

FINER ARTS NEWS

College of Fine Arts **FALL 2019**

LEAD ON.™

TCU



From the Dean

Greetings from the TCU College of Fine Arts! For those of you who may not know, a year ago I was asked to serve in the role of interim dean of the College of Fine Arts. Prior to that, I served as director of the TCU School of Music for 16 years. The 2018-19 academic year in the College of Fine Arts was filled with wonderful successes, continued growth and the promise of even greater things to come.

In my new role, nothing has made me prouder than seeing, hearing and learning more about all the remarkable talent, hard work and accomplishments of our students, faculty and staff across our six schools and departments. When you read the stories in this issue of our annual newsletter, I hope you too will be reminded of what makes TCU's

College of Fine Arts so very special. From traveling to New York Fashion Week to working on a Toyota ad campaign to researching the history of American Sign Language in theatre, the College of Fine Arts is filled with creative minds who continue to enrich our campus and beyond.

And just wait to see what's coming! In 2018, TCU broke ground on two buildings that will provide improved facilities for the College of Fine Arts, and as I write this, we're beginning to see these spaces come to life. This fall, students in our newly restructured Department of Design and Department of Fashion Merchandising began studying and creating in the new state-of-the-art Fine Arts Building. Opening in fall 2020, the new TCU Music Center is certainly destined to become an

integral part of Fort Worth's cultural fabric. It will house the world-class Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU as well as provide invaluable new resources to support our award-winning band, orchestra and percussion programs.

Clearly, there is no shortage of activity and accomplishments in the TCU College of Fine Arts. I cordially invite you to visit finearts.tcu.edu/events and join me in enjoying and celebrating the incredible fine arts at TCU.

Richard C. Gipson
Interim Dean



Opening in fall 2020, the new TCU Music Center is certainly destined to become an integral part of Fort Worth's cultural fabric.

ON THE COVER
Italy's Southern Tuscany region, widely known for its massive wild poppy fields, was the scenic backdrop for the Studio Art MFA program's inaugural artist-in-residency program abroad. Photo: Adam Fung.

College of Fine Arts

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In Memoriam

Scott Sullivan 1947-2019

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Scott Sullivan**, who served as dean of the College of Fine Arts from 2000 to 2015. Scott passed away unexpectedly on February 21, 2019. An art historian, he taught at the University of North Texas and served as dean of the College of Fine and Professional Arts at Kent State University before coming to TCU. Scott will be remembered for his big smile, sense of humor and sharp wit, but most of all for his impactful work in support of the college and all of its units. He cared deeply for our students and colleagues and was recognized as a pillar in the art community.

Family, friends and colleagues in the College of Fine Arts gathered on the TCU campus this spring to celebrate Scott's life and legacy. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Joan, and his beloved dog, Bailey. Scott will be missed by all. ❖



“ **His wisdom and his humor have left an everlasting imprint on our hearts. We will not forget him.** ”

-Interim Dean Gipson

Artists in Italy

Studio Art MFA program travels to inaugural artist-in-residency program in Tuscany



Genius loci, meaning spirit of a place, is a theme students and faculty explored in Italy to find inspiration for their art. The lush summer landscape in Cerreto will be recreated in a painting by professor Adam Fung.

Residency opportunities are an important aspect of any artist's professional development to inspire creativity. In summer 2019, students in the Studio Art MFA program and their professors enjoyed a special opportunity to participate in an inaugural artist-in-residency program abroad.

Thanks to a generous TCU donor, graduate students Dario Bucheli, Sierra Forester and Hector Ramirez, along with professors Adam Fung and Cameron Schoepp, traveled to Italy's Southern Tuscany region and stayed on a property in the Val d'Orcia, about 100 miles north of Rome. The residency took place just before the students started their third and final year in the graduate program.

“This residency time was purposefully unstructured, which is the reality for students post academic study,” says Fung. “It was an ideal time to have students reflect on their first two years in the MFA program and think ahead to their thesis exhibition.”

The MFA program places emphasis on critical thinking about the creative process and the student’s role as an artist. For the three-week residency, each artist worked largely independently, creating new pieces and conducting independent research.

