

Close-Up: Donald and Joan Beall



He used to be the CEO of one of the world's most successful aerospace and electronics companies.

She was president of the Newport Harbor Art Museum (now Orange County Museum of Modern Art) and sat on the board of the OC Performing Arts Center for 25 years.

The arts have been lifelong passions for **Joan Beall**. Add the technological side from Don's career at Rockwell International and you have the perfect marriage of art and technology – the very reason the Beall Center for Art + Technology was funded in the Bealls' honor with a million dollar gift from their Rockwell co-workers upon Don's retirement a decade ago.

By combining the Bealls' interests in business, engineering and the arts, the Beall Center is the perfect example of how art and

artistic experimentation can lead to fresh approaches and inventiveness in all disciplines. It also illustrates the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration.

"Innovation is a core strength of any economy – regional or global," **Don Beall** explained. "We think that right and left brains working more closely together will help create the innovations that challenge the status quo in business, high technology or art."

The Bealls' contributions of both time and money have been integral to UCI's growth. They hope that by their example, others in the community will realize that their support – financial and otherwise – is vital to UCI's growth and stature.

Find out more about the Beall Center at www.beallcenter.uci.edu.

Molly Lynch Commissioned by Sacramento Ballet

Molly Lynch, Assistant Professor in Dance, was selected by the Sacramento Ballet as one of "brightest and most imaginative bold voices" from among the best choreographers on the West Coast.

Her new work, a ballet titled "A Journey" and set to Antonin Dvorak's "Four Romantic Pieces, Section I, II, & III," is designed for two couples and was presented in April at a black-tie event at the Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts in Davis, Calif.

As part of the ballet company's "Genius of California Choreographers" annual showcase, Lynch restaged her ballet "Ellington Club," set to music by the great Duke Ellington. This work was part of the company premiere for its "Modern Masters, Abbreviated" performance in Sacramento.

The evening featured other world premieres and repertory favorites by the Sacramento Ballet.

While in-residence, Lynch presented "Inside the Director's Studio," moderated by Artistic Director Ron Cunningham, that was both a lecture and working rehearsal for "A Journey" and "Ellington Club." She also taught a Master Class in ballet for advanced dancers and gave a lecture about "University Dance Programs."

Molly Lynch is an award-winning choreographer and artistic director with more than 30 years of experience

creating, producing and presenting dance. She is the founder and artistic director of the National Choreographers Initiative, an internationally known project to nurture the development of new choreography.



Assistant Professor Molly Lynch (R) teaches a Master Class in Sacramento.

Jodie Gates Awarded Altria/ABT Choreography Fellowship

Dance Assistant Professor **Jodie Gates** was named the Altria/ABT Choreography Fellow for 2009. Launched in 2008 in an effort to identify and nurture female choreographers, the Fellows program annually chooses an emerging female choreographer to create a new work for ABT II. Gates is the second of three to be awarded this honor.

Gates' new work was set to Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, 2nd movement. Its world premiere took place in April at the Lynch Theater at John Jay College in New York.

Featuring costumes created by UCI's designer **Melanie Watnick**, Gates' ballet will become part of ABT II's touring production.

Gates, who has been with the Claire Trevor School of the Arts for three years, is the founder and artistic director of CaDance, which presents the annual Laguna Dance Festival in Laguna Beach. She also stages the works of William Forsythe for dance companies around the world.



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To save a few thousand trees, and several thousand dollars in printing and postage, the Claire Trevor School of the Arts wants to convert this printed quarterly newsletter into an electronic format. To do that, we need your email address.

If you would like to continue receiving news from us, please go to the home page of our web site (www.arts.uci.edu) and click on the bright red envelope near the top of the page. You will be forwarded to a page to register your email address, ensuring that you continue to receive news about our Dance, Drama and Music performances, as well as the exhibits at our Galleries and the Beall Center.

Don't delay – register today! Help us go paperless.

The Art of Stage Management

Very few people start out with the goal of becoming a stage manager. According to **Don Hill**, vice chair of the CTSA drama department and head of the stage management program, most begin studying drama with the intent of performing. Along the way, for a myriad of reasons, they decide that acting is not their forte and they start looking into other areas of theater.

