Greetings fellow Alumnus! Welcome to the UNLV College of Fine Arts Alumni Chapter Spring Newsletter. We, as a board, hope your Spring has been a safe and pleasant one. I’d like to welcome our new College of Fine Arts Liaison Larry Henley to the board. He has been a great addition in support of the Chapter. One of our primary goals for this year is to increase the size and support of the College of Fine Arts board. If you have any interest in supporting and contributing to the chapter as a Board member, or would like to sit in on one of our meetings please email us at fineartsalumni@unlv.edu.

This Spring, the chapter in collaboration with the School of Music, has been hosting a Rebels at Lunch Concert Series at the UNLV Alumni Center Tam Hall. We, as a chapter, have been overwhelmed by the number and quality of talented students here at UNLV, and we look forward to continuing this concert series in the Fall. We will be sending out an email blast, and also posting on our Facebook page the Fall dates within the next few months and hope you will be able to join us and continue to support the many talented students here at UNLV.

This spring the chapter, in support of the UNLV Alumni Chapter, participated and supported the 2017 Spring Senior Send-Off Day. It was a fun two days, and as a board we enrolled 25 graduates, and supported bringing in nearly 800 e-mail addresses to stay connected with our soon-to-be Alumni.

We are currently working with the College of Fine Arts in celebrating our Seniors by partnering on a reception following the graduation on May 13th, 2017. If you would be interested in joining us at this celebration please contact us by email at fineartsalumni@unlv.edu or call the College of Fine Arts offices for more information and details. In support of our goal to publish a newsletter every semester, if you would like to share or submit an article for the newsletter, please email it to: fineartsalumni@unlv.edu. We hope you are enjoying our newsletters, and would like to wish you and your families a very safe and peaceful Summer.

Sincerely, Gerry Jones, President 2016-17
Rebels at Lunch and Dinner!
by Stacy Swim

At the University of Nevada at Reno, the School of Music has weekly gatherings called LCubed - Look, Lunch, Listen - where students and faculty perform in a casual lunchtime setting. Christina Wright-Ivanova, UNLV School of Music Assistant Professor, contacted UNLV College of Fine Arts Alumni Board President Gerry Jones to collaborate on starting something similar at UNLV’s Tam Alumni Center. Soon after, Rebels at Lunch was born! While eating a “bring your own” lunch once a month, people can relax for an hour and listen to amazing live music performed by the very talented UNLV School of Music students and faculty. To date everything from violin to choral works to clarinet to piano and opera has been performed. Please look for upcoming dates in the Fall semester and join us!

Now time for dinner - The 14th Annual College of Fine Arts Hall of Fame at UNLV dinner on March 7th, that is! The evening began with a reception where everyone could have a drink and mingle. Then, the lights flickered to let us know to take our seats at tables decorated with scarlet and gray so the dinner and induction ceremony could begin.

First up was Lance Burton. As a child, he was fascinated by magic and decided to make it his life’s work. Burton first appeared on The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson in 1981, and on that night a star was born! He worked primarily in Vegas for 30 years performing a stunning 15,000 shows! At our dinner, he was so entertaining, describing how a “simple” scarf inside an egg trick worked. We ended up being tricked because at the end he cracked an actual egg!

The next inductee was Criminal Minds star Matthew Gray Gubler, who could not attend the night’s festivities. I had no idea that he was a Vegas native and has “the neon and sand that makes up [his] blood and bones.” I loved what he said about the city of Las Vegas (appearing via pre-recorded video): “The ultimate, audacious creation because it’s a town that exists in a land where life should not even be. It’s in the barren desert, and somehow there’s this insane oasis of life. To me, it’s the greatest art experiment.” Following Matthew was Las Vegas resident and retired stuntman Willie Harris, and his story is important. In the 1960’s when white men and women were still “painted down” to be the stunt doubles for black actors, Bill Cosby refused to let that happen on his hit TV show I Spy, and Willie Harris was called. Harris was president of the Black Stuntmen’s Association and is now in the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Then came our 2016 College of Fine Arts Alumnus of the Year George Grove. After an Army injury that prevented him from serving, he made his way to Nashville and answered an ad to audition for The Kingston Trio in 1976. He won them over with his musical skills, witty personality and has been with them ever since. When he and his wife, Cindy, moved to Las Vegas in 1996, George decided to return to school at UNLV, earning a Master of Music degree in Jazz Composition in December 2001.

