



# SIGHTS *and* SOUNDS

April 2023

A Newsletter for the College of Fine Arts & Communication



# The best kept secret



**H**ello! My name is Golden Wright, and I am the Interim Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication at Lamar University. In my opinion, the College of Fine Arts and Communication is one of the best kept secrets. The students, staff and faculty in this college are brilliant and extraordinary. The creation of this monthly newsletter is to highlight and promote the amazing accomplishments of these individuals within each discipline of the fine art and communication

fields. Within this newsletter, one can find out when and where to experience live performances, learn about current research topics and the accomplishments of our students, staff and faculty. This is just one of the ways we are trying to rewrite that narrative and tell our story. The College of Fine Arts and Communication is a diverse college with communication being one thing we all have in common.

Each area relies on communication in various ways. The area of communication and media utilizes a variety of mediums such as television, radio, social media and newspaper to share information. Using voice or instruments, music majors use song to share a feeling or story. Speech and hearing sciences help us to hear and speak to improve quality of life. Deaf studies teach individuals to be the medium for individuals to communicate. Theatre and dance provide an

escape from reality through movement and text. Finally, art provides a visual communication that captures a time or place and transcends us to new places. As a college, communication plays an important role in the successes of our departments.

**Golden Wright**

Interim Dean, College of Fine Arts  
& Communication

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## Upcoming Events

### **The Revolutionists**

April 13-15 — 7:30 pm - Studio Theatre

### **The Revolutionists**

April 16 — 7:30pm - Studio Theatre

### **Bands of Beaumont!**

April 13 — 7:30pm - Julie Rogers Theatre

### **Der Betrogene Kadi - Lamar Opera**

April 14-15 — 7:30 pm - Rothwell Recital Hall

### **Collage 2023**

April 18 — 7:30pm - Jefferson Theatre

### **Student Film Showcase**

April 28 — 5 pm - John Gray Auditorium

### **Dance Unleashed Faculty Dance Concert**

April 28 — 7:30pm - University Theatre

### **Dance Unleashed Faculty Dance Concert**

April 29 — 2 & 7:30pm - University Theatre



# Success in seven

KVLU PUBLIC RADIO SET TO HOLD SEVEN-DAY SPRING FUNDRAISER

**K**VLU Public Radio will be presenting a seven-day fundraising campaign dubbed "Success in Seven" from April 17-24, with a break taking place on April 23. The goal of the campaign is for listeners to donate to the station, to meet the required needs and to exemplify the importance of giving to the station.

Over the course of the seven days, the KVLU team will pitch live on air for five or more minutes at a time to talk about the station, why a listener should give and what the giving is used towards. Currently, KVLU does what is referred to as a "soft pitch," which is a thirty-second promo that has been recorded and edited prior to the broadcast.

"When I say we're pitching live, we go in," said Alicia Hargreaves, membership coordinator of KVLU. "We don't have a script and we're not reading anything."

This will be something that KVLU has not attempted to do in many years, even before Hargreaves was a part of the station. In fact, "Success in Seven" is so large of an undertaking that the station is on the lookout for anybody who wants to volunteer during the campaign to assist the staff.

"One of the things we need to make this successful is to have volunteers," said Hargreaves. "People will be able to sign up as a phone volunteer, so during those hours when we're live we can focus on the broadcast

and won't have to run out of the studio to pick up the phone."

The station will be inviting guests from Lamar University and community organizations to join them on the air with conversation and to promote the importance of giving to KVLU.

## "Bayoulands" season 7

**K**VLU Public Radio will present the seventh season of their award-winning radio program "Bayoulands," with the first episode airing April 23 at 5 p.m. on 91.3 FM and [kvl.org](http://kvl.org).

Episodes this season will feature the John Gray family in accordance with the centennial celebration of Lamar University, conversations with Lynn Simon and his son Jeff Simon in celebration of Jazz Appreciation Month and a feature celebrating Port Arthur's sesquicentennial.





# Finally recognized

COMMUNICATION ALUMNA RECEIVES AWARD FOLLOWING WORLDWIDE PANDEMIC

**O**n March 21, two students and one alumna from the Lamar University Department of Communication and Media received the annual Inspirational Woman Award presented by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion in honor of Women's History Month.

The theme for this year's award is "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories." The award is presented to women who devote their lives and talents to producing art and news, pursuing truth and reflecting society in various arenas. Over 30 women were honored at the event.

