Dear Fellow Fine Arts Alumni: Welcome to the Spring 2018 College of Fine Arts Alumni newsletter! We hope you had a merry Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

First, thank you to Gerry Jones for serving as President of the CFA Alumni Chapter Board for the last several years. Your hard work and dedication to UNLV and the Fine Arts are an asset to all of us, and I hope you will be with us for years to come.

I am thrilled and honored to be President of our CFA Alumni Chapter Board, and I look forward to collaborating with the UNLV Alumni Association and the College of Fine Arts as we journey forward. During May's Graduation Reception, Dean of the CFA Nancy Uscher talked about our CFA as being a family and that is how I feel as well. Las Vegas and UNLV is home to me, and all CFA Alumni have a home here in which to return, participate and collaborate at any time.

In the Fall, we had two successful Rebels at Lunch events in collaboration with the School of Music. School of Music students get an opportunity to practice their craft in a relaxed setting while the audience enjoys their lunch. We will have one this Spring as well (tentatively April 18), and if you are a School of Music alum who would like to participate, please email me at stacy.swim@alumni.unlv.edu.

We also had our CFA Alumni mixer during Homecoming week. It was a lovely event at The Barrick Museum of Art which led into the Scarlet and Gray Experience at the UNLV Student Union Ballroom where the theme was celebrating UNLV's 60th anniversary.

This Spring semester our CFA Alumni Board will be hosting a panel event on February 28th where CFA Alums from the major Fine Arts disciplines will chat and answer questions from the current CFA students about the “real world” of having a Fine Arts degree and finding work. If you are a CFA alum who is willing to be on the panel, please email Larry Henley at larry.henley@unlv.edu.

Lastly, we on the CFA Alumni Board are looking for a Film alum in the Vegas valley to join our Board. If you are interested, please email me at stacy.swim@alumni.unlv.edu.

With Rebel pride, Stacy Swim ‘98 Theatre
UNLV’s College of Fine Arts Hall of Fame

Dean Nancy J. Uscher is proud to announce the College of Fine Arts’ 2018 Hall of Fame inductees. The powerhouse A-list of artists and entertainers is headlined by Myron G. Martin, President and Chairman of the Smith Center for the Performing Arts and formerly the Executive Director of both the UNLV Performing Arts Center and the Liberace Museum. The amazing list of luminaries also includes Cirque du Soleil founder Guy Laliberté; renowned glass sculptor Dale Chihuly and his wife, Leslie; Claudette Robinson, member of Motown’s famed Smokey Robinson and the Miracles; and lauded local urban planner and architect Denise Scott Brown. The Jeffrey Koep Dean’s Medal recipients for 2018 are arts administrator Bill Lowman and venerable educator/broadcaster Dr. Harvey Allen. Previously announced, Artist and educator Tim Bavington, known for creating “Pipe Dream” at Symphony Park, is UNLV’s reigning Alumnus of the Year.

The UNLV Entertainer & Artist Hall of Fame has honored an impressive array of subjects since its launch in 2003: Film legend George Sydney; Illusionists Lance Burton, Penn & Teller, and Siegfried & Roy; Actor Tony Curtis; Vocalists Wayne Newton, Robert Goulet, Carol Channing, and Phyllis McGuire; from the music world Liberace, Vincent Falcone, and The Killers; Composer Eric Whitacre; architects/designers Roger Thomas, Tony Marnell, George Garlock, Tom Schoeman, John Klai, and William Snyder; Hollywood stuntman Willie Harris; and the Rainbow Company children’s theatre troupe. Tickets for the 2018 Fine Art Hall of Fame Dinner, Awards and VIP Reception are $150 and $100 (dinner and awards only) prior to 2/16/18. After 2/16, $200 full event and $150 (dinner and awards only). UNLV Faculty and Staff admission is $50 (2 person limit).

NCT names new Executive Director and Theatre Chair Saldivar

Norma Saldivar joins the Nevada Conservatory Theatre at UNLV as Executive Director, following her work as executive director of the Arts Institute and professor of theatre at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Previously, she served as producing director and professor at the same institution. She earned her BFA in Theatre-Acting from Illinois Wesleyan University, and her MFA in Theatre-Directing from the University of Illinois. She has served as Artistic Administrator & Resident Director for Milwaukee Repertory Theatre during which time she served as casting director and internship coordinator. Norma earned a BFA in Acting from Illinois Wesleyan University and a MFA from the University of Illinois-Champaign and is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. Norma has served as adjunct faculty and taught seminars at prestigious institutions such as UCLA, USC, University of South Carolina, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Her many professional credits include: Blind Parrot Productions, Absolute Theatre Company, Center Theatre-Chicago; Illinois Repertory Theatre, Urbana, Illinois; Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Next Act Theatre Company, Renaissance Theatre-works, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Madison Repertory Theatre-Madison, Wisconsin; San Jose Repertory Theatre-San Jose, California; A Contemporary Theatre, Seattle, Washington, to name a few. College/University credits include: University of California, Los Angeles; University of Southern California; University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Illinois Wesleyan University; and Beloit College (also Wisconsin).
CFA on the Road in New York City

