



College of Fine Arts Alumni Chapter

President's Message by Stacy Swim '98

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Upcoming UNLV Fine Arts Alumni & Friends Mixers: (all times Pacific)

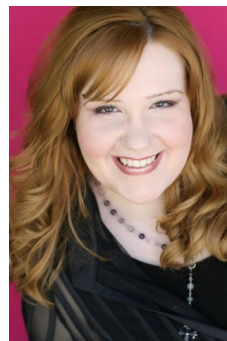
Rebels, Raise A Glass III: October 27 @ 6pm (virtual, Halloween theme)

Little Shop of Horrors Pre-Theatre Mixer "Feed Me":
Dec. 3 @ 6pm (live event)

New York City: Saturday, Dec. 11 @ 2-4pm (live)

Sundance Alumni & Friends Mixer:
Monday, January 24, 2022 @ 2-4:30pm (live)

Welcome to the Fall 2021 College of Fine Arts Alumni Newsletter!



We hope you had a lovely and more normal summer despite Covid. Again, our love and support is with you if you have been impacted by Covid-19.

Due to concerns over the Delta variant, the College of Fine Arts' *Welcome Day* on Friday, August 20 was moved online. It was still great to see all the new and incoming students excited to join the Fine Arts family!

The UNLV Alumni Association is moving forward with in-person Homecoming events! We hope you can join us for the fun **Homecoming Festival** on Wednesday, October 20 and the **Annual Alumni**

Awards on Friday, October 22!

It was wonderful to connect with CFA alums who are not in Vegas, so we will be holding another Zoom **Rebels Raise A Glass**; this time the Halloween version! On Wednesday, October 27 from 5-7pm PST, reconnect with us and other CFA alums then grab your family and partake in a Halloween Scavenger Hunt for prizes! Don't worry, if you don't decorate for Halloween we'll include some regular home items as well!

Another fun, can't-miss event is the College of Fine Arts' **ArtWalk**; yes, it's finally back! Join us on November 5 to see all the amazing projects current students are presenting while enjoying scrumptious food and drink!

We will (hopefully!) bring you an in-person event this semester! Join us at the Donna Beam Gallery for **Feed Me**: A pre-theatre mixer before the opening night of NCT's *Little Shop of Horrors* on December 3! We will have food and beverages along with mingling amongst the exhibit at The Donna Beam titled *AH'-WAH-NEE* (Paiute for 'balance'): *This momentous exhibition and symposium celebrating the beauty of Indigeneity through the art of local and regional Native American women artists holding space on the campus of UNLV, the traditional homelands of the Nuwuvu, Southern Paiute People.* We hope to see you there!

Thank you to those CFA alums who filled out our Quick Survey that was emailed in August! Don't forget that we now have an Instagram page, and we'd love to see you follow us! <https://www.instagram.com/unlvfineartsalumni/fairs/>. If you are on LinkedIn, please join our group and start interacting: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/2067112/>.

Thanks for your continued support! Our wish for you is to have an incredible autumn and winter and that you can join us for all of the marvelous fall events!

With Rebel pride, Stacy Swim '98 Theatre

To Our Alumni: A Letter from Fine Arts Dean Nancy J. Uscher

Dear College of Fine Arts Alumni Colleagues:

Greetings! As we begin the Fall 2021 semester, we are all more than ready to enjoy the re-opening of our beautiful campus and the resumption of in-person events and activities from all of our arts disciplines, with the addition of some hybrid approaches to presentation. We anticipate with great excitement our November 5th ArtWalk: *Art Restart*. And yet, Covid is still with us, masks are required to be worn in all in-door spaces (with selected allowances for performers), and UNLV will soon require all faculty, staff and students (with noted exceptions) to be vaccinated. The vaccination requirement will be a firm stipulation for students registering for classes in the Spring 2022 semester.

For months I have written these sorts of letters intermittently for our UNLV College of Fine Arts newsletters – juxtaposing the resilience, optimism, and determination of artists, fortified with the deep belief that the arts are essential and vital to a healthy society, with the stark reality of living in the pandemic era.

Today I want to add a complementary message. Acknowledging the complexity we are living through in this moment – and that includes considerable Covid anxiety, ambiguity, and exhaustion – what we are trying to achieve is worth it! SO very much worth it! Whatever world is in our futures, our students are receiving a world-class education that will lead them to fascinating career paths and ways of contributing to society that we may not even be able to imagine in 2021. How truly incredible this is! Creating knowledge in the arts has a bright future on our planet and beyond. Here is the insight that is most exciting to me: each student is completely original and unique. In the ecosystem of humankind, every student has the unlimited potential to profoundly and positively influence aspects of global society and to do great good for all of us. No virus can take away the spirit, momentum and inspiration that a great education can offer to each student. No experience is wasted. Our students and faculty take artistic risks, they soar, and they give greatly of themselves. They reflect and make meaning of all that they do. They make artistic knowledge come alive.

As I said in my May 2021 graduation remarks, there is almost nothing that can't happen in a life if someone wants it enough. Despite the struggles with and sometimes dire predictions about Covid – with its vicissitudes and constant shifts in protocols -- we will not be de-



terred in providing this remarkable education and adding value to the lives of our students, regardless of the challenges that may arise.

I wish you an especially momentous semester. We are all in this adventure together and I look forward to sharing the events and the precious experiences of the semester with you.