“Although I was drawing, painting and taking photographs, my time in the residency was also very introspective,” says Bucheli. “I thought about my work as a whole and did a lot of research and writing. By the end, it was much easier for creative ideas to flow.”

Italy, with its rich history and notable art, was the perfect setting for the students and professors to draw inspiration for their work. Genius loci, meaning spirit of a place, was a theme for the residency that Fung hoped would resonate with students.



From left: Adam Fung, Cameron Schoepp, Dario Bucheli, Hector Ramirez and Sierra Forester.

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“Genius loci is hard to capture or consider in our daily lives that are filled with distractions,” says Fung. “In Italy, we had the opportunity to walk through the countryside of Tuscany, touch the stone and brick of nearby towns and see paintings made there. It all made us feel so much more connected to the region.”

The group also traveled to Rome and Venice, visited art and Etruscan archaeological museums, and explored churches filled with historic art.

Ramirez found that experiencing Italian culture during the unstructured residency time impacted his approach to art.

“I went dumpster diving for ‘found’ objects to use as material. I researched old Italian films. We ate great food and wine,” says Ramirez. “What inspired me was the culture and history. It has given me a new perspective about art making.”

Similarly, Bucheli says his time in Italy helped him develop ideas to begin working on his thesis this fall.

According to Fung, who captured landscape and aerial photography in Italy



PHOTO: ADAM FUNG



PHOTOS: DARIO BUCHELI

Bucheli found inspiration for sketchbook painting by visiting the cities of Florence, Rome and Venice.

to use for future paintings, the residency was equally motivating to him as a professor.

“Seeing so many frescos (murals) and paintings in person that I had only seen before in art history books, gave me new insight into their making, which will impact my teaching in the near future.” ♦



Fung will use his landscape and aerial photography as inspiration for future paintings. Photo: Adam Fung.

“
I love
learning, so
I knew this
project was
something
I wanted to
pursue.”

—Maddie Mateer '19



Mateer won the John V. Roach Honors College 2019 Boller Award for her thesis project on successful integration of American Sign Language in theatrical performances.

A Show of Hands

Theatre student wins Honors College award with American Sign Language thesis project

Maddie Mateer is a recent alumna who graduated *summa cum laude* with a BFA and departmental honors in musical theatre. In April, she won the John V. Roach Honors College 2019 Boller Award Competition for her thesis project, A Show of Hands: The Factors Necessary to Create a Successful Integration of American Sign Language in Theatrical Performances.

To graduate with departmental honors, students in the Honors College must complete a research project and presentation in their major area of study. Mateer chose to combine her passion for theatre performance with her minor, habilitation of the deaf and hard of hearing.

Mateer’s interest in American Sign Language (ASL) started at age eight when her mother, a speech pathologist, handed her an ASL dictionary in an effort to occupy her one afternoon. Mateer immediately starting teaching herself how to sign.

Mateer worked on her thesis project for two years, researching how theaters use ASL interpreters versus having actors sign ASL in shows. At the end of the project, she directed a 10-minute play with two sets of actors. The focus was on the main performers

who signed, while the others served as voice interpreters on the side – a reversal of how many shows are performed for a deaf audience.

The research process and experience of directing a show that incorporated ASL deeply influenced Mateer.

“It helped me further this passion and decide on my career plan,” says Mateer. “I was planning on moving to New York City, like some of my classmates, but there was a voice in my head that said to explore this more.”

After graduating from TCU in May, Mateer started a two-year program at Tarrant County College to become a certified ASL interpreter with the goal to pursue a career as an interpreter for the theatre. She hopes to work with Deaf West Theatre, a Los Angeles company founded in 1991 that bridges the gap between the deaf and hearing worlds, or to bring her unique talents to Washington, D.C. or New York City as a shadow interpreter, one who follows an actor on stage so deaf audience members can stay focused on the action.

Recent examples of representing the deaf community in theatre include Deaf West’s critically-acclaimed production of “Spring Awakening” with

shadow interpreters and “King Lear” on Broadway in which the Duke of Cornwall is played by Russell Harvard, a deaf actor.

“The theater is starting to become more inclusive,” says

Mateer. “There are people who have started paving the path, but we still have a long way to go before I’ll be content.” ❖



Playing Tzeitel in “Fiddler on the Roof” was one of Mateer’s many on stage roles at TCU.



