The Drama Department’s new graduate program in sound design is a major step in the department’s continuing evolution as a premier institution for stagecraft.

Drama Chair Robert Cohen emphasized the need for sound design initiative in 2005 as a way to fill a gap in the department’s curriculum. “Sound design—which refers to all audio generation, resonation, performance and enhancement during theatrical or film production—has now become an absolutely vital component” of any quality production.

“Creating a sound design program,” he continued, “would propel UCI’s Drama program—and the collaborative activities of its faculty—to the highest national distinction.”

With the addition of Michael Hooker to the faculty, the department is well on its way to that distinction. Hooker, who became a professor at the beginning of the year, brings a bounty of experience with him.

“Sound design is the art of providing an aural narrative, soundscape, reinforcement or musical score for the performing arts—namely, but not limited to, theater,” Hooker explains. “Unlike the recording engineer or film sound editor, we create and control the audio from initial concept right down to the system it is heard on.”

He spent seven years with Walt Disney Imagineering, where he designed sound projects for nine of its 11 theme parks. His projects included Cinemagique, an interactive film show starring actor Martin Short at Walt Disney Studios Paris; the Mermaid Lagoon, an area featuring several water-themed attractions at Tokyo Disney Sea; and holiday overlays for the Haunted Mansion and It’s a Small World attractions at Tokyo Disneyland.

Before joining Disney, Hooker created graduate and undergraduate sound design programs for the University of Oklahoma, the University of California, San Diego, and the University of California, Los Angeles. He is a member of the Society of Stage, Scenic, and Sound Designers and the American Society of Theatre Technicians.

Dance Mentor Helps Shape UCI Arts Through Inspiration

Israel “El” Gabriel is an internationally known dance teacher and choreographer as well as an artistic advisor and consultant to some of the world’s foremost dance institutions and dance companies. Mention his name to Claire Trevor School of the Arts students and colleagues, and their faces reflect respect and admiration. He is described as an inspiration.

Alan Terricciano, Dance Department Chair, says “Gabriel is indefatigable in his energy and generosity to the program. He has an international reputation as a teacher of ballet, having developed a unique and critically recognized methodology for training dancers. His approach is particularly noteworthy both for its development of stamina and its emphasis on dramatic expression. Beyond their sheer physical development, Mr. Gabriel has the ability to ‘clean’ the bad habits of our entering students and prepares them well for their advanced studies.”

Joining the UCI Dance Department in 1967, Gabriel taught under Eugene Loring, founding chair of the Department of Dance and noted American choreographer. He left for Israel in 1968 to serve as ballet master, guest artist, dance teacher and assistant to the artistic director of the world famous Bat-Dor Dance Company of Israel. Gabriel returned to UCI in 1973. Continued on page 5.

Dance Visions 2007

Photo: Paul Kennedy
Voices - Arts Patrons Speak Out

The arts expand our horizons and broaden our minds at whatever stage in life we are in. They expose us to different cultural views, generational views and themes that allow us to continually expand and enrich who we are and how we view the world around us.

—Simone Chapman
Dean’s Leadership Council

FROM THE DEAN’S DESK

Dear friends,

As I begin to write this column for our UCIArts Newsletter, I am mentally reviewing where we have been in the recent past. While it is impressive enough to look at the success of recent shows and presentations, I am always amazed at the buzz of creative activity going on in classrooms, labs, and rehearsal halls, evidence of which surfaces throughout this edition. We have a star-studded faculty lineup and, not surprisingly, top-ranked programs in all disciplines. The enthusiasm with which faculty, staff and students dive into creativity is truly intoxicating.