Wishing the College of Fine Arts a great semester and academic year, *Nancy J. Uscher*

The four major pillars of the Fine Arts Strategic Plan:

1) **Research in the Arts**, with the consideration of *four themes*:

Social Justice and the Arts - Diversity and Inclusion - Intersectionality - Catalyzing Change - Youth Engagement

Human and Environmental Health - Work-Life Balance - Injury Prevention - Adaptive Aging - Embracing Sustainability

Impact and Innovation - Experience Design - New Modes of Creativity - Social Media Influences

Art as Industry - Evolving Business Models - Entrepreneurialism - Capital Investment - Digital Networking and Distribution - Public Relations and Communications Strategies

2) **Governance**

3) **Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity**

4) **Careers in the Arts**, *focusing on how we help students design their lives as part of their education at UNLV*

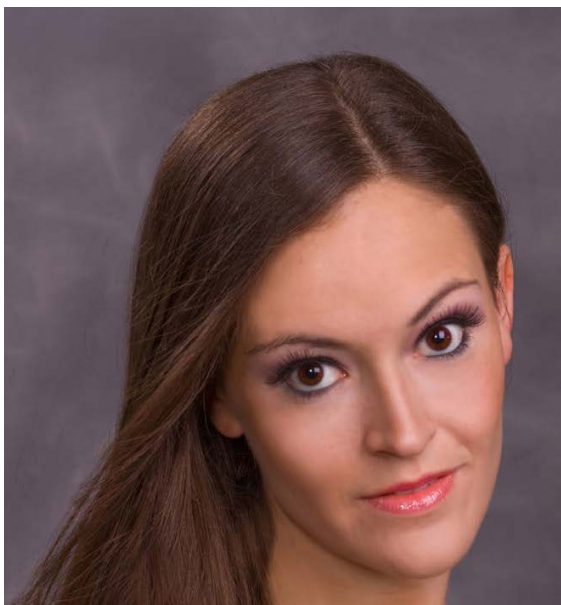
Fine Arts 2021 Alumna of the Year: Dance's Cooper Rust

Most of our alumni don't travel 9,427 miles across the globe to pursue their career dream, but we know at least one special young woman who did exactly that. After earning two degrees at UNLV and adding a Post-Graduate Teaching Certification from London's Royal Academy of Dance, Julia "Cooper" Rust (*Dance & History '13*) decided to do something completely outside of the "dance career box." She made the decision to spend a summer teaching Math and English at an orphanage in Nairobi, Kenya, which led her to the discovery that Nairobi offered no ballet classes for the pursuit of off-hours training.

Cooper began creating those classes herself, offering instruction through a local not-for-profit arts organization (Anno's Africa, U.K.). The idea for her own dance organization, *Artists For Africa*, was born. Although Cooper had considerable prior teaching experience, her students were now mostly kids from the poorest sections of Nairobi. Often ill-housed, ill-fed, ill-clothed, and often without shoes, many of Cooper's students live in homes with mud floors, in families who earn less than \$2 per day. Many can barely afford bus fare to classes. While largely impoverished, these students have both desire and talent in ample quantity.

As any leader of an arts non-profit can tell you, fundraising is a crucial part of running *Artists For Africa*. She works hard to fund raise on multiple continents. Of crucial importance, she has received substantial support from her hometown, Columbia, South Carolina. Her sister, Brie, is the President of *Artists For Africa's* Board of Directors. An important dream of the program is to be able to provide these students opportunities to attend secondary school in places like the U.S. and U.K. Who knows, maybe at UNLV?

At the opposite end of the spectrum, Cooper also teaches at a private arts academy in Nairobi. Her academy students are both children and adults, and many hail from diverse parts of the world (U.S., Japan, Europe), living or working in Kenya. She's started her own company, *Ballet Kenya*, with both original choreography and, yes, even *The Nutcracker* as part of the mix. After hearing her amazing story, you can see why Cooper Rust has earned her place as the 2021 UNLV College of Fine Arts Alumna of the Year.



Art Restart: The Return of Live Fine Arts Classes (in quantity)!

Perhaps the most exciting facet of the Fall 2021 semester has been the return of so many in-person classes and campus activities. While the Fall '21 academic plan was to have 60% in-person classes (versus 40% virtual), a weekday walk around campus feels very much as it did prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Yes, of course the major difference is the mask wearing, and a majority of current students visible on the various UNLV Malls are wearing them both indoors and outside.

From AM to PM we're seeing lots of students, and the energy and excitement are both evident and palpable. Things should only improve. Covid vaccinations will be required to register for Spring 2022 classes (beginning November 1), and while many students do like the flexibility of having access to virtual classes, on the whole it looks like campus life is back, and back to stay.



Campus Life is Back at UNLV! Very Back!



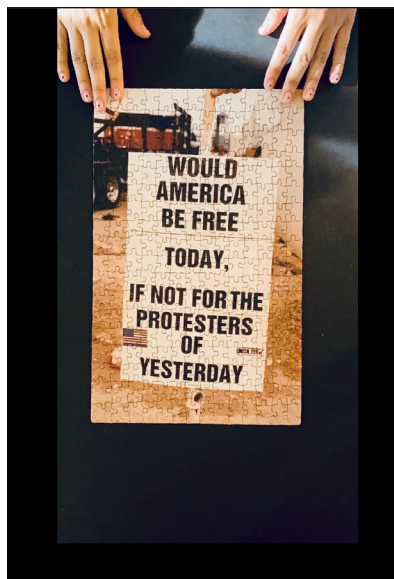
Fall '21 at The Barrick! Four great exhibitions open on September 24

On Friday, September 24, UNLV's Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art will unveil a quadruple-header of four fantastic exhibitions, in what is perhaps their most diverse and eclectic show to date. Displaying the work of both national and local artists, the new show at The Barrick will feature everything from painting and sculpture, to photography, video, and "historical ephemera."

The first group of works featured in the exhibit *I Am Here* will employ both visual storytelling and personal narratives with new works and loaned pieces. Artists will include Claudia DeMonte, Carla Jay Harris, Heidi Rider, Catherine Angel, Tomoko Daido, Chase McCurdy, Krystal Ramirez, and Lance L. Smith. The second group includes paintings, photographs, sculptures, and video by artists Ashley Hairston Doughty, Justin Favela, Clarity Haynes, Brent Holmes, and Mikayla Whitmore. Concise gallery wall descriptions will include direct quotations from the artists, describing their working methods and the media used.

Next in line is *Seeing/Seen*, curated by Erica Vital-Lazare. This group features photography by *Black Newsweek* photojournalist Lester Sloan and the photos of local artists, alongside a new painting by UNLV alumna Q'Shaundra James. Her piece was inspired by the research work of Vital-Lazare, a professor of creative writing and marginalized voices in dystopian literature at CSN.