Film student Alyssa Circello, broadcasting student Khalaya Coleman and former journalism student Olivia Malick were the recipients from the Department of Communication and Media.

Malick, who was originally supposed to receive the award in 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic forced a nationwide closure, said that finally receiving the award was a recognition that she welcomes.

"There is nothing I hold more dear than my hometown community," she said. "To receive this award from my alma mater in my hometown will always be a reassurance to me."

A 2021 graduate, Malick has spent the last year-and-a-half as Education Reporter at The Beaumont Enterprise. There, she is continuously sharing the stories of individuals and organizations within the Southeast Texas community. For her, storytelling is not only something she enjoys to do, but it is something that she feels is one of the most important things for a community.

"In every community, there are thousands upon thousands of stories to be told, yet a vast majority of them go unheard," she said. "As a journalist, I have the opportunity to record the history of my community in this given time. Because of my reporting today, hopefully people in the future will be able to know what some bit of life was like here during this time, the issues that were important and how we responded to them."

Following the recognition she waited three years to receive, she emphasized the importance of her work and the work of her storytelling peers.

"History needs to be documented so people know what happened, whether it was good or bad," said Malick.



Photo by Josh Wilson





# Collage at the Jefferson

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC SET TO PRESENT ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AT HISTORIC VENUE

**T**he Lamar University Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music is proud to present their annual Collage concert to benefit music students. The event will take place on April 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Jefferson Theatre in downtown Beaumont.

The event will feature the finest large ensembles, small chamber groups, student and faculty performances from the Department of

Music including the opera theatre, brass choir, piano ensemble, flute ensemble, percussion ensemble, wind ensemble, choir, and the jazz orchestra. Both students and faculty are utilized in a quick-paced and seamless concert that will highlight the variety of talent Lamar University has to offer.

The funds raised during the event benefit the students directly by helping fund various music fes-

tivals and educational events throughout the academic year. Students will also have the opportunity to learn from prestigious guest artists, perform with renowned musicians and become inspired to lead the next generation to love and experience music.

which is responsible for hosting marquee events, concerts and performances from the community and beyond.

Individual tickets for Collage are \$30 and there are sponsorship-level tickets available which include their own benefits and a pre-donor reception starting at 6:15 p.m. To purchase tickets, visit [lamar.edu/collage](http://lamar.edu/collage) or the official website of Ticketmaster.

For more information about Collage or the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music, please visit [lamar.edu/collage](http://lamar.edu/collage)



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For the first time ever, the event will be held at the historic Jefferson Theatre



# Audiology in Austin

DOCTOR OF AUDIOLOGY STUDENTS ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE AT STATE CAPITOL

**O**n March 1, Doctor of Audiology students from the Lamar University Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences traveled to the state capitol in Austin for Audiology Advocacy Day coordinated by the Texas Academy of Audiology. The group met and spoke with 20 state senators, representatives and Texas Speaker of the House Dade Phelan regarding hearing-care legislation reform.

Accompanied by Jo Mayo Endowed Assistant Professor of Audiology Dr. Anna Jilla, the Lamar University audiology students who traveled to take part were Desiree Cooper, Lindsey Sanford, Kaleigh



Scott, Kelsey Spencer and Valerie Valdez.

Currently, there are a number of proposed bills concerning audiology in the Texas Legislature. Specific bills that were discussed between the students and the legislature include increased access to hearing aids to adults and children under private-insurance plans, a streamlined consenting process in order to follow up on infants with hearing loss and for the state of Texas to join the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact that will allow for more people outside of the state to seek care in Texas.

"It was cool to go and participate in government," said Kelsey Spencer, doctor of audiology student. "I was scared, but with Dr. Jilla's guidance I was able to dip my toe in there."

Jilla and her students had the opportunity to meet with a number of representatives for the Southeast Texas region, and that helped them feel at home four-hours away.

"We had great meeting with them, and we could really feel the love even though we were away from home and Beaumont," said Jilla. "We could feel the love from our representatives here being their constituents. We had great visits there and discussed a variety of different issues."

For Jilla, being able to advocate in front of government officials alongside her students is one of the things that found most fulfilling as an educator.

