

# SIGHTS and SOUNDS

SEPTEMBER 2025



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

— NEWSLETTER —

# *in this issue...*

PAGES  
3-4

## **Department of Art & Design**

*Creative Additions*

PAGES  
5-6

## **Department of Communication & Media**

*Lights, Camera, LUTV News*

PAGE  
7

## **Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education**

*Deaf Awareness Week at LU*

PAGES  
8-9

## **Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music**

*Marching into the Future*

PAGES  
10-11

## **Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences**

*Conversations Reconnected*

PAGES  
12-13

## **Department of Theatre & Dance**

*Ugly Lies the Bone*

PAGE  
14

## **Dishman Art Museum**

*The Power of Paper*

PAGE  
15

## **KVLU**

*On Air and Up Close*

PAGE  
16

## **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



# *Creative Additions*

The Department of Art & Design is welcoming three new full time faculty members to their team this academic year. We wish the new faculty the best of luck as they begin their new journeys at Lamar University!

**Meet Eric!** Eric Johnston, Assistant Professor in Studio Foundations, Illustration and Graphic Design, is an American artist, designer, and educator from Port Arthur, Texas.

In 2003, he earned his BFA from Lamar University in Beaumont, and in 2006, he earned his MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. From 2007 to 2021, he lived and worked in New York City, designing home textiles for mass-market retailers such as Walmart, Target, and Bed Bath & Beyond. His work for Better Homes & Gardens is currently sold at all Walmart locations in the continental US.

Eric's drawings are made with oil pastel, acrylic wash, and pencil on paper. He usually starts with simple shapes or imaginary structures, then lets the drawing evolve into something more layered and expressive. He likes working by hand and is interested in the balance between planning and improvising. The resulting work carries a strong sense of both control and spontaneity, offering moments of sharp focus alongside areas of perceptual ambiguity.



Eric's work has been exhibited in New York City, Baltimore, Virginia, Houston, and South-east Texas.

*"What I'm most excited about this semester is being in the studio with students in Illustration, Design 1, and Portfolio Development, and seeing their confidence grow. It's always inspiring to watch them take chances, pick up new skills, and start to really find their own voice in the work they make,"* says Johnston.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4...





**Meet Sunni!** Sunni Forcier, Assistant Professor of Art Education, was born in Beaumont Texas. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography from Lamar University in 2015, and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Houston in 2019.

From an early age, Sunni dealt with unexpected circumstances that have caused her to realize the fragility of life. Her work explores themes of impermanence, time, and memory through the examination of personal histories. Sunni's artistic approach incorporates a variety of photographic, printmaking, installation, and assemblage techniques.

Sunni's work is represented by Hooks-Epstein Galleries in Houston.

*"I have been a Cardinal since 2010, from student, to alumna, to adjunct, and now Assistant Professor of Art Education!" says Forcier, "I am thrilled to continue to be a part of this community and share with students the same sense of purpose and creativity that I found within the art department. I'm excited to mentor the next generation of art educators, provide them with support and guidance they need to build confidence as they prepare to enter their own classrooms in the future."*

**Meet Ashe!** Ashe Kaye Gardner, Assistant Professor of Photography, is a multidisciplinary artist, photographer and object maker who utilizes advanced 3D technology to explore intersections between gender norms, consumption and domestic space. Ashe developed a highly metaphorical body of work. Discarding traditions, their lens-based and sculptural works present a collection of grotesque imagery critiquing patriarchal systems.

While they received their MFA in Studio Art from the University of Arkansas in 2020, they expanded their practice into an on-going performance collaboration with Isla Gordon called "Milk and Honey", a flesh-centric endeavor that lampoons pop culture.

Ashe has exhibited internationally in the USA, Europe, Africa and Asia. Their work has been performed at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and at Theatresquared (AR). Their work has been featured in BuzzFeed, Idle Class Magazine (USA), Contemporary Badass (UK), Paradise Palace (NYC). Satellite Art Show at Miami Art week

*"I'm beyond excited to join Lamar University as the new Assistant Professor in Photography" says Gardner, "It's an honor to guide the next generation of visual storytellers and help them discover their voice through the lens."*



*"When I have a camera in my hand, I know no fear." — Alfred Eisenstaedt*



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

Department of Communication & Media



# *Lights, Camera,* **LUTV NEWS**

The Department of Communication & Media at Lamar University offers a variety of concentrations, including Broadcasting. The LUTV News Production course is offered at least once during the academic year. Through LUTV News, students receive hands-on experience in television broadcasting, stepping directly into the world of professional media.