Veteran’s Day weekend may have seen record freezing temperatures in Manhattan, but there was no shortage of warmth to be found at the College of Fine Arts New York City event doubleheader. On Friday, Dean Nancy J. Uscher welcomed the newly assembled College of Fine Arts Support Council for dinner and a lively panel discussion at Il Punto Ristorante. This year's event emphasised the visual arts, but future NYC events will include a broader focus on other arts disciplines. Nancy's guests included: cinematographer G. Mac Brown (The Departed); Dawn Gavin, Art Institute of Chicago; East Coast dance company principals Katherine Duke (Erick Hawkins Dance), Emad Salem (Battery Dance), and UNLV Dance alumnus Heather Harper (Harper Continuum Dance Theatre); UNLV Alumni and faculty artists Wendy Kveck, Tim Bavington, and Emmanuel Ortega; Moira Payne, Chair of Art, University of Kentucky; alumna architect Sarah Snodgrass; and Barrick Museum Director Alisha Kerlin.

On Saturday, Nancy and members of the CFA Faculty and Staff made merry and reunited with more than two dozen proud UNLV Fine Arts alums living and working in the Greater NYC area. Spring Street Natural in Manhattan's SoHo district was the venue, and the gathering was filled with spirited Fall networking. Alumni friends in attendance included: Shanaz Kahn, Dana Kreitz and Leah Kreitz (Theatre); Katie Anania, Thomas Ray Willis, Olivia Jane Huffman, Autumn Gomez, Wendy Kveck, and Jessica Yatrofsky (Art), Heather Harper (Dance), and accomplished jazz trumpeter Kenny Rampton (Music). Food and beverages were plentiful, prizes were distributed, and a UNLV Fine Arts update video was presented to the group. Everyone involved is looking forward to next Fall's CFA visit to the Big Apple (but the NYC traffic? Not so much!).

Until 1989 the UNLV College of Fine Arts was a subset of the College of Liberal Arts.

The Inaugural Dean of the “College of Fine and Performing Arts” was Michael McCollum, formerly Chair of the UNLV Department of Art.

In 1972, UNLV’s Jazz Studies program began under the direction of late professor Frank Gagliardi.

The College of Fine Arts has alumni located in all 50 United States, the District of Columbia and in Puerto Rico.
Art alumnus Jessica Yatrofsky shoots... and she scores!

New York City can be a tough venue for any artists to make a splash in, but photographer and poet Jessica Yatrofsky is busy making a name for herself there. Upon earning her BFA degree at UNLV in 2006, she entered the Parsons School of Design, earning her MFA degree. After finishing at Parsons in 2009, Jessica remained in the City and has pursued her niche in the art world with a vengeance. In 2010, she published the monograph *I Heart Boy*, a beautiful and moving photographic study involving male subjects, revealing their surprising sensitivity. “Through the process of study and repetition I examined and countered the widely and historically accepted images of men and women in both my still and video work.”

The success of her first book led to the 2015 release of a companion work, *I Heart Girl*. This contrasting feminine study “…portrays subjects with varying degrees of ‘masculine’ and ‘feminine’ traits. It’s digging into how we evolve as human beings, and how we perform our gender, and how we see ourselves in the world at any given time. I wanted to represent the body in a way that was authentic and in line with the way the person was representing themselves.” Recent exhibitions featuring Jessica’s work have been staged in Berlin, Miami and San Francisco. In addition, Jessica has published a book of intimate poetic works entitled *Pink Privacy*. She also enjoys working in film, having directed many substantive short works featuring stunning music and cinematography.

In 2018, Jessica will be featured in a panel discussion entitled *The Artist and Her Muse: Subversion of Beauty and Gender* at the Ludlow House venue in New York City. In conjunction with the *NSFW: Female Gaze* exhibition on display at the Museum of Sex, the panel will appear with their respective models and muses. Jessica will also be showing her work at an all female group photography exhibition at the Colorado Photographic Arts Center. Readers can navigate to [http://cpacphoto.org/exhibitions](http://cpacphoto.org/exhibitions) for more information. You can learn more about Jessica’s work on her website [http://www.jessicayatrofsky.com](http://www.jessicayatrofsky.com).

