

DLC

DEAN'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

MAY 2012

MONTHLY NEWS UPDATE

Photo: Rose Eichenbaum

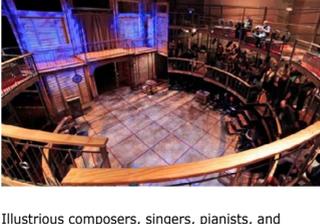
DEAN'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 2011-2012

- Tinnie Grewal, *Chair*
- Joan Beall
Madonna Billauer
Mahtab Jafari
- Demetrio "Dee" Kerrison
Gianna Drake-Kerrison
Vivian McCluney
Darrellynn Melilli
Timothy J. Molnar, CFP
Sheila Peterson
Jonathan Pink
Janice Smith
Richard Stein

RECENT EVENTS



CTSAs New Swan Theater, a 120-seat mini-Elizabethan theatre in the round, debuted a few months ago when it was installed on the stage of the Claire Trevor Theatre for Drama's production of the *Merchant of Venice*. Designed by Drama Professor **Luke Hegel-Cantarella**, head of our scenic design program, the transportable New Swan will be set-up this summer near UCI's Aldrich Park and offer *Comedy of Errors* and *The Merchant of Venice* – under the stars! Tickets are already selling for CTSA's first Summer Shakespeare Festival – www.arts.uci.edu/tickets.



Illustrious composers, singers, pianists, and scholars from around the world gathered at CTSA's Winifred Smith Hall recently for the 15th



Annual African American Art Song Alliance, created and organized by Associate Professor of Music **Dr. Darryl Taylor**. The week-long conference celebrated contributions made by African Americans to the world of classical music and featured presentations and performances by



Donnie Ray Albert, Robert Owens, Louise Toppin, and Anita Johnson. George Shirley was the keynote speaker.

CTSA was recently host and co-sponsor, with Christ Our Redeemer AME Church, of a four-day liturgical dance conference: "The Dancer in Me: Align, Perfect and Pursue." The event brought together over 30 different churches, denominations and ministries from across



the country and abroad, and offered classes in various performance techniques as well as theological study. There were 282 participants, ranging in age from five to 77 years old, and all enjoyed master classes given by professionals in various fields...including CTSA's own Dance Professor Emeritus **Donald McKayle!**

IN THE COMMUNITY



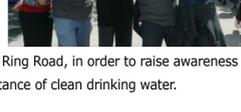
CTSA Assistant Professor of Drama **Luke Hegel-Cantarella** and UCI Department of Anthropology's **Christine Hegel-Cantarella** recently unveiled the installation piece *214 Square Feet*. The project, which stages a motel room in various public spaces, was intended as a reflection on the experience of homelessness among the working poor, many of whom take shelter in low-budget motels across Orange County.



Created for Project Hope Alliance and presented by UCI's Center for Ethnography, *214 Sq. Ft.* was sited at UCI to instigate discussion across disciplines about the meanings of transience, home and inequality.

Associate Professor of Drama **Dr. Daniel Gary Busby** and CTSA musical theatre students were invited by the Hortense Miller House and Garden in Laguna Beach to perform for its March Open House. In a letter to Dean **Joe Lewis**, Board member Leah Vasquez expressed her appreciation of the School's involvement, saying "it was my pleasure to work with your department of musical theatre...being well aware of the importance of connectivity, I thank you for encouraging your fabulous and talented Drama/Musical Theater program's contribution to the city's HMG Open House." Thanks to the talents of **Dr. Busby**, **Bree Murphy** (MFA Drama), **Hannah Balagot** (Music Theatre, Senior), **Melissa Glasgow** (Music Theatre, Senior), and **Alison Boresi** (Music Theatre, Senior), we strengthened the connection between CTSA and the Orange County community.

Assistant Professor of Dance **Sheron Wray** and CTSA dance students recently teamed with the Samueli School of Engineering and the My Clean Water Act (MCWA) to stage a



flashmob on Ring Road, in order to raise awareness of the importance of clean drinking water.

