New Dean Named for Claire Trevor School of the Arts

Joseph S. Lewis III, a nationally known artist, arts educator and administrator, has been named dean of the Claire Trevor School of the Arts at UC Irvine, effective March 24.

"Joseph Lewis is both a recognized artist and a gifted administrator who has experience with strategic planning, fundraising and stewardship, curriculum and program development, budget management, and community-partnership building," said Chancellor Michael Drake. "I am excited to welcome this dynamic and energetic leader to our university."

Lewis, who received his MFA from Maryland Institute College of Art, has been dean of the School of Art & Design in the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University since 2004. There, he has been responsible for enhancing the school’s reputation, creating and implementing international programs, cultivating donor relationships and developing a new mission and vision for the school. He oversees the University Gallery, visiting artist program and student-run exhibits.

Prior to Alfred University, he was dean of the School of Art & Design at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. He also has previous experience in municipal government and the philanthropic arena, having worked as an administrator for the Public Art Program, Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles; project manager for Jackie Robinson Foundation in New York; and co-founding director of Fashion Moda in New York, where he curated and mounted numerous exhibitions and performance events in the U.S. and abroad.

"I look forward to working with students, faculty, alumni and staff to build upon the School’s record of achievement, creative excellence and innovation," Lewis said.

Costume Design Program Gets Coveted Textile Printer

With the installation of a large format digital printer, Drama students in the Costume Design Program here became some of the first students in the country to utilize digital textile printing in a costume design program, according to Holly Poe Durbin, head of the School’s costume design program. Similar printers in other universities typically are used only in their textile and fashion programs.

The newly installed wide-format printer transfers custom designs onto rolls of blank fabric using textile dyes. With graphic design software the students can print patterns onto fabrics such as silk or nylon.

"Fashion students must prepare designs for large commercial runs, while our costume designers do the exact opposite – creating small batches or one-of-a-kind ‘strike off’ garments for individual characters in a variety of performances," Poe Durbin explained.

With this new equipment, CTSA students are able to create original designs or re-create patterns from any historic era. Costume designers often re-create fashions from the past and finding suitable materials is an intensive and, often, futile hunt.

"When patterns disappear from the fashion market, we can no longer buy them. Costume departments have been scrounging for enough usable vintage fabric for many decades. Some have resorted to pushing fabric through traditional printers designed for paper – with obviously unsatisfactory results," she said.

"The design software and printer will produce new opportunities for our students to lead the field in costume design applications. And, once we create a digital model, it is possible to store it and rapidly adapt it to future uses," she added.
Theatre Tribute Campaign Launched

Several arts aficionados have already placed their orders as part of the newly launched School’s Theatre Tribute Campaign. Many honored their loved ones this past holiday season by immortalizing them with commemorative engraved plaques that will be permanently affixed to one of the 500 seats in either the Winifred Smith Concert Hall or the Claire Trevor Theatre.

Fifty percent of each contribution will go to the Theatre Preservation Fund, which will allow the School to update performance spaces, upgrade or replace lighting and sound equipment, and increase production budgets. The remaining 50 percent will be donated to the department of the donor’s choice—dance, drama, music or studio art.

Each theatre has been divided into tiers based on sight and sound advantages. Tribute plaques on the theatres’ prime seats (Tier I) are donations of $2,000 each, Tier II seating tributes are $2,000, and plaques for Tier III seats are $1,000 each. For more information or to make a donation, call Kerry Neal, director of development, at (949) 824-8750 or email him at kneal@uci.edu.

Give the gift that will last for generations!

Construction of New-Media Arts Building on Schedule

If the din of nail guns, hammers and trucks is any indication, the New-Media Arts Building is moving rapidly toward completion. Scheduled to be finished sometime this fall, the building has reached the following benchmarks:

- 100-120 people are at work on-site daily
- 550 tons of structural steel have been used
- Almost 3,500 yards of concrete—or 350 truckloads—have been poured for the foundation, basement slab, vertical walls, and other components of the interior and exterior
- The building currently is 60 percent completed

It will be one of the “greenest” buildings on the entire UC Irvine campus.