"It means so much to the population of audiologists in Texas and every single infant, child and adult with hearing loss in the state," she said. "Oftentimes, we think





that somebody else will show up to advocate for needs, and oftentimes that's not the case. To promote this level of civic engagement among the next generation of audiologists, there's not another experience like that and I'm so incredibly proud of them."

As the Texas Legislature continues to discuss and debate the issues currently in front of them, Jilla and the audiology students will continue to make their voice heard for change in hearing care for all in the state of Texas.

"Your voice matters," said Jilla. "You may be scared to go and talk with the legislator or to send an email or letter for some issue that you deeply care about, but your voice matters. It makes a difference, and that is the beautiful part about civic engagement. The way that our society works is that you can take that extra time to go and talk to people to try to influence positive change in your community."

As Jilla and her students continue to educate, they continue to make good impressions and positive change in the state.







# EMBRACE the EXPERIENCE

Department of Theatre & Dance reflects on "The Heidi Chronicles"

Photography by Lynn Lane

As the mixture of orange and yellow light faded to black, the cast of "The Heidi Chronicles" took one final step onto the stage of the Lamar University Theatre and bowed to an audience on their feet who presented all of those involved with a heavily-deserved standing ovation.

After weeks of auditioning, rehearsing and planning, the Lamar University Department of Theatre & Dance presented "The Heidi Chronicles," for four consecutive days.

"The Heidi Chronicles" is a play detailing the coming of age of Heidi Holland, a successful art historian, as she tries to find her bearings in a rapidly changing world. Consisting of a nine-person cast, the play took the audience through the 1960's, 70's and 80's, following Holland's journey through life, her friends,

her romances, her challenges and the evolution of feminism through the decades.

Now, with the lights faded and the curtain closed, the cast and crew look back on the experience and what will be remembered most.

Alan Brincks, assistant professor of acting and directing and director of "The Heidi Chronicles," elaborated on what he enjoys the most in all performances he has a chance to be a part of and to direct.

"I always just love the process as a director and as an actor as well" said Brincks. "I love getting into and trying to fine tune all these little moments and to get closer to what these characters are, to what these moments are and to

what the truth is to each of these moments for these characters and relationships."

Brincks' teaching and directing style continue to make an impact on the students who have a role in the performances. For Juliana McManus, sophomore theatre major, the nerves immediately hit after being given the lead role of Heidi Holland.

"I was freaking out about it,"



said McManus. “I remember talking to my mom and telling her that I have to kiss someone and I have never done that on stage before, but she told me to go for it and to show everyone what you are made of.”

The encouragement from her mother was the first step in becoming comfortable with the role. It wasn’t until the rehearsal process began when McManus’ anxiety fully subsided and started working with her director.

“I was very nervous about the rehearsal because [professor Brincks] makes you get into it,” she said. “Whenever it comes to rehearsals, he takes your mind and puts it into the character. I was nervous, but it was an awesome experience and he made it comfortable for everyone.”

“The Heidi Chronicles” is a play that comes with challenges. Brincks spoke on what those challenges were for the entire cast and for himself.

“The play is challenging in the sense that it’s dealing with a lot of content that people even my age might not be familiar with,” said Brincks. “Another challenging aspect is that it is very much a language play. Some plays are plot plays and built on spectacle, but language is at the forefront of what’s happening. There are a lot of words which Juliana can attest to as she had to memorize them.”

Despite the challenges dealing with the amount of content, multiple time periods and amount of language that had to be communicated, Brincks was ultimately left satisfied with the end result of the

hard work from all involved.

“This cast in this time period was probably the most challenging thing about it,” he said. “But it’s also really rewarding when you can meet that challenge and exceed it. Everybody on this team did that. It wasn’t easy, but I was very pleased with the strides we made, the growth of all actors and of everyone involved in the project.”

Upcoming performances from the Lamar University Department of Theatre & Dance include “The Revolutionists” from April 13-16 and “Dance Unleashed” from April 28-29.





