

UCI Arts Quarterly

Fall 2008

Creative Connections Reaches Out, In

The Claire Trevor School of the Arts is expanding its arts outreach to the community, thanks to funding from the Segerstrom Foundation, the Bren Foundation, UCI's Beall Center for Art and Technology, and the UC Office of the President.

projects in middle and high schools in Irvine, Fullerton, and Santa Ana, including projects in digital art and new media. A new \$15,000 Segerstrom Foundation gift will fund expansion into Costa Mesa schools.

Creative Connections provides opportunities for community engagement and hands-on teaching to qualified UCI Arts students. The program also serves as professional development for public school teachers in a sustainable format. Project lesson plans, materials, and resources are provided for future classes.

"Creative Connections is an investment in the future and a commitment to the community," says Ana Halland, program director. "It exposes children to University life and establishes concrete connections between their classroom experience and future possibility.

"Creative Connections transforms the public school students and transforms the scholars, who bring their talents and imaginations into

the classrooms," says Halland. Several scholars have gone on to earn education credentials at UCI, often with MFAs in their particular fields.

Last year, 48 scholars received stipends to create classroom projects with a minimum of 25 classroom hours each. Most projects culminated in a performance or showing.

The K-6 projects included dance as a means to language acquisition for English learners, cultural understanding, physical

flexibility and strength; studio art incorporated into history and science units; music as a means for understanding physics, acoustics, and mathematical principles, and drama integrated into history, social studies, and language arts studies.

Middle and high school projects included dance choreography, instrumental master classes, the creation and production of one school's first musical, and an animation course for at-risk high school students.

"An exciting element in efforts to engage community is a series of Reach-Ins, when we bring children and their families to attend UCI Arts events and tour the campus," Halland says. Last year, students heard jazz musicians Kei Akagi and Friends, toured the art galleries and campus libraries, and attended "Dance Escape" and "Still Life With Iris" performances. Contact Halland at (949) 824-8976, ahalland@uci.edu. ●



Top, Ana Halland. Right, scholar Ching Ching Wong leads Centralia Elementary students in song and dance.

The arts outreach program, now called Creative Connections, includes partnerships with K-12 schools in Orange County, with an emphasis on underserved communities, and a long-standing commitment with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Creative Connections builds on the success of the School's original initiative, ArtsBridge, which integrated art education standards in dance, drama, music and studio art into elementary core curriculum. Creative Connections has piloted arts-focused



Faculty Join Dance, Drama, Music

Starting in Fall quarter, three new hires have joined the faculty in scenic design, electronic music composition and dance kinesiology.

Luke Hegel-Cantarella has been hired as assistant professor of drama and head of scene design. He earned a bachelor degree in theater from Northwestern University and an MFA in stage design from Yale School of Drama.

As an active working member of the professional design community since 1995, he has a long resume of scenic design credits at theaters all over the country, including Pittsburgh Public Theater, Yale Repertory Theater, the Atlantic Theater Company, and the Repertory Theater of St. Louis. His credits include costume design, commercial design, film, television, fine art exhibitions, and grant and fellowship awards.

The Off-Broadway musical he designed, "Make Me a Song: The Music of William Finn," has been nominated for a 2008 Drama Desk Award for Best Musical Revue.

"Luke's broad range of experience well suits our Department's design programs, which are strongly based in a theatrical foundation," says Eli Simon, chair of the Drama Department.

Kojiro Umezaki, a composer and performer of the shakuhachi (traditional Japanese end-blown bamboo flute), has been hired as assistant professor of music (I.C.I.T., Integrated Composition, Improvisation and Technology). He has a bachelor degree in computer science from Lafayette College and an AM in electro-acoustic music from Dartmouth

College. He taught new media, digital audio and interactive music systems at Canada's McGill University since 2000, and has been a visiting instructor at Dartmouth, Lafayette and Tokyo's Kunitachi College of Music.

His recordings (including original works for shakuhachi with and without electronics) can be heard on the Healthy Boys, Silk Road Project, Sony Classical and Smithsonian/Folkways labels, among others. He has toured with the Silk Road Ensemble, a collective of internationally renowned musicians, composers, arrangers, visual artists and storytellers.