Every spring semester, faculty judges select the Boller Award winner after students present their thesis projects. Mateer was one of nearly 100 students across the university who presented during Honors Week in April 2019.

Mateer is the sixth College of Fine Arts student to win the Boller Award. Previous winners include:

Emma Holland '18
Department of Design

Robyn Coad '12
School of Music

Adin Heller '06
Department of Fashion Merchandising

Mark Feezell '97
School of Music

Chere Smith '83
School of Music



Richard Murrow (center), instructor of tuba and euphonium, is one of the educators who inspired Kevin Day (far left) to attend TCU.

Composing a Career

School of Music alumnus pursues composition after graduation

PHOTOS: KEVIN DAY

Kevin Day '19 was destined to pursue a career in music. His father, a former hip-hop producer and DJ, and his mother, a gospel vocalist, brought him along as a child to music rehearsals at the church where they served as ministers. His dad taught him how to record tracks with production software while his mom taught him piano. He started composing at age 12, learning how to write music by watching YouTube videos. As a teenager, he was in the concert band and choir.

Then, TCU came calling, and he became a music performance major in the School of Music. He says his college years were filled with "a lot of premieres, performances, rehearsals and concerts."

"Music has always been a part of my life. From a young age, it made me feel very calm and happy," says Day. "That beginning set up what is happening now."

Now at the age of 23, just months after graduating from TCU, Day is the first composer-in-residence for the Mesquite Symphony Orchestra, which will premiere four of his pieces during his tenure for the 2019-21 seasons. His new role comes on the heels of winning several national young composer competitions with awards from the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra and Tribeca New Music as well

as his proudest win, the 2019 BMI Student Composer Awards.

"I was very humbled to be picked by the BMI Foundation because I had been applying for six years and never made it to the final round," says Day. "It's an award that not a lot of people have the chance to receive."

Adding to his accomplishments, Day has composed more than 140 pieces and recently was chosen from hundreds of entries as one of 20 semi-finalists in the Alexander Zemlinsky International Prize for Composition; the three prize winners will be announced in October.

At TCU, Day studied tuba and euphonium. Yet, his interest and talent in composition was fostered by Dr. Neil Anderson-Himmelsbach, assistant professor of music technology and music theory/composition music.

"He really inspired me to want to pursue composition and helped me find my voice as a composer," says Day.

"Kevin is by far one of the most naturally talented composition students I have ever had," says Anderson-Himmelsbach. "The emotional depth of his music is strong and impactful. His inherent ability to visualize the whole



“Music has always been a part of my life.”

Kevin Day

picture of a composition and keep that focus throughout the process is amazing for such a young composer."

Day's successes so far were not achieved without challenges along the way. With many moments of adversity as a student, including the loss of his best friend during his sophomore year, Day struggled to stay on top of his studies. However, he says the relationships he built with many faculty and staff members in the School of Music were instrumental in keeping him on track.

"I'm really grateful for my teachers who were there for me," says Day. "They helped me keep my eyes on the prize and were always there to encourage me when I was feeling low."

This fall, Day begins pursuing his Master of Music in music composition at the University of Georgia. He hopes to eventually earn his doctoral degree in music composition to teach at the university level and become a traveling conductor, composer and clinician. ❖



Day (far right) receives a student composer award from the BMI Foundation in New York City. The BMI Student Composer Awards recognize superior musical compositional ability with annual educational scholarships totaling \$20,000.



Day earns a bachelor's degree in instrumental performance in May 2019.



The Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU will offer spectacular views for all patrons.

Will You Be a Part of TCU's Forever?

Creativity is key to advancing the prominence of the **College of Fine Arts** at TCU now and in the future

While some institutions are cutting arts funding, TCU has taken the lead on supporting the college's programs and fostering the creative spirit of our students with new resources to help them learn, grow and polish their gifts. In 2018, the university broke ground on two College of Fine Arts buildings to complete the aptly named Creative Commons on the east side of campus near Mary Coutts Burnett Library.