LUTV News Students are given incredible responsibility. They are responsible for writing, producing, filming, and editing all their content. This content ranges from sports, campus events, video game reviews and more, allowing students the flexibility to pursue their individual interests while learning what it takes to deliver content to a real audience.

Students do not have to be enrolled in the LUTV News Production course to participate. Open talent auditions are held each semester, and they accept volunteers from all academic backgrounds.

*"From the moment they walk into the newsroom, we treat*

*students as media professionals,"* says Gordon Williams, Lamar University Television Studio Operations Manager, *"That mindset builds confidence and helps them step into jobs right after graduation."*

LUTV News students have earned awards from the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association and the Society of Professional Journalists Regional Awards. In addition, students often compete against professionals in the Press Club of Southeast Texas Excellence in Media Awards.

Ultimately, the program is designed to bridge the classroom and the newsroom. *"It's a resume builder, a confidence builder, and proof of what's possible here,"* says Williams, *"We want students to leave Lamar with the skills and the mindset of working media professionals."*

In fact, many successful alumni got their start at LUTV News.



*"My experience with LUTV News has been instrumental in shaping my broadcast career. It taught me to understand both sides of the camera, making me more versatile while also patient and supportive of the challenges camera operators face. The biggest lesson was learning how to channel my personality-knowing when to lean into my energy and when to adapt it to fit the platform, setting, or story-while still staying true to myself. LUTV News also sharpened my ability to chase and build stories, even when starting with little information, by emphasizing the importance of research and resourcefulness. Lastly, LUTV News taught me the importance of paying it forward in this industry,"* says John Hickman, Host, "Locked On Texas" podcast.

*"I began my career with a group of journalists from some of the largest journalism schools in the country, yet I was more prepared,"* says Jade Moreau, Host, ARC Southeast Texas.

To keep up with all things LUTV News, stream online or watch on Spectrum Channel 7. Make sure to follow LUTV News on Youtube, Facebook, Instagram and X.



John Hickman



Jade Moreau



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education

# Deaf Awareness Week at LU

**T**he Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education is preparing for Deaf Awareness Week. Deaf Awareness Week is an international celebration of the Deaf community, used to raise awareness of the challenges and experiences of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals all over the world. Participation ranges from advocacy to community engagement, educational initiatives and events nationwide.

At Lamar University, the Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education is celebrating Deaf Awareness Week by hosting a plethora of educational and informational events, beginning with a panel of Deaf individuals.

*"Students will be able to come to the panel and watch Deaf people share their lived experiences and what they hope to see from individuals who graduate with degrees in Deaf Studies,"* explains Dr. Zanthia Smith, Associate Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education.

DSDE faculty will collaborate with DSDE student organizations, Signing Cardinals and Signers of Color, and two of the local agencies, B3 Interpreting Services and Cross Communications Interpreting Services, who have agreed to help sponsor these events.

The Department will also host a showing of the film *"Deaf President Now!"* a chronicle of the student protests at Gallaudet University in 1988, where the students, faculty,

alumni and staff fought for a Deaf person to be elected as President of the University, going against the Board of Trustee's original decision.

In addition, Dr. Clark, Professor, who was a faculty member at Gallaudet University during the protests, will be hosting a presentation about her experiences during those eventful 8 days.

The Department is also excited to return to the Studio Theatre in partnership with the Department of Theatre & Dance for the ASL interpreted performance of *Ugly Lies the Bone*, on Saturday, September 27th.

We hope you take part in these wonderful events! See the full schedule below.

## **Wednesday, September 24th**

*Dr. Clark's Presentation on Deaf President Now!*  
COMM 113, 12:35-1:35 P.M.

### **Panel**

Location TBA, 6:00-8:00 P.M.

For information, please contact Dr. Zanthia Smith at [zysmith@lamar.edu](mailto:zysmith@lamar.edu)

## **Friday, September 26th**

*Film Showing of "Deaf President Now!"*  
COMM 127, 6:00-8:30 P.M.

## **Saturday, September 27th**

*ASL Performance of Ugly Lies the Bone*  
Studio Theatre, 7:30 P.M.

Tickets Available at [lamar.edu/lutdix](http://lamar.edu/lutdix)





COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music



# MARCHING INTO THE FUTURE

On August 18th, Lamar University officials were joined by the Showcase of Southeast Texas to officially cut the ribbon on its new intramural field. This space will not only serve as a space for intramural teams to compete and practice, but it will also serve as the new rehearsal ground for the marching band. The new turf offers a safer and more comfortable environment for daily practices, while allowing the band to rehearse on a field that is comparable to where their performances will take place.

