

SIGHTS and SOUNDS

FEBRUARY 2025



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION
LAMAR UNIVERSITY

– NEWSLETTER –

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Can't Miss This!

Hello!

I am Golden Wright, privileged to serve as the Dean of the College of Fine Arts & Communication at Lamar University. Our college is a dynamic hub housing an array of talented individuals, including students, staff, and faculty. Through this monthly newsletter, we aim to shine a spotlight on the exceptional achievements of these individuals across various disciplines within the fine arts and communication fields.

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 of 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



INK & IMPRESSIONS



There are many forms of traditional art you may be familiar with, including painting, drawing, sculpture. But have you heard of the art of Printmaking?

The Department of Art & Design offers Printmaking courses and a Printmaking track for the Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree. Students from all backgrounds flock to the printmaking classes each semester to explore new ways of creating.

"In printmaking, you need three things: a matrix, 'ink, and something to print on," says Xenia Fedorchenko, Associate Professor of Art. In the printmaking courses, students get to explore many different matrices, including copper plate etching, wood carving, stone etching, and more. They also get to explore different inking methods and in some get the chance to make their own paper in the Alternative Fibers course. Paper making can take many forms, but some of the more adventurous students opt to cook their own fibers to make paper.

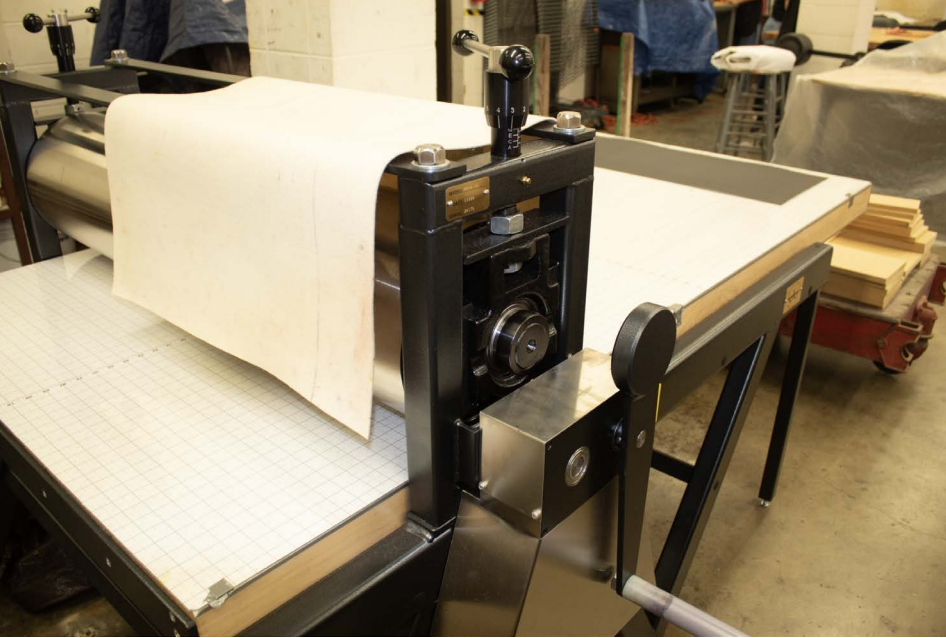
"Last semester I had two students who took actual

pieces of grass, cooked them down for hours and hours, and then they beat them with little mallets by hand, and made paper! Most students don't choose to do that process because they understand it's very time intensive, but it's always very rewarding when I have curious students who want to give it a shot," explains Xenia.

The Printmaking course keep filling up with students from all backgrounds. No matter what degree a student is pursuing, they can find value in taking a printmaking course

"The original purposes of printmaking were to save time and create multiples," expresses Xenia, *"The painters, instead of having one unique work of art, get a chance to make multiples of their work through the printmaking processes. A lot of the painters take this class because they can make a product that they can then sell, keep a copies, trade copies, and gain more exposure for their products."*

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Xenia applauds our student body for being so open and interested in trying new things.