Faculty, staff, and students are eagerly anticipating adding the building’s new exhibition and performance spaces to the arts campus.

Pacific Life Foundation Provides $10,000 Grant

The Board of Directors of the Pacific Life Foundation, the community involvement arm of Pacific Life Insurance Company, has approved a grant of $10,000 to the UCI Foundation/Claire Trevor School of the Arts. The grant was awarded in November and presented to Outreach Director Ana Halland at the foundation’s annual Grant Reception held recently in Newport Beach.

The School’s faculty, students and staff want to express their appreciation to the Pacific Life Foundation for its generosity and support.

On The Job: Tinnie Grewal, Chairperson

Dean’s Leadership Council

Tinnie Grewal was recently appointed chairperson of the Dean’s Leadership Council (DLC), which is composed of community leaders and arts patrons.

Q: What is the purpose of the DLC? 
A: The DLC serves as an out-reach, advocacy and fundraising body for the School of the Arts and its dean. Our members act as a conduit between the School and the larger community.

Q: What are the roles and responsibilities of DLC members? 
A: Each member:

■ Becomes an advocate of the School by promoting it, its performances and its programs to the Orange County community and beyond.
■ Assists in the fundraising efforts to support the School’s students, faculty, productions, programs and growth.
■ Promotes the School and its activities to enhance awareness of the School and to help create greater interaction between CTSA and the Southern California arts community.
■ Invites our associates and friends to School events in order to increase the School’s pool of sponsors and advocates.
■ Commits time, financial resources and creative counsel to help the School’s dean achieve the School’s goals.

Q: What are your duties as DLC chairperson? 
A: The chair has three primary responsibilities:
■ Take the lead in spearheading the goals of the DLC
■ Interact and coordinate with the School’s Development personnel in order to enhance CTSA fundraising efforts
■ Identify and recruit community leaders to become effective new members of the council.

Q: What would you like to see the Council accomplish? 
A: I would like us to create a greater presence and awareness of CTSA in the community, with the eventual goal of it making it the epicenter of creative arts in Orange County. To accomplish this, we must focus on increasing our fundraising efforts and work on formalizing the procedures and structure of the council itself.

Q: How can someone become involved with the DLC? 
A: If they haven’t already, they should attend the concerts, plays, dances and exhibitions here at the School so they experience the high quality of the productions. Then, if they are willing to commit the time and resources necessary to further the council’s goals, they can contact the Development Office at (949) 824-8750 or the Dean’s Office at (949) 824-8792 to offer their services. We welcome new members and fresh ideas!
For the past eight months, I have had the extraordinary opportunity to work for film composers Christopher Lennertz and Timothy Wynn at their studio in Marina Del Rey. Thanks to the generous contribution and patronage of Winifred Smith and the Medici Scholarship, I was able to work as an intern this past summer, which led to me recently being hired as a full-time assistant by these two amazing composers!

I’ve been able to gain an insider’s look at the workings of the film music business, attend scoring sessions at various studio lots in Los Angeles, and provide additional music and orchestrations for films and video games. Our most recent session took place at the Warner Brothers lot in Burbank and featured an 86-person orchestra recording Chris’s brilliant score to the upcoming film *Cats and Dogs 2: The Revenge of Kitty Galore*. It was an unbelievable experience. The quality of musicianship expressed by everyone involved blew me away. Nobody is kidding when they say the best musicians in the world play on Hollywood scores.

Thanks to my time working for Chris and Tim, I was recently signed on to score the independent documentary *Finding Kind*, which explores and seeks to reduce the effects of “girl-against-girl” abuse. *Finding Kind* marks a fantastic step forward for me as a composer. I owe it 100 percent to the support of my professors, Winifred Smith, and the Medici Scholarship.