To celebrate this monumental occasion, the Showcase of Southeast Texas hosted their annual Preview Performance under the direction Dr. Andrew McMahan, Director of Bands, Dr. Reese Maulsby, Assistant Professor of Percussion, and Tim Pallone, the newly appointed Interim Director of Athletic Bands.

Pallone called the upgrade ***“a game changer”*** for the program. ***“We want our students to be energy givers, not energy takers,”*** he said. ***“That extends beyond our***

***performances to how we prepare. Having a dedicated space helps us focus on the music.”***

The Showcase of Southeast Texas is excitedly preparing for their performance at the UIL State Marching Contest exhibition in November at the Alamodome.

Pallone expects thousands of excited high school students, parents, family members, and band directors to be in attendance, knowing could be their first introduction to Lamar University.

***“There will be thousands of people watching us,”*** Pallone says. ***“That kind of visibility is huge, and we want to represent Lamar with pride.”***

That spirit of pride is echoed in the university’s music traditions, including a newly reimagined version of the Alma Mater. Dr. Reese Maulsby, who first arranged

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9...



the upbeat version for the 2025 Collage Faculty Showcase, drew lots inspiration from the culture and people of Southeast Texas.

*"The Gulf Coast and Cajun influences are ever present here in Beaumont, so I thought, what better than a New-Orleans-Esque style and Second-Line groove?"* says Maultsby, *"I hope students, faculty, and alumni feel a sense of pride and joy when they hear this new version, with just a little added spice of groove and fun energy."*

Together, the new field, new direction and refreshed Alma Mater signal a bright future for the Showcase of Southeast Texas.







# Conversations *Reconnected*



**Fire Museum of Texas**

**D**id you know that fewer than 70% of Americans have heard the word **aphasia**?

Aphasia is a language disorder caused by damage to the brain, most often affecting stroke survivors. Aphasia results in a disruption of language expression or comprehension, such as writing, speaking, listening or reading.

Chelsea Lyles, Director of SLP Clinical Services states, *"One of the most frustrating misconceptions I hear from clients and their families is the belief that aphasia means a person's intelligence is affected. Because someone has difficulty accessing their language, people often assume their thinking skills are impaired, too, but that simply isn't true."*

The Department of Speech & Hearing's Aphasia Conversation Lab serves the Southeast Texas community by creating personalized treatment plans for each client while providing a supportive space for them and their families.

Mr. Brian Handy, a member of the Aphasia Conversation Lab, shares that, between semesters, when he isn't in the group, he feels like some of his language abilities decline.

*"This shows just how important connection and conversation are,"* says Lyles. *"The majority of our clinical services are conversation-based,"* she goes on to explain, *"that means we don't just drill words or sentences. We work on helping people communicate in real-life ways."*

Lyles stresses that aphasia affects each person differently, and the lab works to meet clients where they are, focusing on personal goals.

*"For some, that might mean practicing strategies to get a message across, like using pictures on their phone or talking around a word. For others, it's about building confidence to chat with friends at a coffee shop or attend a Bible study. Our goal is to give our members and their communication partners the tools they need to communicate wherever they need to,"* says Lyles.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11...

## HAPPY Valentine's Day



FROM THE APHASIA  
CONVERSATION LAB

Much of the therapy in the Aphasia Conversation Lab happens in group settings, where clients and students engage in conversations about music, current events, spirituality, or even participate in book clubs and technology groups. These group sessions support language skills while helping to build motivation, confidence, and friendships that extend beyond therapy.

Not only is the Aphasia Conversation Lab extremely beneficial to clients and their families, but it also helps support graduate students in the Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences. In the lab, graduate and undergraduate student clinicians work directly with clients, under faculty supervision.

Hope Rodrick, an undergraduate student who participated in the Aphasia Conversation Lab over the summer, shared that *“student clinicians play an active role in planning and leading therapy sessions. They collaborate with clients to set meaningful goals, create therapy materials, and track progress. Through this experience, students gain essential skills in evidence-informed practice, client-centered care, and clinical problem-solving. They also learn the importance of patience, adaptability, and empathy when working with individuals who face communication challenges.”*

*“Students and the faculty supervisor meet and debrief after every session to discuss what went well, strategies and areas of opportunity for the next session and to reflect on personal growth and development. It’s a special opportunity for them and seeing them grow throughout the semester gives me so much joy!”* explains Lyles.