Associate Professor of Dance **Jodie Gates'** Laguna Dance Festival recently opened with site-specific performances in the Laguna Beach Museum of Art and in various other galleries. **Jennifer Lott** (MFA Dance) created a duet and presented an excerpt of Professor **Gates'** work, as well as two works by the CTSA student group "Bare Bones Dance Theater" and the solo "I've Known Rivers" by Professor Emeritus **Donald McKayle**. <http://www.ocregister.com/entertainment/gates-348100-dance-festival.html>

FACULTY ACCOLADES

Assistant Professor of Music **Nicole Mitchell** was recently honored with the prestigious Doris Duke Award. She is one of 21 American performing artists working in contemporary dance, jazz, theatre, and multidisciplinary work who have been named as part of the first class of Doris Duke Artists, a new initiative of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Provided to honorees through a



rigorous, anonymous process of peer review (no applications are accepted), the grants are not tied to any specific project, but are made as investments in the artists' personal and professional development and future work.

The University of Washington Painting and Drawing Program recently invited Dean **Joe Lewis** to lecture on its campus. The talk, titled "The Pathology of Excess," explored his involvement in education and community development as they are expressed through his artmaking process.



Cellist and Music Lecturer **Maggie Parkins** recently released a new CD on Bridge Records. The disc features the Eclipse Quartet with Los Angeles pianist Vicki Ray and the epic 90-minute work of American composer Morton Feldman's Piano and String Quartet.



Dance Science Assistant Professor **Dr. Jeff Russell** presented a paper entitled "Health and Healthcare in Dancers: Advocating for Athletic Artists" at the College of Allied Health at California Baptist University.

Associate Professor of Dance **Jodie Gates'** new ballet *Embellish* was recently premiered in Denver by the Colorado Ballet. Both *Embellish* and *Off Limits*, danced by Ballet X, will be featured in the upcoming Gotham Dance Festival in New York. http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_20290901/review-from-colorado-ballet-three-new-dances-knowing

Drama Professor **Richard Brestoff** was recently nominated for a Falstaff Award by Playshakespeare.com. His nomination for Best Performance, Male, honored his role of "Shylock" in *The Merchant of Venice*. Kevin Spacey was a fellow nominee.

Associate Professor of Music **Michael Dessen** performed three concerts on various UC campuses



in January, with a collective quartet that included legendary Dutch drummer Han Bennink. The *San Diego Reader* called the concert "one of those 'once-in-a-lifetime' opportunities. Joyous and creative, music doesn't get any better than this."

Dance Professors **John Crawford** and **Tong Wang** traveled to China over spring break to give seminars on dance and technology, as well as master classes in ballet and choreography, at Universities such as Beijing Dance Academy, China Institute of Technology, Nanjing Arts University, and Shanghai Normal University.

Music Lecturer **John Schneiderman** graced many venues throughout the month of February, performing with The Czar's Guitars at Bucknell and Wellesley Universities in Pennsylvania. He also appeared with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra.

In January and February, Studio Art Professor **Simon Leung** presented his work at Locks Gallery in Philadelphia and at Benevento Gallery in Los Angeles. His solo exhibition was cited in *The New York Times* as "one of the best gallery exhibitions in New York City in 2011."



PUBLICATIONS

Assistant Professor of Dance **Dr. Jeff Russell** recently had his article "Breaking Pointe: Foot and ankle injuries in dance" published in *Lower Extremity Review*: http://www.lowerextremityreview.com/cover_story/breaking-pointe-foot-and-ankle-injuries-in-dance

Emergence, the magazine produced by CTSA, was named a Silver Award winner in the 27th Annual Educational Advertising Awards sponsored by Higher Education Marketing Report. Sr. Director of Marketing and Communications **Lesly Martin** and Vince Rindi Design of Huntington Beach were acknowledged for their work on this entry into the Publication/In House category.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) who attended Drama's master classes with opera star Suzanna Guzman gave it rousing reviews. Participant Dorothy Tonne wrote, "I must tell you how awed I was at last Friday's class with Suzanna Guzman. What a delight to watch her interaction with the students, and their concentration on her instruction.... I was astonished, and a little embarrassed, to find that, even in a bare rehearsal studio without the aid of lighting, costumes, or scenery, they moved me to tears."