This past quarter we glowed with pride at the drama alumni event in the Paramount Studios Theatre in Los Angeles. The setting was evocative of old Hollywood, as we were next to the historical Paramount Studios gate, and the gathering of so many generations of alumni was truly breathtaking. If your children or grandchildren have enjoyed ABC’s Commander-in-Chief or NBC’s Cheers, you have seen the unique casting talents of James Calleri and Jeff Greenberg; and if you enjoyed The Shawshank Redemption or WB’s Felicity, you have experienced the acting talents of Bob Gunton and Tangi Miller. All of these are drama alumni who, with some three hundred other accomplished alumni, gathered in Los Angeles to honor the legendary Robert Cohen, founding drama faculty member.

And that is only part of the story! Our superb graduate MFA program in Studio Art has produced celebrated artists like Chris Burden and Mary Ellen Strom. Our dance graduates populate renowned dance companies like the National Ballet of Canada, Momix, the Joffrey Ballet, and the Nashville Ballet. And our music alumni are singing in Chanticleer, playing in concert and pit orchestras throughout the country, and overseeing the development of content in the U.S. for the Yamaha Motif XS professional synthesizer.

Impressive indeed.

Nohema Fernández

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Faculty

David Allan, Director of Ballet and Professor of Dance, presented new choreography for Ballet Pacifica’s The Nutcracker performed at the Irvine Barclay Theatre, Dec. 9-24, 2006.

Juli Carson, Assistant Professor of Studio Art, curated the exhibitions Exile of the Imaginary: Politics/Aesthetic/Love at The Generali Foundation, Vienna, Austria (Jan. 18-April 29, 2007) and Paradox and Practice: Architecture in the Wake of Conceptualism at UCI’s University Art Gallery (Jan. 9-Feb. 10, 2007). Carson was also editor of the book, Exile of the Imaginary: Politics/Aesthetic/Love (Köln: Walther König, Jan. 2007).

In January, Michael Dessen, Assistant Professor of Music, released Lineal, a CD of his own compositions featuring himself on trombone performing with renowned musical improvisers Mark Dresser, Vijay Iyer, Susie Ibarra and Terry Jenoure. Dessen performed Nov. 2, 2006 with his electro-acoustic Michael Dessen Trio at Theatre Stone, one of New York City’s premier experimental music venues.

Music Professor Christopher Dobrian’s composition, Instaprene-playtion for computer-processed flute, was presented in December at the Bellingham Electronic Arts Festival, WA, where he also lectured on Integrating Video, Sound, and Music with MaxMSP and Jitter.

Dr. Jerzy Kosmala, Lecturer in Music (viola), performed at the 2006 International Summer Music Courses in Lancut, Poland, and conducted master classes. He also taught at the International Summer Music Festival in Zagan, Poland. Last September Dr. Kosmala was a jury member for the International Summer Music Courses in Lancut, Poland, and conducted master classes. He also taught at the International Summer Music Festival in Zagan, Poland.

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Last September Dr. Kosmala was a jury member for the International Brahms Viola Competition in Portschach, Austria, and judged the MTNA All State Young Artist Viola Competition in Los Angeles in Oct. 2006.

Studio Art Professor Antoinette LaFarge’s Demotic, a mixed-reality performance work that “offers a wild ride through America’s political psychosis,” received its East Coast premiere Nov. 2-5, 2006 at the Baltimore Theatre Project.

continued on page 3
In Sept. 2008, second-year dance graduate student Lauren Thompson assisted Professors John Crawford and Lisa Naugle during a three week residency at the Beijing Dance Academy in China. While in China, Lauren’s dance for the camera work, Restroom, was featured in the student showcase at the Beijing International Dance Film Festival.

Amy Schiffner, second-year graduate dance student, has accepted a post-graduate position as Assistant Professor of Dance at the University of Hawaii, Manoa.

Alumni

Constantine Arvanitakis (MFA Drama 1988) was recently appointed head of the Drama School for the Athens Conservatory. The conservatory, founded in 1871, is the oldest and most prestigious drama school in Greece.

Maria Hall-Brown (BFA Drama 1984) was awarded a Golden Mike Award by the Radio and Television News Association of Southern California, Jan. 20, 2007. She is the producer of Real Orange, the nightly news magazine at KOCE television, as well as the producer/host of Bookmark, an acclaimed authority interview series on KOCE.

