Greetings fellow UNLV Alumnus, and welcome to the UNLV College of Fine Arts Chapter Fall 2017 newsletter! We hope that you, your family, friends and loved ones have had a pleasant and wonderful Summer. Now, it's on to the Fall 2017 Semester!

There are so many opportunities to become involved with your alma mater. The upcoming Fall semester will be a busy and exciting time for us as a chapter. In September, we will be collaborating with the main chapter on an evening with Blue Man Group at the Luxor. The Wednesday, September 20th performance will include a backstage behind-the-scenes tour. Watch for upcoming e-mails with the Blue Man event details.

We will again collaborate with the UNLV School of Music to present our second season of Rebels at Lunch Concerts. The dates are set for Wednesday, October 4th and Tuesday, November 15th from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. We are looking for fellow arts alumni to participate in these events and provide a five-ten minute performance. If you are interested in performing, please e-mail us at fineartsalumni@unlv.edu.

During football season, we assist the main Alumni Chapter with the Rebel Block Party Tailgate events and are always looking for fellow alumni to join us for these events. They are excellent outings for the entire family. As a chapter, we continue to support the many productions being produced by College of Fine Arts units and the UNLV Performing Arts Center.

On Friday, October 20th, prior to the UNLV Alumni Association’s annual Scarlet & Gray Homecoming event, our chapter will host a UNLV Fine Arts Chapter Alumni Reception on campus at the Barrick Museum of Fine Art. Stay tuned for Winter Commencement congratulatory reception details (Tuesday, December 19th).

It is our goal to produce a newsletter for each semester, and we invite you to contribute. If you wish to submit an article, please send it via e-mail to: fineartsalumni@unlv.edu. We hope you are enjoying the newsletters and would like to wish all of you and your families a safe and peaceful Fall Season.

Sincerely,
Gerry Jones, President 2016-17

Stay Connected…

- Join the UNLV College of Fine Arts Alumni group page
- Like the UNLV College of Fine Arts page
- Like the UNLV Department of Art page
- Like the UNLV School of Architecture page
- Like the UNLV Dance page
- Join the UNLV Film group page
- Like the UNLV School of Music page
- Like the Nevada Conservatory Theatre page
- Like the UNLV Performing Arts Center page

...via Facebook

Upcoming UNLV Regional Alumni Mixers:

- Denver - October 13
- Las Vegas - October 20
- New York City - November 11

President’s Message by Gerry Jones ’96
UNLV’s College of Fine Arts joins forces with SNAAP

Dean Nancy J. Uscher is proud to announce that the College of Fine Arts has entered into a partnership agreement with the Strategic National Arts Alumni Project (SNAAP). SNAAP is a one-of-a-kind survey which explores the lives of arts alumni nationwide. This fall, all UNLV College Fine Arts graduates will receive an invitation via e-mail to participate in the 100% online SNAAP survey. By updating or verifying your current e-mail address on UNLV’s Class Notes, our alumni can be certain not to miss the chance to share their experiences and help the CFA shape the future of arts education in Nevada.

After completing the SNAAP survey, alumni will have access to a website where they can compare and contrast their experiences with those of other fine arts graduates across the nation. Participants will be able to view where others live, work, what they earn, and how receiving an arts education has influenced their lives. This information will be invaluable to the College of Fine Arts. The time UNLV CFA alumni spend providing this data will greatly help the college, and other institutions, to a new level of understanding with which to better prepare current and future students for success, whether they remain in the arts or use their knowledge and skills to succeed in other professional fields.

The Strategic National Arts Alumni Project, directed by Sally Gaskill, was founded in 2011. Residing at the University of Indiana Center for Postgraduate Research, SNAAP has collected and analyzed voluntary information from more than 140,000 arts graduates from over 300 institutions throughout the United States, and is the largest source of information about arts graduates in North America.

Send a Solar Decathlon Student to Denver!