UNLV Architecture recent alumnus Siebrecht wins innovation prize

Architecture alumnus Brandan Siebrecht ’17 was selected as the 2017 first place winner at the Radical Innovation Awards. Siebrecht, who works for Las Vegas-based Avaarus Design Studios, garnered the honor for his stunning new Hyperloop Hotel concept. This innovative design uses sustainable, modular solutions via shipping containers that double as traveling guest suites. Luxuriously furnished, Hyperloop Hotel’s containers are customizable in terms of layout and design. Guests may travel and dock at one of 13 hotel destinations across the United States, with the entire experience managed on a customized smartphone app.

“Right now, a hyperloop is being tested in the northern area of Las Vegas,” he explained. “I wanted to merge this new and upcoming technology with the hospitality industry. Travelling normally, you have to get to the airport, wait at TSA, sit on a plane, get off the plane, and then travel into the city. The Hyperloop Hotel eliminates all of that. You basically walk or drive to the nearest hyperloop hotel, get in, and travel while in the luxury of your room.” Every guest’s “pod” is completely customizable through the hotel’s app. “You just pull out your phone, set the destination, and customize the pod layout.” Siebrecht works as a design associate for Avaarus, while working on his advanced degree at UNLV. Brandan wishes to pursue a career with an emphasis on hospitality design. “Winning this award has helped with networking, and I have met with big executives in the hospitality industry.”
Alex Garganera, 2014 Theatre, has acted in films, television shows and also in commercials. His performing credits include the films Frank and Lola, Jason Bourne, Simran, Ray Donovan Seasons 4 and 5, Dice Seasons 1 and 2, and Ballers. In the upcoming year, Alex will be appearing in Unsolved and Show Dogs.

Alexia Hsin Chen, 2013 Architecture, was sworn in in August as a registered architect with the Nevada State Board of Architecture, Interior Design and Residential Design. She is a designer with architectural firm LGA where she has been instrumental in the design, project management, proposal-writing, and communications outreach for many complex projects. She is an ambassador presenter for the International Living Future Institute and an active member of the local chapters of the International Code Council and Urban Land Institute. She recently joined the Committee of the Environment with AIA Las Vegas. For her graduate professional project at UNLV, she led a multidisciplinary team of more than 60 students to design and build a net-zero solar-powered home, for which the team eventually won second place at the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2013. The project, coined Desert Sol, is on permanent display at the Las Vegas Springs Preserve.

Brittany Norris, 2014 Film, is a document control specialist at Stantec. Based in Las Vegas, she is working on a $2 billion Honolulu Rail Transit project. She and her boyfriend, Tony, had their first child, Nathan Matthew Norris, in April 2016. She says they love being first-time parents. Her hobbies include playing the violin, drums, piano, and guitar; singing; taking photos; and hiking at Red Rock Canyon and Mount Charleston with her boyfriend and son. A fourth-degree black belt in Taekwondo, she also does some film work. They live in North Las Vegas.

Felice Garcia, 2009 Music, recently performed for troops overseas in the United Arab Emirates. She spent the summer touring with numerous shows, including Green Day and Chainsmokers, performing in Montana, Alaska, Tennessee, and California. Her hobbies include traveling, reading, and writing comedy sketches. She lives in Venice, California, with her best friends.

Fawn Douglas, 2015 Art, is a member of the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, where she previously served as a tribal councilwoman. Fawn has been featured as an “Urban Enthusiast” in “Las Vegas- Beyond the Neon” in March 2016 for being a Native American artist, organizer and activist. She has been extremely involved in spreading awareness about the need to establish a national monument for Gold Butte, a sacred area to the Southern Paiute people. At the 2016 National Indian Education Association conference, she spoke during the “Cultural Night” regarding the need to protect Gold Butte. In December of 2016, Gold Butte received its National Monument status.

Amelia “Molly” Goodwin, 2007 Theatre, is touring Singapore, the Philippines, China, Japan, and South Korea as the production stage manager on the international tour of the musical play Sister Act. She lives in Davenport, Iowa.

Ryan Johnson, 2008 Film, has written many scripts for the hit television show Blindspot, as well as Complications and Burn Notice. Ryan also has producer and production crew credits for Burn Notice.