The show also features the jolting *Human Resource Exploitation: A Family Album*, by Ellen Brokaw. This presentation is largely comprised of descriptive photos and ephemera related to the 1980 assassination death of her father at the hands of the Guatemalan government. Lastly, *Hostile Terrain 94* is a visiting exhibition focusing on the issue of migrant deaths. This entire mix of artworks can be seen at The Barrick through February 22, 2022. Check out the [Barrick Museum website](#) for hours and viewing protocols.



Photos by (Clockwise from Top Right): Ramiro Garcia, Mikayla Whitmore, Krystal Ramirez, Justin Favela, and Lester Sloan

Arts Restart: The Return of ArtWalk! Let's Celebrate the Arts at UNLV!

Yes! It's coming back! Mark your calendar and set your watch to 5:00 pm on Friday, November 5, as the College of Fine Arts' signature Fall event restarts after more than a year of dark days for UNLV's theaters, galleries, and museums. We've entitled the 2021 event as **Arts Restart**! Make certain to join us for all of the art, exhibits, food, wine, chocolate, and unique performances that will encompass the North-South Mall from the Performing Arts Center all the way to the Barrick Museum and Pida Plaza.

The Annual UNLV Art Walk honors the Las Vegas arts community for its dedication and support of arts and culture in Southern Nevada. As the UNLV art galleries open their fall exhibitions, come and explore a variety of arts, performances, and live music as you walk along the academic mall of the UNLV campus. After an unfortunate pandemic pause in 2020, the College of Fine Arts is now in final preparations for the third annual ArtWalk, the biggest event of the Fall Semester.

So please join us on Friday, November 5th as we load up the campus with chefs, food, beverage, and (most importantly) amazing art and diverse performances by UNLV artists. ArtWalk has rapidly becoming one of UNLV's top public events. The co-presenting sponsor for **ArtWalk: Arts Restart** is the wonderful Susan N. Houston, to whom we're especially grateful.



UNLV Fine Arts Alumni Fall 2021 Updates

Well, things were sure looking great back in May and June, as we all believed that the health crisis was abating. Now, only a few months later, it's September and Covid-19 has morphed into Delta and things look very different. We've truly enjoyed seeing your photos and reading your Fine Arts Alumni stories throughout 2020 and 2021, so we went back to the well for a few more:



Steve Wallace - Music 2000

Freelance Singer and Composer - New York, N.Y.

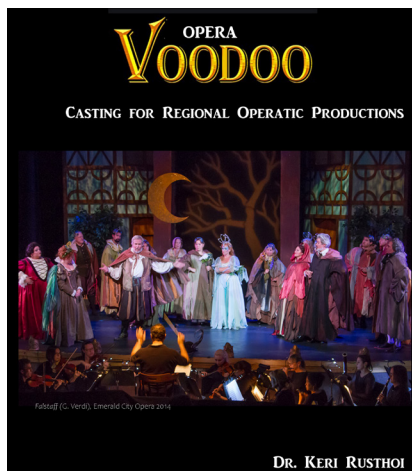
I am doing mostly what I did before the pandemic, writing music in a variety of styles, music production and arrangement. As restrictions have loosened a bit, I have gotten back into singing again in some public capacities. I think there have been actually more opportunities for it, I think because the playing field leveled a bit with quarantines and restrictions. People were at home taking in their content throughout 2020-21 and that allowed for my work to generate more awareness leading to other opportunities. But it is tougher than before dealing with protocols for Covid and keeping myself and my family safe if I have to sing or travel. I've been continuing with writing music and developing works I have composed as well as some singing and releasing projects virtually to continue building my brand so there is value as things continue.

In the span of my career, I've released 15 of my own albums as an artist, and produced, performed and written on hundreds of albums with credits including Ledisi, Ghost face of the Wu-Tang Clan, De La Soul, and Eric Roberson, as well as gaining nods from the likes of Jay-Z, Jadakiss, Just Blaze and others for his fantastic and creative ideas. I currently reside in NYC with my wife of 13 years and our 8 year-old daughter.

Vicki (Burnette) McCullough - Art 1993

Owner, Black Mountain Geotech - Henderson, NV

Our geotechnical company is busier than ever. We were lucky not to have to shut down at all. We have decided to downsize and enjoy life more!



Keri Rusthoi - Music 2019

Soprano Vocalist, Director, and Music Educator - Steamboat Springs, Colorado

I've been directing two choirs, the Director of Music at a local church, teaching in my vocal studio, and an Adjunct Professor of Music at Colorado Mountain College. I've recently published a book (sort of a "tweaked" version of my dissertation) entitled *Opera Voodoo*.

The book provides real-world guidance and insights for opera producers, and is a long-needed "how-to" book for professional opera companies, local amateur productions and university directors. It's a discussion of the most important roles within any operatic production, and how these roles are essential to the final product's success. It gives the best practices for casting agents to utilize when determining hiring choices in order to assemble the most creative, efficient and harmonious production team.

I delve into the characteristics and behaviors considered the most valuable when hiring for specific cast and crew positions for full-scale, professional opera productions, and delineate a few of the typical pitfalls that casting agents and/or artistic directors can encounter when building a team for any production. The book addresses "red flags" for casting agents, band-aids for unfortunate situations and providing resources for the work of pursuing the best artists. I think it's an essential guide for regional professional stage producers everywhere.



Derek Douglas – Art 2004

Mural Artist and Owner of Golden Fog Coffee - Las Vegas

After the initial lock down, I was able to jump head first into a career as a mural artist. Having done a few murals previously while focusing on studio work, the dynamic changed as galleries weren't open. My wife and I also opened Golden Fog Coffee in the Arts District, and serve specialty coffee while connecting with our local art community for events and group shows.