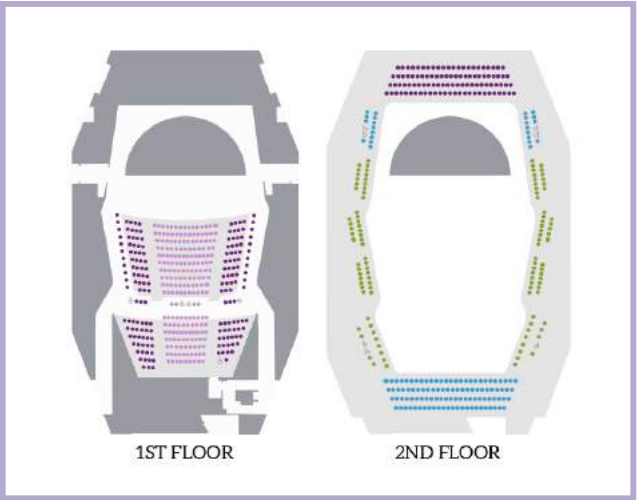
The multi-purpose Fine Arts Building officially opened in summer 2019 with nine new learning spaces to serve as the hub for our students in the Department of Fashion Merchandising and the

Department of Design, which includes interior and graphic design majors.

The TCU Music Center, slated to open in fall 2020, will provide the School of Music with new performance and rehearsal spaces for our award-winning band, orchestra and percussion students. This facility will also include the world-class Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU, set to become an icon in the performing arts community.

Now is your chance to join TCU's support of the arts. With your gift, we will engrave a plaque on the arm of a chair at the new Van Cliburn Concert Hall

“ **Classical music is forever.** ”
– Van Cliburn



Select a seat and your name will forever be a part of the university's legacy.

at TCU. Whether it's your name or the name of someone special you wish to honor, you'll be supporting TCU's investment in the world-class talent and remarkable creativity in the college, and your name will forever be a part of the university's legacy.

If you are interested in learning more about this unique opportunity, contact the College of Fine Arts Director of Development Elyse Menger Robinson at e.menger@tcu.edu or 817-257-4282 or visit finearts.tcu.edu/seatcampaign. ♦



School of Music faculty, staff, students and alumni gathered in March at a beam signing ceremony for the TCU Music Center.



Fine Arts Board of Visitors

- Robert Ackerman
- Brad Alford '74
- Harriet Anton '70
- Michael Bennett '78
- David Brayshaw '86
- Vicki Vinson Cantwell '78
- Brenda Cline '82
- Judith Singer Cohen '75
- Merrie M. Costello '85
- Barbara A. Cox
- Mitzi Davis
- Asad Dean, MD
- David Dike '82
- Carol Winn Dunaway
- Dianne Etheredge '69
- Jill Fortney '69
- Randall (Randy) Gideon
- John B. Giordano, Jr. '93
- William (Bill) Haley '65
- Adele Hart
- Joy Ann Havran '71
- Michelle Tyer Heines '91
- Jeanie Huffman
- Jeff King '81
- Teresa King
- Ann Koonsman '68
- Suzanne Levy '77
- Priscilla Martin '73
- Annie Mason '00
- Marsland Moncrief
- Mike G. Mullins '69
- Dana Deison Porter '83
- Jean Roach '66
- Jane E. Schlansker
- Stuart G. Schultz III '00
- Lynda L. Shropshire
- Walt E. Steimel, Jr. '78
- Kathleen (Kathy) B. Stevens '61
- Jennifer A. Williamson '93

Advisory Members

- Miguel Harth-Bedoya
Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra
- Eric Lee
Kimbell Art Museum
- Jacques Marquis
The Cliburn
- Marla Price
Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth
- Ben Stevenson
Texas Ballet Theatre
- Andrew Walker
Amon Carter Museum
- Honorary Member
Anna Belle P. Thomas

Inspiring Design

Department of Design professor wins international gold award for Toyota campaign

David Elizalde's goal as an assistant professor of graphic design is to develop professional creatives who are ready to work in the real world. Also an alumnus of TCU's graphic design program, he helps students prepare by sharing professional work of his own in the classroom.

One recent campaign he worked on won the 2019 Communicator Award of Excellence from the Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts (AIVA) – the equivalent of a gold medal in the leading international awards program for marketing and communications professionals.

Social Factor, a social media agency with offices in Fort Worth and Austin, hired Elizalde as a creative consultant to design a unique campaign concept for their client, Toyota, to thank customers for engaging with the brand on social media during 2018. Elizalde and his partners at Social Factor pitched multiple engaging ideas to the client.