“I think we have a really engaged student body. I think students, even though printmaking is not usually, the main focus of their studies, are very open to trying new things and experimenting. From the experimenting, good things happen,” says Xenia. She even encourages her students to enter their final prints in the Le Grand Bal Art Auction every year! So you may get a chance to purchase some of these wonderful and unique works of art at this year’s auction.

The printmaking studio also received a huge upgrade over the summer. Thanks in part to the generous donation from the Juanita Parker Corbin Charitable Trust, the department was able to purchase a brand new press, which is capable of printing artworks up to 5 feet long.

“In olden days, to print something that large would have required a steamroller!” exclaims Xenia, *“And now we can do that in house. It’s a wonderful opportunity for our students.”*

At Lamar University, printmaking will never go out of style! We look forward to seeing the work that our students produce this semester.





THE UNIVERSITY PRESS

A BEACON OF STUDENT JOURNALISM AT LAMAR UNIVERSITY

The University Press is the student-run newspaper at Lamar University. The paper has been in existence in some form since the university's founding in 1923. The UP as it's known, is a cornerstone campus organization that has built a reputation for excellence and integrity as a source of information.

The University Press is an award-winning publication that serves as the voice of the student body. It is part of the College of Fine Arts & Communication and operates out of the Communication Building on campus. The UP is distributed across 47 locations around campus and is also available online, ensuring that it reaches a broad audience of students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community-at-large. Additionally, as the media landscape has evolved the UP also produces podcasts and video features, as well as providing content for KVLU 91.3 FM, Lamar's public radio station.

"The University Press is not just an instrument for spreading news and information," Andy Coughlan,

director of student publications, said. *"It is a repository for the history of not only the university but also the entire community."*

The UP covers a wide range of topics, including campus news, sports, features and opinion pieces. The newspaper is published bi-weekly during long semesters, providing timely and relevant information to the Lamar community. The UP is a member of several prestigious organizations, such as the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association and the Society of Professional Journalists, and it consistently earns accolades for its high-quality journalism.

Students often compete alongside professional journalists in competitions including the Press Club of Southeast Texas. The UP has accumulated nearly 1,500 individual and staff awards since 1980 including several recognitions from the Associated Press as best college newspaper in Texas in its size division.

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Student involvement is at the heart of the University Press. The newspaper is staffed entirely by students, who take on roles ranging from reporters and photographers to editors and designers. The UP strives to keep up with media trends, and has incorporated video, podcasting and social media skill sets to prepare students for careers in the media and beyond. Additionally, students are coached on building work portfolios for job interviewing and professional development.

This hands-on experience is invaluable, offering students the opportunity to develop their skills in a real-world setting. The UP staffers come from diverse backgrounds, representing all majors from nearly 50 countries, which enriches the newspaper's content with a variety of perspectives.

“When students work at the UP, they are not just exposed to a media environment,” Stephan Malick, faculty adviser said. *“They are exposed to a professional environment in which they engage with a multitude of other professionals in the community and it becomes a resource for career networking and preparing for what comes after graduation — regardless of their major or degree.”*

Former staffers have gone on to careers in print, broadcast, art, law, government and many other fields, often citing the value of their University Press experience.

Students interested in joining the UP can apply for positions at the beginning of each semester. The newspaper provides a supportive environment where students can learn the ropes of journalism, from investigating and writing stories to understanding the ethical responsibilities of the press. The experience gained at the UP not only enhances students' academic lives but also prepares them for future careers in media and communication.

“The UP isn't just for communication students, it serves all students,” Stephan Malick, advertising manager, said. *“Students from a variety of majors contribute stories and other content every semester. We think there is something for every student to engage in and be involved in on campus.”*

The University Press plays a crucial role in keeping the Lamar University community informed and engaged. By covering important campus events, highlighting student achievements, and providing a platform for diverse voices, the UP fosters a sense of community and encourages active participation in campus life.

Guest Writers: Sydney Vo and Jill Stokes





IN SYNC

HOW OUR ASL INTERPRETERS ENHANCE COMMUNICATION

Did you know that the Department of Deaf Education & Deaf Studies has two designated interpreters? The primary function of an ASL interpreter is to, you guessed it, interpret! This ensures that all Deaf students can fully participate in the class by working with professors and fellow students more easily. Barbara Johnson, one of the department's designated interpreters had first-hand experience interpreting before she ever considered it as a career option.