I'm showing my art in other cities for art fairs, but gallery shows and trade shows have stopped for the time being. As the world focuses on moving past Covid safely, the opportunities that were there previously have disappeared. Thankfully, I've been able to create more murals and installations for local businesses, private homes and corporate clients. We're very proud to have opened our specialty coffee shop during the pandemic, while building up its awareness within the community. It's been my dream for 15 years, and although it's been an uphill battle, I feel blessed to pursue my dream.



Alexis Castellano Smith – Theatre 2020

Educational Leadership Consultant - Las Vegas, NV

I am currently an Educational Leadership Consultant for Alpha Xi Delta Fraternity Headquarters and am absolutely loving it. I work with collegiate women across the United States to help them grow personally and assist in the growth of their organization. I'm currently living in Las Vegas and try to travel to see family and friends in the safest way possible. After I graduated in May of 2020, I worked as a recruit for a company called Barton Associates. I recently transitioned to my current role, working for the organization that was such a large part of my time at UNLV! I am so thankful to UNLV for putting on a Commencement ceremony for the class of 2020 in May. Graduation was something I looked forward to my whole life, and I was thankful for the opportunity to walk at graduation (Sam Boyd Stadium, May 2021). I'm always looking for more ways to get involved.

Bronson Foster - Music 2017

Bassoonist, Educator & Arts Administrator - Long Beach, California

After earning my Master of Science in Arts Leadership from the University of Southern California, I joined Long Beach Opera as Head of Experience & Partnerships. Since August 2020, I've also served on the Leadership Council for Emerging Arts Leaders/Los Angeles. I am now living in the Los Angeles area and working with my organization – among other arts and cultural institutions – to help increase their capacity in society. Despite unexpected twists and turns accompanied with loss, like so many others during this time I completed graduate school, found a good job, relocated cities, and I am spending my time reinventing what my life looks like emerging from the pandemic.

**Tom Nevill – Music 2001**

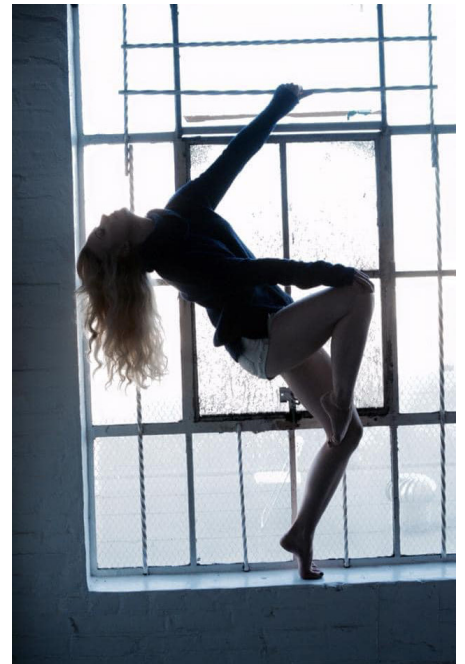
Vice-President for Academics, Butler Community College - Wichita, Kansas

I have taken on a new position as Vice-President of Academics at Butler Community College. Besides moving to a new state and taking on a new position, the ongoing Covid-19 situation continues to be a part of decision making in almost all aspects of life. Together, we can find a solution.

Ashley (Wilkerson) Vazquez – Dance 2011

Choreographer, Dancer & Dance Educator - Los Angeles, California

I graduated with a BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography in 2011. I moved to Los Angeles shortly after, and I've had many dance adventures since! I've danced with a few smaller companies out here, which allowed me to perform at Walt Disney Concert Hall, The Getty and The Broad Museum, as well as dancing on the commercial side of things through Go2Talent Agency, with a few bigger names like Pharrell/Daft Punk, Maroon 5, and Ice Cube. I've also choreographed some music video/film/TV projects, including choreography for *Big Bang Theory* and *Flipped* on Quibi starring Will Forte and Kaitlin Olsen. I worked for Ryan Heffington (choreographer for Sia, Florence and The Machine, *The OA* and *Euphoria*) for many years at his dance studio, The Sweat Spot. Most recently, I've taken on more responsibility for a dance nonprofit, *Everybody Dance L.A.*, which brings high quality dance education to thousands of under served young people throughout Los Angeles. I was the Artistic Manager for two years, and I'm now the Youth Company and Conservatory Director. This has given me the opportunity to become a teacher trainer to our staff, as well as leading teacher trainings for The Actors Fund, Career Transitions for Dancers, and The Creative Classroom Symposium at The Wallis Annenberg. My dance video, *Stay Low* was choreographed and filmed in 2015.



Linda Manley Darling - Art 2005

Stock Market Investor and Researcher - Kennewick, Washington

1) Enjoyed attending Sweet Briar College Reunion in July 2021, and follow-up Class of 1985 Organizational Meeting. 2) Still investing in the stock market, and some corporate shareholders meetings such as Disney, Apple and Chico Fas. 3) Avid movie goer, Hubby Dave and I try to see them all; also, Netflix movies and series. 4) Working on writing a few books. 5) Enjoying time spent with my cat Royce. 6) Attended ANS (American Nuclear Society) Zoom conference in August 2021. 7) Attended Maier Museum Event at Randolph College in January 2021 with Hubby, Dave Darling and Mother, Joyce B. Manley; former Administrative Lead, Public Relations Office, Sweet Briar College 1983-1987. Also, kept up with Randolph Colleges Zoom Brown Bag Lunch Series Events, and Beyond The Red Brick Wall Book Group. 8) Attended Google Meet University of Lynchburg 1988 Alumni Reunion/ Westover Series, and Martin Luther King Day Zoom Event. 9) Attended a Zoom UNLV Summer Book Club, and UNLV Fire Arts Alumni Event. 10) Traveled across this great USA, a lifetime hobby, highlights included: The Corvette Museum with auto delivery in Kentucky, Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum in Birmingham, Alabama, the State Capitals of Alabama and Mississippi, Midway Aircraft Carrier in San Diego, California, Pima Arizona and Air Museum in Tucson, Arizona and Titan Missile Museum, Tombstone Arizona, San Diego Zoo, North Carolina Zoo, Abilene and Dallas Zoo Etc. Etc. Etc. In June, celebrated my 58th Birthday at Agate Beach on The Oregon Coast. 11) Attended Washington State Sweet Briar College Alumnae Zoom Event. 12) Working on TikTok collection with my cat Royce. 13) Etc. etc. etc.