After working on the Solar Decathlon Project for 18 months, a team of more than 20 interdisciplinary UNLV students will travel to Denver in October to showcase their health-care centric solar-powered house, competing against a dozen other teams for the top honor. Project leads for the College of Fine Arts are Architecture Masters students Nasko Balakchiev and Brenda Tena (interiors lead). Their cutting-edge design (see below) points the way forward to a time when intelligent homes for seniors can assist with personal medical care. In 2013, UNLV placed first among American universities and second overall.

Support is needed in order to send the entire team to Denver. Our students are seeking financial assistance from local sponsors, families, and UNLV alumni. To contribute, go to https://rebelraiser.unlv.edu/project/3443 or https://netcommunity.unlv.edu/givetoengineering. For additional information on the Solar Decathlon project, follow these links to http://www.unlvsd.com and www.instagram.com/unlvsd17. A reception will be held at the Solar Decathlon event site in Denver (located at 6045 N. Richfield St. - 61st and Peña Station) on Friday, October 13th from 7:30-9:00 pm. UNLV Alumni are welcome to attend.
UNLV EED Student designs obstacle for `American Ninja Warrior’

Kevin Brekke’s summer began with a real bang. On May 13th, Kevin became one of the newest Rebel Alumni, graduating with his Bachelor of Science degree in Entertainment Engineering and Design. Truly awesome. And then Kevin received some news that was equally awesome. As a longtime die-hard fan of the television show American Ninja Warrior, Kevin had drafted numerous designs that could be used on the show, just for fun. This year one of his designs became a reality, as his entry in the show’s "design-an-obstacle" contest was declared a winner.

Kevin’s ‘Ninja’ course, entitled "Crank it Up," debuted on the series this summer in Kansas City, along with an appearance by its’ creator (video is available for viewing on the program’s website at http://www.nbc.com/american-ninja-warrior/exclusives/crashing-the-course/video/3542880). While on the set, some contestants thought that Kevin’s course was one of the toughest yet experienced, and he received numerous compliments for his creation from ‘Ninja’ hosts Akbar Gbajabiamila and Matt Iseman (see photo below). Way to go, Kevin, and Go Rebels!
University Honors CFA Alumnus Tim Bavington, Art ‘00

On April 26th of this year, the UNLV Alumni Association took time out to honor and thank 19 of our most distinguished alumni at the annual UNLV Alumni Awards banquet and ceremonies, an impressive event held in the foyer of Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall. Among those was this year’s College of Fine Arts honoree, internationally respected and acclaimed visual artist Tim Bavington. Bavington, a member of the UNLV Department of Art faculty, is also a member of the College of Fine Arts Hall of Fame. His dazzling career exemplifies the Rebel Spirit, working religiously and yet continually finding time to share his knowledge with young artists. Tim’s works are inspired by music: from Aaron Copland to The Surfaris, The Rolling Stones and The Who. Having earned his M.F.A. degree at UNLV following his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Pasadena Art Center’s College of Design, Tim’s mediums have included painting and sculpture, and he is known for his incredible color banding and swirling arrangements, often using automotive painting tools to create them. Some of his more famous works include Quadrophenia, Physical S.E.X., and, of course, the towering Pipe Dream sculpture in Symphony Park at the Smith Center for the Performing Arts.

NCT alum Savannah Smith ‘10 returns to rock the JBT in `Clowntown’

As a UNLV graduate student, Savannah Smith was a gifted actor, skilled dancer, and powerful musical theater vocalist. After adorning great Nevada Conservatory Theatre productions as Company, A Christmas Carol and Romeo and Juliet, she went on to work with fellow UNLV Theatre alumnus Glenn Casale (’78) at the Sacramento Music Circus (Into the Woods, Man of La Mancha). Since then, she has appeared in numerous Las Vegas productions (such as Vegas: The Show) and formed the bands BBR (Blonde, Brunette and Redhead) and The Moonshiners, a retro 1920’s “Prohibition Pop” act. In that time Savannah has fully harnessed her talents, and those lucky enough to be in attendance during the Memorial weekend run of the Broadway workshop production of Clowntown can verify that she has become a truly amazing performer.

