



f flourish

M A G A Z I N E Vol. 13 No. 1 | 2015/2016

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KENNESAW
STATE UNIVERSITY
College of the Arts

WE CHANGE LIVES.



Photo by David Caselli

Patty Poulter
Dean, College of the Arts

This time of year is filled with ‘year in review’ articles and programming in the media. We in the College of the Arts are no exception. But even as we look back, we are always looking forward, planning for the future as we continue to strive for excellence and distinction as a world-class place to prepare artists, teachers, and scholars for meaningful work. As I reflect on the past semester, I am reminded that the arts help us talk about some of the challenges that face society. Sometimes, difficult discussions are better facilitated through music, theatre, dance, or the visual arts. The arts can help us examine tough topics in a different light – and create opportunities for crucial conversations.

A good example of opening up dialogue around delicate subjects is the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies’ production of “Parade,” which recounts the lynching of Leo Frank in Marietta, Ga. Through an amazing collaboration, playwright Alfred Uhry came to Kennesaw State University and spoke with our students about the inspiration behind his play. The discussion continued with audience members after the sold-out production at the Strand Theatre in Marietta.

“Parade” was only one of many accomplishments, both academic and artistic, that we achieved this past year. As you read the stories within this issue of Flourish, you’re going to learn about some amazing things happening at the College of the Arts.

Overall, we are experiencing record enrollment, our students are excelling in their classes, and faculty, staff, and students are all working hard in studios and classrooms, in public schools and in professional performance venues. The KSU Marching Owls have stolen the hearts of our football fans, and our new departmental leaders have hit the ground running. There has been no better time than right now to be part of the College of the Arts at Kennesaw State University.

We are increasingly able to help students through the generous support of various individual, corporate and foundation donors. We hope to be able to support more students each semester to ease their financial burden as they pursue their career goals. Supported through private donations, the new COTA Emergency Retention Scholarship is now in place to assist students experiencing unexpected financial hardships.

However, we couldn’t do this without generous donations from both individuals and corporations. The financial support from scholarships or the Dean’s General Fund helps our students in meaningful ways, from purchasing books or instruments to paying tuition and fees.

We are proud to serve our students and the community, and to bring the performing arts and arts education not only to Kennesaw, but also to metro Atlanta, surrounding states and across the world.

Thank you for the many ways you support the arts at Kennesaw State University. With your help, we are able to facilitate positive change in lives and communities every day. I hope that 2016 brings you great joy.

Patty Poulter
Dean, College of the Arts

On the Cover:

The KSU Marching Owls took the field for the first time on September 12, 2015. Photos: Jim Clack and Glenn Prince.

Flourish is a publication of the College of the Arts at Kennesaw State University.

College of the Arts
Kennesaw State University
Box #3101
471 Bartow Avenue NW
Kennesaw, GA 30144
470-578-3214

Daniel S. Papp
President

W. Ken Harmon
Provost/
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Patricia S. Poulter
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Harrison Long
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Stephen Plate
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Rick Lombardo
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Ivan Pulinkala
Chair, Department of Dance

Kathie Beckett
Director,
Marketing and Communications

Joshua Stone
Designer

Shane McDonald
Photographer

Brenda Curtis
Production Assistant

Introducing the Advisory Board	10
--------------------------------	----

Dance Celebrates 10 year Anniversary	14
--------------------------------------	----

Marching Band Reflections	22
---------------------------	----

String Project Benefits Music Ed. Students	24
--	----

- 2 Dean's Letter
- 4 Upcoming Events
- 6 Sponsorship Opportunities
- 8 Scholarships
- 12 Online Learning
- 18 SOAAD Announcements
- 20 Weaving Demand
- 26 New Department Leaders
- 28 Theatre Productions
- 30 International Activities

Upcoming

EVENTS

art & design



KSU Student Arts Society's 33rd Annual Juried Exhibition in the Fine Arts Gallery, Jan. 20 – Feb. 17, 2016

In partnership with the Bernard A. Zuckerman Museum of Art, this much-loved tradition celebrates a spirited competition among KSU's student artists by providing a chance to showcase their talents in one highly visible event. Free. Join us for the opening reception on Jan. 20, from 5 to 7 p.m.

2nd Annual "Dance on the Green" March 30, 12:30 p.m. KSU Green

Love to dance? Join the Department of Dance for the 2nd Annual "Dance on the Green" on March 30 at 12:30 p.m. on the campus green at the Kennesaw campus. This free community event celebrates dance at Kennesaw State University. Be prepared to shake your booty to a variety of music. Learn more: arts.kennesaw.edu/dance.



dance

Spring 2016 brings unique and exciting events to the **College of the Arts**

Every year, the College of the Arts showcases its energy and passion through an exciting calendar of events ranging from musical ensemble performances to innovative art exhibits and everything in between. Here are some highlights for Spring 2016.



music

Collage Concert February 6, 2016 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The 10th Annual Collage Concert is a major fundraising event for supporting scholarships for music students. This year, there will be two concerts on Saturday, February 6 at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Both productions feature soloists, chamber groups, and ensembles totaling over 200 performers to create a truly memorable and unique experience. VIP tickets are \$125 each and include a VIP reception at 6:30 p.m.; concert tickets range from \$28 to \$55. Buy tickets: ticketing.kennesaw.edu or call 470-578-6650.

“In the Blood” Feb. 2-7, 2016 8 p.m. Onyx Theatre

Directed by Karen Robinson, this play by Pulitzer price-winner Suzan-Lori Parks offers a startling contemporary response to *The Scarlet Letter* in this darkly comic and heartrending portrait of a homeless mother striving to raise her five children on the streets. Buy tickets: ticketing.kennesaw.edu or 470-578-6650.



Robert Peck

theatre



David Caselli

Support the Arts with Sponsorships

In addition to scholarship and program support, businesses and individuals may also support the College of the Arts through sponsorships of concerts, plays, and art shows. Such sponsorships include tickets, advertising and name recognition that show your support for the arts at KSU while also promoting your business.

For the first time this past summer, the University's Star-Spangled Spectacular, presented by the School of Music, enjoyed sponsorship support. Approximately 4,000 area residents came together to enjoy patriotic music performed by the KSU Orchestra on the campus green. The event ended with a spectacular fireworks display. Henssler Financial was the lead sponsor hosting employees and clients at this summertime showcase event. Northside Hospital was also a sponsor. The School of Music thanks both of these community-minded businesses for their support.

The School of Music's annual Collage Concert, a major fundraiser for scholarships, is another sponsorship opportunity coming up in February 2016. This

signature production features soloists, chamber groups and ensembles totaling over 200 student and faculty performers. The rapid-fire program of diverse works is presented as flowing vignette performances with unique lighting and stage design to create a truly memorable and unique experience. Slated for two performances at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on February 6, College Concert sponsorships start at \$500.

The Department of Dance and the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies offer many performances for sponsorships. In addition, the School of Art and Design welcomes support for its annual Spring Arts Festival that brings hundreds of artists, students, and families to campus for a day of celebrating the visual arts.

Please call Allison Fichter at 470-578-3129 or email afichter@kennesaw.edu to learn more about any of these opportunities. Sponsorships are an important way to support the arts and student success in the arts while highlighting your business.

SPONSORSHIPS



Henssler Financial was the first sponsor of the Star-Spangled Spectacular. Above, left to right: Michael Alexander, David Daly, Gene Henssler, Pat Henssler, Matt Hames, and Patty Poulter.