"It appears to be a common occurrence for undergrads in their junior year," Hill explained. "They've realized by then that acting is not their thing and many choose stage management instead. What they don't

realize until much later is that their chances for obtaining stage management employment in the commercial, professional world are significantly higher than if they had stayed

with acting."

Instead of relying on being a certain look or type, those who pursue stage management obtain a skill set that prepares them to work in a majority of Fortune 500 companies, in addition to entertainment arenas such as Las Vegas, cruise ships, theme parks and special event management.

What are the skills they acquire? "Stage managers know how to organize things, how to get along with people, how to solve problems and conflicts, how to deal with difficult people, and how to deal with budgeting and funding. Just about anyone can take what we teach them in the stage management program and find a niche of their own, whether in business or the entertainment industry," Hill said.

Hill joined the UCI drama faculty about five years ago after a long, multi-faceted career in theater. He started out as an actor and went into directing after earning his master's degree at USC under the tutelage of the great John Houseman.

"But, as a director, you're gone after opening night. I found that I missed my shows and wanted to stick around for the entire run," said Hill. "Stage managers got to stay on and they got to run everything – I liked that!"

With undergraduate stage management classes now a required part of the drama

degree, CTSA provides a comprehensive overview of what a stage manager does, including keeping a production book, familiarization with union rules, pyrotechnics and weapons safety, and more.

As head of the graduate stage management program – which he was instrumental in creating and developing – Don Hill provides mentoring, academic advisement and professional counseling to the nine students who are accepted annually into the three-year program.

Thanks to the university's proximity to Hollywood, instruction here is augmented with lectures and appearances by a long list of professionals from every area of the live entertainment industry, television and film. These ties, along with UCI's alumni network, provide graduate stage management students with multiple opportunities for internships and future employment.

"Our program has a stellar reputation and ranks among the top 10 in the country," said Hill. "Our alums have been very successful because their training here not only deals with the job skills required, but also how to do self marketing, job interview techniques and how to land the job." All valuable skills indeed.



Stage setting for "Book of Tink."

Keeping Modern Dance Alive

The Claire Trevor School of the Arts has created the Modern Dance Commissioning & Fellowship Fund in recognition of the contributions and lifelong career of **Donald McKayle**, Claire Trevor Professor of Dance and world renowned choreographer/dancer.

Contributions to the fund will help the School of the Arts establish a commissioning program for new choreography and allow the School to recruit the best, brightest and most talented modern dance students from around the world.

Professor McKayle has been instrumental in garnering worldwide recognition for the School's Department of Dance. Establishing the fund as he celebrates his 20th anniversary at UCI also enables the community, faculty and staff to immortalize his enduring legacy as one of America's great dance artists.

To make a donation or for more information, contact Mia Martinez, associate director of development, at (949) 824-0085 or email her at miam@uci.edu



Photo: Nikki Jee

Singer Della Reese with Donald McKayle at a reception in his honor.

Successful Family Days at Beall Center

Thanks to the enthusiasm and participation of its stellar Advisory Council, the Beall Center for Art + Technology's latest Family Days have attracted large numbers of children and their parents. Many of the older folks were seen enjoying the demonstrations and classes, conducted by council members Bob Shureman, Donn Silberman and Simone Chapman, as much as their youngsters! The next Family Day is scheduled for April 18.



(L) The crowd gathers for Bob Shureman's demonstration.



Parents have as much fun as the kids at the Beall Center's Family Days.



Dr. Donn, the Optricks Apprentice



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MaryJo Lang: The Artistry of Sound

Photo: Frazer Harrison/Getty Images



Drama alum and award-winning Foley mixer MaryJo Lang will receive UCI's Distinguished Alumni Award in May.

You might say **MaryJo Lang** (BA Drama 1974) has an ear for sounds. After all, that's what a Foley does – provide sound effects for films by enhancing the “boom” of that explosion or the “clip clop” of those horses' hooves. And just like those horses' hooves, her career path wasn't always in a straight, pre-determined line.

After graduating from UCI, MaryJo took a job for Disneyland in its wardrobe department and had the opportunity to work on the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympics when the games came to Los Angeles. During those months, she made a number of contacts in Hollywood, started working on wardrobe in low budget films and TV, and never went back to Disneyland.