The impact of the lab is profound. Many clients regain the confidence to initiate conversations, explore new communication strategies, and re-engage with their communities, reducing the isolation that often accompanies a diagnosis of aphasia.

The Aphasia Conversation Lab at Lamar University is more than just a clinic. It stands as both a resource and a community, where every manner of communication is valued and celebrated.

For more information and resources on communicating with individuals with aphasia, visit [aphasiaaccess.org](http://aphasiaaccess.org).







# UGLY LIES THE BONE

**T**he Department of Theatre & Dance is thrilled to present their first theatrical performance of the 2025-2026 season, ***Ugly Lies the Bone***, written by Lindsey Ferrentino and directed by Assistant Professor of Theatre, Alan Brincks.

*Recently discharged from the military, Jess returns to her Florida hometown carrying the weight of her experience in Afghanistan—both the vivid memories and the painful burns that have left her physically and emotionally scarred. But home isn't the haven she expected; everything has changed, perhaps even more than she has.*

*Turning to an innovative form of therapy, Jess begins using a virtual reality video game to manage her pain. In this immersive world, she finds a breathtaking escape—and a path forward. As she progresses through the game, Jess slowly begins to rebuild her relationships, reclaim her sense of purpose, and piece herself back together.*

*Lindsey Ferrentino's powerful and deeply affecting play was inspired by "Snow World," a real virtual reality therapy developed to help burn survivors—particularly veterans—cope with chronic pain and trauma.*

Lindsey Ferrentino is a New York-based playwright originally from the sunny state of Florida. Her play ***Ugly Lies the Bone*** is a New York Times Critic Pick and played a sold-out extended run off-Broadway at Roundabout Theater Company in the Underground. Charles Isherwood in the New York Times called Lindsey ***"a brave playwright of dauntless conviction."***

Director, Alan Brincks, is working alongside Lee Barker, Assistant Professor of Scenic Design, and Tanner McAlpin, Assistant Professor of Costume Design to create a visually stunning production that taps into the inner feelings of our lead, Jess.

***"We're really trying to take that into account, looking at the design elements and reinforcing the idea that our injured soldier Jess has difficulty fitting back into this***



CONTINUED ON PAGE 13...

*world that has left her behind in many ways. In the script, it's hard not to empathize with Jess getting overwhelmed and worked up by her interactions with other characters as she tries to move forward in her new reality, and we've talked about how that can be reflected in a sense of over-stimulation and oppressive reality in the design areas."*

Lamar University Theatre & Dance major, Gracie Parsley, will be performing the titular role of Jess Knox.

*"Ugly Lies the Bone is unlike any show that I have done before. I'm looking forward to challenging myself with the mental and physical trauma Jess has endured, and growing as an artist," Gracie explains. "Our cast is very collaborative, so it makes the process exceptionally rewarding. I am stoked to share the vulnerability, wit and healing that Lindsey Ferrentino crafted!"*

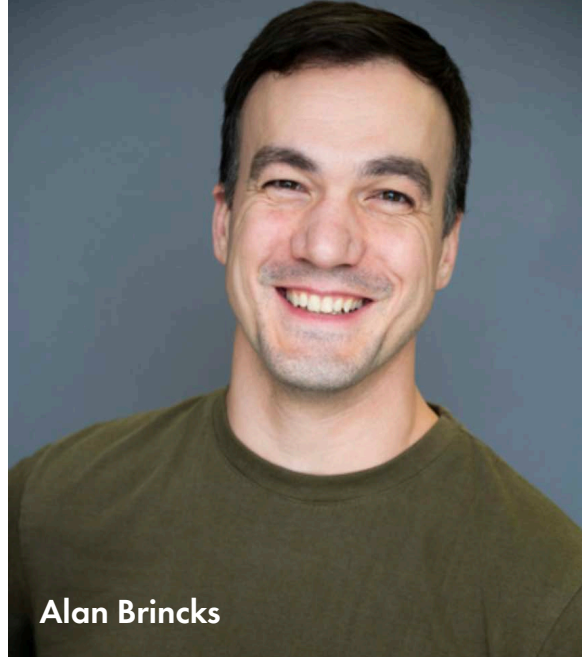
Brincks strongly compliments the passion and dedication of the actors of this production.