The selected concept was an out-of-the-box idea to print sticky notes of thousands of customer photos that were shared to social media and cover a Toyota Sienna from wheel to wheel. Elizalde art directed the process, which was captured via a time-lapse video that was then shared on Toyota's social media channels. The campaign evoked emotion with Toyota's

target audience and resulted in high online engagement, leaving the client thrilled.

"It was an experimental and creative process – one of those projects you don't get to do more than once," says Elizalde. "The success of working with a national agency, like Social Factor, and an international brand, like Toyota, and winning an international award is exciting."

As an active graphic design professional and a professor, Elizalde is able to help advance the Department of Design's visibility in the creative community while teaching students about the intricacies of working with clients and the creative process.

"I always tell my students 'you can't be afraid of a blank canvas,'" says Elizalde. "You have to throw an idea out there to get started, have a range of concepts and the ability to sell why an idea is important."

Elizalde also credits his students with teaching him a thing or two.

"Sometimes when I share my work with my students, they are my sounding boards since I work independently," he says. "They will inspire me with new techniques or approaches. Teaching talented students has kept me relevant and pushed my creativity." ♦



(Above) Elizalde art directs on set for Toyota's thank you campaign. Elizalde developed the idea to film a time-lapse video of a Toyota Sienna being covered in customer photos to thank Toyota's social media followers for engaging with the brand online.

(Left) Social Factor CEO Scott Parker (far left) and members of Social Factor and the Toyota social media team execute Elizalde's vision for the Toyota thank you campaign.

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You can't be afraid of a blank canvas.

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Barry won the Rock Your Colors competition by creating three looks using TCU branded products.



I knew this honor came with a responsibility to represent TCU with excellence.

A Fashionable Footstep in the Right Direction

Fashion merchandising student experiences
New York Fashion Week



Barry (far right) meets with the co-founders of Hillflint in store

Last September, Shannon Barry '19 represented TCU at New York Fashion Week as the winner of the Rock Your Colors competition, an annual partnership between the Department of Fashion Merchandising and IMG College, the trademark licensing program for TCU Athletics.

The Rock Your Colors competition is just one of the many opportunities that the Department of Fashion Merchandising offers students for hands-on learning, and this unique educational experience provided Barry with a real world look at the fashion industry, reinforcing her lifelong plan to pursue a career in New York City after graduation.

What inspired you to enter the Rock Your Colors competition?

Since I am from the greater New York City area, going to fashion week has always been on my bucket list. Upon hearing about this opportunity, I ran to the TCU Campus Store to start my Rock Your Colors entry. A few weeks later, my phone rang. When I was informed I was selected, I was ecstatic. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity to gain exposure to one of the fashion world's most important events of the year.

What did you do to prepare for your trip to New York Fashion Week?

I knew with this honor came a responsibility to represent TCU with excellence. I made sure to have business – yet appropriately fashion-forward – outfits packed. I made business cards and kept the contacts I met in New York City meticulously organized.

What were your favorite parts of the experience?

I was afforded unique opportunities to experience backstage access to shows, an intimate industry discussion with Elaine Welteroth and Tyler Mitchell, behind-the-scenes of licensing companies, and networking opportunities with notable leaders in the industry, which included Evan Bruno, the senior director of partnerships at IMG, and the co-founders of collegiate apparel company Hillflint, Woody Hines and John Shi.

How did attending New York Fashion Week through the Rock Your Colors competition impact your education and professional life?

This experience allowed me to feel the intensity of New York Fashion Week in four short days. The IMG College team was extremely supportive the entire weekend. They ran the whole IMG NYFW weekend

seamlessly. Watching them work as a close-knit team really influenced me to apply to companies on the smaller side. I remain in close contact with the team for industry advice and insight.

What have you been up to since graduation?

Since graduation, I moved back to New York City to pursue a role with a high-end, luxury brand. ♦

This interview has been lightly edited and condensed for clarity.



(Top) Austin instructs SCCDance students during a studio class in Erma Lowe Hall. (Above) Austin with faculty members Saunders and Gillaspie. (Left) Austin and students in the Level IV ballet class commemorate the last day of her residency on campus.