Hope to get to Vegas at Thanksgiving or Christmas!



Justin Velarde – Dance 2016

Dancer and Costumier - Las Vegas

I finished the UNLV Dance program in 2016, and right after that got offered my first job with Norwegian Cruise Lines. I've been dancing and traveling the world with them ever since. I was very blessed to get the chance to dance for this company and travel to 75 countries and 6 continents within the last couple years! Unfortunately, since the Covid pandemic we haven't been able to return back to ships, but in the downtime I have been making custom costumes for people and the UNLV Dance Department. Hope everyone is well, and can't wait for entertainment to start up again.

Ariadna Ramirez – Dance 2021

I just graduated! I was at UNLV only two years, having transferred from CSN, but these couple of years were truly great! I got many opportunities at UNLV, from being part of *DramArt* my first semester to being able to choreograph. I already loved choreographing and I was able to discover my love for dance for the camera at my time in the department. I also really enjoy arranging my own music as well as editing it as a whole. I love being behind the scenes as much as performing and I was lucky enough to be able to experience both at this school. I plan on still being a choreographer, performing, and experimenting with more dance films and music. I am also a freelance makeup artist and I was able to incorporate my love for this other art in my choreographies. Make sure to check out my latest project at UNLV on my YouTube page <https://youtu.be/SJQiRfKZIXg>



Hopewell (Film '16) Premieres *Shellfish* at TLC Chinese in Hollywood

In the independent film era, Hunter Hopewell continues to rake in awards (more than 40) for his creative work. In his day job, he's a segment producer at the Walt Disney Company. During off hours Hunter has written, produced, and scored more than 20 short films. His short on anti-bullying, *Numbskull*, garnered a first place award at the United Nations Peace In the Streets Film Festival. Hunter's new feature film, his first, *Shellfish* recently premiered at Hollywood's legendary TLC Chinese Theatre as part of the annual *Dances With Films* Festival. Well received, *Shellfish* is currently making the rounds on the film festival circuit.

Hunter's new feature film *Shellfish* was made possible through a Johnny Brenden Filmmaker Grant. Here's the plot lowdown on *Shellfish*: "Instead of finding a real job (as his parents lovingly put it) stop motion animator Keller attempts to produce a film in a week with his dumbstruck brother and longtime crush. When their shoot goes wrong, Keller must face his own selfishness and decide which is more important, his film making or close relationships." It's a wonderful coming-of-age comedy that deftly employs stop-motion animation to get it's messages across to audiences. Congratulations, Mr. Hopewell! Well done.



Fine Arts Class Notes

Celeste Dixon, 2018 *Music*, is an adjunct voice instructor at Dixie State University in St. George, Utah. Celeste is also a private voice instructor for young singers. In June, 2021 she presented *Opera Is Theatre Too*, a concert designed to bridge the gap between opera and musical theatre. Celeste has performed at the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival and in numerous operas and musicals, such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Die Fledermaus*, and *West Side Story*. Celeste resides in rural New Harmony, Utah.

Jasmine Mathews, 2016 *Theatre*, is an actor living in New York City. Most recently Jasmine appeared in *The Tomorrow War*, a sci-fi feature film for Amazon Studios. Her previous work includes television roles on *Blue Bloods*, *Heathers*, and *The Rookie*. Jasmine is also working on a new film, *The Man From Toronto*, starring Woody Harrelson and Kelly Kuoco. She lives in New York City, but works on both coasts.

Robert Shipley, 2018, 2021 *Music*, is the new Director of Jazz Studies at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. A recent graduate assistant with UNLV's Division of Jazz and Commercial Music Studies, Robert has a long career as a top musician, appearing on drums with artists such as Chaka Kahn, The O'Jays, Natalie Cole, Ben Vereen, Diana Ross and Gerald Levert. His many television appearances include *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *The Tonight Show*, *Solid Gold* and *Motown Live*. He's also the author of the drum method book *The Art of Commercial Drumming: How to Establish a Solid Groove and Become a Pocket Drummer*. Robert is originally from Chicago, Illinois.

Jessica McCully, 2005 *Dance*, is the owner of Contemporary Dance Studio in Sioux City, Iowa. In 2012, she also founded *Flux Dance Company*, a non-profit youth dance company. Her *Flux-Ability* program offers free dance classes for kids and young adults with special needs. In 2019, she founded *MainStage Dance Convention and Competition and Conventions*. Her latest project is renovating an old elementary school building she purchased and converting it into her town's new performing arts center.

Kyle Ensruide, 2010 *Film/Writing For Dramatic Media*, is a screenwriter, director and videographer. He recently (August 29th) premiered a short film entitled *Papa Voodoo*, in a screening for the Dances With Films Festival at Los Angeles' famed TCL Chinese Theatre. Produced by fellow UNLV alumni **May May Luong** and **Brandon Mowles**, the film can be likened to a fairy tale filled with mystery and danger surrounding a charismatic, magical figure. Dances With Films attracts more than 20,000 film fans annually. Kyle was a 2017 IFP Minnesota Screenwriting Residency Finalist, and resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota. *Papa Voodoo* was filmed in Las Vegas.

Kellie Ballard, 2007 *Music*, is Director of the Office of the Deputy Superintendent for the Clark County School District. Her previous positions with the CCSD include Coordinator for Portfolio and Process Management for the Technology Program Office, as well as for their Fiscal Accountability and Program Management. Kellie is also a performer and member of the Board of Directors for the *Las Vegas Brass Band*. She also teaches Project Management and Critical Thinking for UNLV's Division of Educational Outreach.

Dawn Ward, 1999 *Theatre*, passed the California Bar Examination in 2018 and is licensed to practice law in California, Ohio, and Illinois. She is entering her eighth year as a professor of paralegal studies at Cerro Coso Community College. Dawn lives in Ridgecrest, California.