Umezaki has also worked as a software designer and engineer for music and media applications. His computer programming and music technology skills can contribute to the School's new research in interactivity and networked performance, says David Brodbeck, chair of the Music Department. "There will be good opportunities for rapport with other UCI departments, such as Asian-American Studies, Informatics, ACE, and the Center for Asian Studies," Brodbeck says.

Jeff Russell joins the faculty as assistant professor of dance science. He earned his bachelor and master degrees in physical

education with emphasis in sports medicine from Rice University and University of Arizona, respectively. He will defend his PhD dissertation on anatomy and biomechanics of the ankle and foot in classical ballet this fall at the University of Wolverhampton, UK.

Russell was director of performing arts medicine at Belhaven College in Jackson, Mississippi, where he started and directed the Performing Arts Medicine Service. He



Luke Hegel-Cantarella



Kojiro Umezaki



Jeff Russell

also led the Joe W. King Orthopedic Institute in Houston and is a certified athletic trainer with the National Athletic Trainers' Association and a communications consultant to the British Association of Sport Rehabilitators and Trainers.

Acting Dean Alan Terricciano says that Russell's hire allows the School to resume its leadership position in dance kinesiology and injury prevention, a field pioneered 30 years ago by now-retired Professor Janice Plastino. ●

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From the Acting Dean



Dear Colleagues,

It is an honor and a privilege to be writing to all of you in this new role. I am entering my 15th year here at UCI and have always considered myself extraordinarily fortunate to be surrounded by and engaged with such an interesting, passionate and dedicated group of people. I take on this service with enthusiasm and deep commitment, embracing the opportunity before me to support all of you in the way that you have supported me.

Dean Nohema Fernández stepped down on July 15th, after seven years of administrative service, first as Associate Dean and then as Dean. She will take a well-deserved leave of absence after which she will return to the faculty. I will serve as Acting Dean through this academic year while the campus conducts a nation-wide search for a new dean. I am delighted to report that Professor Lisa Naugle has accepted the role of chair for the Dance Department.

I wish to honor Dean Fernández for her accomplishments, contributions and extraordinary dedication to the school during her tenure both as Associate Dean and Dean. She oversaw the dynamic growth of the School's four departments during this time, and played a key role in their advancement, bringing the school to higher levels of national acclaim for our creative and scholarly endeavors. As an advocate for the School's programs and mission, Dean Fernández developed and strengthened relationships with community leaders and organizations. She increased the size and scope of the Dean's Leadership Council and invested a great deal of time and energy in the design and planning process of the new building. Her efforts in this area, in particular, were vital in guaranteeing that the project will be realized in a way that ensures its future value to the arts community both on campus and in Orange County and beyond. We thank Dean Fernández for her years of service and leadership and extensive contributions to the arts at UCI.

I look forward to this year as Acting Dean and I will be tireless in furthering the mission of the School as an impassioned advocate for the arts, proud of our commitment to excellence, celebratory of our achievements, and excited by our potential. With your help, we will succeed. Thank you for your support during this time of transition.

Alan Terricciano
Acting Dean

Ready to Dance? Dance-IT Shows You How

Build a Dance-IT and they will dance. That's what John Crawford discovered when he presented his Dance-IT interactive dance machine last spring at the San Francisco Public Library, sponsored by the San Francisco Ballet.

Parents and kids removed their shoes and entered an open-sided kiosk containing video screens showing multiple dance styles. Touching the screen to make a choice, they watched an expert dancer perform Afro-Cuban, Japanese, Kathak, Mexican Folkloric, Tahitian, West African, modern, ballet or hip-hop styles. When the video ended, they pushed a button to record themselves dancing with the expert.

"People loved Dance-IT. They immediately jumped right in, lost their inhibitions and got active with the system," says Crawford, associate professor of dance and media arts. "They were captivated by the video images of professional dancers and loved the opportunity to dance along. Some people imitated the on-screen dancers and learned new moves. Others improvised their own spontaneous response to the music."