Named Scholarships in the College of the Arts

J. T. Anderson, III Scholarship
 James T. Anderson, Jr. Scholarship
 Arts Dean's Endowed Scholarship
 Martha Thompson Dinos Music Performance Scholarship Honoring Joseph D. Meeks, Dean Emeritus of the College of the Arts
 Atlanta Steinway Society Endowed Scholarship
 Dr. Bobbie Bailey Endowed Music Scholarship
 Florence B. Beddingfield Memorial Arts Scholarship
 Fred D. Bentley, Sr. Scholarship
 Eric and Gwendolyn Brooker Endowed Voice Scholarship
 Flo Bruns Memorial/Women's Commerce Club Scholarship
 Geraldine Barmore Clayton Music Scholarship
 The Color Spot, Inc. Endowed Fund
 John and Linda Cooke Faculty Award
 John and Linda Cooke Scholarship for Violin
 Jo Ann Durham Endowed Arts Scholarship
 Cynthia Feldberg Endowed Piano Scholarship
 Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra Annual Scholarship
 R. Wayne Gibson Endowed Piano and Voice Scholarship
 Dr. Nadia Girardot & Dr. Jean-Marie Girardot Scholarship
 Ted and Roberta Griffin Visual Arts Scholarship
 Emily Bourne Grigsby Visual Arts Scholarship
 Glenn Hollingsworth Memorial Endowed Scholarship
 Barry and Sylvia Hyman Endowed Art Scholarship
 Dorothy G. Keith Endowed Scholarship for Visual Arts
 Dorothy G. Keith Endowed Scholarship for Voice Performance
 Nick S. Labroff Memorial Endowed Piano and Voice Scholarship
 Michael Edwin Lips II Memorial Arts Endowed Scholarship
 Robert and Alivia Lipson Endowed Arts Scholarship
 The Malone Endowed Music Scholarship
 Jimmy Mays and Valerie Whittlesey-Mays Scholarship of the Arts
 Joseph D. Meeks Music Endowed Scholarship
 Brian Miller Memorial Scholarship
 Audrey and Jack Morgan Music Scholarship
 Dr. Oral L. Moses Endowed Scholarship
 Robert and Cheryl Moultrie Endowed Arts Scholarship
 Mattie Borders Proctor Fellowship for Undergraduate Instrumentalists
 Tena E. Redding Endowed Arts Scholarship
 H. Fred Rodenhausen Endowed Music Scholarship
 Thomson Salter-Salova King Foundation Scholarship
 Robert Sherer GLBT Arts Scholarship
 Betty and Joel Siegel Theater Scholarship
 James P. Smith Memorial Art Scholarship
 South Cobb Rotary Art Scholarship
 Howard Logan Stillwell Performance Endowment
 Lillian Bennett Sullivan Voice Scholarship
 June Boykin Tindall Dance Scholarship
 Virginia Tumlin Endowed Music Scholarship
 Gretchen E. Van Roy Voice Endowed Scholarship
 Visual Arts Endowed Scholarship
 Visual Arts Studies Abroad Scholarship
 Wachovia Endowed Theatre Scholarship
 J. David Watkins Endowed Scholarship in Piano Performance
 Sam Wilhoit Jazz Endowed Scholarship in Music
 Youth Bands of Atlanta Scholarship

2014

Dean's Club Benefactors (\$25,000-\$99,999)

Anonymous
 Martha "Mot" Dinos

Dean's Club Patrons (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Georgia Symphony Orchestra

Dean's Club (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Anonymous
 Dr. M. Bobbie Bailey
 William and Nina Beddingfield
 Sanford Cohn
 John and Linda Cooke
 Jo Ann Durham and Leo Perras
 Judith Ann Miller
 Bob and Lillias Prillaman

Ambassadors (\$2,500-\$4,999)

American Youth Ensembles
 The Color Spot Inc
 Stanley Family Foundation

Benefactors (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Allyson Fleck and Michael Alexander
 Yezdi and Perviz Bhada
 Patricia Chilton
 Cobb County Music Teachers Association
 David and Serena Daly
 James and Cecelia Dunn
 Phil O'Brien and Allison Fichter
 Wayne Gibson
 Cam and Marti Graham
 Thomas Guffin, Jr.
 David Halpern
 G.W. "Bill" and Barbara Holden
 Richard Holler
 Teresa Joyce
 Nancy King
 Richard and Diann Labroff
 Livvy Kazer Lipson
 Harrison and Melanie Long
 Joseph D. Meeks
 Oral L. Moses
 Panton Capitol Holdings
 Bill and Linda Pinto
 Patricia Poulter
 Ivan Pulinkala
 Norman Radow
 Sam and Susan Grant Robinson
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 South Cobb Rotary Club
 Timothy Ste. Marie
 Target Foundation
 The Amphion Foundation, Inc
 The Hyman Foundation, Inc
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 Jimmy Mays and Valerie Whittlesey-Mays
 Andy Williamson

Patrons (\$250-\$999)

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 Capitol City Opera Company
 Eric Colson
 Marianne Crew
 Adrian and Ilene Grant
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 Kennesaw State University Community & Alumni Choir
 Cathleen Kiss
 Robert & Janet Limyansky
 Richard Lindgren
 Joyce Lowenstein
 Rebecca Makus

Mara Mandradjiff
 Ron and Cheryl Matson
 Robert McTyre
 Linda Newiger
 Dan and Susan Papp
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 Randy Stuart
 T.W. Lord & Associates
 Ray and Beverly Taylor
 The Marietta Diner
 Bob Wise and Dee Peterson-Wise
 Suzanne Siegel Zuckerman

Friends (\$100-\$249)

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 Kathie Beckett
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 Robert Bonstein
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 Horace and Susan Webb
 Sarah Winograd
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 Ronald and Pamela Younger
 John and Barbara Zellner
 Michele Ziemann-DeVos and Zachary DeVos

Gifts of \$100 and more to the College of the Arts made between January 1–December 31, 2014 are included. Gifts at all levels are listed in the electronic edition of *Flourish*, available online at arts.kennesaw.edu.



Don Russell Clayton established three scholarships - one in the Department of Dance, one in the School of Art and Design and one in the School of Music. Above, left to right: Ivan Pulinkala, Harrison Long, Patty Poulter, Don Russell Clayton, Michael Alexander, and Geo Sipp.

Supporting THE ARTS



Barry and Sylvia Hyman established two scholarships - one in the School of Art and Design and one for study abroad in Montepulciano, Italy. Above, left to right: Lance Askildon, Howard Shealy, Sylvia Hyman, Dan Papp, Barry Hyman, Patty Poulter, and Geo Sipp.

Dorothy Keith established two scholarships, one in the School of Music and one in the School of Art and Design. Below, left to right: Ayokunle Odeleye, Harrison Long, Patty Poulter, Dorothy Keith, Shane McDonald, Leslie Blackwell, Geo Sipp, and Michael Alexander.





Prints and Cards Support Students

The College of the Arts is now offering four limited edition prints and a boxed set of 12 notecards with envelopes for purchase. Student artists in the printmaking department of the School of Art and Design submitted their designs as part of the Dean's "Savor the Arts" series. The prints are on archival paper and are suitable for framing. Please call Brenda Curtis at 470-578-3214 to purchase the cards and/or prints. Proceeds will be used to support students in the College of the Arts.

& STUDENTS

ARCS offers resources

Academic Resource Center for Students

Attending college is hard: you have to attend classes, do homework, and most likely, work at your part-time job as well. For some students, though, it becomes really tough when finances are already stretched to the limits and something totally unexpected happens.

The Academic Resource Center for Students ("ARCS"), serving the College of the Arts, is fully aware of the woes of undue financial hardships on students, and has created the Emergency Arts Retention Scholarship to assist these students on a case-by-case basis.

"We see the needs every day," said Samuel Robinson, Assistant Dean and director of ARCS. "Recently, we had a student who had his laptop stolen that had all his work for the semester, and he could not afford to replace it. Another student was not able to pay for his prescription medications, as his family had cut him off financially. We know of another student whose glasses broke, and was not able to afford to replace them." In the future, ARCS will be able to help students who face circumstances like this.

The existence of the fund will also help ARCS identify students in need and connect them with resources on campus that can help them. "We had a student who was unexpectedly kicked out by her roommates and didn't have a place to stay because her family was from out of state. When she came to us for help, we were able to direct her to the CARE center on campus," said Robinson. CARE provides services for students who are homeless or facing homelessness.

If you're a student in the College of the Arts, you email or stop by ARCS to see what resources may be available to you. The Scholarship provides financial assistance to students who show evidence of a one-time extreme personal hardship due to an unexpected circumstance that jeopardizes their ability to stay in school.

In order to request this scholarship, students must:

- Be currently enrolled in good standing as a major in the School of Art & Design, the Department of Dance, the School of Music, or the Department of Theatre & Performance Studies
- Be able to demonstrate an extreme personal need due to an unexpected circumstance, crisis, or emergency
- Have already exhausted all other possible avenues of support

In addition to monetary awards, as appropriate, other resources and services may be made available to assist students.

Interested in supporting this scholarship fund?