A short time later, another of her Olympic contacts introduced her to the world of sound design for film. She was intrigued and needed a job – so she signed on as a runner or go-fer. There are no classes or

schools to learn how to Foley; the only way to train is by apprenticing and working your way through the ranks. That's just what she did!

Today, MaryJo Lang is at the top of her field – and one of the few women in this male-dominated world. She has worked on some of the biggest blockbusters in the industry, including “*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*” and the soon-to-be-released “*Transformers II*” and “*Terminator 4*.”

“You have to have a passion for anything you want to do in the entertainment industry,” said MaryJo. “It's a relationship-based industry; you have to meet as many people as you can because you never know who's going to have the contacts you need to move forward.”

Sound advice from the sound expert.

MaryJo Lang has been selected by the UCI Alumni Association (UCIAA) as a Distinguished Alumnus for 2009. She will receive her award at the 39th Annual Lauds & Laurels ceremony on Thurs., May 14 at the Irvine Hilton.

She and 17 other alums will be honored for their commitment to UCI. They were selected by a committee of alumni, faculty, students and volunteers.

Since 1971, UCIAA has recognized more than 600 alumni and friends, with proceeds from the ceremony benefitting UCIAA's scholarship program.

Individual tickets to the 6:00 p.m. ceremony are \$250, and 10-person tables may also be purchased. For information or reservations, call (949) 824-2586.

Alumni Profile: Teal Wicks

Teal Wicks knows she's defied the odds. Just three years since completing her bachelor's in drama from UC Irvine's Claire Trevor School of the Arts, she's starring in the Broadway blockbuster “*Wicked*,” which opened in January at the Orpheum in San Francisco.

The Sacramento native's journey to Oz didn't follow a simple path – yellow-bricked or otherwise. Wicks was invited to audition not once but six times for various roles and companies producing “*Wicked*.” She got called back while working on “*1776*” at the Goodspeed Opera House in Connecticut.

“I'd drive to New York for callbacks and then back to Connecticut for the evening show,” Wicks said.

She persisted and was awarded the standby role for Elphaba – the wicked witch – in January 2008.

“As a standby, I was on-call the entire time and not guaranteed any shows,” she said. “I would go to the theater every night and just hang out. Sometimes I would find out a couple of hours before the show that I'd be going on. And three times I went on in the middle of the show because the principal got sick.”

She credits her success to her training at UCI. “I'm glad I left school with a broad range of knowledge, from all aspects of the theater to the classes that I took. It benefits

Photo: Joan Marcus



Teal Wicks appears in “*Wicked*” and as herself (right).

everything in my everyday life, my work and my character studies.”

Article provided by UCI Alumni Association



Alumni Profile: Allison Case

Peter Case got an inkling that his daughter, Allison, might be destined for show business when she was only six. While on vacation in Aspen, the Case family was relaxing in the ski lodge when he heard his daughter's voice over the loudspeakers. She'd slipped away to join a live band on stage and was entertaining the skiers.

“We sat there in amazement,” he recalls. “She was singing all her favorite Disney songs.”

Today he's still pretty amazed by his daughter – and so are theatergoers. Since she graduated from UCI in 2006, **Allison Case** has enjoyed a rapid rise on Broadway, impressing

even the toughest critics with her joyful performances.

At 24, she made her Broadway debut as Sophie, the daughter, in “*Mamma Mia!*” In March she debuted as Crissy in “*Hair*” and is featured in the Broadway play's posters and advertisements.

Robert Cohen, Claire Trevor Professor of Drama, first noticed Case's emotional breadth at a rehearsal of his production of “*Pedro Gynt*” – when she was in the audience, not the cast.

“As she watched the rehearsal, I found myself staring more at her than the actors. I had never seen an audience member take-in the action so fully, like she was living each actor's part,” Cohen recalled.

Soon after graduating and moving to New York, Case landed a big fish. She played Nemo in the Disney World production of “*Finding Nemo: The Musical*” – a part that required her to master puppetry.

“At UCI I was challenged in a lot of different ways. Going to acting class, having amazing teachers, living in the dorms, being outside my comfort zone – all of these experiences shaped who I am and gave me more to draw from,” she said.