In Nov. 2006, Kevin Leoucks (BM Music 2004) performed with the East Coast Composers Ensemble at the Juilliard School, NY, and at St. Botolph Hall, Boston. In December 2006, he performed at the Dundas Center for the Performing Arts, Bahamas, and in Jan. 2007, with the Gotham Contemporary Ensemble at the Riverside Church, New York City.

Thelma Medina (BA Drama 2006) is a member of the production staff on the Dr. Phil television show.

Jenn Collela (MFA Drama 2002) played the female lead, Laura, in the new romantic musical comedy, High Fidelity, at the Imperial Theatre in New York City, Dec. 7-17, 2007.

Jennifer Foote (BA Drama/Dance 2000) is in the national tour of Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

Students

Jae Cho, second-year graduate student in dance, presented her piece A Moment Ago at the American College Dance Festival in San Francisco, Jan. 20, 2007.
An extraordinary evening was created on February 3, 2007 as special friends and alumni gathered together to honor Robert Cohen, founding chair of UCI's Drama Department.

Don't worry if you missed it... there is still time to participate!

You are needed to help create the dream... a rejuvenated theatre to be named after our beloved Robert Cohen, a man who has educated and inspired generations of students at UCI. We need you to consider giving generously to help make this dream possible.

Naming opportunities are available. Please contact Claire Trevor School of the Arts Dean's Office arts.giving@uci.edu or 949-824-8792 for questions and information.
undergraduate sound design programs at the University of Cincinnati and California Institute of the Arts. He has designed sound for more than 100 productions since 1983 and is a classically trained pianist who has performed many times as a pit musician and conductor for musicals.

Hooker has been busy since joining Theatre and is the sound design mentor for Stage 2 student-directed productions. His enthusiasm and insight have helped illuminate the art of sound design to many of the School’s students, professors and production staff. During show production meetings, Hooker has often made it clear how sound can bring dimensions of art and accessibility to many productions, including Sunday in the Park with George, which was a success, in no small part, because of his design work.

“UCI provides a very healthy package for its graduate students—one that very few schools can compare with,” Hooker notes. “Our sound design program has excellent resources and faculty support, and it is located in Southern California’s dynamic theater market. I’m excited to help build a top-notch program.”

Nohema Fernández, the School’s Dean, echoes his sentiments, adding that the program is expected to grow in coming years. “With the leadership

The Art of Sound Design in UCI Drama continued from page 1

Michael Hooker

the Claire Trevor School of the Arts. Besides teaching classes, he was the sound designer for Drama’s recent Mainstage production of Sunday in the Park with George at the Irvine Barclay Theatre as he enthusiastically guides students loved faculty mentor for students, he is professional world endow him with a practical wisdom that is incredibly useful to dance students in academia.” Serving as a well-loved faculty mentor for students, he is extremely accessible and approachable, as he enthusiastically guides students through their collegiate experience.

UCI colleagues credit him with being a dynamic force in the evolution of the Dance program at the Claire Trevor School of the Arts. In addition, several students credit him with being the reason they remained at UCI as dance students, even as they had doubts about the future. With his help, many have pursued their post-graduate careers by entering ballet companies, modern dance companies, national tours of musicals, and appearing in film and on television.

“To this day, 12 years after graduating from UCI, I feel comfortable walking into the dance department to get advice or support from ‘El.’ He remains ever approachable and interested in my development as an artist” says Gandhi, whose resume includes performing in Cirque du Soleil’s Dralion. “‘El’ is one of those teachers that a student never forgets. He brings his infectious zest for life and a unique sense of humor to a classical form of dance... He is truly a distinguished teacher, and even more impressive to me, an inspirational human being with what seems to be a never-ending fountain of positive energy.”

Dance Mentor Helps Shape UCI Arts Through Inspiration continued from page 1

as a Dance lecturer, where he is now teaching ballet, pointe, pas de deux, modern, jazz and partnering in contemporary dance and jazz.