Screens outside the kiosk replayed a montage of the dances recorded by visitors. Passersby watched a continual loop featuring everyone who had danced in Dance-IT.

The new media technology combined with dance evoked strong emotions in some participants. "One woman was very moved because Dance-IT brought back memories of a folk dance that she learned in childhood and hadn't seen performed in years," Crawford says.

The purpose of Dance-IT is to help people connect with dance by becoming active participants. Children and adults alike can experience a variety of dance styles and learn about different cultures.

Crawford, whose media and projection designs often enhance UCI dance performances, began innovating years ago with telematic performance – using computer networks to make dance happen in more than one place simultaneously. His current vision is to install



John Crawford and UCI dancers Justin Keats, Amanda Prince-Lubaway, Ching Ching Wong, Hope Bataclan, and Jay Carlon, with projection from collaboration with UC Santa Cruz.

a series of Dance-IT kiosks in theater lobbies, science museums, art galleries and malls, each connected over a high-speed network to servers at UCI. With this advanced technology, dances can be shared among locations around the world.

"The Dance-IT Network can capture and share movement memories from every site. I would love for people at a shopping mall in Southern California to see themselves dancing alongside a Dance-IT participant in China or Paris," says Crawford.

Dance-IT is based on Crawford's Active Space, an interactive performance system that he has been continuously developing since 1994. He credits the Claire Trevor School of the Arts for contributing to Dance-IT's success in San Francisco. "Keith Bangs, our production technical director, and his crew found inspired solutions to every problem we encountered in creating the Dance-IT kiosk. Also, I'm very proud that Dance-IT features stellar performances from UCI students Summer Bowie, Gabriela Estrada and Armando Yearwood."

This year Crawford will continue his development of the Dance-IT Network in the new eMedia Studio located in the Calit2 building, a 2,500-square-foot high-tech performance space that is a UCI Arts outpost in the science and engineering complex across campus. The arts have always been closely linked to technology development, Crawford says. "From the piano and the printing press to today's digital media, one of the most important roles of an artist in society is to experiment, follow curiosity, see what can be done with different forms of technology," he says. "Innovation is important, but only to the extent that it enables us to hold 'the mirror up to nature' and perhaps see the world in a new way.

"The arts can be a great showcase for advances in technology. As an artist I feel I have an obligation to show how technology can be used in ways that are life-affirming, to help people connect and become inspired in ways they didn't expect." ●

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Acting Dean: Alan Terricciano
Editor: Linda McCreary
Editorial Assistant: Rick Koser
Student Assistants:
Traci Lee, Grace Kim
Photographers: Paul Kennedy,
Gregory Gallardo, Rick Koser,
Nikki Jee, David Friedman
Design: Bacall Creative
Printer: Meridian Graphics

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designed by Maya Lin

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In the Spotlight

Amy Bauer (Music) delivered her paper, "Ligeti's Weöres Songs," as part of the music, text and memory session at the American Comparative Literature Association's annual meeting in Long Beach, Calif. and "The Impossible Charm of Messiaen's 'Chronochromie'" at the Messiaen 2008 International Centenary in Birmingham, England.

Music faculty members **Haroutune Bedelian** and **Lorna Griffitt** presented violin/piano recitals in Beirut, Lebanon and Nicosia, Cyprus. Bedelian gave performances and master classes at the Schlern International Music Festival, Voels am Schlern, Italy; Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival, Alaska, with UCI Medici Scholar **Pierre Flores** (violin), and Rio International Chamber Music Festival, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Griffitt also participated in the Schlern International Music Festival, with UCI students and an alum: Medici Scholars **Evangeline Wong** (MFA candidate) and **Natalie Landowski**, **Hua Mu Wang**, **Julie Wang** (BM '08), and **Grace Liu**, who won honorable mention.