Andrew Skrabutenas, Medici Music Scholar

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**Gillespie Building Naming**

William Gillespie has been a generous supporter of the School and has provided scholarships to numerous talented dance students for many years. To honor him and his continuing contributions, the building is now known as the William J. Gillespie Performance Studios. Students, faculty and community leaders gathered when the renaming was announced and the new signage was unveiled.

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**ThreePenny Opera**

A VIP reception was held in the University Art Gallery to celebrate opening night of ThreePenny Opera, the 2009 Claire Trevor Show, which traditionally has been a collaboration between the Dance, Drama and Music departments.

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**Medici Luncheon**

The School of the Arts recently hosted its annual Medici Circle Luncheon, providing an opportunity for Medici patrons to meet their scholarship recipients and learn how their financial contributions enable the scholars to change their lives or further their careers in the arts.
Focus On: Kei Akagi, Jazz Master

By Kathryn Bold, UCI Communications

Kei Akagi was 24 and pursuing a doctorate in philosophy at UC Santa Barbara when he decided music was his true calling. It was 2 a.m., he’d just finished performing with his jazz band, and he suddenly realized he hadn’t done any work on a graduate presentation due the next day. “I sat down in my tiny apartment and thought, ‘What do I really want to do in life?’” Akagi recalled. “It took all of maybe five minutes to decide.” He called his professor the next morning to say he wasn’t coming back to class – ever. Today, Kei Akagi is a world-renowned jazz pianist and composer, Chancellor’s Professor of Music, and director of jazz studies at the Claire Trevor School of the Arts. He has recorded 12 CDs as a solo artist and leader, and he has played on at least 40 other CDs as a sideman and accompanist. He has performed more than 500 concerts with Tokyo Trio, formed in 2000 on a trip to his native Japan. In addition to creating his own music, Akagi has performed or recorded with other leading jazz artists. He played with legendary jazz trumpeter Miles Davis’ band from 1989 to 1991 and can be heard on his last recordings. “Of all the artists I’ve worked with, he’s the only one I can say without qualification was a genius. His very way of perceiving music was utterly different, completely nonlinear. I’m still trying to assimilate some of the lessons I learned from Miles,” said Akagi.

Since starting the School’s jazz studies program a decade ago, Akagi has strived to teach the discipline of jazz while allowing students the freedom of self-expression. “Jazz is a personal art form. If you have five musicians – even if they’re playing the same composition – they’re supposed to express five world views.”

His advice to his students? “Take chances. Learn from mistakes. If you’re afraid of making mistakes you’ll never accomplish anything in art.”

The Role of Medicine and Science in Dance

By Jeff Russell, Assistant Professor of Dance Science

Dance medicine and science is officially almost two decades old. However, well before the founding of the International Association of Dance Medicine and Science (IADMS), a number of visionary clinicians and scientists applied their therapeutic skills to the bodies of ballet dancers who sought help only at the point when their suffering exceeded their will for the “show to go on.”

From the 1980s, several dance medicine and science pioneers began applying to dancers the principles of injury care primarily gained from sports medicine. While developing more slowly than sports medicine and science, scientific research now offers us much insight about how to train and perform in dance with the objective of better health of the dancer, including increasing attention to injury prevention.

The early germinations in the field are now beginning to blossom with initiatives aimed at exploring how different genres of dance affect the musculoskeletal system, whether dancers’ excellent balance ability can be transferred to individuals whose balance is compromised, what levels of tension are present in the ankle and foot ligaments when dancers go en pointe, and others.

A Musculoskeletal Dance Science Research Lab is in development at UCI’s Calit2 building, and a Dance Science Research Group is assembled to pursue new knowledge. Research collaborations are active between the Department of Dance and the School of Medicine’s Departments of Orthopaedic Surgery, Family Medicine, and Radiological Sciences, and discussions are underway to capitalize on common interest with researchers in the School of Engineering.

Dance Science has garnered academic attention outside the School of the Arts, too. Two UCI biological sciences students and a dance kinesiology graduate student from a nearby university now participate in the Dance Science Research Group alongside UCI dance majors.