In addition to Ms. Guzman, Drama Professor **Dr. Daniel Gary Busby** and the CTSA Drama department recently hosted two other master classes taught by world renowned artists: including Los Angeles Civic Light Opera's Artistic Director Stephanie Coltrin, whose class was about audition techniques, and Broadway veteran and "showbiz royalty" Karen Morrow, who returned to give her class titled "Be a Person, Be a Person!"

CTSA alumnus and magical realist playwright **José Cruz González** (MFA Directing '86), now Professor of Theater Arts at Cal State LA, returned in January to lead a seminar on playwrighting as a major part of the Drama department's World Premiere Weekend.

The CTSA Drama department was also honored to offer a master class given by renowned Romanian



director Mihai Maniutiu, who currently is in residence on our campus.

The new CTSA Studio Art Mechatronic Art Lab is officially open! This facility introduces students to the practice and theory of analog electronics, emphasizing the design and development of simple interactive systems and the integration of such systems into real-world contexts of performance, installation, sculpture, and automated artifacts. Thanks to all faculty, staff and students whose help made this happen.



In addition to its various laboratories of state-of-the-art digital music technology, CTSA's Gassmann Electronic Music Studio has recently established a small studio of "vintage" synthesizer equipment for students to gain hands-on experience with analog synthesizers of the late '60s, '70s, and early '80s. The CLASSIC studio was set up by Gassmann Studio director and Music Professor **Christopher Dobrian**, with assistance from ICIT graduate students **Michael Matthews** and **Josh Ottum**.



FEATURED STUDENTS

Congratulations to **Felipe Hernandez** (BA Music, Senior), recent winner of a Truman Award. The Harry S. Truman Scholarship, established by Congress in 1975 in honor of the 33rd U.S. president, is considered the nation's highest honor for students who have demonstrated exceptional leadership potential and are committed to careers in public service.

Karyn Lawrence (MFA Lighting Design) has won the "ISquint" competition. *ISquint.net*, Stage

Directions Magazine, *Nemetschek VectorWorks*, *City Theatrical* and *Field Template* teamed up to offer one lucky lighting design student a prize package which will prove indispensable to a working professional. Great job!

Four of Dance Science Assistant Professor **Jeff Russell's** research group students have had papers accepted for presentation at the 2012 annual conference of the International Association for Dance Medicine and Science (IADMS), to be held next October in Singapore. Further, all four of the students were accepted for oral presentations; these are particularly prestigious because the number of slots available are rather limited. The presenters are: **Kumiyo Kai** (MFA Dance); **Allyson Blackstone** (BA Dance/Chemistry); **Desiree Unsworth** (BA Dance/Bio Sci '11); and **Lillian Wang** (BA Bio Sci). Kai was also asked by the US Embassy in Japan to write an article for their recent newsletter about her Fulbright studies and her experience presenting her research at October's conference.

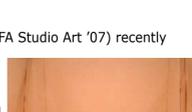
ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

Michael Holmes (MFA Acting '97) and **Glenn Kallison** (MFA Acting '02) are currently featured



in *Smash* on NBC. Michael's character is a film director based on Billy Wilder and Glenn plays Arthur Miller.

Gina Osterloh (MFA Studio Art '07) recently exhibited her solo show "Anonymous Front" at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, one of Northern California's most notable venues.



The Drama Desk Awards recently announced that **Andrew Samonsky** (MFA Drama '03) was nominated for his role in *Queen of the Mist* in New York.



Mario Ybarra Jr. (MFA Studio Art '01), as a member of the collective Slangue, was announced in late February as one of the recipients of a Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Biennial Award. Chosen from some 130 nominations made by a national panel of senior arts professionals, these unrestricted \$20,000 grants go to visual artists working in the fields of painting, sculpture, installation, photography, video and craft media. **Rodney McMillan** (Lecturer 2006-8) was also chosen for a Tiffany Award in this cycle.

Marisa Baram (BA Drama '10) is currently featured in *Glee* on Fox Television.