Josh Hartwell, 2020 *Music*, is the Director of Percussion at Goode Creek Memorial High School in Baytown, Texas. Previously, Josh taught percussion studies at Fort Bend Christian Academy in Sugarland, Texas and at Foothill High in Henderson, Nevada. He has also served as Front Ensemble Instructor for the *Louisiana Stars Drum and Bugle Corps* in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Jaye Knutson, 1982 *Dance*, is Professor of Modern Dance at Towson University in the Baltimore area. She is an Associate of the Royal Academy of Dancing (ARAD), holds the intermediate certificate in Labanotation, and has recently been reconstructing Ruth Currier's version of Doris Humphrey's *Waterstudy* for the TSU Dance Company. Other reconstructions include Marius Petipa's *Don Quixote*, Jules Perrot's *Pas de Quatre*, and most recently, Ann L. Rodiger's *Scrabble*. Jaye teaches modern technique, composition, pedagogy, and is the coordinator of K-12 certification in dance. Jaye received a Hawaii State Choreographic Award for her modern duet *BeFallen* in 1989 and has been selected by audition to participate in choreographic works with Robert Dunn and Jennifer Muller/The Works sponsored by the Mayor's Committee on Art and Culture in Baltimore, Maryland.

Wayne Schwisow, *Art 1988*, is a designer, art director, illustrator, web designer, occasional photographer, the owner of schwisowDESIGN, and Communications Specialist for Harbor Food Service in the Seattle-Tacoma area. Wayne has degrees in Art and Graphic Design from both UNLV and the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. In off-hours, Wayne is a huge fan of soccer, Tai Chi, and guitar. He and his wife, Karen, own and operate *Three Trees Yoga* in Federal Way, Washington.

Kyle Alexander Ross, *Film 2014*, is Global Brand Director for Tuffskin Surface Protection in Las Vegas. Kyle is also the founder of TheFeeling.Com, a community of artists and spectators. We believe in the power of art and expression to address our community's most significant challenge: self-awareness and growth.

Alphabetical Actions (October 22/23)

D is for Dance (November 18-20)

Last Dance (Dec. 3)



Nevada Conservatory Theatre

2021-2022

Ring Round the Moon

by Jean Anouilh
adapted by Christopher Fry
October 8 - 17, 2021

Little Shop of Horrors

by Alan Menken
and Howard Ashman
December 3 - 12, 2021



The Beaux Stratagem

by George Farquhar
adapted by Thornton Wilder
and Ken Ludwig

A Midsummer Night's Dream

by William Shakespeare
April 29 - May 8, 2022

NCT & UNLV Dance Announce Fall 2021 Performance Seasons

The academic live-production units within the College of Fine Arts are delighted to announce their public performance seasons for the Fall 2021 semester. Their seasons not only signal a return to live, in-person performances, but UNLV Dance will also continue to live stream events, either filmed/edited or streamed live. Live audience capacities are expected to be 100%. Details on live ticketing information and viewing access will be made available later in the summer via the [UNLV Performing Arts Center](#) website, as well as on the [UNLV Dance](#) and [NCT](#) sites.

Department of Dance: ABC's of Dance Season

Alphabetical Actions (Live and Streaming)

Friday, October 22 @ 7:30 pm
 Saturday, October 23 @ 2:30 pm
 Saturday, October 23 @ 7:30 pm
Judy Bayley Theatre

D is for Dance (Live and Streaming)

Thursday, November 18 @ 7:30 pm
 Friday, November 19 @ 7:30 pm
 Saturday, November 20 @ 2:30 pm
 Saturday, November 20 @ 7:30 pm
Alta Ham Fine Arts Dance Studio One (HFA-111)

More Dance (Streaming only)

Friday, December 3 @ 7:30 pm

Nevada Conservatory Theatre: 2021-2022 Performance Season

Ring Round the Moon

by Jean Anouilh, adapted by Christopher Fry

Friday October 8 @ 7:30 pm
 Saturday, October 9 @ 7:30 pm
 Sunday, October 10 @ 2:00 pm
 Thursday, October 14 @ 7:30 pm
 Friday, October 15 @ 7:30 pm
 Saturday, October 16 @ 7:30 pm
 Sunday, October 17 @ 2:00 pm
Judy Bayley Theatre

The Little Shop of Horrors

Book and lyrics by Howard Ashman, Music by Alan Menken

Friday, December 3 @ 7:30 pm
 Saturday, December 4 @ 7:30 pm
 Sunday, December 5 @ 2:00 pm
 Thursday, December 9 @ 7:30 pm
 Friday, December 10 @ 7:30 pm
 Saturday, December 11 @ 7:30 pm
 Sunday, December 12 @ 2:00 pm
Judy Bayley Theatre

October 20-22: Homecoming is Back! Come On Home!

During the past 18 months, we've had to let go of entirely too many important events during the Covid-19 Pandemic, both indoors and outdoors. This Fall, *live events at UNLV are back*, and in a big way. Off-campus, our football Rebels will host fans in-person at the gleaming new **Allegiant Stadium**, including our **Thursday, October 21, 2021 Homecoming Game** versus the San Jose State Spartans. More importantly, the UNLV Maryland Parkway Campus will once again host a trifecta of what have in recent years become our signature Fall events: The **UNLV Homecoming Festival**; **The UNLV Annual Alumni Awards**; and **Art-walk 2021**. Every one of these events features either free, or very affordable admission. Plan early to be with us for all of them!

In 2019, we drew in excess of 4,000 guests outdoors for our 2nd Annual free **Homecoming Festival**. Loaded with food, exhibits, carnival rides and an electric golf-cart parade, the **UNLV Alumni Association** will bring this popular event back to campus on **Wednesday, October 20** starting at 5:00 pm Then, on **Friday, October 22**, the annual **UNLV Alumni Awards** will again be staged in the **Student Union Ballroom** starting at 5:30 pm This gala indoor event has gradually become a signature campus event, and a tremendous source of pride for all Rebel Alumni.