In addition, we are developing ties for innovative research collaborations with researchers and institutions in Australia, Japan, and India. The latter is particularly interesting because science applied to traditional native dance forms has not previously received attention from the dance medicine and science community. However, the demands on the musculoskeletal system they engender are not just fascinating from a cross-cultural perspective, but equally worthy of study as those in ballet and modern dance.

Our two core Dance Science courses, Dance Health/ Injury Prevention and Kinesiology of Dance, bring students face-to-face with scientific principles that affect them everyday as dancers. The Dance Science Program also operates a weekly Dance Injury Clinic and we produce a weekly health tip, Callboard Dance Health, that is posted on dance callboards around the School of the Arts.

So, when you are next sitting in the audience of a Claire Trevor School of the Arts dance theater, your pleasure should be inspired by the aesthetics of the performance. However, ponder a fresh the science that undergirds the effort and every moment of the rehearsing that prepared it for the stage. The physiology of the cardio-respiratory system that delivers oxygen – on demand – and removes carbon dioxide, the neuromuscular system that orchestrates every twitch or sweeping arc of movement, the digestive system that delivers energy to fuel it all… these produce a concert of their own within the proscenium of the dancer’s body. Indeed, once upon a time, art met science on the campus of UC Irvine. They became best friends, and they are still enjoying one another’s company.
Dance

Assistant Professor Jeff Russell (Dance Science) hosted undergrad Shannan Slagle, grad student Pujita Jyoti, and Alisa Poston (MFA '09) to the Netherlands for the International Association for Dance Medicine and Science annual conference. All three women gave presentations before this premier society and got rave reviews from the professor’s colleagues.

Music

Music Lecturer John Schneiderman, guitarist and lutenist, released a new CD with this ensemble, Galanterie, which is composed of Schneiderman on the baroque lute, violinist Elizabeth Blumenstock and cellist William Sken. The recording Sonatas for Lute and Strings by Bernhard Joachim Hagen was released in October. This is the premier recording of these sonatas by the last significant composer for the lute.

Drama

Claire Trevor Professor Frank Wilderson’s book Incognegro: A Memoir of Exile and Apartheid won the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Legacy Award, as well as the National Endowment of the Arts Literature Fellowship for Creative Writer. The book has also received the Crothers Short Prize Award from UC Berkeley, American Book Award 2008, and was a finalist for FourthWorld Magazine's Book of the Year 2009.

Students/Alumni

Creative Connections scholar and Dance major Ching Ching Wong taught an after-school program in Dance at Irvine’s University High School. She also worked with four seniors from Dana Hills High, mentoring them through the application process as they applied to four-year colleges offering dance programs.

Drama

Drama alums Katie Horwich (BA ’08), Karen Olds (MFA ’07), and Marissa Moses (BA ’08) recently completed a recording session for a new version of Kiss the Girl for a project called Happily Ever After due out in spring. Drama alum Ted Kryczko (MFA ’78) directed the session.

Drama undergrad Jennifer Chong was recently interviewed by MTV’s Iggy for an online endorsement for Subway.

Drama alumn Breanne Mowdy (BA ’06) spent most of 2009 working on Extinction, a show by Gabe McKinley that was presented at the Elephant Space in Santa Monica by RED DOG SQUADRON. The play starred Michael Weston (from Fox’s House) and James Roday (from USA Network’s Psych).

Omar Ricks (MFA ’08) is now a graduate student in the Drama doctoral program at UC Berkeley and was recently awarded the Chancellor’s Fellowship, which provides two years of tuition waivers and a stipend. The Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies department at Berkeley guarantees the same level of support in the form of fellowships and assistantships for the five to six years it will take him to complete his doctorate.

Studio Art

MSO Jan Slavin reports Google logged more than 9,000 search requests for our Studio Art Department from July 1 through September 30. It was enough to place the department in Google’s “Favorite Places” category of web searches.
Upcoming CTSA Events

February

Now through May 7
Emergence
Curated by David Familian and Simon Penny
Emergence features international artists exploring the biological and computational manifestations of emergent behavior. These dynamically changing, interactive sculptures illustrate the rich variety of mutating systems and their ability to adapt to a changing world.

