



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATION

January/February 2015 Faculty Recognition

[Dr. John Fleming, Interim Dean](#)

“Spotlight” on Faculty Excellence

Each semester on our college homepage, we feature faculty identified by our college leadership as leaders in their fields. In these feature “Spotlight” videos, our faculty are provided an opportunity to share how their research is applied to their teaching in the class room setting thereby benefiting not only our students but the world beyond Texas State. See our most recent post below:

[Spotlight on Excellence: Dr. Melinda Villagran](#) | [Department of Communication Studies](#)

Sampling of Faculty Accolades...

Art and Design

Jeff Dell was featured as a Solo Artist on the [People of Print website](#), based out of London, and his work was also featured on [The Jealous Curator](#). In addition, **Jeff** is currently doing a four-month residency at the [Charles Adams Studio Project](#) in Lubbock, TX.

Jeff Dell and Texas State alumnae **Cassie Normandy White** have a two-person show at the Georgetown Art Center. The show opened on Dec 19th and served as a preview event for PrintAustin. The show closes the 24th. **Jeff** also has two prints exhibited in [Print Austin](#): The Contemporary Print, a national competition juried by Kevin McName-Tweed and Katherine Polk, and a new children’s museum in La Maddalena, Italy, called Il Museo dei Piccoli. He has a solo show of his work, called [CAKE](#), up from January 18-February 28.

In December, **Sara Lee Hughes** completed an exterior mural for Ernie’s Paint and Body Shop, 1608 IH35 Frontage Road, next to Hays County BBQ. There will be an “opening” event in February, date to be determined.

Brian Johnson has a solo show in the Department of [Visual and Performing Arts](#) gallery at Angelo State University; the show runs from Jan 20th to Feb 11th. Brian will give a gallery talk and meet with advanced students for critiques. **Brian** has work on exhibit in two shows during PrintAustin: “Ink + Print, a PrintAustin invitational” at Link & Pin, and along with Elvia Perrin, “Collective Identity” at Invenio in the Big Medium at Canopy arts complex. In its second year, PrintAustin is a month-long event celebrating the art of original printmaking and runs from Jan. 15 to Feb. 15th. Elvia is the co-founder and co-chair of [PrintAustin](#) and **Brian** is a member of the board.

Beverly Penn is one of five artists currently exhibiting work at [Texas Woman’s University’s](#) Department of Visual Arts in Denton. The sculpture exhibition, “Supernatural Realistic,” runs through February 4, 2015.



Caprice Pierucci

Caprice Pierucci’s solo exhibition, “[Dream State](#)” will be seen at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas in Beaumont, Texas from January 17-April 12. The opening reception will be on January 23 from 6-8, with a Gallery talk at 6:30pm.

Liz Rodda’s work is currently on view at [Vox Populi Gallery](#) (Philadelphia, PA) in the exhibition “Surf Club” and 1708 Gallery (Richmond, VA) in the show “Super / Natural”. She has been invited to give an artist talk in early February at [1708 Gallery](#) in conjunction with “Super / Natural”. **Liz’s** video work was also recently exhibited as a part of “Screen Shots” at the North West Film Forum in Seattle.

Barry Stone performed and presented his video, [HUM](#), at the [Lamar Dodd Video Gallery](#) at the University of Georgia, Athens. **Barry’s** solo exhibition, [New Weather Weaves](#) [New Garments](#), will be on view at James Harris Gallery in Seattle, Washington through February 14, 2015. Barry presented an artist’s lecture at the University of Washington in January of 2015 and will participate in a group exhibition, [Oysters with Lemon](#), at Ventana 244 in Brooklyn, New York. The exhibition opens February 27, 2015.

Gina Tarver’s essay “Antonio Caro: The Power of Myopia.” was published in December as the main essay in the monograph [Antonio Caro: Símbolo Nacional](#). This monograph is part of a set of three from a series on contemporary Colombian artists. Colombian popular culture magazine [Revista Arcadia](#) recommended the set on their annual “Book of the Year” list, citing “the level of the texts” and the “international popularity of the authors.”