Next up were the two 2017 Dean’s Medal Recipients, Carol Channing and Debbie Reynolds. Carol could not be with us that night, but comedian/impressionist Rich Little accepted on her behalf via video. Rich made everyone laugh with his stories and impersonation of Carol. With an emotional end to the evening, Todd Fisher and his actress wife Catherine Hickland, accepted Debbie Reynolds’ award. He talked about what an inspiration his mother Debbie and sister Carrie Fisher were for people, and that is true for me. The first time I watched Singing in the Rain as a child, I was mesmerized and knew that I wanted to do that for a living. Also as a child, I remember going to see Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi and loved seeing such a strong, take charge heroine as Princess Leia.

All in all, it was a wonderful night filled with good food, laughs and stories about these amazing artists and entertainers!
UNLV Band Students Rock the ACM Awards

On April 2nd, forty of the UNLV School of Music’s finest brass musicians rocked the 52nd Annual Academy of Country Music Awards at the T-Mobile Arena. Accompanying Country music superstars Lady Antebellum, our students entertained the ACM’s live and national television audiences, performing Lady A’s hit You Look Good and the Bill Withers’ 1972 classic Use Me. Widely thought to be the ACM’s top performance of the evening, the students looked great, sounding powerful and energized.

When UNLV’s Assistant Director of Bands, Tony LaBounty, received a call from the management of Country superstars Lady Antebellum, he set out to recruit all of the best players from UNLV’s seven outstanding bands. “We do numerous off-campus performances for Fortune 500 companies and other successful corporate entities. When I kept getting calls in March, I knew they were serious…We blasted out the music to the students and told them to be ready for one rehearsal and the performance. Our kids are very diligent and serious and did everything asked of them.” Go Rebels!

The UNLV College of Fine Arts has Alumni living in all 50 U.S. States, as well as in Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico.

The College of Fine Arts also has Alumni living in 20 international countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, El Salvador, Estonia, Great Britain, Germany, India, Japan, Norway, South Korea, Macau, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates.
Architect Katich (’03) presents Klai Juba Wald Lecture finale

In the thirteen years since Architect Kip Katich (’03) left UNLV to pursue his Master’s degree at the famed Parsons School of Design in Manhattan, he has seen his career blossom. On March 27th, Katich returned to UNLV’s School of Architecture to deliver the final installment of the 2016-17 Klai Juba Wald Lecture Series, highlighting the very best in Architecture.

Katich, the first UNLV Alum to keynote on the long-running series, focused the presentation on his recent work for the Rogers Partners Firm in New York City, in particular the innovative and recently completed Henderson-Hopkins School project, constructed in urban Baltimore, Maryland. Katich is currently planning his return to the West Coast, to relocate in the metropolitan Seattle area.

Class Notes

Michael Bunin, 2008 College of Fine Arts Alumnus of the Year, is now recurring on season two of NBC’s comedy Superstore. He played Jeff, Cloud 9 superstore’s district manager after the staff went on strike protesting store manager Glenn’s firing. He may be best known for playing Kenny on the TBS sitcom My Boys and the Ship My Pants Kmart commercial. He was also in Mad Men, Modern Family and Masters of Sex. If you would like to read a question and answer with Michael Bunin, please click here.

Jason Aaron Goldberg, 2000 BA Theatre, has written and directed his first feature film, The Three Es. It has been touring film festivals for over a year, taking home awards from coast to coast. Recent awards for the film include: Audience Award for Best Feature Film from the Laughlin International Film Festival, Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature from the Awareness Festival in Los Angeles, Special Jury Award for Narrative Feature from the Cinema on the Bayou Film Festival, Indie Spirit Award from the Idyllwild Film Festival, and Best Nevada Film from the Nevada Film Festival. Jason also works extensively in the theatre as president of Original Works Publishing, the only publishing and licensing company dedicated to bold and innovative new plays. As a director Jason most recently directed the USC segment of the After Orlando Theatre Action.

Denis Bosnjakovic, 2012 BA Film, was in the camera department of the 2016 movie Jason Bourne. He also worked in the camera department on All Eyez on Me, the upcoming Tupac Shakur biopic, and Sleepless which is another big budget thriller with Jamie Foxx and Dermott Mulroney.

Jeremy Chloe, 2010 BA Film, went straight into graduate school at the American Film Institute where he won a Student Academy Award for his short film This Way Up.

Lily Mariye attended UNLV only one year as a Theatre major before transferring to UCLA where she finished her schooling and immediately began work as an actor and filmmaker. She appeared in 127 episodes of the hit series E.R. as Nurse Lily Jarvik. She recently donated her collection of E.R. scripts to the Department of Film.