The musical, presented in a stage reading, exists in a world where humanity is forced to deal with the existence of natural-born clowns, with lost love and a diabolical murder interwoven in Micheal Brennan and John Masse’s excellent book and score. Savannah’s lead character, Sister Clarabelle, was delightfully demonic, and her power and finesse simply blew the audience away under the direction of ART’s Alexandra Libonati. Hopefully, NCT will bring Savannah back for a future appearance, schedules permitting.
Class Notes

Shawn Danoski, 1994 BA Architecture, is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of DC Building Group, a commercial general contractor firm he started in 2001 with four employees and a drive to succeed. Since then, the company has grown exponentially and in 2015 had to move into larger office space to accommodate the company’s growth. Shawn has led DC Building Group to be a premier contractor for national hospitality brands, and the company’s portfolio includes restaurant-retail, religious and nonprofit, industrial and office projects. In addition, the company has completed work across the U.S., and is licensed in Nevada, California, North Carolina, Connecticut, Texas, Idaho and Colorado. Under Shawn’s leadership, DC Building Group was named 2013 NAIOP General Contracting Firm of the Year and 2010 Contractor of the Year by the Associated General Contractors. In 2015, DC Building Group received the JA Tiberti Spirit Award from Associated General Contractors and the Nevada Contractors Association.

Jason Hortin, 2005 BFA Dance, has performed at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland; the International Dance Festival in Kiel, Germany; the Lincoln Center in New York City; and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Jason has danced with Moving People Dance Theatre in Santa Fe, NM; B.A.D. in San Francisco, CA; and with the Erick Hawkins Dance Company based in New York. Jason is currently a company member with River North Chicago Dance Company. In addition to being a member of River North, Jason teaches at numerous studios around the Chicagoland area and has guest performed with Barrington Youth Ballet and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Christina Marie Robinson Swett, 1993 BA Art, has been the illustrator for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation since 1992. She has done illustration and design work for various projects and agencies including the Department of the Interior, the Department of Energy and other federal agencies. Some notable accomplishments are the 8 Hoover Dam commemorative copper medallions, the Hoover Dam 75th anniversary medallion and postage stamp, event material which included original illustrations for a celebration marking an agreement between the United States and Mexico that allowed water to go down the Colorado River and reach the ocean for the first time in decades. For 20 years Christina has illustrated and designed the Department of Energy, Nevada Science Bowl event material.

Maren Quanbeck – 2014 MM Music, is the Orchestra Manager, as well as a Performer and Teacher at the Aspen Music Festival and School in Aspen, Colorado. She performs, teaches and manages with professionalism and with a proven passion for success in the fine arts. Since her graduation from UNLV she has overseen and executed the day-to-day management of the Aspen Philharmonic Orchestra, facilitated all orchestra rehearsals and concerts, and spearheaded outreach through weekly rosters and stage photos. Maren addresses all personnel issues and collaborates across Festival departments.

Renato Estacio, 2008 MM Music, is President, Artistic Director and co-Founder of the Southwest Arts Group’s Resident Arts Program at the African American Performing Arts Center. In addition, he is District Director for the 42nd district of the New York-based Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and is Music Director at St. Chad’s Episcopal where he conducts the choir. His background includes work in business and market intelligence, as well as in IT account management for Scientific Games/Bally Technologies, Inc. Prior to gaming, he served as Director of Marketing and PR for the Las Vegas Philharmonic and Assistant Director for the UNLV Writing Center. He was appointed by Governor Susana Martinez to serve as a Commissioner of the State of New Mexico Music Commission (September 2014 - May 2018) and was elected to serve as the Vice Chair of the commission in March 2015. He was Interim Music Director (2014 - 2015) for the Albuquerque Civic Chorus during their transition. He is also the co-owner of Sidewinders Bar in New Mexico.