SCCDance En Pointe with Debra Austin Visit

American ballerina inspires the dance community

The School for Classical & Contemporary Dance (SCCDance) welcomed ballet legend Debra Austin to campus as the Cecil H. and Ida Green Honors Chair in spring 2019. Handpicked by George Balanchine, Austin began her career as a ballerina at age 16 becoming the first African-American woman in the New York City Ballet. After she spent nine years touring the world with the company, she moved to Switzerland and joined the Zurich Ballet. Austin returned to the United States in 1982 and again made history as the first African-American ballerina to become principal dancer at a major American ballet company, dancing for more than

10 years with the Pennsylvania Ballet. Today, she is the ballet master for Carolina Ballet where she has been for the past 18 years. During her five-day residency at TCU, Austin taught a public master ballet class, participated in a conversation on dance, spent one-on-one class time with dance majors and offered a career talk for the campus community. Ahead of the SCCDance’s 70th anniversary during the 2019-20 academic year, students and faculty reflected on the lasting impact Austin left on the program and the local dance community. Their comments follow.

Elizabeth Gillaspie, Director

Ms. Austin’s visit was filled with multi-level impact. By offering the public master class and conversation with Ms. Austin, the SCCDance served as a center of dance for area young artists and their teachers. The conversation was filmed for future educational use, enriching students and faculty for years to come with Ms. Austin’s experiences and legacy.

Throughout the week, Ms. Austin taught multiple ballet classes for TCU’s dance majors that offered new perspectives, intense challenges and artistic growth. She is a lovely and generous woman who took great interest in our students and impacted our program with her insights and her energy.

Lauren Huynh, Ballet and Modern Dance major ‘21

I loved getting the opportunity to learn choreography by George Balanchine from Ms. Austin. It was an opportunity I will never

forget because I was able to hear from the voice of a dancer who worked right under Mr. Balanchine himself. Ms. Austin’s passion for the arts is so clear. I was inspired by her passion for dance and am motivated to use my voice as an artist to continually spread awareness that the arts are for everyone – no matter color, race, gender or sexuality.

Abby Linnabary, Ballet major ‘21

My biggest take away from Ms. Austin’s visit was to be myself when I dance. Obviously, technique and ability are important to ballet, but she placed a lot of emphasis on being unapologetically ourselves. When she taught us, she created an environment that made me feel like I could just dance and not worry about every single technical detail. Her classes brought a boldness and confidence out of me that I want to continue to have in my journey as a ballet dancer.

Keith Saunders, Assistant Professor of Professional Practice

Ms. Austin worked at least once, and in some cases several times, with virtually every student in the SCCDance. That reach across the entire department, regardless of major, is important to the experience we endeavor to provide our students because it gives them the first-hand opportunity of learning from and working with people who have enjoyed great success in the world of professional dance. Likewise for the faculty, Ms. Austin’s residency provided numerous opportunities to engage with her in the studio and in conversation. Her knowledge and experience compares and contrasts with ours, informing and shaping what we do and how we do it for the advancement of our students.

Interviews have been lightly edited and condensed for clarity.

New Faculty

The College of Fine Arts is proud to welcome these new full-time faculty members in the 2019-20 academic year!

**Faculty listed were hired as of August 1, 2019.*



ARTS LEADERSHIP & ENTREPRENEURSHIP (ARLE) MINOR

Candace Matelic, Full-time Lecturer

Dr. Matelic is the coordinator for the new ARLE minor, teaching seven courses and coordinating a team of faculty and local experts for participation in the courses. She led a yearlong assessment of the previous arts administration minor program, making recommendations to create the new ARLE minor curriculum. In this role, she also advises students and supervises internships. She earned a BFA from the University of Michigan, a MA from SUNY Oneonta and Ph.D. from SUNY Albany.

SCHOOL OF ART

Dan Jian, Assistant Professor

Jian joins the School of Art as the head of the drawing program, helping to guide curriculum to further develop the program. She has three years of experience exhibiting her professional work in addition to two years of teaching post-graduate school. She teaches Drawing I & II as well as beginning painting and foundation courses. She earned a BFA from Temple University and a MFA from Ohio State University.