The Emergency Arts Retention Scholarship is funded through private donations, and we are therefore dependent upon the generosity of donors to keep this important program going. You may make a tax-exempt donation to this scholarship by donating to the College of the Arts and designating your donation to support the Emergency Arts Retention Scholarship. Give online at www.kennesaw.edu/giving. Faculty and staff of Kennesaw State University may make donations through payroll deduction.

Meet the members of the Advisory Board

Jerry Cooper,
Principle Architect and CEO,
Cooper Carry Architects



Since establishing Cooper Carry in 1960 with Walter Carry, Cooper has helped guide the firm to a position of national prominence. Under his tenure, Cooper

Carry has received more than 100 design awards, including 19 from the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Cooper has been honored with the Bernard B. Rothschild Award, the highest award granted by AIA Georgia, as well as the Ivan Allen Award for Community Service. He currently practices in the Education, Office, Corporate, and Government Specialty Practice Groups and is active in the design of K-12 schools.

Theodore (“Teddy”) Parrish,
CEO of Parrish Capital



Parrish is a widely known financial analyst and investment personality who specializes in asset and portfolio management. Through media interviews, public speaking appearances,

investment seminars, online publications and co-hosting a weekly radio show, Parrish has reached millions of investors. A nationally recognized money manager, he has managed assets on behalf of high net-worth individuals and institutional clients such as pension funds, educational institutions and charitable foundations for over 20 years.

Flora Devine,
General Counsel/Special
Assistant to President for
Legal Affairs and Diversity,
Kennesaw State University



Devine is an attorney and educator. During her legal career, she has represented management in government, in the private sector and in higher education. Her

career in education includes executive-level administrative positions in legal affairs, organizational planning and marketing, and human resources.

Bahnson Stanley,
Partner with Ellis, McQuary,
Stanley & Associates.



Stanley is a partner in the Atlanta investment firm Ellis, McQuary, Stanley & Associates. The firm is active in investing, acquiring and building both established businesses and early stage

growth opportunities. In his career, Stanley has been involved in the creation, development, management and leadership of more than 15 substantial businesses in television, digital media, travel, publishing, retailing, manufacturing and marketing services.

James (“Jim”) P. Dunn,
President of Print Media
Advisors (PMA), LLC



Dunn is president of Print Media Advisors, LLC, a specialized advisory firm serving the print and packaging industry. PMA works with clients to develop sustainable high

performance organizations for print media organizations with the vision and courage to execute at a high level. He retired in December 2011 from the global print solutions provider Heidelberg Druckmaschinen, AG. Most recently, he was president of Heidelberg Americas, Inc. with responsibility for the North American market.

Luke Ryan,
Founder and President,
Chaotic Good



Ryan is the founder and president of Chaotic Good, a company with offices in Los Angeles and New York that specializes in the design, strategy, and production of content across all media platforms. Prior to that, he was a senior executive for MGM, MTV Films,

and New Line Cinema, developing and acquiring movies that grossed over \$1 billion in global box office revenues. As a screenwriter, he has written film scripts and created television shows for Warner Brothers, Legendary Pictures, New Line Cinema, Fox, and others. Ryan is a sought-after speaker and advisor on the subjects of narrative design and the future of media for universities and professional conferences in the U.S., U.K., Canada and Brazil.

The College of the Arts established its first Advisory Board in the spring of 2015. The Advisory Board for Development and Advocacy supports the work of the College of the Arts at Kennesaw State University and provides mission-based leadership and strategic engagement in the areas of philanthropy and advocacy. Each member is a well-respected business professional with a passion for the arts.

Randy Romig,

Director of Real Estate and Public Affairs, Adams Outdoor



Romig holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in English from the Pennsylvania State University System. In Atlanta, he served for five years as president of the Cobb Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors and four years as president of the Atlanta Opera Guild. He is

the director of the *Classics by Candlelight* concert series at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Blue Ridge, Georgia and is a board member of the Harrower Summer Opera Workshop at Georgia State University. He is employed as vice president of real estate and asset management for both Adams Outdoor Advertising and Fairway Outdoor Advertising.



(left to right) Chris Esposito with son Cuyler Esposito at the Senoia Social in 2014.

Tom Hughes,

CEO and Founder, (Retired)
MEA, Inc.



Hughes has had a long career as an angel investor, senior executive and dedicated philanthropist. He has owned and run multiple companies, including National Electronic Attachment, Inc.; Medical Electronic Attachment, Inc.; Electronic Claims and Funding Inc. and Premier

Dental Practice Management System. Tom serves as treasurer for the *Alliance for Children Everywhere*, a group that supports crisis nurseries and schools for children in Zambia. He also serves on the Michael J. Coles College of Business Advisory Board, and, along with his wife Barbara, funded the Hughes Leadership and Career Program for the College of Business in 2013.

in Memoriam

Chris Esposito,
President and CEO,
3 Feet Media

Christopher Francis Esposito passed away on June 3, 2015. He was born on December 7, 1962, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Chris graduated from Midlothian High School where he was a standout basketball player. He went on to become a successful, self-made entrepreneur in various businesses including the media industry. Chris was a valued board member of Kennesaw State University College of the Arts.



“Boot Camps” for Online Learning

By Stevi Dinizio

Kennesaw State University’s College of the Arts (COTA) continues to build upon an excellent foundation by providing specialized training for online learning instructors. Known affectionately as “boot camps,” the training helps faculty members improve the online content, and thus, increases the availability of online courses.

A typical boot camp takes the faculty through two intense weeks on course development.

Since 2009, COTA has offered multiple online courses in each discipline, including music, dance, theatre, and the visual arts. Edward Eanes, professor in the School of Music and distance learning coordinator for the College of the Arts, has witnessed hundreds of students registering for these courses. So many, in fact, that the courses often find themselves full.

“More and more students need flexibility in course offerings as many work full time jobs or are the head of a single family household,” said Eanes. “Therefore, the online option is appealing. These courses are designed to expand our options for students. Online courses are not for everyone, but they meet the needs of many others.”

The training encourages confidence and knowledge in the faculty through peer support, resulting in course success.

“Faculty participants are engaging in best practices and instructional design. They leave the boot camps with a course ready (or nearly ready) for implementation,” said Patty Poulter, dean of COTA. “The Boot camp is

an intense experience, and the resulting courses are exemplars of teaching a variety of arts courses in a virtual environment.”

The training assists faculty in overcoming any hesitation toward the distance learning experience and also helps them fully engage with the course. Some of the hesitation stems from not understanding how to teach in a distance role; others are not sure how to best use technology to guarantee student success.

A typical boot camp takes the faculty through two intense weeks on course development, followed by one week of hybrid course development. Faculty learn not only how to teach online but also how to create unique content for their course.

Also, faculty learn the tools available through KSU’s Desire 2 Learn (D2L), including Kaltura MediaSpace video portal and Panopto™ voice recording. They are also taught to use Softchalk™ software in course creation.

As a result, COTA has seen their online faculty go from 7 to 37 members in the short five years of the distance learning existence. Online instructor participants usually succeed with their courses. “COTA is at the forefront of best practice in teaching in the arts online and in enhanced environments,” said Poulter.

Photo, above, left to right: Harrison Long, Rick Lombardo, Benjamin Wadsworth, Soohyun Yun, Stephen Plate, Kristine Hwang, Carole Maugé-Lewis, Valerie Dibble, Deborah Hutchinson, Trey Wright, Edward Eanes, and Patty Poulter.



Transmedia Symposia Explores Multimedia Narrative

The College of Computing and Software Engineering and the College of the Arts have teamed up to offer the Transmedia Symposia, a series of presentations spanning the fascinating advances in multimedia. The Transmedia Symposia seeks to increase knowledge and collaboration between departments and colleges while exploring the growing narrative fields of information technology, computer science, and game design and development.

The Symposia has been a collaborative effort coordinated by Interim Associate Dean and Department of Theatre and Performance studies professor Harrison Long and Jon Preston, Faculty Executive Assistant to the President. Preston is the founder of KSU's Center of Applied Gaming and Media Arts; he founded the Computer Game Design and Development Bachelor of Science program in 2008.

Two of the three symposiums were held in the fall of 2015. Jeffrey Chastine, Interim Department Chair of Software Engineering and Game Development and professor of Gaming, spoke on the developing field of augmented reality in October, hosted by

the Department of Computer Game Design and Development.