Linnie Hostetler – 2015 MM Music (Horn), and current UNLV Graduate Student Dalton Davis (viola) are fulltime members of the Lviv (Ukraine) Symphony Orchestra.

Heather Killmeyer – 2001 MM Music (Oboe). In June, 2016 Heather was one of two oboists selected to perform at the International Fellowship of Conductors, Composers, and Collaborators at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She was awarded an honorary faculty induction into the Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honors Society. Heather is currently Assistant Professor of Double Reeds at East Tennessee State University, and also oboist, creator, and artistic director of the experimental music ensemble Dada Cabaret.

Tony Canepa, 2003 BA Film, is an award-winning Creative Director with a passion for quality design and illustration. He specializes in concept and design for branding, print, illustration and motion graphics. As Creative Director for the AAA Tacoma Rainiers Baseball Club, Tony and his creative team have received wide recognition for their work by taking home three national ADDY awards, along with 13 others, including two Judges’ Choice Awards, at the local and district levels. This puts them in a class by themselves for in-house sports creative at any level. Tony got his start as the mascot for the UNLV Runnin’ Rebels and the Las Vegas 51s. After overseeing creative and entertainment operations for multiple MiLB teams for Mandalay Sports Group, he became Creative Director for (former Rainiers owners) Schlegel Sports. In 2010, he moved to the Pacific Northwest to focus directly on the Tacoma club, along with his expanding freelance client base, and has been enjoying the stunning summers, excellent snowboarding and world-class cocktails and restaurants ever since. His clients include AA and AAA Minor League Baseball Franchises, AHL Iowa Chops Hockey, JDRF, Coors, Miller Lite, Budweiser, Dr. Pepper, Museum of Glass, KeyBank, and Propel.
Dance Alumnus Heather Harper ‘08 Takes Manhattan

With fast paced lifestyles and major competition capturing people’s attention these days, dance companies work hard to continue to gain an audience. 2008 UNLV Dance Alumnus Heather Harper’s Continuum Dance Theatre was founded in 2009. Heather’s work encompasses new approaches, whether site-specific; i.e. museums with paint and canvas, in a park with water, tied together, or in a theatrical setting lacking traditional processes. Building a professional modern dance company takes time, persistence and a vast understanding of the business of the performing arts as well any potential audience.

Harper Continuum Dance Theatre has recently become a registered non-profit organization and is based in New York City, where two different performances have been successfully produced just a few blocks off of Broadway. Heather’s first full-length show, Coalesce, was well received in New York City and later performed here at UNLV. Coalesce combined choreography and fresh ideas by both Harper and by Cathy Allen, UNLV professor of Dance. The performances involved UNLV student dancers and musicians, a local painter, and Heather’s company. Coalesce embraced human thought, emotions, connections and strangers connecting (or not connecting at all). The dancers learned most of the choreography virtually, and sometimes group pieces were set on one individual for others to learn. The performers were strangers themselves in new surroundings and meeting for the first time onstage the evening prior to the first live performance.

Harper continues to work with UNLV students, alumni, faculty and university outreach; even outside the College of Fine Arts. She strives to be a professional resource for others, advancing the world of dance. Harper and Allen continue to work together, offering additional opportunities for students to gain professional experiences. Their most recent collaboration was Striking Figures: A Collection of Dance About Women, which from concept to performance was an eight-week process encompassing completely new works. Currently, the Harper Continuum Dance Theatre is working with new technology and applying it to movement. Harper is actively developing new professional tools for artists to use for creating and documenting motion and space.
School of Architecture announces Klai Juba Wald Lecture Series