Nina Scolnik (Music) and colleague Teresa Dybvig in May presented their work on pianists with dystonia at the Ergonomics and Music: 12th European Congress and 3rd International Congress of Musicians' Medicine at the Verdi Conservatory in Milan, Italy, in a paper entitled "An Assessment of the Efficacy of a Re-Training Program for Improving Pianists' Involuntary Movements." Pianist Scolnik performed Mozart's "Piano Concerto, K. 488" with the Wiener Residenzorchester, Robert Lehrbaumer conductor, at the Palais Auersperg, Rosenkavalier Hall, Vienna, Austria.



Guitarist and lutenist **John Schneiderman** (Music) performed with The Czar's Guitars and gave a master class at the International Annual Russian Guitar Festival in Iowa City, Iowa. He also became the newest member of "The Russian Guitar Quartet" performing a benefit concert for victims of the recent Iowa flood.

Don Hill (Drama) received the 2008 Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Fostering Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities. The award recognizes outstanding mentorship of undergraduates. One UCI Arts faculty member and one student receive this award each year.

Daniel Gary Busby (Drama) received the Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching during the UCI Celebration of Teaching in May. He was recognized for being a dedicated and imaginative teacher who sets high standards and encourages his students in the Musical Theater program to go beyond their comfort zone in order to succeed.

Lynch Leads NCI Discovery, Wins Jade Award

Molly Lynch (Dance) directed the National Choreographers Initiative, an intensive three-week creative effort at the School's dance studios. Lynch invited four choreographers – Ma Cong, Emery LeCrone, Amy Seiwert and Edmund Stripe – to work with professional dancers from nine companies around the country to produce four new dance works performed at "NCI Discovery," at Irvine Barclay Theatre. Artistic directors from dance companies around the country were invited to preview the new works for possible inclusion in their companies' repertoires. In the past four years, 16 choreographers have created 13 pieces that have gone on to be performed elsewhere. The Irvine Barclay Theatre in April bestowed the Jade Award on Lynch for her extraordinary impact on the theatre through leadership, philanthropy and creativity.



Alum **Eddie Mikrut** (BA '99) of Nashville Ballet and **Adrienne Benz** of BalletMet perform in Amy Seiwert's piece in NCI Discovery.



UCI Choirs Score Top Awards in Wales

UC Irvine choral ensembles, under the direction of **Joseph Huszti**, won top awards at the International Eisteddfod competition in Llangollen, Wales, one of the world's most prestigious choral competitions. Dozens of choral groups participated from universities and music conservatories representing 34 countries. The UCI Women's Chorus won first place in their division, female choirs. They also won prize money for best performance of the piece required of all contestants, "Wellspring," commissioned by revered Welsh composer Hilary Tann. The Concert Choir placed second in the youth choir competition and sixth in mixed choirs.

Cliff Faulkner (Drama) directed "Hamlet" in UCI's Grotowski Barn. An intimate production in the round with only ten cast members, the work featured undergraduates, MFA graduate students, faculty, and a recent PhD alumnus in the cast. **Phil Thompson** and **Cynthia Bassham** played Claudius and Gertrude, while Hamlet and Ophelia were played by MFA '08 graduates **Ethan Sawyer** and **Katie Duthler Thomsen**. Polonius and Grave-digger were played by **Greg Ungar** (PhD '08).



Drama faculty members created and performed an original clown show, "Clown Planet," at the Arezzo, Italy, International Theatre Festival. Faculty involved were **Holly Poe Durbin**, costumes; **Vincent Olivieri**, sound, and **Jaymi Lee Smith**, lighting. UCI actors **Benny Wills** and **Cambria Beilstein** joined 17 other actors from four countries in the performance. **Eli Simon** directed. Simon's clown troupe, Clownzilla, featuring UCI-trained actor/clowns, will present their tribute to the seasons, "A Holiday Extravaganza," at the UCI Drama Holiday Festival event Dec. 6.



Shigeru Yaji (Drama) who teaches costume design, designed costumes for "The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler" at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. The production was directed by **Bill Rauch**, co-founder of Cornerstone Theater Company. Rauch was a Bren Fellow at Claire Trevor School of the Arts before taking the leadership position at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

Mary Corey (Dance) notated Martha Graham's 1935 modern dance, "Panorama," part of a larger project by the Dance Notation Bureau to notate and preserve several Graham works.