The most important thing she's learned? “You never know what directors are looking for, so the best thing is to just be yourself.”

By Kathryn Bold, University Communications



Drama alum Allison Case appears in “*Hair*” as Crissy.

Yvonne Same (BA Drama '06) checked out Playbill.com just for fun and noticed that there was a call for an immediate replacement for Marcy Park on the non-eq tour of “*Spelling Bee!*” She quickly made a video and posted it on YouTube. A short time later she got a call that she landed the role! She reports that “the baton isn't as hard as it looks, friends. Pick one up, give it a twirl!”

Chung-Fu Chang (MFA Dance '98), Currently on the faculty at Colorado State University, was honored in 2008 with an Outstanding Faculty Award and is a nominee for the 2009 Best Teacher Award.

Lisa Komara (BA Music Performance '97) performs as a vocalist for the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company.

Miracle Laurie (BA Drama '04) has been cast as Mellie on Joss Whedon's “*Dollhouse*,” a new series that debuted in February on the Fox Network.

Sae La Chin (BFA Dance Performance '97) made her Broadway debut in Irving Berlin's “*White Christmas*.”

More Alumni News

Spring 2009 Events

April

Apr. 2 - 17
Department of Studio Art
5th Annual Guest Juried Undergraduate Exhibition
University Art Gallery*
Opening Reception: Apr. 2, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
FREE

Apr. 2 - 17
Department of Studio Art
Undergraduate Honors Project
Room Gallery*
Opening Reception: Apr. 2, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
FREE

Apr. 3 - June 6
EX-I-09
Shih Chieh Huang
Beall Center for Art + Technology**
Opening Reception: Apr. 2, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Huang, born in Taipei and educated in the United States, is an internationally exhibited new media artist whose recent exhibitions include the 2007 Venice Biennale and the U.S. electronic arts festival "01." Drawing from the well of remix culture, Huang combines stripped electronic parts from the everyday objects that comprise our modern existence and creates a fully inhabited, interactive world that is both obviously familiar and strangely foreign.

Apr. 4, 8:00 p.m.
Department of Music Chamber Series
New Music for House Plants
Alan Terricciano, piano and cactus
Robin Cox Ensemble
Andre Gribou, piano

Lea Steffens, clarinet
Winifred Smith Hall
\$13 general/\$11 seniors/\$9 students

Apr. 10 - 18, 8:00 p.m.
Apr. 11 & 18, 2:00 p.m.
Department of Drama Stage 2
Abstract Expression
Written by Theresa Rebeck
Directed by Erin Africa
Studio Theatre
A once-celebrated and now nearly forgotten artist has been working in seclusion for years, supported by his high-school dropout daughter. When he is rediscovered and launched to fame, questions are provoked: Who gets to define which art is good? Can we divorce the art from the artist? Who owns a work of art? Undercurrents of social injustice and hypocrisy run beneath this drama filled with biting humor and tragedy, all set in the complex realities of the New York art world.

\$11 general/\$10 seniors/\$9 students

Apr. 18, 8:00 p.m.
Department of Music Chamber Series
Chamber Music Favorites
Nina Scolnik, piano
Patricia Cloud, flute
Frances Young, soprano
Haroutune Bedelian, violin
Maggie Parkins, cello
Dvorak "Dumky" Trio, Franck Sonata in A, Gabriel Faure and more.
Winifred Smith Hall
\$13 general/\$11 seniors/\$9 students



Apr. 23 - May 8
Department of Studio Art
MFA Thesis Exhibition, Part I
University Art Gallery & Room Gallery*
Opening Reception: Apr. 22, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
FREE

Apr. 22, 8:00 p.m.
Department of Music
Gassmann Electronic Music Series
Apocalyptic Visions
Christopher Dobrian, producer
Abbie Conant, trombone
William Osborne, multimedia
Winifred Smith Hall
FREE

Apr. 23 - 25, 8:00 p.m.
Apr. 25, 2:00 p.m.
Department of Dance
Dance Escape
New works by UCI graduate choreographers
Claire Trevor Theatre
\$12 general/\$11 seniors/\$9 students