"My parents are Deaf, so my first language was ASL," explains Barbara, "I was interpreting for my parents and their friends, especially during my teenage years. There were not many interpreters back then, especially none with advanced or higher-level skills, and I continued getting requests to interpret."

Autumn, another designated interpreter for the department, considered pursuing a career in interpreting after joining her middle-school volleyball team,

where she had three Deaf teammates, one of which is still her best friend nearly 30 years later. *"We never actually played in a game, but we spent a lot of time writing conversations in a notebook,"* explains Autumn, *"I learned ASL from her, but I didn't become an interpreter until 7 years ago."*

By having designated interpreters, the department can ensure long-term student success. In the graduate programs, our students can make true, lasting connections with our interpreters long before they present their dissertations as opposed to the traditional model where they may not know the person who is assisting in translating for them.

"I know an EdD student's work long before I ever have to show up and interpret their dissertation from ASL into English," explains Autumn.

"Because of working closely, alongside Deaf faculty, staff, and doctoral students, we can develop more of

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



a connection, familiarity with signing style, areas of research interests, etc. Therefore it helps us to be better interpreters and represent them in a better way when they are teaching a class or presenting their research,” explains Barbara.

Our interpreters also assist in mentoring the undergraduate students pursuing the Interpreting track.

“From the first student I mentored, I was hooked. I see them as colleagues from the beginning and I learn so much from them. We challenge each other to become better interpreters!” says Autumn.

The Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education is unique from other universities because of its commitment to being a fully ASL/English bilingual program.

“Our undergraduate students learn ASL through immersion from day one. Our Deaf Master’s and EdD students have a fully accessible language environment, and our Deaf professors are experts in their fields,” explains Autumn.

“ASL is the main language within our department so Deaf students can have direct communication with everyone,” explains Barbara, *“It’s nice to be immersed in a ASL and Deaf culture environment, because it’s the way I grew up.”*

We are so grateful to Autumn and Barbara for their continued dedication to the Department of Deaf Studies & Deaf Education and the College of Fine Arts & Communication.



JAZZ IT UP!



The Lamar University Cardinal Jazz Orchestra is under new direction! This year, Dr. Logan Banister began his journey at Lamar University, and we couldn't be more thrilled to have him on board. Dr. Banister has wonderful aspirations for the

Cardinal Jazz Orchestra, including making excellent music, providing opportunities for students to develop the skills needed to succeed in the professional music world, and becoming a terrific musical ambassador to Beaumont and Southeast Texas.

"Coming off a performance at the Texas Music Educators Association Conference and a tour of Spain last year, there's a lot of excitement and momentum in this group, and I'm excited to see where we go!" says Dr. Banister.

While some may be familiar with the Jazz genre as a whole, Dr. Banister encourages his students to explore all different avenues of Jazz.

"In 2025, "jazz" includes so many kinds of music—straight ahead swing, Latin music, funk, hip hop, and so much more. It's incredibly important to me that our programming honors and reflects the varied traditions that make jazz music so exceptional, and that we include the works of younger, emerging, or under-programmed composers alongside standard works in the tradition," explains Dr. Banister.

Dr. Banister is also excited to welcome guest artist, Sean Jones to this year's Jimmy Simmons Jazz Festival.

"Sean is a world-class trumpet player, superb educator, and an even better human being. I'm so excited for our students to get to work with somebody of his caliber," says Dr. Banister.