Samira Yamin (MFA Studio Art '11), **Linda Stark** (MFA Studio Art '85) and **Sandeep Mukerjee** (Lecturer 2000-05) recently opened the group show "Meticulosity" at Otis's Ben Maltz Gallery in Los Angeles.

Mark Bedard (BA Drama '06) is having great success with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and was recently lauded for his portrayal of GroUCHO Marx: <http://www.trfj.com/NITN-GROUCHO-01>

Catherine Bonomini (BA Dance '00) and **Sallye Bergland** (BA Dance '09) were featured last month in Project Marian's production of the ballet *Our Lady of Lourdes* at the Marywood Pastoral Center Dailey Auditorium in Orange.

Glenn Kaino (BA Studio Art '93) has been chosen to represent the United States at the 13th International Cairo Biennale, the premier international contemporary art exhibition in the Middle East.

Gabie Strong's (MFA Studio Art '08) experimental sound-art group Lady Noise performed with artist Dawn Kasper on the opening nights of the Whitney Biennial 2012; the performance helped to launch "This Could be Something if I Let It," Kasper's durational and site-specific nomadic studio installation in which she will perform as a living sculpture over the course of the three month Biennial exhibition.

Trevor Bishop (MFA Directing '06) was recently honored as one of the top directors in the Los Angeles area. His staging of the Chace Theater's Southern California premiere of *Jerry Springer: The Opera* was recently nominated by the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle special award.

Betsy Mugavero (MFA Drama '09) returned for a third season with the Utah Shakespeare Festival, appearing in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia), *Noises Off!* (Poppy), and *The Winter's Tale* (Mopsa). She now heads to the Great Lakes Theater Festival in Cleveland, OH to play Juliet in their Idaho Shakespeare co-production of *Romeo and Juliet*.



The Hammer Museum just announced its selection of artists for its first Biennale, *Made in L.A.* This first edition of the exhibition emphasizes emerging and under-recognized Los Angeles-based artists and will feature **Mario Ybarra, Jr.** (MFA Studio Art '01), **Mark Lager** (Visiting Lecturer 2009-11), **Allison Miller** (Hagen '08-11), **Ashley Hunt** (Lecturer 2006-7) and **Mimi Lauter** (MFA Studio Art '10).

Kayla Hart (BA Drama '11) was recently featured as "Agnes" in *Gypsy* at Sierra Repertory Theatre in Sonoma.

Danny Moreno (BFA Music Theatre '10), **Nick McGee** (BA Drama '00) and **Rachelle Clark** (BA Drama, Senior) were recently featured in Theatre Out's production of *Avenue Q* in Santa Ana.



Amy Perkins (BA Music Theatre '11) was recently featured as "Monteen" in *Parade* at the Cygnet Theatre Company, San Diego.



Noritaka Minami (MFA Studio Art '11) recently opened: 1972, a solo exhibition at UCLA Architecture and Urban Design. The show runs through June 1.



Josh Cho (MFA Studio Art '11), **April Friges** (MFA Studio Art '10), **Don Jun** (MFA Studio Art '09), and **Joey Lehman Morris** (MFA Studio Art '08) were recently featured in the group show "saudade" at Ann 33rd Gallery in Los Angeles.

IN THE PRESS

CTSA's Tribute to Dance Professor Emeritus **Donald McKayle** was featured in May 2012's *Coast Magazine* (page 52): <http://www.virtualonlineeditions.com/publication/?i=109015>

The Beall Center for ART + Technology's current installation *MORPHONANO* was recently featured in the prestigious English journal *New Scientist*. The work is an interdisciplinary collaboration between artist Victoria Vesna and nano scientist James Gimzewski. <http://www.newscientist.com/blogs/culturelab/2012/02/morphonano-interactive-sculpture-goes-nano.html>

The Orange County Register recently featured CTSA's collaborative traveling installation project "214 Square Feet": <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/friend-349184-says-motel.html>

Dance Professor **Jodie Gates'** Laguna Dance Festival was recently featured in both the *Los Angeles Times* http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/news/la-et-guidefeature-20120412_0_802636_story and the *Orange County Register*: <http://www.ocregister.com/entertainment/gates-348100-dance-festival.html>