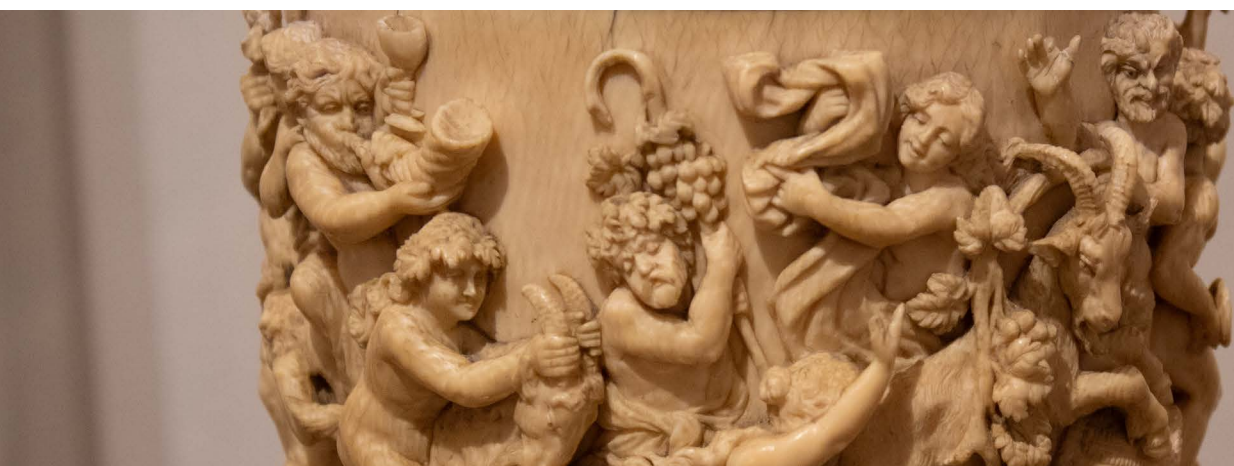
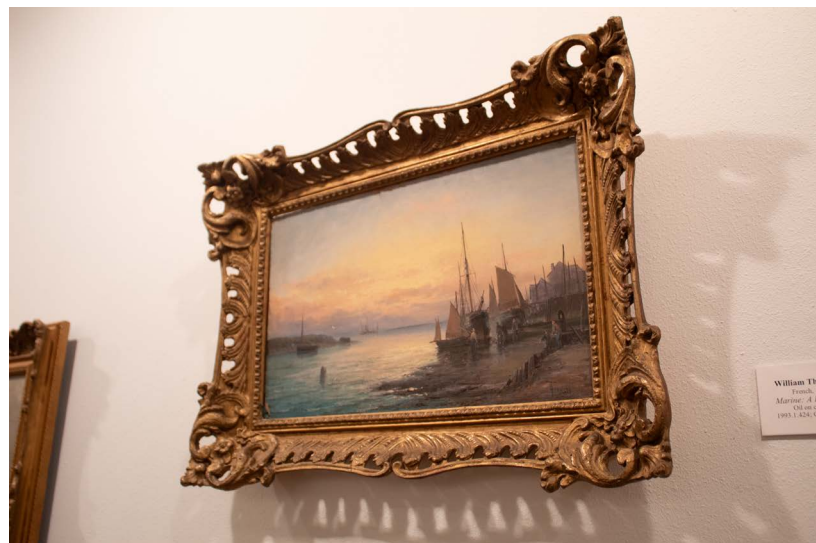
Upon their deaths in 1988 and 1991, the Eisenstadt's full art collection was donated to the Dishman Art Museum where it remains on display today.

Guests can immerse themselves in fine works of art completed by masters of the arts, including a 17th century Italian oil painting, *Caleb and the Spies*, by Mattia Preti, an oil painting from 1814, *Portrait of a Young Lady*, by Sir Thomas Lawrence, 18th century porcelain figures from Germany, and much more.

*To see this exquisite collection and celebrate the Eisenstadt's legacy, visit the Dishman Art Museum on Lamar University's campus. The Dishman Art Museum is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. and on Saturdays from 12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.*

SEE MORE ON PAGE 12...







# ***TURN IT UP!***

## ***KVLU'S FALL FUNDRAISER POWERS PUBLIC RADIO***

**K**VLU holds three fundraisers each year, and now it's time for the Fall Fundraiser!

Every day, KVLU uses radio for the greater good – for a stronger, more connected community. If you value trusted news, local features and crafted music shows we want to hear from YOU! KVLU's fall giving campaign is October 15-23, but you can renew your membership or even become a new member NOW. Consider becoming a sustaining member with a monthly donation of 5, 10 or 20 dollars. This fundraiser's giveaway is an FM Radio equipped with a CD player, Bluetooth speaker, and internet radio streaming. All who donate are instantly added to the drawing!

After the campaign, KVLU is running a special broadcast of a 1983 radio performance by the KVLU Radio Players of Orson Welles' "War of the Worlds." You can catch this 1983 encore broadcast on October 31st at 7:00PM on 91.3, KVLU or at [KVLU.org](http://KVLU.org).

For more information on how to give or enter the drawing for the giveaway, please visit [KVLU.org](http://KVLU.org).



# CAN'T MISS THIS!

SEPT 20 — NOV 4

**Where The Amish Vacation/Жити: To Live**  
Dishman Art Museum

OCT 4

**Piano Festival: Recital**  
Rothwell Recital Hall  
7:30 PM

OCT 10

**Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band Concert**  
Julie Rogers Theatre  
7:30 PM

OCT 24

**Cardinal Jazz Orchestra Concert**  
Music Building  
7:30 PM

OCT 31 — NOV 10

**Peter Pan**  
University Theatre  
[Lamar.edu/lutdtix](https://lamar.edu/lutdtix)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FOR EVENTS IN THE  
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION  
SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW!



OCTOBER EDITION OF SIGHTS AND SOUNDS COMING NOVEMBER 4TH





COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

P.O. Box 10077

Beaumont, TX 77710



**COLLABORATE - INNOVATE - CREATE**

To support the College of Fine Arts & Communication, please visit

[www.lamar.edu/cofac](http://www.lamar.edu/cofac)