Art and Design Student / Alum Accolades

Texas State printmaking students are exhibiting work at [Bone Black Studio](#). The show was curated by **Jeff Dell** and **Brian Johnson** from student prints created during the fall of 2014. The show opened last weekend along with six other PrintAustin exhibits in the Canopy arts complex, and had an extremely large crowd in attendance.

Recent Art Education graduate **Andrea Ramirez** was hired as the new K-5 Elland Elementary Art Teacher in Houston.

Communication Design student **Chelsea Ceasor** made it into the [Poster4Tomorrow](#) catalogue and gallery show in Paris, for the Work Right campaign worked on in **Bill Meek’s** class last spring.

Communication Studies



Sean Horan’s research on workplace romance has recently been cited in the New York Post, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, and Wharton/University of Pennsylvania [Business Radio](#) on Sirius XM.

Lee Williams and **Cathy Fleuriet** had an article published in the January issue of [Educational Planning](#) entitled “Improving Institutional Credibility: Communication as the Centerpiece of Planning in the Age of Accountability.”

Communication Studies Student / Alum Accolades

Forensics Team wins State Title - The Texas State speech and debate teams (The LBJ Debate Society and Elton Abernathy Forensics Society) beat out teams from UT-Austin, Rice, Texas A&M, Houston and 15 other colleges and universities from Texas to win the Overall Sweepstakes Trophy at the Texas Intercollegiate Forensics Association (TIFA) Championships held in College Station. The Bobcats took first place in debate sweepstakes and second place individual events sweepstakes in addition to the overall title. This is the 15th overall title the Bobcats have won in the last 16 tournaments led by **Wayne Kraemer**, Director of Forensics at Texas State.

Music



Ilan Davidson

On February 11, 2015 **Ilan Davidson** was recognized by President Trauth at a reception honoring him for being named a Regents’ Professor, a lifetime designation. He is Texas State’s 22nd [Regents’ Professor](#) and only the second from our college. The President’s remarks included: “Ilan Davidson has a stellar reputation as a music professor and as a chamber musician and soloist. We are fortunate to have a professor of Ilan’s caliber setting an outstanding example for other faculty members and for students at Texas State.”

Conspirare, the professional vocal ensemble conducted by **Craig Hella Johnson**,

Texas State’s own artistic director, took home its first [Grammy award](#) this month at the 57th annual Grammy awards - in the category of Best Choral Performance for its CD “[The Sacred Spirit of Russia](#).” Included on the recording were two alumni from Texas State — **Mela Sarajane Dalley** and **Cecilia Kittley Shinn** — as well as past faculty member **Cina Crisara** and current faculty member **Faith DeBow**, rehearsal pianist.



Craig Hella Johnson

Gordon Jones, director of Texas State’s [Gamelan Lipi Awan](#), gave a workshop November 22 for students of a UTSA world music class. In thanking him, UTSA Associate Professor Mark Brill wrote to Gordon, “The students profited enormously from your expertise and gentle guidance on how to play the various instruments. It was a rare opportunity for them to familiarize themselves directly with an instrument they may not soon encounter again. Your analyses of Indonesian song structures and functions were of great interest.”

TxState School of Music jazz faculty members **Russell Haight**, **Russell Scanlon**, and **Hank Hehmsoth** gave lecture presentations, performed with the Grammy nominated Austin-based group [Times Ten](#), and recruited at the [International Jazz Educator’s Convention](#) JEN in San Diego, California.

During the 10th Annual Michigan Music Conference, **Joey M. Martin** served as the conference headline clinician for the [Michigan State Vocal Music Association](#) (MSVMA) track. Martin provided 5 presentations during the conference, often to standing room only audiences.