Lisa Naugle (Dance) and **Robin Buck** (Music) journeyed to Rome as featured performers in a multi-media concert, "Through the Eyes of Ovid – The Rebirth of Myth." The concert featured international composers and interactive artists and Italy's leading composers and performers of computer and acoustic improvisational music.



John Crawford (Dance & Media Arts) created two extended videos for the project, which will be staged in New York City this season.

Donald McKayle (Claire Trevor Professor of Dance) has been busy in dance and theater during the last few months. His "Songs of the Disinherited" was presented at the Centre National de la Danse in Paris, France as part of the year-long installation, "Dance Is a Weapon." He restaged his classic "Games," which he choreographed in 1951, for the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble in Denver, Colorado. The City of Los Angeles honored him at the Nate Holden Performing Arts Center and he received the Legacy Award at the Laguna Beach Star Awards Ceremony.

Yvonne Rainer (Studio Art) will present several programs of dances under the auspices of the World Performance Project at Yale University in November. The programs include "RoS Indexical" (2007) and the world premiere of a new work, "Spiraling Down."

Antoinette LaFarge (Studio Art) in March premiered her new media performance work, "Playing the Rapture," at the Baltimore Theatre Project. It involves two characters who create, test, and contest a computer game set in a post-Christian Rapture world. The stage environment is largely made up of "machinima" (machine cinema) video projections.

For Alumni News, see www.arts.uci.edu/alumni

Simon Leung (Studio Art) lectured on his work at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City and the Akademie der bildenden Künste Wien, Vienna, Austria. In April, he was announced as the recipient of a Guggenheim Foundation fellowship.

Gifford Myers (Studio Art) was invited to participate in the 2008 Global Studies Conference at the University of Illinois, Chicago. Contrary to tradition, Myers' 11' x 10' x 8' sculpture "Globalization" was accepted in lieu of a written presentation.



Bryan Reynolds directed his play "Woof, Daddy," with music by **Alan Terricciano**, at the Melkweg Theater in the Dutch and Flemish National Theater Festival in Amsterdam. **Mike Hooker** designed sound and MFA candidate **Christa Mathis** designed costumes. Reynolds also wrote "Lumping in Fargo," performed at the UCI Transversal Theater Company's Poland tour, with these UCI Arts colleagues: Mathis and fellow MFA candidates **Josh Steadman**, **Stephanie Philo** and **Daryn Mack**; PhD candidate **Lauren McCue**, and **Kevin Kreczko** (MFA '08). Faculty members **Hooker**, **Daniel Gary Busby**, **Lonnie Alcaraz** (Drama) and **Lisa Naugle** also worked on the project.

Beall Center Council

Beall Center for Art and Technology, directed by Assistant Dean **Eleanore Stewart**, is gearing up for a high-energy year, with a new leadership council and co-sponsorship of a public lecture series (see page 4). The six council members will serve two-year terms ending in 2010. Chair is Chris Harrington, vice president of strategy and business development, Toshiba America. Other members are: Simone Chapman, CEO, SC Communications; Vivian Goldschmidt, project director, Orange County Animation Project; Daryl G. Pelc, vice president, engineering and technology, Advanced Systems, Boeing's Integrated Defense Systems; Ardelle St. George, partner, St. George & Carnegie law firm, specializing in intellectual property, technology and business, and Robert Allen Schureman, specialist in high-tech materials and retired chair of the plastics department, California State University of Long Beach.



Development Directions

Meyer Sound Gives \$300K to Sound Design



UCI Arts' sound studio will benefit from a gift from Meyer Sound Laboratories.

I am pleased to report that our sound design program has received a generous \$300,000 gift from Meyer Sound Laboratories, a premier audio company with customers and offices worldwide.

The gift includes \$200,000 for state-of-the-art equipment and \$100,000 to establish an endowed fund to help support talented students – the next generation of sound design professionals – to train with Meyer equipment.