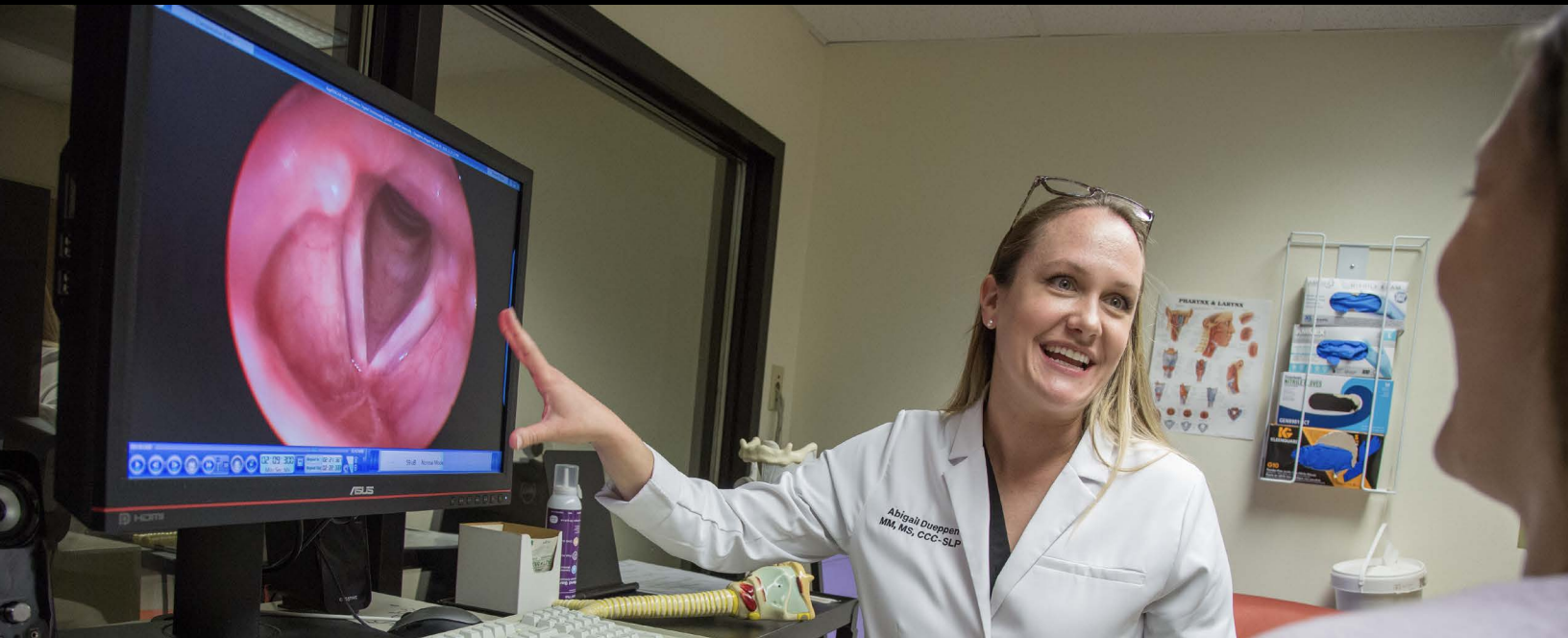
The Jimmy Simmons Jazz Festival hosts high school jazz bands from across the area to enjoy performances and clinics.

"Many of the clinicians for this year's festival are members of Beaumont's Golden Triangle Big Band, a professional band directed by one of our alumni, Andre Harness," explains Dr. Banister. *"In my first year here at Lamar, I've been blown away by the kindness and support of our high school directors and community members, and I'm excited to create even more opportunities to collaborate with and serve these folks in the future."*

If you would like to experience the power and grandeur of the Lamar University Cardinal Jazz Orchestra, make sure to mark February 20th and April 12th down on your calendar! The Cardinal Jazz Orchestra will be performing free, public concerts on both dates at 7:30 pm in the University Theatre.

The Orchestra is also extremely active on social media, so make sure to follow them for updates and information!

Facebook (Lamar University Cardinal Jazz Orchestra)
Instagram (@LamarUJazz)



Unlocking Your VOICE

In addition to the robust graduate and undergraduate programs, the Department of Speech & Hearing Sciences also offers a graduate certificate in Vocology in collaboration with the Department of Music.

Vocology is the study and practice of voice habilitation. It is a discipline founded in theoretical principles; however, it is a relatively new field that was established in 1989.

The Vocology Certificate Program offers three professional course tracks: The traditional track is one course per 8-week session with a completion time of 18 months, the accelerated track is two courses per 8-week session with a completion time of 9 months, and the à la carte track is offered so that students can take one or more courses that suit their professional goals and interests without earning the full certificate.