Beall Center for Art + Technology**

FREE

February

Dance Visions 2010 with UCI Symphony Orchestra

Claire Trevor Theatre
$17 general / $15 seniors / $9 children & UCI students

February

An Evening of Beethoven and Mendelssohn
Faculty and music students perform together. The monumental Archduke Trio by Ludwig van Beethoven is followed by Felix Mendelssohn’s scintillating and vivacious Octet for Strings.

Haroutune Bedelian, violin
Maggie Parkins, cello
Jercy Kosmala, viola
Lorna Griffitt, piano

Outstanding Music Department Students
Winifred Smith Hall
$14 general / $12 seniors / $9 children & UCI students

February

Gassmann Electronic Music Series
The Maguer Trio, innovators of contemporary jazz, provide an evening of extraordinary music.

Winifred Smith Hall
FREE

February

February 18 – March 5
Department of Studio Art
Second Year MFA Review
University Art Gallery & Room Gallery*
Opening Reception: Feb. 18, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
FREE

February

Cyrano de Bergerac
One of the world’s greatest tales of idealism, longing and desire. Cyrano de Bergerac comes alive again in the U.S. Premiere of Ranjit Bolt’s brilliant new translation of the celebrated classic. Written by Edmond Rostand, with a new translation by Ranjit Bolt

Beth Gardiner, director
Studio Theatre
Post-performance Talk Back with our cast and creative team, March 4.
$18 general / $16 seniors / $9 children & UCI students

March

March 1
8:00 p.m.
Department of Music
UCI Wind Ensemble
Kevin McKeeen, director
Winifred Smith Hall
FREE

March 2
8:00 p.m.
Department of Music
UCI Jazz Orchestra
Charles Owens, director
Claire Trevor Theatre
$14 general / $12 seniors / $9 children & UCI students

March 6
8:00 p.m.
Department of Music Chamber Series
Loneliness of Dust
A telematic performance featuring traditional Persian music fused with electronic music. Acoustic performance takes place at UC Irvine and live electronics at UC San Diego, connected with high-fidelity audio and video streams.

Hossein Omoumi, reeds and vocals
Shahrokh Yadegarian, live electronics
Winifred Smith Hall
$14 general / $12 seniors / $9 children & UCI students

March 7
8:00 p.m.
Department of Music
UCI Choir & Men in Blaque
Joseph Huszti, director
Winifred Smith Hall
$14 general / $12 seniors / $9 children & UCI students

March 11, 12, 13
8:00 p.m.
March 13, 14
2:00 p.m.
Department of Drama
Herbert Siguenza Project
World Première - Actors, designers and stage managers from the Claire Trevor School of the Arts collaborate with Herbert Siguenza, a founder of Culture Clash, America’s leading Latino comedy troupe, to create a brand new performance piece that reflects the thoughts and customs of our own community.

Herbert Siguenza Project
Little Theatre
Post-performance Talk Back with our cast and creative team, March 12.
$18 general / $16 seniors / $9 children & UCI students

March 11-19
Department of Studio Art
Senior Exhibition
University Art Gallery & Room Gallery*
Opening Reception: March 11, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
FREE

March 12 & 13
8:00 p.m.
UCI Symphony Orchestra
Stephen Tucker, director
Claire Trevor Theatre
Pre-concert conversation March 12, 7:00 p.m.
$14 general / $12 seniors / $9 children & UCI students

*University Art Gallery & Room Gallery
Hours: Tues. – Sat., noon-5:00 p.m.
(949) 824-9854
www.ucigallery.com
Public welcome. Admission is free.

**Beall Center for Art + Technology
Hours: Tues. & Wed., noon - 5:00 p.m.
Thurs. – Sat., noon – 8:00 p.m.
www.beallcenter.uci.edu
Public welcome. Admission is free.

Tickets & Information www.arts.uci.edu/events or Ticketmaster.com
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