Kristine Ronan, Full-time Lecturer

Dr. Ronan's areas of expertise include Native American and American art with a focus on the Northern Plains tribes and Mandan culture. She has 10 years of museum and archival experience in addition to teaching for three years. In her new role, she teaches art history courses including Intro to Art History, New World Art seminar and Art History Methods. Ronan received a BA in American studies from Yale University, a MA in art history from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in art history from the University of Michigan.

DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN

Claudia Butts, Instructor

Butts, who has previously taught part time in the Department of Design, has more than 30 years of experience as an award-winning designer and educator in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In her full-time role as instructor, her primary responsibilities are teaching and coordinating the technological portion of the design degree programs. She earned a BFA in graphic design from TCU.



DEPARTMENT OF FASHION MERCHANDISING

Nicole Bettinger, Full-time Lecturer

Bettinger's areas of expertise include buying, planning, inventory analysis and production. She has been teaching as an adjunct professor at TCU since 2002. In her full-time lecturer role, she teaches Introduction to the Fashion Industry, Fashion Communications and Consumers in the Marketplace. She earned a BS in fashion merchandising from TCU and a MS in fashion merchandising from Texas Woman's University.

Leslie Browning-Samoni, Instructor

Browning-Samoni has more than 15 years of experience in design and product development and 10 years of experience teaching. Since 2016, she has served as lecturer in the Department of Fashion Merchandising. In her full-time instructor role, she teaches Product Development, Digital Design and Textile Testing & Analysis. She earned a BA in fashion design and textile design from Syracuse University and a MA in visual culture and costume studies from New York University.



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao, Assistant Professor of Professional Practice

Dr. Kao earned a DMA in collaborative piano from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a MM in collaborative piano from the University of Texas at Austin, where she studied with the pioneer pedagogue, Anne Epperson. She was one of the first pianists to receive the MA in collaborative piano from National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei, where she also earned her BM in piano performance. She has collaborated with many distinguished artists including Lynn Harrell, Stefan Jackiw, Robert McDuffie, Bion Tsang, Gerardo Riberio, David Coucheron, Jennifer Stumm, and many members of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and the Colorado Symphony Orchestra.



Corey Trahan, Lecturer in Voice

Dr. Trahan is an active performer, educator and stage director in opera, oratorio, music theatre, operetta and recital venues. He has been an apprentice with Lake George Opera, Central City Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera and more. He is a current member of the American Guild of Music Artists, Actor's Equity Association and National Association of Teachers of Singing. Trahan earned a DMA in vocal performance and stage direction from the University of North Texas, a MM from the University of Houston and a BM from Louisiana State University.



Hye-Jung Park, Chancellor's Post-Doctoral Fellow in Musicology

Dr. Park holds the inaugural TCU Chancellor's Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Music. A recent Ph.D. graduate in musicology from The Ohio State University, her research is situated among the disciplines of musicology, ethnomusicology, diplomatic history, African-American studies and East Asian studies. Her research has been supported by the Alvin H. Johnson AMS-50 Dissertation Fellowship and the Ora Frishberg Saloman Fund for Musicological Research from the American Musicological Society and the Margery Lowens Dissertation Research Fellowship from the Society for American Music, among other sources. She earned MA and BM degrees in musicology from Korea National University of the Arts in Seoul, South Korea.



DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

Jessica Humphrey, Instructor

Humphrey has been promoted to full-time instructor after a successful first year of teaching in a one-year appointment at TCU in the 2018-19 academic year. She has a strong background in musical theatre with experience ranging from working as a professional actor, singer and dancer in regional productions across the country to being assistant to Tony nominees Charlotte d'Amboise and Terrence Mann. She earned a BM in musical theatre from Western Carolina University and a MFA in theatre arts from San Diego State University.





A FAB Addition to the College of Fine Arts

Home to the Department of Design and the Department of Fashion Merchandising, the new Fine Arts Building (FAB) officially opened at the beginning of the fall 2019 semester. Located on the east side of campus, the FAB, as well as the forthcoming TCU Music Center, anchors the future connection of the Mary Coats Burnett Library, the J.M. Moudy Visual Arts and Communication Building and Rees-Jones Hall in the development of a Creative Commons where students can enjoy green spaces and common areas to congregate and collaborate.