Apr. 26, 2:00 p.m.
Department of Music UCI Town & Gown
Honors Concert
Proceeds support music scholarships at UCI
Winifred Smith Hall
For tickets contact Dorothy Green @ (717) 539-5155
\$13 general/\$11 seniors/\$9 students

May

May 1 & 2, 8:00 p.m.
Pre-concert conversation: May 1, 7:00 p.m.
Department of Music
UCI Symphony Orchestra
Stephen Tucker, conductor
Concerto for Ney & Orchestra, Hossein Omoumi
Bloch - Suite for Viola and Orchestra, Jerzy Kosmala
Dvorak - Symphony No. 9 "From the New World"
Irvine Barclay Theatre
\$13 general/\$11 seniors/\$9 students

May 7 - 9, 8:00 p.m.
May 9, 2:00 p.m.
Department of Dance
Physical Graffiti
Original works by UCI graduate choreographers
Claire Trevor Theatre
\$12 general/\$11 seniors/\$9 students

May 9, 8:00 p.m.
Department of Music Chamber Series
May Chamber Festival
Haroutune Bedelian, violin
Maggie Parkins, cello
Jerzy Kosmala, viola
Amanda Walker, clarinet
Jonathan Davis, oboe
Matt Hare, double bass
Lorna Griffitt, piano
Darryl Taylor, voice
Mozart Trio in E Flat Major, K. 498 for Piano, Clarinet and Viola, Prokofiev Quintet for Strings and Winds, Brahms Piano Quartet in C Minor Opus 60.
Winifred Smith Hall
\$13 general/\$11 seniors/\$9 students

May 13, 8:00 p.m.
UCI Jazz Orchestra Spring Concert
Charles Owens, conductor
Claire Trevor Theatre
\$13 general/\$11 seniors/\$9 students

May 14 - 29
Department of Studio Art
MFA Thesis Exhibition, Part II
University Art Gallery & Room Gallery*
Opening Reception: May 14, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
FREE

May 16, 8:00 p.m.
Department of Music
UCI Choir Concert
Joseph Huszti, conductor
Winifred Smith Hall
FREE

May 19, 8:00 p.m.
Department of Music
Small Jazz Groups
Winifred Smith Hall
FREE



May 20, 8:00 p.m.
Department of Music
UCI Wind Ensemble
Kevin McKeown, conductor
Winifred Smith Hall
FREE

May 29 - June 6, 8:00 p.m.
May 30, 2:00 p.m.; June 6, 1:00 pm
Department of Drama Mainstage
All Undergraduate Production
Little Women: The Broadway Musical
Music by Jason Howland
Lyrics by Mindy Dickstein
Book by Allan Knee
Directed and Staged by Myrona Delaney
Musical Director: Dennis Castellano
Claire Trevor Theatre
Based on Louisa May Alcott's own childhood experiences and her 1869 semi-autobiographical novel "Little Women," the Broadway musical follows the adventures of the March sisters — Jo, Meg, Beth, and Amy — who come of age during the Civil War. The beloved story feels timeless as it deals with life-changing issues as relevant today as when they were first written. Filled with glorious music, dancing, and heart — the sounds of a young America finding its voice — this exhilarating new family musical is sure to charm young and old alike!
\$18 general/\$16 seniors/\$9 students

May 30, 8:00 p.m.
Department of Music Art Song & Artistry Series
An Evening of Spirituals with Jacqueline Hairston
Winifred Smith Hall
Pre-concert discussion: 7:30 pm
FREE

June

June 4 - 12
Department of Studio Art
Senior Exhibition
University Art Gallery & Room Gallery*
Opening Reception: June 4, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
FREE

June 5 & 6, 8:00 p.m.
Pre-concert conversation: June 5, 7:00 p.m.
Department of Music
UCI Symphony Orchestra
Stephen Tucker, conductor
Irvine Barclay Theatre
\$13 general/\$11 seniors/\$9 students

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

**Beall Center for Art + Technology
Hours: Tues. & Wed., noon - 5:00 p.m.
Thu. - Sat., noon - 8:00 p.m.
(949) 824-4339
www.beallcenter.uci.edu
Admission is Free

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