Mark Louis Walters, 1985 Art, is art directing the feature film Rampage starring Dwayne ‘The Rock’ Johnson, which was shot last year in Atlanta, Chicago, and San Diego. He has been a Hollywood art director for nearly 20 years with such credits as Transformers (4 and 5), CSI: Miami, The King of Queens, and Babylon 5. He lives in Los Angeles.

Michael Ogilvie, 2005 Art, is a cartoonist, drawing instructor at CSN, and a Clark County public art specialist. He produces his Territorial Legends biographical comics for Nevada Magazine. They began appearing in the publication in its July-August issue. Territorial Legends first appeared in the November 2015 issue of Desert Companion. His bio-comics, part illustrated obituary and part tall tale, profile Nevada’s obscure yet legendary inhabitants. He digs up and resurrects characters from the memory dump of Nevada history.

John T. Woods, 2002 Theatre, after graduation, John moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in Television and Film. After graduating from UNLV with a degree in Computer Science & Theatre, he landed a small role on CSI: Miami (2002) and in the feature The Cutter (2005). He debuted with a lead role in the Syfy Original Film Mega Snake (2007) and then portrayed various characters on critically acclaimed shows including 24 (2001), House (2004), NCIS (2003) and Criminal Minds (2005). Since then, he has become an accomplished film and television actor, landing numerous supporting and leading roles.

Greg Dorchak, 1988 Film, has a film production company called Class Clown Pictures, which has just released its first feature film, Kopy Kings, a workplace comedy. His acting credits can be found on imdb.com. He earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in digital media from the International Academy of Design and Technology in 2012. He is married to Carmen Zayas, also 1988. Besides working as a producer on her husband’s indie film productions, she is also a local activist passionate about politics, feminist issues, and reproductive rights. The couple, who met at UNLV and have been married 31 years, live in Austin.

Timothy Bonenfant, ’82 ’84 ’05 Music, gave a world premiere performance of Persona No. 4, composed by UNLV music professor Virko Baley, this summer in Madrid. He previously recorded an album of Baley’s works, Multiple Personae: The Family of Clarinets, which was released in 2014. He lives in San Angelo, Texas.
A pair of directors extraordinaire: UNLV Theatre alumnas
Giovanna Sardelli, Theatre '87; Sarah Norris, '08

It is always an honor for UNLV to acknowledge our successful alumni in the various arts professions, but the ability to claim a pair of America’s outstanding, emerging theatrical stage directors as our own brings a special pleasure. Most noticeably, Giovanna Sardelli ('87) and Sarah Norris ('08) are making big names for themselves on the U.S. dramatic scene. In such a highly saturated and competitive field, it would seem unlikely for one school to field so many major national directing talents (including Glen Casale, '78, among others), so it’s a distinct privilege to introduce you to this pair of fresh and exciting directors who graduated from our institution.

Giovanna Sardelli has proven herself as an award-winning director, directing world premieres of plays by Rajiv Joseph, Matthew Lopez, Theresa Rebeck, Lynn Rosen, Joe Gilford, Jeff Augustine, Lauren Yee, Zayd Dohrn, and Zoe Kazan, among others. Working with Pulitzer finalist Rajiv Joseph has become something of a specialty for Giovanna, who is now working on her 13th production with the highly esteemed playwright. Her recent successes include Joseph's Guards at the Taj (Geffen Playhouse, Los Angeles), winning the 2017 Ovation Award for Best Production of a Play, also named by TheatreMania as one of its’ Favorite Regional Productions.

Based in New York City, she has worked Off-Broadway at the Cherry Lane Theatre, Vineyard Theatre, Playwright’s Realm, Second Stage, and Roundabout Theatre Company. Her extensive regional theatre experience includes San Diego’s Old Globe, the Actor’s Theatre of Louisville, Hartford Stage Company, San Francisco Playhouse, LA’s Mark Taper Forum, and the Cleveland Playhouse.

In addition to her freelance career, she is also the Director of New Works for TheatreWorks Silicon Valley. Giovanna earned her MFA degree from the Graduate Acting Program of NYU in 1990 and completed their Director’s Lab in 2000.

Sarah Norris is an innovative theatrical artist living in New York City. While working on her Directing MFA here at UNLV, she directed NCT’s brilliant new rendition of the Henry James classic The Heiress (2007). Now, her work has been seen both around the country (New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Fresno, Las Vegas, Minneapolis, Maine & Alaska) and around the world (Australia, England, & Ireland). In New York, she has worked with: No Boundaries Theatre, Playwrights Horizons, Theatre Communications Group (TCG), LABYrinth Theater Company, Disney Theatrical Productions, BAMA Theatre Company, The Flea Theater, The Gallery Players, and The Glass Eye/Fresh Produce’d to name a few. She has an MFA in Directing from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and a BA in Theatre from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. She is a proud member of SDC and AEA.