# Research ASLabs

DSDE STUDENTS AND FACULTY SPOTLIGHT RESEARCH PROJECTS AND LABS

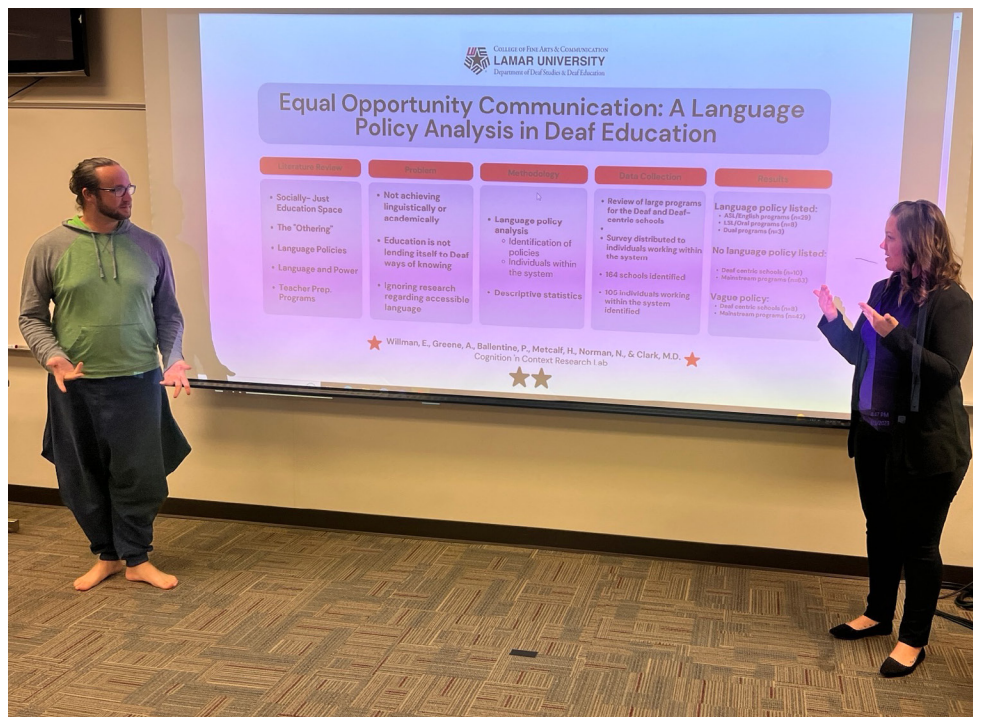
On March 3, the Lamar University Department of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education hosted a mini-conference on the Lamar University campus with the intention of providing a spotlight on the various research labs that exist within the department.

The department currently has four labs ongoing: Cognition n' Context run by Drs. Diane Clark and Ashley Greene, Sign Language Research run by Dr. Beverly Buchanan, Deaf Studies run by Dr. Sean Hauschildt and Collaborative Research run by Dr. Zanthia Smith. Altogether, there are 11 projects taking place across the four research labs.

A few of the projects ongoing include: advancement in interpreting, deaf and blind epistemology and post-secondary experiences of deaf latinos.

During the mini-conference, students involved in each lab were given the opportunity to present a poster on each project that is currently being conducted in front of fellow students, faculty, staff and Interim Dean of the College of Fine Arts & Communication Dr. Golden Wright.

To learn more about the Department of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education and their various research labs, visit [lamar.edu/deafstudies](http://lamar.edu/deafstudies).



# ‘A no-brainer’

*LUTV and 12NewsNow launch collaboration to provide opportunities to students*



Photo provided by 12NewsNow

Lamar University Television News and 12NewsNow have recently entered a collaborative partnership that will provide Lamar University students opportunity to have their work and talent showcased to a wider audience in the Southeast Texas community.

“The potential, talent and work of the individuals at LUTV News is being recognized by media professionals,” said Gordon Williams, LUTV station operations manager. “With recognition comes opportunities such as this collaboration.”

Broadcasting students from the Department of Communication and Media will have the opportunity to showcase their news packages and to help make people’s voices be

heard. For two decades, students with LUTV have worked hard to develop their skills and to highlight the LU and outside community. That hard work continues to catch the eye of media professionals and has led to this new collaboration.

“Having the chance to present their work on 12NewsNow further expands their education, provides media to include on their professional resume and portfolio and gives them confidence and motivation that they can succeed in the industry,” said Williams.

12NewsNow News Director Ginny Sweeny spoke on the collaboration, saying that it was clear the partnership had to happen.

“12NewsNow and LUTV have a strong relationship that I felt

needed to be taken to a new level,” said Sweeny. “Opening our doors to LUTV was a no-brainer. The program has proven to be strong and capable time and time again. We’re proud to provide this real-world experience to their students and to bring quality content to the community.”

As LUTV News continues to excel and to be one of the staples of LU, the new opportunities that are becoming available to the new generation of students is one that excites and inspires all involved.