During the program and after earning their certificate, students can connect with the Pan-American Vocology Association (PAVA) and many other voice-oriented

professional organizations. They also have the opportunity to receive practical experience demonstrating their learned skills, such as recording and analysis of the voice, collecting vocal hygiene and vocal behavior information, developing a vocal use plan, and making recommendations for voice habilitation.

After completing the Vocology Certificate, graduates will be at a greater advantage in their fields as speech-pathologists, voice professionals or vocal pedagogues.

"Our accredited Vocology Certificate Program is a truly marketable asset," explains Abigail Dueppen, Assistant Professor and Director of the Vocology Program, *"Our students gain expertise in acoustics, vocal anatomy/physiology, and instrumental analysis techniques for the voice. The certificate provides practical knowledge about voice production and enables collaboration with interdisciplinary voice professionals."*



the self- destruction of emma james

The Department of Theatre & Dance is proud to present its first theatrical production of the Spring 2025 semester, the world premiere of *The Self-Destruction of Emma James*, written and directed by guest artist Kate Brennan.

This compelling new play follows Emma James, a mother of two young children, as she struggles to survive the demands of daily life while attempting to reenter the workforce. To land the job she desperately seeks, Emma may have to make a deal—with the devil, with herself, or perhaps both. But what happens when she finally gets everything she ever wanted?

Described as *Groundhog Day* meets *Faust*, this thought-provoking story delves into the sacrifices we make to protect our children, the risks we take to preserve ourselves, and the constant, elusive quest for work-life balance.

This one-of-a-kind production features Lamar University Theatre & Dance students Kiera Howington (Emma James), Julianna McManus (Inner Emma), Shelby Eason (Nutella), and Porter LaPray (Xander, etc). Shelby Eason expressed her excitement about the opportunity, saying:

"This is an incredible opportunity to take part in a world-premiere play and collaborate with the brilliant mind behind it. It's a bit daunting to be the first actor to bring a character like Nutella to life—someone who has lived in Kate Brennan's imagination for so long. I can only hope to embody the Nutella she envisioned, and I have no doubt that, under Brennan's direction, this play will become a masterpiece."

If you haven't been to an LU Theatre production recently, *The Self-Destruction of Emma James* is the perfect show to reignite your interest in live theater!

**February 13th – 15th at 7:30 p.m.
February 16th at 2:00 p.m.**

Studio Theatre

Tickets available at lamar.edu/lutdtix

Note: This performance contains mature themes and is recommended for adult audiences. Viewer discretion is advised.



FRESH BEATS

TWO NEW STUDENT RUN MUSIC SHOWS

KVLU is proud to announce the debut of two brand new, student run music shows!

K-Pop Collections is run by Cristina Garcia who is currently pursuing a degree in Fashion Merchandising. K-Pop Collections is full of K-Pop hits, highlighting Korean artists and music, and is run alongside the K-Pop student group on campus.

"I used to listen to K-Pop when I was younger. I remember watching K-Pop music videos, and it was like nothing I had ever seen. Everything was so precise; the choreography was really top notch," says Cristina.

Cristina hopes to run the show until she graduates, then she plans to pass the baton to another member of the K-Pop club.

"It's great, because not only will we be sharing music, but we hope to showcase some of our club events on campus as well," says Cristina.

She hopes that the show will help foster a community of K-Pop lovers here at Lamar University and in the larger Southeast Texas region.

Phil's Headphones is run by Felipe "Phil" Borjas who is currently pursuing a Communications Degree with an emphasis in Broadcasting. Phil's Headphones is an eclectic show, highlighting music from all genres and decades.

"I focus on a lot of indie music from the 2000s but I also love the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and Led Zeppelin. I do sometimes shake it up and play jazz or hip hop as well," says Phil.

Phil first discovered KVLU after attending their open house in October. Shortly after attending the open house, Phil began volunteering and was presented with the opportunity to run his own show.

"I realized that this [KVLU] is where I want to be. My primary passion in life is music. I listen to a lot of it. I have my headphones on all the time," says Phil.

Phil's family is extremely supportive in his newfound passion at KVLU.