In the FAB, graphic design, interior design, architectural lighting design, design studies and fashion merchandising students have access to numerous innovative facilities to polish their skills and help launch their professional careers.

FAB FACTS

- 33,000 square feet
- 9 state-of-the-art learning spaces
- 4 computer labs
- 1 jury room where students can present their work for critique
- Serves 370+ Design and Fashion Merchandising majors

TCU Music Center to Open Fall 2020

The exterior of the forthcoming TCU Music Center is nearly complete since construction began in spring 2018, and the interior will be finished for the grand opening in fall 2020. The TCU Music Center will contain the 700 seat state-of-the-art Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU as well as rehearsal spaces, instructional facilities, practice rooms and additional resources to support our award-winning band, orchestra and percussion programs. Stay tuned for information about opening events in the coming year.



Join the College of Fine Arts during the 2019-20 academic year for unforgettable exhibitions, performances and lectures from TCU students, faculty and esteemed guest artists.

Find more events, details and ticket information at finearts.tcu.edu/events. Visit finearts.tcu.edu/news for additional news and updates from the college.

Fall 2019

September

“Abstract Utility”
Sept. 6-Nov. 23

Featuring gallery-based sculptural works and a new mobile installation, this exhibition by San Antonio-based artist Buster Graybill is on display at the Fort Worth Contemporary Arts Gallery.

“First Date”
Sept. 12-Oct. 13

A co-production between TheatreTCU and Stage West, presented at Stage West, this modern musical tells the story of a gleefully awkward blind date between a mismatched pair.

October

Latin American Music Festival
Oct. 6-11

The 12th biennial Latin American Music Festival celebrates the best of Venezuelan music, bringing world renowned performers Pacho Flores (trumpet), Eddy Marcano (violin), Jorge Polanco (cuatro), Layo Puentes (C/bass and maracas) and Latin Grammy Award-winning singer María Teresa Chacín to campus for a week of events.

Day of Design
Oct. 25

Work from alumni of the graphic design, interior design and architectural lighting design programs is on display at the Department of Design’s inaugural Day of Design in the new Fine Arts Building.

November

DanceTCU Fall Concert
Nov. 7-10

The SCCDance presents an exciting performance of classical and contemporary repertoire created by TCU faculty and guest artists in Ed Landreth Auditorium.

“Sister Act”
Nov. 19-24

Presented by TheatreTCU at the Buschman Theatre in Ed Landreth Hall, this uplifting musical comedy tells the story of a woman hiding in a convent who helps fellow sisters find their voices as she rediscovers her own.

December

Graphic Design Society of Creative Excellence Exhibition
Dec. 2-13

The work featured in this show represents some of the best graphic design scholarship students from all levels.



TCU Choral Christmas Concert
Dec. 8

Join the School of Music for the TCU Choral Christmas Concert under the direction of conductor Christopher Aspaas in Ed Landreth Auditorium.

SCCDance Senior Choreography Concert
Dec. 10-11

DanceTCU presents a concert of original dances created by the senior BFA choreographers in the Studio Theatre at Erma Lowe Hall.

Spring 2020

January

Festival of the American Song
Jan. 25-26

This annual on-campus event celebrates the colorful mosaic of American music and the talents of living composers with this year’s festival featuring contemporary composer Libby Larsen.

February

“Yeltsin in Texas”
Feb. 7-9

TCU Opera Studio world premieres this modern comedic opera based on real events during then-Soviet leader Boris Yeltsin’s visit to the U.S. in 1989.

March

DanceTCU Spring Concert
March 27-29

The SCCDance presents an exciting performance of classical and contemporary repertoire created by TCU faculty and guest artists in Ed Landreth Auditorium.

April

“The Pajama Game”
April 14-19

TheatreTCU presents this Tony Award-winning musical comedy where love blossoms in the midst of a labor dispute at a pajama factory.

Graphic Design BFA Senior Exhibition
April 27-May 1

Fourteen graphic design seniors present their final work during this exhibition at Moudy Gallery.

May

Interior Design Thesis Exhibition
Early May

Graduating interior design seniors present their final work during this exhibition in the FAB Jury Room and Lobby.



Scan at any time to see the latest College of Fine Arts events.

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