Geo Sipp, artist and chair of the School of Art and Design, presented a talk on the burgeoning field of digital animation in December. The School of Art and Design recently announced a new program in digital animation; classes will begin in September of 2016.

The final presentation of Transmedia will be held on January 15 at 2:30 p.m. The School of Music, led by director Stephen Plate, will host a talk on music composition for gaming. The talk is free and open to the public; it will be held on the Kennesaw campus in the Wilson building, room 103.

Later that evening, the School of Music will present a concert featuring the music of video games and benefiting scholarships. (Please see story below for details.)

Pictured, right: Geo Sipp presents at Transmedia. Above, left to right: Jeff Chastine, Geo Sipp, Jon Preston, Stephen Plate, and Harrison Long.



GAME ON!

Friday, January 15, 2016 | 8 PM
Morgan Hall, Bailey Performance Center
ticketing.kennesaw.edu | 470-578-6650

On Friday, January 15, 2016, the School of Music presents its annual Proctor Scholarship Concert, titled Game On, featuring the music from popular, current, and classic video game soundtracks performed by the KSU Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble. This special program explores the musical landscape of video games from well-loved 8-bit classics to today's amazingly complex and visually stunning titles, including Final Fantasy, Call of Duty, Halo, Tetris, Bioshock, World of Warcraft, and more.

KSU DANCE *celebrates*



10

YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

By Stevi Dinizio; photos by Robert Pack

Kennesaw State University Department of Dance is celebrating ten years of dance and, to honor the anniversary, recently produced the dance concert “TEN” in the Stillwell Theatre on the Kennesaw campus.

TEN celebrated a decade of dance at KSU, highlighting the development of Georgia’s premiere dance program at Kennesaw State. The concert featured the work of six choreographers responding to the theme of Dance’s ten-year anniversary. It also featured over 40 dancers from the KSU Dance Company and work by guest choreographer Ido Tadmor from Israel, presented in partnership with the Consulate of Israel in Atlanta.

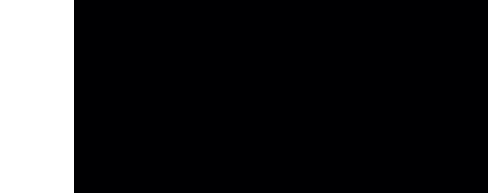
Other works included choreography by Ivan Pulinkala, Daniel Gwartzman, McCree O’Kelley, Lisa Lock and a classical re-staging by Christine Welker from Atlanta Ballet. Pulinkala’s work was set to an original musical score composed by Prof. John Lawless and KSU music major Eric Ramos, and features the KSU Percussion Ensemble. Viewers were struck by the diversity in choreographic expression, and experienced why KSU’s Department of Dance has achieved national recognition in just ten short years.

With a nationally celebrated dance company, state-of-the-art facilities, outstanding faculty, and a highly competitive admission process, the Department of Dance has a lot to celebrate. The young dance program now hosts the annual KSU Dance Festival, features the largest dance studios in the metro Atlanta area, and brings in world-renown guest artists and dance companies.



Ivan Pulinkala, Chair of the Department of Dance, founded the KSU dance program in 2005. Carefully planning every detail of curricular development, facility design, and artistic programming, Pulinkala has strategically charted the development of the Department of Dance into the largest collegiate dance program in Georgia, and a leader in undergraduate dance education in the Southeastern U.S.

The KSU dance program started as a dance minor degree housed in the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies. The program received Board of Regents approval to launch the dance major in 2009.



The KSU administration supported the growth of dance with the development of new state-of-the-art facilities at Chastain Pointe in 2011, and then with the formation of the Department of Dance in 2012.

“KSU Dance has been built by the collaborative work of our outstanding faculty, staff and students, and with the ongoing support of our campus community, administration, and community partners,” Pulinkala said. “Our partnerships with leading arts organizations like the Atlanta Ballet, the Cobb Energy Center, and the Rialto Center for the Arts, provide our students with opportunities to perform, choreograph, and teach in professional venues.”

The KSU Dance Company is one of the few companies in the country to be selected for four successive national years to perform in the National American College Dance Festival held at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. It continues to build its reputation of excellence in the Southeast: the dance major program now auditions more than 100 students annually, accepting only 25 students.

KSU Dance major Will VanMeter has thrived as a Department of Dance student artist. He said, “I chose KSU specifically for the wide range of opportunity it has to offer. In the Dance Department, we not only have the opportunity to continue our training in ballet, modern, jazz, or contemporary techniques, but we also have the opportunity to work with

local studios and arts programs.” The program exudes a high level of artistry and scholarship, which contributes to its impressive growth.

Alumni continue to work in the field, whether in Atlanta or around the world. Former KSU dance alumna Courtney Bromwich owns Sawnee School of Ballet, while Haleigh Pritchett owns Fusion Dance Company (both located in Cumming). Chase Todd now tours the world, performing in musical theatre. Featured in various local professional

Pulinkala credits the program’s success to a collaborative effort.

productions, Priscilla Curtis currently dances in a national tour of *The Producers*.

Patricia S. Poulter, Dean of the College of the Arts, has watched the Department of Dance thrive since the start of her tenure at KSU in fall 2013.

“The Department of Dance has a highly qualified and dedicated faculty, staff, and leadership,” Poulter said. “There is a clear, shared vision for what kind of experiences, knowledge, and work ethic students should need to transition into the professional



arena. Students are able to work with internationally known guest artists on a regular basis, perform in professional venues, and are held to a high academic standard. The program is rigorous, yet designed to meet students on their level when they enter the major, and move toward excellence in artistry, technique, historical and theoretical knowledge, and professionalism.”

Pulinkala has built a host of community and professional partnerships that augment the resources of the Department of Dance and provide students access to professional teachers, choreographers and resources.

Through a recently developed partnership with the Israeli Consulate in Atlanta, KSU Dance has welcomed a host of professional dance artists from Israel, which is home to the leading contemporary dance scene in the world. Pulinkala is currently developing a Study Abroad program for dance majors in Israel, which will be launched in summer 2016 and include training for students with the Batsheva Dance Company in Tel Aviv.

When asked about future plans for the Department of Dance, Pulinkala said, “We are currently developing a state-of-the-art theatre for dance on our Marietta Campus, planning the launch of a the first graduate M.F.A. degree in dance in Georgia, and designing the third phase of our dance facility at Chastain Pointe.”

For a dance program that started only ten years ago, the accomplishments are clearly remarkable, exceeded only by its vision for the future.

To learn more about the Department of Dance, visit KSUDance.com.





Carolyn Perry

By Stevi Dinizio

Carolyn Perry has been a vital part of Kennesaw State University's Dance Program since its inception in 2005. With a BFA in Dance from Brenau University, Perry danced on stage with the Broadway Dance Center, New York Dance Ensemble, Georgia Ballet, and took classes at Atlanta Ballet. Born into a long line of dancers, Perry credits her family for her passion for dance.

"I come from a lineage of dance. My great-grandmother was a ballroom dancer. My grandmother was a dancer. My mother was a professional dancer, and she still dances today. Growing up, it was a part of what we did. I've never not known the world of dance."

After working in New York, Perry moved south and began dancing with the Georgia Ballet. When she was not working with the Ballet, Perry took on a new role as a dance instructor. In this unfamiliar role, Perry says, "That was when I fell in love with the different creative aspects of dance. I was not just a performer, but a teacher, too."

In her classes at Atlanta Ballet, she met Ivan Pulinkala, chair of the Department of Dance, but was not yet aware of the new program at KSU. However, one of Perry's former students at the Bravo Dance Center encouraged her to apply to teach in the newly created department.

"A student who went to KSU called me one day to say they were starting a dance program and they were going to be hiring dance instructors. So I contacted Dr. Pulinkala. At the same time I was taking ballet with Dr. Pulinkala, so we were seeing each other in ballet class and had a connection already," explains Perry.

Since then, Perry has watched the Department of Dance grow and become the quality program it is today. From teaching in a room across campus to witnessing the construction of state-of-the-art dance studios, Perry has been essential to the dance curriculum.

"It's been an incredible journey, watching this program grow from the ground up. To see what the dance program has become today is truly amazing, and I credit Dr. Pulinkala's leadership and impeccable vision. I'm so thankful for the faculty we've had over the years and the students who have come in and make KSU Dance their home."