"My mom's really, really happy that I found a way to combine my passion for music with my major," says Phil. *"It's a great opportunity and I'm very glad that I'm a part of the KVLU team."*

You can listen to Phil's Headphones at 7:00PM, and K-Pop Collections at 8:00PM on Saturday at 91.3 KVLU.



PAIRINGS 2025

Do you know about the Dishman Art Museum’s annual fundraiser, Pairings? The annual fundraiser was introduced in 2013 after its predecessor, La Dolce Vita struggled to make a comeback after damage sustained during Hurricane Rita in 2005.

“The event never returned and the Dishman had no funding at all,” explains Kim Steinhagen, Major Gifts Officer and Curator of Public Art. At the time, Dean Russ Schultz fought to revive the event, and with assistance from Roy and Kim Steinhagen and Lee Ann and Terry Garth, Pairings was born.

Roy took inspiration from his trips to Napa where he had been introduced to wine tastings. He contacted his friend David Duncan, the owner of Silver Oak in Napa, and encouraged him to be the speaker at the first Pairings event in 2013. The event sold out the minute that Save the Date cards went out: an immediate success. After Kim Steinhagen was offered a job at Lamar University in April of 2014, it became one of her duties to ensure the event’s success each year.

“Wine, food and art go well together,” says Kim, *“We initially went out on limb with an expensive event with high quality wines and excellent food. The success of the event has allowed us to continue to serve great wines with exceptional food. We also have the benefit of an in-house caterer with Chartwell’s. Our current Chef, Mark Binder, continues to produce outstanding menus that pair perfectly with the wines chosen by our chairs. Our committee works very closely with the chef going through multiple tastings to ensure that the menu is just right.”*

This illustrious event provides the students of Lamar and the Southeast Texas community with wonderful opportunities.

“Prior to Pairings, the Dishman had no funding. The few exhibitions that took place were organized on a shoe-string budget. The Director and Curator also taught classes, so there was not as much time devoted to the museum,” explains Kim Steinhagen. Because of the funds raised at this event, the Dishman

Art Museum has been able to make many wonderful changes over the years.

“With the money raised from Pairings, Dennis Kiel was hired as Director and Curator in 2014 and was able to focus strictly on the museum,” explains Kim. *“Dennis has curated outstanding exhibits that have put the Dishman on the map in the Texas art world,”* says Kim, *“One of his first exhibitions was a sight specific installation by Austin artist Hollis Hammonds that contained a large-scale house with debris and materials suspended from the Dishman ceiling as though a tornado had ripped the roof off the house. It was a spectacular exhibit that made a huge impact on our audience.”*

In addition to hiring a full-time staff position at the Dishman, the funds raised also continuously provide advertising budgets, the ability to bring in guest speakers and artists, and so much more. Pairings is a wonderful event, however it is also extremely exclusive.

“We only sell 25 tables of 8. Several of the donors who support Pairings have been attending since its inception in 2013. In fact, of the 25 tables at this year’s event, 21 of the tables are repeat donors from last year,” explains Kim, *“There is typically a waiting list for tables, and we no longer sell individual tickets. We greatly appreciate this loyal support.”* This year, the event had four Silver Level Underwriters; Laura and Craig Escamilla, Lee Ann and Terry Garth, Whitney Neighbors, and Anna and Paul Scheurich.

Pairings allows the Dishman to continue its mission of bringing quality art exhibitions to Southeast Texas. Because of the funds raised, the Lamar students and broader community have first-hand access to well-known artists such as Julie Speed, John Alexander, Dornith Doherty, Paul Manes, Michael Kennaugh, and David Cargill. Additionally, the students learn how to install and talk about their work during the senior thesis presentations and the faculty have an opportunity to exhibit their work in the museum. If you would like to be placed on the waiting list for Pairings, please contact Kim Steinhagen at kim.steinhagen@lamar.edu.

CAN'T MISS THIS!

JAN 18 — MAR 8

Evita Tezeno: Piece of My Heart
Dishman Art Museum

FEB 13 — FEB 15

The Self-Destruction of Emma James
Studio Theatre
lamar.edu/lutdtix

FEB 20

Cardinal Jazz Orchestra Concert
University Theatre
7:30 PM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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