Acting Dean Alan Terricciano states that the gift will have a transformational impact on the sound design program, boosting it to higher levels of professional excellence, for the forthcoming sound design studio in the New Media Arts Building, scheduled for completion in 2010.

"We now have the best of everything – equipment, facilities and faculty," says Terricciano. "The gift solidifies the School's relationship with a corporation that is a leader in the industry. MFA candidates can learn sound design on the same equipment that they will use when they work in the industry."

In 1979, John and Helen Meyer established Meyer Sound in Berkeley, Calif. – the first manufacturers to provide high-quality, concert-level loudspeakers, playback and control systems. Today Meyer Sound is one of the most advanced companies in the audio industry, with international offices and a place in the Technology Hall of Fame.

Many thanks to Mia Martinez, our associate director of development. She and Michael Hooker, professor of drama and founder and head of the program, are responsible for engaging the Meyers to the point of philanthropy.

Sound design graduates are in one of the most employable fields in the entertainment



John and Helen Meyer

industry. All 15 students whom Hooker taught at programs that he created at the University of Cincinnati and California Institute of the Arts are employed in the sound design industry.

The sound design program, part of the Department of Drama, accepts only two MFA candidates per year and will have six in the upcoming academic year. The full-time faculty consists of Hooker and Assistant Professor Vincent Olivieri, with Scott Collins providing staff support.

The MFA candidates in this three-year program will work on an average of five fully supported productions and several smaller workshops, from dramas to music concerts. Sound design is more than just creating special sound effects for films, theatrical productions and theme park attractions, says Hooker. Sound designers are key components in any production, working closely with directors and stage managers. They compose and record music, reinforce sound, and create mood and ambience for productions.

Hooker worked as senior media designer for Walt Disney Imagineering in all phases of creating sound for attractions in six years at Disney's new theme parks in Tokyo, Paris and Hong Kong. His notable sound designs include Tokyo DisneySea's Mermaid Lagoon, an entire undersea home the size of two football fields for heroine Ariel; the film "Cinemagique" starring Martin Short at Walt Disney Studios, Paris, and "Haunted Mansion Holiday" at Tokyo Disneyland.

For Hong Kong Disneyland, Hooker produced an environmental soundscape for Adventureland, featuring sounds of jungle animals, birds and insects; "The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh"; the jungle riverboat cruise, and Tarzan's Treehouse.

Kerry Neal
Development Director



Mia Martinez, associate development director, and Kerry Neal

Support UCI Arts

Contact Mia Martinez
(949) 824-0085
miam@uci.edu
to discuss how your donation will make a difference.

NEA Funds Media Arts Lectures

The National Endowment for the Arts has awarded UCI and Orange County Museum of Art (OCMA) a \$15,000 grant to present Contemporary New Media Arts, a series of 15 public lectures and a one-day symposium.

"The lecture series combines the curatorial strengths of the University and Orange County's contemporary arts museum," says Eleanore Stewart, Beall Center director. "It will bring added depth and vitality to our teaching and to the community dialogue on the relationships between the fine arts, new media and arts criticism."

The collaborative project explores the increasingly blurred boundaries between fine art, new media and art criticism. Professional artists from California, New York, Europe, and elsewhere will present free lectures at OCMA, 850 San Clemente Dr., Newport Beach, Calif.

The lecture series reflects the curatorial perspectives of each partner. Beall Center Associate Director David Familian will organize three lectures in conjunction with the Beall Center's 2008-09 exhibits, "Constant World," "Scalable Relations" and "EX-1-09."

OCMA Deputy Director of Exhibitions and Programs Karen Moss will organize five lec-



"Scalable City World" by Sheldon Brown is part of an upcoming Beall Center exhibit.

tures based on artists from the 2008 California Biennial and The Projected Image.

The UCI-OCMA Colloquium, co-organized by Juli Carson, director of University Art Gallery, and Bruce Yonemoto, chair of the Department of Studio Art, will present a bi-weekly series of

six lectures featuring artists who work in film and video.

The project culminates with a one-day symposium in May, "Art in the Post-Medium Condition," organized by the University Art Gallery. ●