UNLV Fall Career Fair: October 5-8 (live); Virtual on October 5

It's becoming increasingly clear that many, many workers are exploring or making career changes. UNLV's next Career Fair (October 5, 6, 7 & 8) creates a robust opportunity for us to connect students and alumni with many local, national, and global companies.

The event is a key step for all UNLV students and alumni looking for internship and career employment opportunities in an open, yet streamlined format. These campus collaborative events maximize the career fair model, allowing employers to connect with students and alumni from the widest variety of disciplines and fields. Targeted industry zones and venues allow employers to reach the most diverse as well as targeted audiences.



Here are the links and info. to **register via Handshake**:

<https://unlv.joinhandshake.com/login>

<https://unlv.joinhandshake.com/>

https://unlv.joinhandshake.com/career_fairs/24926?ref=events-search

Location: **Richard Tam Alumni Center Grand Ballroom**
4505 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada 89154

Schedule:

UNLV Career Fair - Fall 2021

Tuesday, October 5, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm PDT

Wednesday, October 6, 10:00 am - 2:30 pm PDT

Thursday, October 7, 10:00 am - 2:30 pm PDT

Friday, October 8, 10:00 am - 2:30 pm PDT

Virtual Career Fair:

Tuesday, October 5, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm PDT

Many live events at the PAC will return for Fall '21 - with masks a must!

This Fall, as live events continue to resume nationally, many in-person College of Fine Arts events will return to UNLV's stages, including *Nevada Conservatory Theatre* performances, *UNLV School of Music* concerts, and *UNLV Dance* events. Other performances and ceremonies are expected to re-appear as the semester progresses. The Performing Arts Center has **important advice** and **basic protocol** for guests planning to attend campus events, to include the following:

- Please **screen yourself** for Covid-19 symptoms using the **CDC Self-Checker** (here's the [online link](#)). If you're experiencing symptoms, please stay home and call the box office for ticket options.
- Please bring your mask with you, as **attendees are required to wear masks at all times** while inside the venue.
- Once you arrive: **Parking is available** in the 6-story garage adjacent to the venues; please **show your ticket to the usher**, who will **scan the barcode/QR code** printed on the ticket.
- During the entire performance, please keep your mask on**, fully covering your nose and mouth.
- Thank you, and enjoy the performance!

Annual Alumni Awards Return - Live!

UNLV's signature celebration of alumni pride will resume live and in person this year, following a virtual presentation year in 2020. On **Friday, October 22 at 5:30 p.m.**, the UNLV Alumni Association will honor the 2021 selection from each of UNLV's academic colleges in a gala dinner ceremony at the **UNLV Student Union Ballroom**. Both live and video tributes to each honoree will be a part of the event. At the evening's conclusion, the overall **UNLV Alumnus of the Year** will be recognized and celebrated. Here's how you can *get your tickets* to this awesome Rebel event. For tickets, check out this link: <https://securelb.imodules.com/s/1884/giving19/interior.aspx?sid=1884&gid=2&pgid=1445&cid=4024>



UNLV Career Services Promotes “Handshake” Job Search Platform

In this time of profound unemployment and business uncertainty, our newest graduates and our alumni need the best tools and support in order to determine their next (and in many cases, first) career moves. UNLV’s Office of Career Services is pushing forward with their new online service that will supercharge the process of bringing our Alumni, Juniors and Seniors together with a universe of eager employers.

Handshake is a high-level online career exploration and recruiting platform already in use at some of America’s top colleges and universities (Stanford University, Carnegie Mellon University, Morehouse College, Michigan State University). Handshake successfully connects hundreds of national employers with educated employment seekers. Here is a description of Handshake, and how you will be able to access this great new UNLV Career Services tool:

“More than ever before, job searching is moving online. In today’s marketplace, it’s necessary to have the best tools available. That’s why UNLV is rolling out [Handshake](#), one of the leading online employment portals on the web (no actual handshakes required!).”

Employers seeking to hire UNLV talent have been registering in Handshake since last June. You can get access through the link below. For more information about Handshake or how you can benefit from it, please contact careerservices@unlv.edu.

Handshake is here. It’s a new app that’s a game-changing vehicle for all UNLV grads. Please read this excellent [article](#) from the [UNLV News Center](#) on how [UNLV Career Services](#) can help our alumni during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Handshake

X

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Welcome to



*It Just Got Easier for **Rebels** to Get Hired*

Step 1: Activate Your Student Account

Getting set up on Handshake as a student is easy! Our system will automatically upload your student information to initially set up your student account. Once your student information is uploaded to the system, you will receive a notification via an email to your RebelMail account.

Step 2: Complete Your Profile

Having a complete and accurate student profile is essential to be able to effectively use Handshake. As you fill out your profile fields, you'll see your completion percentage increase. Most services on Handshake require at least a 75% completion rate.

Step 3: Discover Jobs

Handshake is the largest database for employers looking to hire college students. More than 500 positions are posted to the site every week representing part-time jobs, full-time employment, internships, and more from a wide variety of industries, disciplines, and fields. If you're looking for a job, your first stop should always be Handshake.

Step 4: Request an Appointment

All Career Services appointments will now be booked directly through Handshake. Appointments can be requested for resume/cover letter assistance, job search support, mock interviewing, general career development questions, and more. When you request an appointment, please provide details on what services you would like to cover.

- From the Handshake front page, click on "Career Center."
- Follow the prompts for to book your appointment.
- In most cases, you'll have the option to speak to someone in-person, by phone, or by Google Meet.

FAQs

1. Do I need to create a student account? No! Please do not complete the process to sign up for a new student account. By uploading your student data directly into the Handshake system, it eliminates the need for supplemental registration.

2. What will I use this system for? Handshake is your one-stop-shop for everything related to career development, career programming, your job search, and more.

- Booking appointments with career services professionals
- Viewing programming available for you to develop your career knowledge
- Accessing the programming available for your job search, like career fairs, on-campus interviews, and more

3. What other benefits are available? Handshake has a network of thousands of schools, tens of thousands of employers, and millions of students and alumni. These active users are posting information about the companies for which they worked, and allow for networking and for you to ask questions directly to employers and employees!