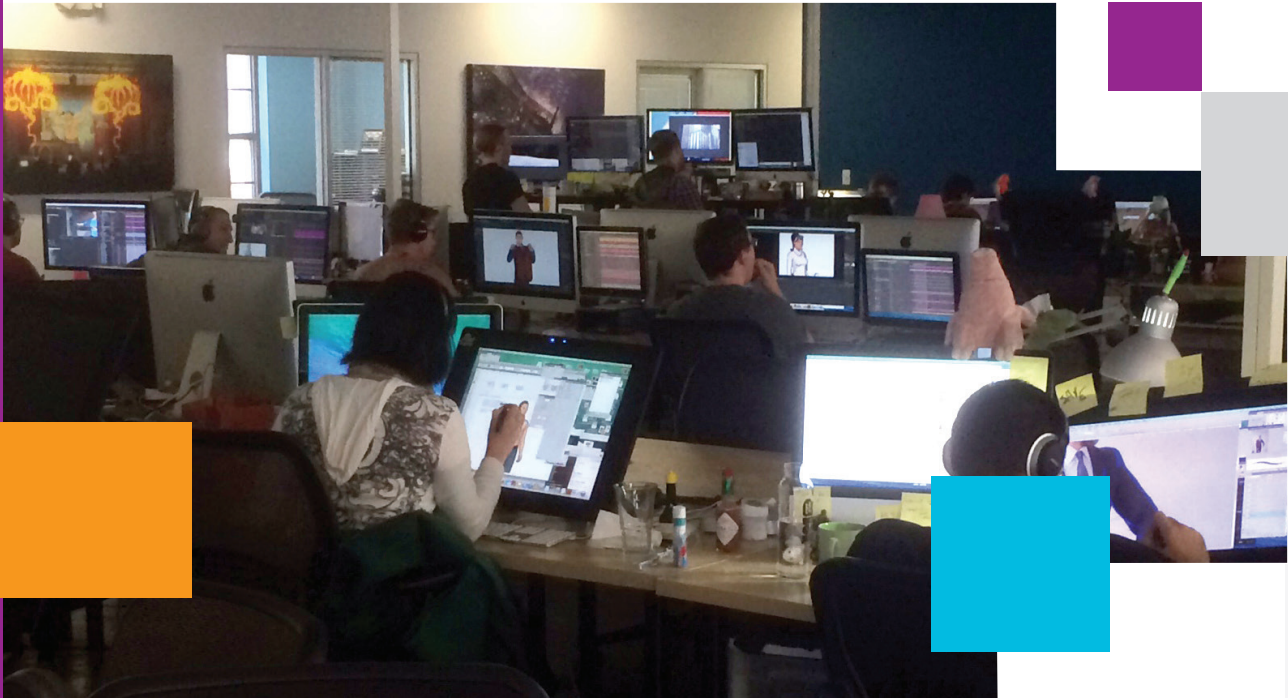
Pulinkala said, "Carolyn Perry was the first faculty member hired in 2005 when KSU dance was started. Ms. Perry is an exemplary teacher with the pedagogical versatility to teach courses in ballet, jazz and musical theatre dance technique. Her nurturing style and high standards of excellence make her an invaluable part of KSU Dance. I congratulate her on the completion of ten years on the dance faculty."

Perry continues to foster the talent of the students and noticing fantastic results. "Every time I go to New York, the dancers whom I bump into the most are KSU students. It's amazing to see that they've come from a program that's only ten years old. They get to work in New York City and do great things. I'm truly blessed to have been a part of the journey." Having been around since the beginning, Perry certainly is looking forward to the future in the Department of Dance.



School of Art and Design to offer Digital Animation program

By Kathie Beckett



The School of Art and Design (“SOAAD”) recently announced a new digital animation program, with classes beginning in the spring of 2016.

Geo Sipp, director of SOAAD, said, “Because of the convergence of visual media in all forms of entertainment, there is a growing demand for talented and original content creators in advertising, fine arts, game design, picture books, graphic novels, film, illustration and animation. Kennesaw State University will lead the way in the burgeoning field of digital animation while continuing to excel in graphic design and illustration.”

The digital animation program will primarily be offered at the Marietta campus, although the core studio courses and art history requirements will most likely remain on the Kennesaw campus.

The development of this program fulfills a need that is dictated by both the demographics of the industry and by Kennesaw State University’s recent consolidation with Southern Polytechnic State University. SPSU (now Kennesaw State University, Marietta campus)

offers a gaming program that exposes students to the breadth of the field in the areas of digital media, human-computer interaction, the history and theory of gaming, game design, 2D and 3D graphics, simulation, modeling, software engineering, artificial intelligence, data structures, and algorithms.

The introduction of the digital animation program offers a complement to the gaming discipline, which primarily concerns itself with the interior architecture of games. The opportunities for cross-listing courses and developing students prepared for industry are unique.

Students will take classes such as motion graphics, 3D modeling, and digital animation production. The collaboration between gaming and SOAAD is nothing new: the gaming program had previously worked with SOAAD to create an animation track within their program.

The new program will be cognizant of motion graphics employed in the advertising industry and will require infrastructure investments such as Toon Boom software and Cintiq monitors.

School of Art and Design to offer illustration concentration within BFA

In the spring of 2016, Kennesaw State University School of Art and Design will be offering classes for an illustration concentration within the bachelor of fine arts program.

Geo Sipp, director of the School of Art and Design said, “Illustrators are more than picture makers or stylistic interpreters. The best illustrators offer more than a design framework; they are storytellers. They contribute visual points of view and add value to editorial and advertising projects through their pictorial content.”

However, illustrators need more than drawing and painting skills; they need a strong liberal arts background, particularly in history, literature and writing. The ability to deliver the complete story in illustration is crucial.

The illustration concentration brings together art and creative writing skills to focus on the growing need for original content, and content creators in advertising, video games, picture books, graphic novels, film, illustration, and animation.

This concentration is designed to develop a student’s personal expression through the exploration of concept, communication, thought-process, and technical skill. It will identify and improve upon weaknesses in concept, design and technique.

Focusing the student’s work to best develop a personal aesthetic, the concentration will create an awareness of the business aspects of illustration, including effective promotion and client service. Sipp said, “The development of an illustration concentration will serve both the existing gaming program as well as the new digital animation program.”

Another exciting offshoot of the new concentration is an articulation agreement with ESA St. Luc Bruxelles to develop an exchange of students and professors. ESA St. Luc Bruxelles is a one of the oldest and most prestigious programs in Europe with a unique perspective into this developing academic concentration.



Patty Poulter, dean of the College of the Arts, said, “The School of Art and Design is dynamic, vibrant, and growing, and we are committed to investing in the infrastructure to meet the needs of convergent media.”

“We are very excited that KSU is supportive of adding an applied arts mission to our traditional fine arts model. The marketplace is demanding talented artists, animators, and illustrators, and Kennesaw State University will meet that demand,” said Sipp.

It’s a worthwhile investment in economic development as job opportunities grow for talented and original content creators in advertising, fine arts, game design, picture books, graphic novels, film, illustration and animation. According to the State of Georgia, the film industry had a \$5.1 billion economic impact during fiscal year 2014, but it’s having some growing pains.

In July of 2014, at the Governor’s High Demand Careers Initiative, movie producers and studio operators told a panel of state leaders that they have trouble finding enough local people to do technical work behind the cameras. Kennesaw State University School of Art and Design is eager to provide students with the skills they need to realize successful careers in digital animation.

To learn more, visit arts.kennesaw.edu/visual_arts.



Weaving a Demand and Working as an Artist



By Kathie Beckett

Lin Hightower, an artist/designer, believes you should be able to make a living as an artist, no matter what the circumstances. Her belief in this philosophy has led her to work with low-income artisans in a variety of mediums, textile, jewelry and metal smithing, wood, glass, etc. These artisans, from all over the world, then create art products that will sell and that will preserve their cultural techniques and iconography.

A three-time Fulbright winner, Lin instructs artisans about how to create demand for their art, sell it, and, in turn, support their families doing what they love, especially in struggling countries such as India, Nepal, Peru, Thailand, Morocco, Egypt, and Turkey.