*"I've already been blown away by this cast's drive and desire to find the truth of these characters," explains Brincks, "While much of the emphasis is placed on the character Jess and her return home, it's really more of an ensemble piece. Ferrentino does a great job of crafting a play where each of the characters have moments of humor and emotional depth which makes us see them as three dimensional humans."*

*"This production is a good reminder how we need to seek an understanding of each individual person's strengths, struggles, dreams and disappointments, and accept the entire range of each individual's capabilities in order to build a world we can all proudly call 'home.'"*

*Ugly Lies the Bone* will take the stage on September 25th, 26th and 27th at 7:30 p.m. and the 28th at 2:00 p.m. All performances will be held in the Studio Theatre between the Dishman Art Museum and the Jimmy Simmons Music building on the campus of Lamar University.

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



**Alan Brincks**



**Gracie Parsley**





# The POWER of PAPER

**T**his Fall, the Dishman Art Museum will be presenting the work of Joan Son in their new exhibition, "Part Geometry, Part Zen."

"Part Geometry, Part Zen" is a comprehensive look at the evolution of Joan's paper art including an on site installation of 2000 folded butterflies, as well as her full-size paper dress designs and her latest sculpted photography works.

Son's fine art career began in 1993 with her debut in the windows of Tiffany & Co. Houston Galleria. She is interested in the geometric intelligence of the natural world and the luminous experience created by the folding and the unfolding.

*"Paper is sculptable and forgiving and provides unending inspiration,"* says Son.

Son grew up in Evansville, Indiana in the 1950's and 60's and attended the University of Cincinnati and the University of Oklahoma to study fashion design and art history. In 1968, she moved to Beaumont and married a local musician. In 1971 they moved to Houston for work and to start a family, though they continued to visit family in Beaumont for many years.

Son's first experience at Lamar University was seeing Ike & Tina Turner perform at the MacDonald Gym.

*"It was a thrill!"* Explains Son, *"I did a lot of "growing up" during my time in Beaumont and hold these memories dear in my heart. Working with the Dishman now has allowed me to look back and move forward with the evolution of my work and my life."*

During Son's artistic career, she has worked with some of the largest art institutions in the world, including the Houston Museum of Natural Science, The Smithsonian Museum and the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., Houston Grand Opera, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, The Menil Collection, Art Institute of Chicago, Origami USA, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft and The Jung Center, among others.

**Come see this extraordinary show running from September, 20th to November 1st. The opening reception will take place on Saturday, September, 20th from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.**





# ON AIR and UP CLOSE

**K**VLU is excited to announce the return of their Open House event! Come tour the studios and get to meet some of the wonderful staff and students behind Lamar University's own radio station.

KVLU is home to many University based programs, student run music shows, and more. Some of which were established because of last year's Open House event. Station Manager, Jason Miller, is excited about the return of the event, and hopes it will be even more successful this year.

*"Last year's open houses were a lot of fun and really helped us build stronger connections across campus. We had great turnout, and it sparked some awesome collaborations,"* explains Miller. *"We're hoping to keep that momentum going and turn this into a yearly tradition that keeps KVLU growing and keeps the campus involved."*

KVLU is always looking to create more student, faculty and staff operated programming. The station covers a wide array of genres, topics, and themes, including music from Jazz to K-Pop, and topics from what's happening on campus to what's going on in the bayou.

Join the KVLU team on September 30th and October 1st and maybe you can be the next voice on 91.3 FM!

**September 30th from 10am - 4 pm**

*Faculty and Staff*

*Cookies and Coffee with KVLU Swag*

**October 1st from 10 am - 4 pm**

*Students*

*Frozen Lemonade with KVLU Swag*



# CAN'T MISS THIS!

**AUG 18 — SEPT 6**

**Faculty Exhibition**  
Dishman Art Museum

**SEPT 20 — NOV 1**

**Joan Son: Part Geometry, Part Zen**  
Dishman Art Museum  
*Opening Reception: September 20th, 6:00PM - 8:00 PM*

**SEPT 23**

**Cardinal Jazz Orchestra**  
Rothwell Recital Hall  
7:30 P.M.

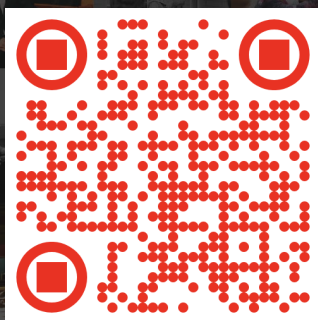
**SEPT 25 — SEPT 28**

**Ugly Lies the Bone**  
Studio Theatre  
[lamar.edu/lutdtix](http://lamar.edu/lutdtix)

## JOIN US THIS RED DAY, **RAISE THE RED!**

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.

JOIN US on September 18-19th and invest in collaboration, innovation, creation and excellence.



SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT [lamar.edu/redday](http://lamar.edu/redday) TO LEARN MORE!





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)