Gabriel has taught master classes throughout Russia, North and South America, Europe, Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Australia. He is the artistic consultant for the Quito Elemento Dance Company, Puebla Mexico, among others worldwide, as well as serving as the ballet master and guest artist for the Dance Theatre Philippine. He appeared as an international performer, on Broadway in Flower Drum Song and as a regular performer at the world renowned Hollywood Palace, Hollywood, CA. Gabriel’s most recent works were performed in Miami, Florida; Hermosillo, Mexico; Anchorage, Alaska; and Manila, Philippines. In addition, Gabriel has been invited to lead a dance workshop in Tel Aviv, Israel this summer.

Actively continuing his professional career, lecturing in worldwide locations and choreographing new works allow him to bring new ideas to his students and prepare them for careers in professional performing and beyond, Gabriel says. Sheetal Gandhi, a former student, adds: “His experiences in the professional world endow him with a practical wisdom that is incredibly useful to dance students in academia.” Serving as a well-loved faculty mentor for students, he is extremely accessible and approachable, as he enthusiastically guides students
**Spring 2007 Events**

**APRIL**

Beall Center for Arts and Technology

ALAVs 2.0 (Autonomous Light Air Vessels)
Jed Berk

April 3-May 19

The Beall Center’s “Emerging Artists” series features Jed Berk. Berk and his collaborator, NWRI Mitter, have created a new unique species, the ALAV, using sensor technologies and computer algorithms. ALAVs are intelligent, communicating, helium-filled blimps that motor through the gallery in search of companionship and food.

University Art Gallery* 3rd Annual Guest Juried Undergraduate Exhibition Room: Undergraduate Honors Project
Thur, April 5-Fri, April 20

**MAY-JUNE**

Drama All-Undergraduate Production Urinetown
Music and lyrics by Mark Hollman
Book and lyrics by Greg Kotis
Myrona Delaney, director

Thu-Sat, May 31-June 2, 8 pm
Wed-Sat, June 6-9, 8 pm
Matinees: Sat, June 2 & 9, 2 pm
Fri-Sat eve: $17/15/9, weeknight & matinee: $15/14/9
Claire Trevor Theatre

This “exuberant” and “gloriously sensible” musical (New York Times) portrays a future-time city that responds to a water shortage by outlawing private toilets! What follows is a fantastic tale of greed, corruption, love and revolution. Winner of three Tony awards.

Beall Center for Arts and Technology
UCI Arts Computation Engineering (ACE) Graduate Exhibition
Fri, June 1-Sat, June 9
Opening Reception: Thur, May 31

These culminating research projects from UCI’s ACE Masters degree program connect art to the wired world of computing and engineering, and continue the Beall Center’s ongoing exploration of technology and its use in artistic production.

**Chamber Series**

An Evening of Latin Jazz
Bobby Rodriguez, trumpet
Sun, June 4, 8 pm
Winifred Smith Hall, free

Percussion Ensemble
Theresa Dimond, conductor
Mon, June 4, 8 pm
Winifred Smith Hall, free

**University Art Gallery & Room**

Senior Exhibition
Thu, June 7-Sat, June 16

Symphony Orchestra
Deep Tones
Stephen Tucker, conductor
Fri-Sat, June 8-9, 8 pm
Pre-concert conversation: Fri, June 8, 7 pm
Irvine Barclay Theatre, $12/10/8

Mendelssohn: Fingal’s Cave Overture
Weber: Bassoon Concerto
Lori Wike, principal bassoonist of the Utah Symphony
S. Coleridge Taylor: Petite Suite for Orchestra
Strauss: Tod und Verklärung

**Chamber Series**

The Romantic Viola
Jery Kimmala, viola and Lorna Griffitt, piano
Sat, May 26, 8 pm
Winifred Smith Hall, $12/10/8

Works by Franz Schubert, Karel Symanowski and Ernest Bloch