“I challenge artists to examine the contemporary selling marketplace, and find a unique, modern approach to products they could sell. One art cooperative group in Peru told me they needed to sell more. I asked them, ‘sell more of what?’ ‘Ponchos.’ The trouble was, people aren’t currently buying ponchos. So, we looked at more modern products that the market desired; it’s the same techniques but applied to a different product.”

They settled on iPad cases and made six to test the market, and “people grabbed them all!” Soon, they had sold over 500 of the culturally significant, yet modern, cases.

She challenges artisans and designers to continue to embrace their native, cultural patterns and techniques, but to utilize them in products that meet consumer demand. For example, besides iPad cases, the artisans have also produced purses and backpacks.



Lin says, “The art market has evolved. It changes constantly according to what people purchase. For example, in Egypt and in Rome, artisans have constantly changed their products to fit the marketplace since ancient times.

She explains that the idea is that you need a designer for the art projects because artisans tend to replicate past art products, patterns, colors, etc.. It’s also equally important to preserve their cultural heritage. The designer must examine the local, national, and international contemporary selling market, and take a modern approach to products that will sell. The designer must also understand that it also takes business and marketing knowledge. Finally, the designer must be able to turn the work over to an artisan to replicate it on a large scale.

Lin explains, “The term artist/designer refers to a creator of original ideas and artwork. Artisans have technical skills in art and typically replicate artworks or techniques that have been generationally passed down or replicate new artwork created by an artist/designer.”

“Business acumen and strong art design are both necessary skills to create a successful product. I work with university art and business students abroad on how to form art cooperatives, and how to market the art products and how to work with artisans to replicate the new designs. If the work can’t be replicated, it won’t be sustainable. Artists and artisans need business sense, but it’s an important component of surviving as an artist,” says Lin. Many of the artisans abroad are struggling to rise

above poverty. She says, “With work, university graduates can lead these art cooperatives and the artisans can plan the future, and have control over their lives. Before the art cooperatives, many of the artisans have struggled to live on \$1.25 per day.”

Besides the powerful advantages of climbing out of poverty and providing for their families, the university students and artisans are genuinely excited about creating their products. She once asked a group of artisans, “What does this work do for you?” One of the most poignant responses was, “We share our culture with the world through our work.”

Soon, Lin hopes to sell some of those beautiful pieces in the Kennesaw State University bookstore and perhaps in art galleries in the metro Atlanta area.

“Seeing my work and projects create sustainable income through the arts is truly exciting. I always ask myself, ‘what can the arts do to positively change the world? And then I watch it actually happen!’” says Lin.

Lin Hightower is the recipient of three Fulbright awards (www.fulbright.org) and has traveled frequently to Thailand, Nepal, Peru, and India. She specializes in teaching local artists how to market contemporary, relevant products. Her personal quest to help artists make a living began with weaving potholders at an early age, with a lesson in supply and demand: she quickly learned that her neighbors did not need 200 potholders and she had to expand her product variety. To learn more about Lin, please visit linhightower.com.



“The Marching Owls,” Kennesaw State University’s new marching band, took the field for the first time during the inaugural home football game at KSU’s Fifth Third Bank Stadium on September 12, 2015. Led by marching band director Debra Traficante (aka “Dr. T.”), and assistant director of bands Cory Meals, with support from director of bands David Kehler, “The Marching Owls” had a very successful semester.

As the semester wound to a close, some of the band members shared their thoughts on being part of the KSU Marching Owls:

Jazmin Anderson, junior, *cymbals*: “Every rehearsal was really great in that I was able to take a break from all of my other schoolwork and practice while hanging out with my friends.”

Sean Blithe, freshman, *mellophone*: “We have a lot of fun at the football games. My favorite part is playing in the stands. The student section located next to us provides a lot of energy.”

Isabel Carrion, freshman, *baritone*: “When I first auditioned for marching band, I was super excited, but I didn’t realize how big it was going to be on campus. It was a nice surprise.”

Patrick Collins, sophomore, *trumpet*: “The most incredible part of marching band was being at the games to help support the football team make history, and inspire our team spirit.”

Hannah Culp, sophomore, *flute*: “I’ve enjoyed it so much that I’ve pushed back transferring schools for another semester so that I can spend another year here.”

BellDeVry Dubuche, senior, *trumpet*: “In the future, I hope to see the younger students step up more, and I hope the upperclassmen will guide them. It will help Dr. T. and Mr. Meals grow the band.”

Zoe Gatcombe, freshman, *clarinet*: “The most incredible part of marching band was being a part of the family. I really love my section mates.”

Jessica Grant, sophomore, *color guard*: “I’ll never forget the first or the last game. I was bombarded with so many different feelings. We made a family there. Everything about it felt right.”

Trevor Henn, freshman, *mellophone*: “The marching band moved so fast and so efficiently, and yet still sounded good.”

Lane Hunter, junior, *mellophone*: “The most incredible part of marching band was all of the new friends that I made.”

Sara Knapp, senior, *flute*: “I got to be part of an inaugural year under amazing directors who are going to lead this program in great heights. It was a great way to meet people.”

Louis Livingston, junior, *baritone*: “My favorite memory of marching band was standing on the field for the first time. The emotions were really strong.”





Mike Long, freshman, *baritone*: “Marching band gave me the chance to exercise the leadership qualities that I learned in high school and am continuing to learn in college.”

Sharlande Nicolas, sophomore, *clarinet*: “After not marching the year before, I really wanted to get into this new program, especially since I had already made new friends in the process.”

Maria Phillips, senior, *drum major*: “Marching band gave me the chance to find my home away from home. College gets rough, but going to marching band practice is the highlight of my week.”

Elijah Pierre, sophomore, *snare drum*: “I’ll never forget the day when we took the field for the first time, wearing the uniforms for the first time, and being in front of all of the fans.”

Kaelyn Putnam, sophomore, *flute*: “It’s amazing to think about the community we’re creating. I’m really happy to be a part of it.”

Ashley Rogers, freshman, *clarinet*: “We call our practice area ‘BandSmart,’ based off of the building’s prior use as a BrandSmart. The facilities made us feel like a real band.”

Jonathan Swann, freshman, *alto saxophone*: “On band parent day, we played ‘Auld Lang Syne.’ Everyone was on the verge of crying; it was a beautiful moment. It reaffirmed to me how special this organization is to me and everyone else in it.”

To learn more about the KSU Marching Owls, please visit marchingowls.com.





The String Project

A record number of students are participating in the Kennesaw String Project, a university-community collaboration offering fourth and fifth grade students the opportunity to learn violin, viola, or cello through economical group lessons after school.

Led by Kennesaw State University School of Music professor Charles Laux, the Kennesaw String Project was started in 2012 on the Kennesaw State University campus. High demand pushed the program offsite, and it has now grown to include four schools and a record enrollment of 110 students in the fall of 2015.

Laux said, “The KSU String Project provides affordable group instruction to students of our community while providing an authentic, hands-on teaching experience for the future string educators at KSU. The only way someone can really learn how to teach is by actually getting the opportunity to do so. It is always inspiring to see both the elementary students and university students simultaneously learning and discovering new things.”

School sites now include Pitner Elementary, Acworth Elementary, Baker Elementary, and Marietta Center for Advanced Academics (MCAA). At MCAA on a brisk October in the late afternoon, the school seems to be empty until you open the doors to the cafeteria. The fifth grade students sit in neatly placed rows with their





KSU Students participating in String Project:

Jackson Brischler
 Rachel Campbell
 Kynan Clymore
 Kathryn Encisco
 Rachel LaRocca
 Hiujeong Lee
 David Metrio
 Perry Morris
 Anthony Newman
 Justin Rawlings
 Susan Reyes
 Michael Thomas
 Kevin Williams

instruments in their hands and sheet music on stands in front of them.

They listen intently to master teacher Susan H. Brown. Co-founder and current director at SoliMusica Academy, a music education program for homeschooled students, Brown knows how to inspire her students. She served as orchestra director at Hightower Trail Middle School in Cobb County, Georgia, from 1993 to 2014. Previously, she held positions at Cobb County's Lassiter High School and Mabry Middle School, and the New Hanover County School District (Wilmington, NC), where she taught elementary, middle and high school orchestra.

The String Project provides affordable group instruction while providing an authentic, hands-on teaching experience for KSU's future string educators.