# Fine art of communication

DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY PRESS SHOWS OFF NEW ART SERIES

Andy Coughlan is a man of many trades. Aside from being the director of the Lamar University Press and a journalism instructor in the Department of Communication and Media, Coughlan spends his time in the world of fine art. With a love of theatre, he has written a number of plays and has had the opportunity to direct some over the course of his life. Coughlan doesn't just write stories, but he also communicates them through a different medium: a canvas.

Three years in the making, Coughlan currently has his show, "A Crack in the World," on display at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. The exhibition will run until May 7 with all pieces on display being for sale.

Inspired by his time taking walks on the empty streets during the COVID-19 pandemic, Coughlan began working on a series of paintings that resemble the cracks in the road, specifically the cracks that have been filled with thick, black tar.

Coughlan's inspiration for his new work began after the discovery of Richard the Third's remains found under a parking lot in Lincolnshire, England. He also recalled stories he read about planes observing a field suffering from drought in Europe that created marks and revealed indentations on ancient structures buried.

"I started looking at the cracks in the road and kind of worked on a historical perspective," said Coughlan. "The paintings have eight to 10 complete paintings layered on top of each other. The idea is that these are landscapes that have history. There is a history that builds up and all you get are glimpses of the past."

Coughlan's interest and love for history is communicated through his collection. Leaning into the idea of hidden layers, he aims to create a conversation of looking into the wealth of history, forgotten cultures and ancestors.

Using the analogy of age, Coughlan elaborated on his message by comparing it to human experience.

"What you see or what I present is a product of 64 years of history," he said. "If you saw me or talked to me when I was 23, I would be a different person and it would be a different stage of history. There are things that have shaped me. Incidents, traumas and relationships have shaped the me that is standing here and talking right now."

All of the pieces on display are simply titled "Untitled" followed by a number. When asked if there was a reason for this, Coughlan provided a simple answer.



"They're all a crack in the world," he said. "The series is an entire single piece. It's like chapters in a book. I'm still writing the book and I have a lot more of these."

Ultimately, Coughlan is a communication professional and finding ways to communicate through fine art is a lifelong passion he possesses due to simple curiosity. As he concluded, he emphasized the importance of communication and learning.

"What is painting if not communicating an idea," he said. "I do think it's important that we're constantly challenging ourselves and we look at things and think about them."



# For the love of art

*Department of Art & Design and Dishman Art Museum team up for art auction*

Photo by Brandon Gouthier

On March 25, the Lamar University Department of Art & Design joined together with the Dishman Art Museum to host a silent art auction in accordance with the annual Le Grand Bal which benefits the students of LU's fine art programs.

"The event is important for the artists, especially those who are students, because their art gets an incredible amount of exposure," said Dennis Kiel, director of the Dishman Art Museum. "On the other hand, it's fun for the attendees because they get to see a wide variety of incredible work".

For several years, the Dishman Art Museum has hosted a silent art auction at the start of Le Grand Bal, providing the community with the opportunity to browse and bid on artwork created by students, faculty and alumni of Lamar University.

"We in the Department of Art & Design are happy to have completed another successful Le Grand Bal Art Auction," said Dr. Stephanie Chadwick, interim chair of the department. "We really enjoy collaborating with the community and the Dishman Art Museum and we appreciate all the support we get from local artists and patrons."

The two entities come together for the art auction every year to



not only be a part of Le Grand Bal, but to showcase the teamwork and collaborative nature of the arts. Putting the auction together is a big undertaking, so it is essential for teamwork to be a part of the process.

"We couldn't have arranged and hung all of the artwork in the short amount of time that we had without the help from the students and faculty from the Department of Art & Design," said Kiel.

Ultimately, the art auction is about supporting students and showcasing the teamwork, collaboration and talent within the Department of Art & Design and the Dishman Art Museum. It is also an essential part of the night

for the student artists as it allows them opportunity to not only sell artwork, but it allows them to form relationships with potential buyers and employers.

"Participating in this exhibition and event is also a great professional development and networking opportunity for our students," said Chadwick.

As each Le Grand Bal comes and goes, more LU students continue to receive opportunity, exposure and recognition for their work and talent, and it is due to the strong union between the Department of Art & Design and the Dishman Art Museum that helps make it possible.





COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION  
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Photo by John Ellis