In celebration of its’ 20th Anniversary, the UNLV School of Architecture is excited to announce their Fall 2017 lineup for the longstanding Klai Juba Wald Lecture Series. Most notably, this year the series will feature UNLV alumna Nicole Dalton (principal, DSAA Interiors) on Monday, September 11th, fellow alums Geoffrey and Cecilia Schaffler (principals, LAGE Design) on Monday, October 2nd and Micheal Del Gatto ’99, Principal Carpenter Sellers Del Gatto. In addition, several UNLV Architecture alumnuses will be participants in panel discussions throughout the Fall semester. All events will be held in the UNLV School of Architecture Library Auditorium, 4505 S. Maryland Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV 89119. Here’s the full schedule:

Monday, September 11, 6:00 pm - Nicole Dalton ’06, RID, ASID, Principal Dalton Steelman Associates
Monday, September 18, 6:00 pm - Craig Hodgetts, FAIA, Principal HPLUSF
Monday, October 2, 6:00 pm - Geoffrey & Cecilia Schafller ’96 ’97, PLA, Principals LAGE Design
Wednesday, October 4, 5:30 pm - Heidi Swank, Nevada Assembly / Executive Director Nevada Preservation Foundation
Thursday, October 5, 5:30 pm - Thamarit Suchart, Principal Chen & Suchart Studio, Phoenix, Arizona
Friday, October 6, 1:30 pm - Panel: Paul Turner, Stanford University; Judith Sheine, Univ. of Oregon; Joseph Rosa, Frye Museum
Tuesday, October 10 - Klai+Juba+Wald Principals Discussion Panel (time TBD)
Monday, October 23, 6:00 pm - Panel Discussion: Public Services Opportunities (featuring UNLV Alumni)
Monday, October 30, 6:00 pm - Designing Careers in Design, Alumni Discussion Panel
Monday, November 6, 6:00 pm - Michael Del Gatto, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP and UNLV Alumnus
Monday, November 13, 6:00 pm - Panel Discussion: Becoming a Partner/Starting Your Own Firm (featuring UNLV Alumni)

Select Upcoming Events in the UNLV College of Fine Arts:

Nevada Conservatory Theatre: Take Me Out, September 29-October 8 - Judy Bayley Theatre
Chamber Music Series: Dorian Wind Quintet, September 14 - Doc Rando Recital Hall
Artist Lecture: Dave Hickey “On Art,” September 25 - Barrick Museum of Art
Performing Arts Center: Taylor Davis, September 29 - Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall
Artist Lecture: Dave Hickey “On Writing,” October 2 - Barrick Museum of Art
Barrick Lecture Series: Barbara Corcoran, October 3 - Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall
School of Music: UNLV Wind Orchestra, October 5 & November 16 - Ham Concert Hall
UNLV Dance and UNLV Symphony Orchestra: In Orchestra 3, October 20-21 - Ham Concert Hall
CFA Alumni Chapter: Homecoming Reception, October 20 - Barrick Museum
Performing Arts Center: Ricardo Cobo & Friends, October 20 - Doc Rando Recital Hall
Nevada Conservatory Theatre: Good Kids, October 20 - Black Box Theatre
School of Music: UNLV Choral Ensembles, October 24 - Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall
Visitor Artist Lecture: Fiona Connor, November 2 - Barrick Museum of Art
Performing Arts Center: Cantus, November 3 - Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall
College of Fine Arts: New York City Alumni Reception, November 11
Barrick Lecture Series: Dr. Sanjay Gupta, November 14 - Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall
Department of Dance: In Between - November 16-19 - Dance Studio One
UNLV Jazz Studies’ Fall Jazz Festival, November 27-29 - Black Box Theatre
Performing Arts Center: Montreal Guitar Trio, December 1 - Doc Rando Recital Hall
Nevada Conservatory Theatre: A Christmas Carol, December 1-December 17 - Judy Bayley Theatre

For tickets and information call the Performing Arts Center Box Office (702) 895-ARTS (2787) or purchase online at http://pac.unlv.edu

2017-18 College of Fine Arts Alumni Board
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