Music education students from Kennesaw State are an integral part of teaching the young musicians. Patiently and enthusiastically, they walk between the rows giving advice and instruction to the students. One of the male educators leans down and shows a young man how to properly hold his violin. One, two, three: play!

The cafeteria is filled with the sound of strings in harmony with each other. Well, mostly in harmony with each other; they are, after all, still learning. And that's exactly the point:

exposure to the arts, and particularly to music, is part of a well-rounded education.

Dr. Dayton Hibbs, Associate Superintendent of Marietta City Schools, said, "The arts play an integral role in the education process. We are proud to partner with the Kennesaw State University String Project in expanding opportunities in the arts for our students through this fantastic strings program."

Dr. Jennifer Hernandez, principal of MCAA, said, "I am so excited to continue the collaboration with KSU as we expand our students' exposure to the arts. Integrating music, more specifically, the strings program will provide district

students the opportunity to uncover and develop new talents through the arts."

The program continues to grow as other schools see the program's benefits. Laux said, "I am extremely pleased with the growth and expansion to the two additional sites in the Cobb County School District and one in Marietta City Schools. We are proud to be supported by each of the school administrations, the KSU School of Music, the National String Project Consortium, and the D'Addario Foundation."

To learn more, visit kennesawstringproject.org.



Stephen Plate: Director, School of Music

By Stevi Dinizio

Aclaimed conductor and musical director Stephen W. Plate has conducted symphonies from Germany to China, but this fall he joined Kennesaw State University as the Director of the School of Music in the College of the Arts. With his passion for music, both inside and outside the classroom, Plate brings a deep desire to continue the growth of the School of Music at KSU.

“I think the energy coming from the School of Music right now, and the College of the Arts, is spilling out into the public. The fine arts world is a small enough world that

Plate’s musical interests go back to his childhood.

you hear about things that are happening. I heard about KSU and all that was happening so, I just tucked it in the back of my mind, thinking that it would be a place where I’d love to work

in the future. This is my 35th year in higher education and I’m so glad to be here at Kennesaw.”

Kennesaw State University is Plate’s fifth institution, having taught at places such as the School of Music at Lee University and Greatbatch School of Music at Houghton College. His love of education, however, comes from his own experiences as a student. Plate received his Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music from the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music. “I fell in love with the field of music during my first week of college. I was convinced, even at that time, that this was something I wanted to spend my life doing. Every institution at which I’ve served has changed me as a person and a professional. The greatness of the people in each of those institutions has contributed to who I am.”

Beyond academia, Plate’s musical interests go back to his childhood. He began playing the piano at a young age, and fell in love with the symphonic music records his father gave him. “My dad said, ‘Son, you’ve only ever had notes in your head.’ He recognized even before I did that music affected me in profound ways. I think we’re all gifted innately. We all have gifts and talents. I’m just glad that my father saw that in me and tried to foster it in ways that he knew.”

In addition to conducting orchestras all over the world, Plate served as Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Charlotte Civic Orchestra. He joined the orchestra in its second year of existence and assisted in cultivating its growth. In fifteen years, the ensemble flourished from roughly 53 musicians to a credible, quality orchestra with a roster of up to 118 musicians. Plate recognizes the reputation that is already in place at Kennesaw State in the School of Music, and looks forward to joining and furthering the institution.

“Kennesaw State University already has a good reputation and they’re well on the way to regional and national recognition and, indeed, international recognition. I want to assist our School to grow so that it continues to be recognized in all of areas. I’m really looking forward to the ongoing conversations that I get to have with our faculty.”

To learn more about the School of Music, visit musicKSU.com.



Rick Lombardo: Chair, Department of Theatre and Performance Studies

By Stevi Dinizio

With a professional career of over twenty years, the newly appointed chair of Theatre and Performance Studies, Rick Lombardo, looks forward to leading and serving at Kennesaw State University. Having worked as the Artistic Director at both San Jose Repertory Theatre and New Repertory Theatre in Boston, Lombardo brings fresh knowledge and fervor to the College of the Arts.

“I feel like I’ve reached a point in my career where I may continue my creative work in parallel with wanting to give back to young people everything I’ve learned about how theatre works in America, and what options there are to be a young artist in a country where we don’t

always value artists. I think it’s important that I be a relevant artist in order to help lead this program,” says Lombardo.

To me, telling stories is very powerful, whether to an audience member or as a director or writer.

As he enters the world of academia, Lombardo steps into familiar territory. He started his career as an assistant professor at Fordham University’s College at Lincoln Center in New York, but moved on to focus fully on professional theatre and gain the experience and knowledge necessary to teach well. While searching for a university home, Lombardo found himself attracted to KSU.

“When I came here in the spring, I found really engaged and interesting faculty and students. I really liked the vibe of the department. It was clearly a growing college of the arts, and the university was growing very quickly, and all those things made it pretty attractive to me to consider coming here. So when Dean Poulter offered me the position, I was happy to say ‘yes.’”

Lombardo has seen much success in his career, including being a recipient of the prestigious Norton Prize for Sustained Excellence from the Boston Theatre Critics Association. He has worked on plays and musicals such as *The Snow Queen*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and *Death of a Salesman*. However, his initial intention when he entered theatre was simple: to tell stories.

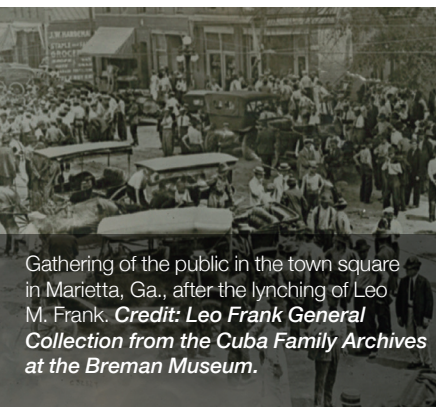
“To me, telling stories is very powerful, whether to an audience or as a director or writer. I think it comes more from an endless curiosity about what it means to exist and to be alive. I’m hoping that I may take that understanding and share it with our students and our faculty.”

The Theatre and Performance Studies program encourages students to become scholar-artists. As the new chair, Lombardo looks forward to mentoring these young artists and helping them seize opportunities. “This department is very unique and dynamic; it’s growing by leaps and bounds,” he says. “I’m really excited about trying to find ways for our program to become a clearer and more successful connector to the growing theatre and film industry not only in metro Atlanta, but also nationally.”

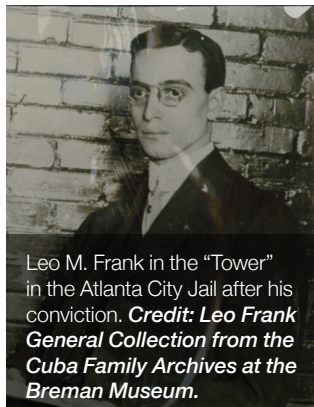
As KSU and the program grow, Lombardo hopes to help develop the next generation of storytellers who will be able to deeply impact future audiences. He says, “We are a collection of stories, as individuals, as families, as communities, as countries, as a species. We are simply a collection of our stories.” As he embarks on this new endeavor, Lombardo will surely build a new story with Kennesaw State University.

To learn more, visit KSUTheatre.com.

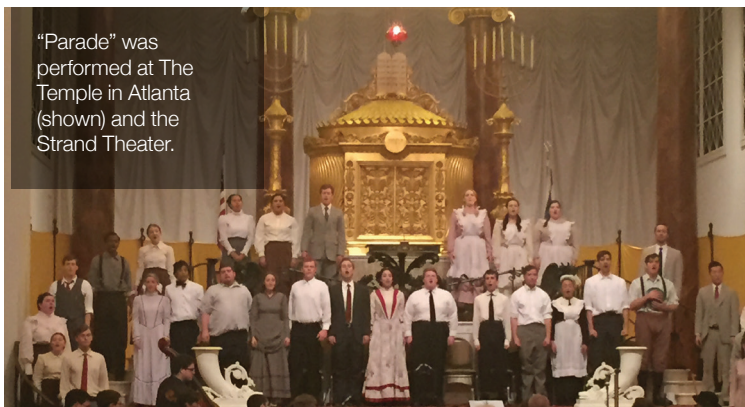
WELCOME



Gathering of the public in the town square in Marietta, Ga., after the lynching of Leo M. Frank. *Credit: Leo Frank General Collection from the Cuba Family Archives at the Bremen Museum.*



Leo M. Frank in the "Tower" in the Atlanta City Jail after his conviction. *Credit: Leo Frank General Collection from the Cuba Family Archives at the Bremen Museum.*



"Parade" was performed at The Temple in Atlanta (shown) and the Strand Theater.