Sarah is also the Founding Artistic Director of New Light Theater Project. According to critic Jacquelyn Claire of the NY Theatre Guide, “director Sarah Norris’ vision has created a sophisticated, visually lush, emotionally satisfying piece of storytelling magic (from her review of New Lights’ In the Soundless Awe, 2015). Her skilled directorial hand is in evidence in every perfectly crafted moment of this very compelling production.” Sarah is proud to serve as the Artistic Director of Access Theater in New York City, and as an Associate Producer for Bisno Productions. Among her directing successes there was her directing and producing work on Picture Ourselves in Latvia and No One Loves Us Here by British playwright Ross Howard.
School of Architecture announces Spring Klai Juba Wald Lectures

In continuation of the celebration of its’ 20th Anniversary, the UNLV School of Architecture is proud to announce their Spring 2018 lineup for the venerable Klai Juba Wald Lecture Series. A slight departure from the UNLV alumnus-driven Fall slate, the Spring series will nonetheless feature a return by triple-UNLV degree holder Tim Albertson ‘96 ’10 ’11 (Sustainability Coordinator, North Seattle College) on Monday, January 22nd and January 26th (Mayor’s Symposium), along with non-alumni Ian Boyle (principal, Fast+Epp, on Monday, October 2nd), Branko Kolarevic & Vera Parlac, University of Calgary. All Klai Juba Wald events will be held in the UNLV School of Architectural Studies Library, 4505 S. Maryland Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV 89119.

Here’s the full KJW Series schedule:

Monday, January 22, 6:00 p.m. - Tim Albertson M.Arch 10’, MS Environmental Science ‘11, North Seattle College
Friday, January 26, 6:00 p.m. - Mayor’s Symposium
Monday, February 26, 6:00 pm - Ian Boyle, RID, ASID, Principal Dalton Steelman Associates
Monday, March 12, 6:00 pm - Branko Kolarevic & Vera Parlac, Professors of Architecture, Univ. of Calgary
Monday, April 9, 6:00 pm - Keith Vandersys, founding partner PEG office & Senior Lecturer U of Penn. Landscape Arch.

Select Upcoming Events in the UNLV College of Fine Arts:

School of Music: **UNLV Jazz Ensembles’ Essentially Ellington Festival**, January 18-19, Ham Concert Hall
College of Fine Arts: **Sundance Film Festival Alumni & Friends Mixer**, January 22 - Park City, UT (RSVP)
UNLV Alumni & College of Fine Arts: **Los Angeles Alumni Mixer**, January 25 (RSVP)
Chamber Music Series: **Schubert’s Trout Quintet**, January 25 - Doc Rando Recital Hall
Barrick Lecture Series: **Dr. Michio Kaku**, January 29 - Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall
Performing Arts Center: **Ken Navarro**, February 3 - Doc Rando Recital Hall
Barrick Museum of Fine Art: **Exhibition Opening, Plural, Vessel & Identity Tapestry** - February 9
Nevada Conservatory Theatre: **Fences**, February 9-February 18 - Judy Bayley Theatre
Chamber Music Series: **Lydian String Quintet**, February 20 - Doc Rando Recital Hall
School of Music: **UNLV Wind Orchestra**, February 22 - Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall
CFA Alumni Chapter: **Careers Panel Discussion**, February 28 - Barrick Museum
Performing Arts Center: **NY Gilbert & Sullivan Players: Pirates of Penzance**, March 2 - Doc Rando Recital Hall
UNLV Opera Theatre: **Don Giovanni** - March 16-18 - Judy Bayley Theatre
Chamber Music Series: **Ravel & Stravinsky**, March 22 - Doc Rando Recital Hall
Performing Arts Center: **Shadow Theatre in “Fireflies”**, April 27 - Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall
Department of Dance: **In Stride** - April 26-29 - Dance Studio One
UNLV Jazz Studies’ **Spring Jazz Festival**, April 30-May 2 - Black Box Theatre
Nevada Conservatory Theatre: **Pippin**, April 27-May 6 - Judy Bayley Theatre
College of Fine Arts: **Southern California Alumni & Friends Reception**, May 5 - Location TBD (RSVP)

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