For more information about Handshake or general questions, please contact Career Services at careerservices@unlv.edu

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UNLV Fine Arts Alumni Data Points

Top UNLV Fine Arts Teaching by Subject and Level:

Overall - 591 (identified as teaching, or having taught)

1. Music Teachers - 287
2. Art Teachers - 96
3. Theatre - 61
4. Dance - 19
5. Film - 19
6. Architecture - 11
7. Entertainment Engineering & Design - 2
8. Other Subjects - 96

K-12 Teachers

1. Music Teachers - 186
2. Art Teachers - 47
3. Theatre - 12
4. Dance - 2
5. Film - 2
6. Architecture - 1

Higher Education Faculty (includes Adjunct)

1. Music Teachers - 101
2. Art Teachers - 49
3. Theatre - 49
4. Dance - 15
5. Film - 17
6. Architecture - 10
7. Entertainment Engineering & Design - 2

Other subjects taught by UNLV Fine Arts Alumni include:

Business, Communications, Computer Science/Lit., Construction Technology, Counseling, English, Geography, Health/Safety/Fitness, History, Law, Library, Math/STEM, Political Science, Psychology, Religious Studies, Sociology, and Special Education.

Fine Arts Alumni Seed Grant Program: Renewed for Year Three!

Responding to the increased demand we received for our second annual Request for Applications, the College of Fine Arts is proud to announce the continuation of the *Fine Arts Alumni Seed Grant Program* in 2021-22. Dean Uscher wishes to thank all of the prior Fine Arts alumni applicants, nearly doubling in the program's second year. New applications will be solicited in early September, 2021, both via e-mail and in the Fall 2021 edition of this publication, the *UNLV Fine Arts Alumni Chapter Newsletter*.

Applications will be entered and logged via a [Google Document link](#), to be included with the announcements. The 2021-22 review committee for the new round of Fine Arts Alumni Seed Grants will consist of UNLV Fine Arts faculty, staff, and the President of the Fine Arts Alumni Chapter. Once judging is completed, *ten Fine Arts Alumni Seed grants of \$500.00* will be awarded to the successful project applicants, who will be notified of funding by e-mail and postal letters in late February, or early March of 2022.

Select Upcoming Event Dates - [UNLV Alumni Engagement](#) and the College of Fine Arts:

(Please note: listed events are subject to change in terms of both timing and event platform)

Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art: **Four Exhibitions** - September 24 - 5:00pm
School of Music: **UNLV Symphony Orchestra** - Ham Concert Hall - September 28 - 7:30pm
Live at the PAC: **Robert Graziano**, Piano - Virtual & Ham Concert Hall - October 4 - 7:30pm
School of **Architecture Lecture: Chelse Drenick**, Woodworks - [Virtual](#) - October 5 - 8:30am
School of Music: **UNLV Wind Orchestra** - Ham Concert Hall - October 7 - 7:30pm
Nevada Conservatory Theatre: **Ring Around the Moon** - Judy Bayley Theatre - Oct. 8-17
School of Music: **UNLV Choral Ensembles** - Ham Concert Hall - October 15 - 7:30pm
School of Music: **UNLV Jazz Ensembles** - Ham Concert Hall - October 19 - 7:30pm
Alumni Engagement: **UNLV Homecoming Festival** - Academic Mall - October 20 - 5:00pm
Alumni Engagement: **Annual UNLV Alumni Awards** - Student Union - October 22 - 5:30pm
Department of Dance: **Alphabetical Actions** - Judy Bayley Theatre - Oct. 22-23 - 7:30pm/2:30pm
School of Music: **UNLV Symphony Orchestra** - October 27 - 7:30pm
School of Music: **UNLV Community & New Horizons Bands** - HCH - November 3 - 7:30pm
College of Fine Arts: **ArtWalk** - Maryland Campus - November 5 - 5:00pm-9:00pm
Live at the PAC: **An Evening of Performance** - Virtual & Ham Concert Hall - November 5 - TBD
School of **Architecture Lecture: Billie Faircloth** - Virtual - November 9 - 8:30am
UNLV Opera Theatre: **Opera Scenes II** - Doc Rando Recital Hall - November 12-13 - 7:30pm
School of Music: **UNLV Wind Orchestra** - Ham Concert Hall - November 18 - 7:30pm
Department of Dance: **D is for Dance** - HFA-111 - November 18-20 - 7:30pm
School of Music: **Madrigal Festival** - Ham Concert Hall - November 19 - 12:30pm & 7:30pm
School of Music: **UNLV Symphony Orchestra** - Ham Concert Hall - November 23 - 7:30pm
School of Music: **Fall Jazz Festival** - Black Box Theatre - November 29 to December 1 - 7:30pm
UNLV Opera Theatre: **Winter Opera Scenes** - Doc Rando Recital Hall - December 2 - 7:30pm
Department of Dance: **More Dance** - HFA-111 - December 3 - 2:30pm/7:30pm
Nevada Conservatory Theatre: **The Little Shop of Horrors** - Judy Bayley Theatre - Dec. 3-12
School of Music: **UNLV Choral Ensembles** - Ham Concert Hall - December 4 - 7:30pm

For information call the
Performing Arts Center Box Office (702) 895-ARTS (2787)
or visit <http://pac.unlv.edu>

For Athletics information call the
Thomas & Mack Center Box Office (702) 739-FANS (3267)
or visit <http://www.unlvtickets.com>

2021 College of Fine Arts Alumni Chapter Board

Stacy Swim '98 Theatre (President)
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Gerald Jones '96 Dance (Past President)
Anne Silva '83 Theatre (Treasurer)
Nancy Matheny '04 Theatre (Secretary) / Emily Black '12 Entertainment Engineering & Design
Lisa Jablonski '98 Music / Robert (R.J.) Hersh '09 '11 Architecture
Anthony Marentic '95 Music / Tim Anderson '04 Film
Marie-Joe Tabet '08 Dance
e-mail: Fineartsalumni@unlv.edu