"Parade" Opens Dialogue in Community

By Kathie Beckett

Kennesaw State University's Department of Theatre and Performance Studies presented "Parade" in November at the historic Strand Theatre in Marietta and The Temple-Atlanta. The Tony-award winning musical recounts the sequence of events that culminated in the 1915 lynching of Leo Frank, the Jewish manager of a pencil factory who was accused of murdering Mary Phagan, a 13-year-old employee.

"Parade" won two Tony awards for composer Jason Robert Brown ("Bridges of Madison County") and playwright Alfred Uhry ("Driving Miss Daisy"). The concert-style staging, directed by College of the Arts (COTA) interim associate dean and theater professor Harrison Long with musical direction by Judith Cole, commemorates the one-hundredth anniversary of these tragic moments in Georgia's history.

"To my knowledge, this was the first time 'Parade' was performed in Marietta, the community where Leo Frank was lynched. It was time. This show helps us better understand where we are today because it reminds us where we came from. But despite the atrocities of our past, 'Parade' is an incredibly beautiful, moving and entertaining piece of musical theatre," said Long.

The playwright's great uncle owned the Marietta, Ga. pencil factory where Frank and Phagan both worked. Despite the familial connection, no one wanted to discuss the case with Uhry, so he decided to do his own research at the library.

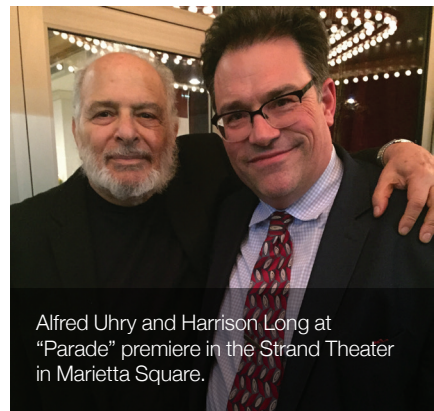
Kennesaw State University Department of Theatre and Performance Studies opened the discussion by deciding to produce "Parade." They examined this painful chapter in Southern history in partnership with the

Kennesaw State University Office of the President, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Department of Museums, Archives and Rare Books, as well as the Paul and Beverly Radow Lecture Series and The Temple-Atlanta. There were outside collaborators as well, including the Bremen Museum and the Southern Museum.

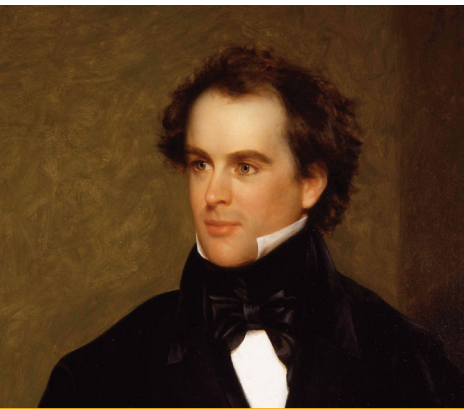
Long said, "'Parade' has been one of the most meaningful collaborative efforts of my career." Robin Dorff, Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences said, "I don't recall any other set of events achieving such across-the-board experiential excellence."

Rick Lombardo, Chair and Assistant Professor of the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies said, "This project was a unique example of engagement beyond the campus, and having our students work on material that can result in both challenging and healing conversations of enormous relevance to the greater community."

Patty Poulter, Dean of the College of the Arts, added, "This collaboration was a transformative project culminating in a transformative evening. The tragedies of the events carry their own truths, and those involved carried their truths - actual and modified- to their graves. But the play and performances reminded me of the imperative that we have to shine a light on hatred and bigotry, fear mongering and mob mentality."



Alfred Uhry and Harrison Long at "Parade" premiere in the Strand Theater in Marietta Square.



Original Adaptation of “The Scarlet Letter”

By Kathie Beckett

The Department of Theatre and Performance Studies recently produced “The Scarlet Letter” by Nathaniel Hawthorne with stage adaptation and direction by professor John Gentile. Hawthorne’s masterpiece is a haunting and romantic tale of Puritan America’s struggle with religion, law and sexuality, and is as relevant today as when it was first written.

Gentile explains, “The novel is strikingly timely because our society continues to struggle with the same big issues: religion, law and sexuality, in various forms. These three issues have joined forces, for example, in the recent controversy and resistance to same sex marriage.”

“This staying power [of the novel] is partly due to the fact that questions surrounding the reach of government within the boundaries of the bedroom continue to haunt us as a country with no more resolute and/or unified answer than Hawthorne’s generation,” added Angela Farr Schiller, dramaturge and assistant professor.

To make sure he understood Hawthorne’s generation, Gentile spent months in research for the stage adaptation of the book. He said, “I’ve seen many film versions and read other adaptations as part of my research. Many of them take various forms of liberties with the text. Part of my work in adapting is a desire to represent the author’s work in a very full, rich way that I feel does justice to the source text...to be faithful to the spirit of the original.”

He often tells his cast members that, as he adapts and directs, he’s thinking in his mind that the author will be present. “I ask myself, ‘Will I have served the author well in representing his work on the stage?’

Not many people work in adaptation from that kind of mindset.”

Gentile’s work breathes fresh life into a novel that many may have read in high school. Widely considered to be the first great American novel, it is remarkably ahead of its time in its depiction of feminism. Hester Prynne inspires in the face of great social disapprobation, and rises above through the strength of her character. Even though she chooses to remain in her hostile community, she not only survives, but she thrives despite the odds against her.”

Born and raised in Salem, Hawthorne was ashamed of his relatives’ behavior, part of which was judging the Salem witch trials. In preparation for the adaptation, Gentile attended the Hawthorne conference in Salem, further fueling his long-standing admiration of the author.

*The past is never dead.
It’s never even past...*

“I was in the adaptation of a Hawthorne short story when I was an undergraduate student, and it’s an honor to adapt “The Scarlet Letter,”” said Gentile. He explains that it’s striking how the novel “still speaks to us today. It’s timeless.”

The year 2015 marked Dr. John Gentile’s 30th year on the faculty of Kennesaw State University. His next project is an adaptation of “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens directed by Patrick Sutton and presented at Smock Alley Theatre in Dublin, Ireland in December 2015. To read his complete bio, please visit ksutheatre.com.



International Activities

Clowning Around: Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv performance artist and clown Ofir Nahari recently visited the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies at Kennesaw State University. Margaret Baldwin, senior lecturer and playwright, collaborated with 7 Stages Theatre and local director Michael Haverty to bring Nahari to Kennesaw State.

Read the feature story on Nahari in local media coverage on www.ArtsATL.com.



Batsheva Dance Company: Israel

The Department of Dance at Kennesaw State University is pleased to announce the launch the first study abroad program in dance in Israel in conjunction with the Batsheva Dance Company. The first group of 15 dance majors will travel to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem in the summer of 2016.

Photo: Adi Zlatin in Sadeh21 performed by Batsheva Dance Company at Brooklyn Academy of Music; image by Stephanie Berger and courtesy of Brooklyn Academy of Music.



Printmaking Artist Henrik Drescher: Belgium

Internationally known illustration artist Henrik Drescher recently worked on a collaborative print project with faculty and students from both Kennesaw State University and the University of Georgia, culminating in a limited edition booklet print. To learn more about the artist, visit <http://www.hdrescher.com>.

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DVD: China

Ming Chen, professor in the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, recently produced a DVD, “The Heritage of Chinese Culture and Dance,” intended for use in general education classes, Asian study classes, Chinese languages classes and classes in world culture.

Kenyon Shiver, Manager and part-time instructor of Theatre, did the voice over. The trailer is now available: <https://youtu.be/nRh3NCdqCxs>

Chen said, “Many people on and off campus have involved in this project. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for their contributions to this worthwhile endeavor.”



Jazz Studies: Italy

KSU Jazz Guitar professor Trey Wright accompanied jazz studies students Brandon Boone, Michael Opitz, and Janna Graham for a series of performances celebrating the grand opening of the new KSU study abroad facilities at the Fortezza in Montepulciano, Italy.



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