Todd Oxford was a featured soloist for the annual Hawaii University International Conference on the Arts. He also presented a master class as part of an educational series including saxophonists Pete Christlieb and Jon Gordon sponsored by Hawaii Saxophone Foundation at the University of Hawaii. **Oxford** was an adjudicator for Music Teacher’s [National Association Young Artist Competition](#) at Sam Houston State University School of Music. In other news, **Oxford** was also nominated for Texas Commission on the Arts Texas State Artist Award. Selections will be made by the Texas Legislature this spring.

For more music reviews and photos please visit the [SOMOS Micosos blog](#).

Theatre and Dance

John Fleming’s entry on “Tom Stoppard” was published in [Fifty Modern and Contemporary Dramatists](#). London: Routledge, 2015: 215-220.

The Department’s production of [A Midsummer Night’s Dream](#) was named one of the ten best of 2014 by the [Austin Chronicle](#); [Anything Goes](#) was an Honorable Mention.

Texas State was well represented in Austin’s [FronteraFest](#). **Nadine Mozon** acted in [Mother’s Day](#), one of the Best of the Fest in the Short Fringe. In the Long Fringe, **Jim Price** acted in and wrote the music for [The Ballad of Zipfield and Gus](#), a new play by graduate student playwright **Jordan Morille**. **Melissa Grogan** wrote and performed [Connective Tissue](#); the multidisciplinary piece also included **Michelle Nance**, **Ana Baer**, and **Kaysie Seitz Brown**. In the Long Fringe, it was paired with **Ana Baer** and **Michelle Nance’s** video dance piece [The Situation Room](#).

The Department earned 10 nominations in [Broadway World-com’s](#) 2014 Central Texas Excellence in Theatre Awards. The department was nominated for Outstanding Academic Theatre and for its production of [Anything Goes](#). Individual nomination went to: **Kaitlin Hopkins** (Outstanding Contribution to Central Texas Theatre); **Michelle Ney** (Best Scenic Design), **Laura Lane** (Best Leading Actress, Play), **David Stahl** (Best Leading Actor, Play), **Babs George** (Best Supporting Actress, Play), **Annie Wallace** (Best Actress, Musical), **Stephen Brower** (Best Actor, Musical), and **Ian Saunders** (Best Supporting Actor, Musical).

Theatre and Dance Student / Alum Accolades



Snake Oil
Photo by Austin T. Wells

[Snake Oil](#), a new play by graduate student playwright **Kevin Talley**, had a sold-out run in the PSH Foundation Studio Theatre.

Brandon Rosen was just accepted to the MFA Lighting program at the University of California, San Diego.

Alum **Angeliea Stark** was cast as one of the lead roles in [Underland](#), a new play premiering off Broadway at [Terra Nova Collective](#).

Journalism and Mass Communication

In December, **Vanessa Higgins-Joyce** received the “Alpha Chi Favorite Professor Award” from Alpha Chi. In January, she was also notified of the acceptance of two research studies she co-authored. The studies, “Changing Class Formations and Changing Television Viewing: The New Middle Class, Television and Pay Television in Brazil and Mexico” and “Sharing the Stage”, will be presented at the 2015 [International Communication Association in Puerto Rico](#). ICA is a competitive international conference, with an overall 45% acceptance rate.

Bruce Smith and **Charles Kaufman** began the year by publishing a book entitled “[Engaging Public Relations: A Creative Planning Approach](#)” 4th Edition (2015).

Beth Clark was named a runner-up for Texas State’s Award for Excellence in Online Teaching. Student observations from her on-line course, Editing for Clear Communication, will be used in her presentation at the National American [Copy Editors Society](#) conference in March, located in Pittsburgh. As a result of **Clark’s** other ACES proposal, a representative from the Investigative Reporters and Editors will present a session on digital techniques to enhance the storytelling process.



Beth Clark

A book edited by **Kym Fox** is scheduled to publish this year. The book, “[Still Captive? History, Law and the Teaching of High School Journalism](#)” is a project of the Society of Professional Journalists journalism education committee and will be published by [New Forums Press](#).

Cindy Royal and **Dale Blasingame** will present their paper and multimedia project “Data Journalism: An Explication” at the April International Symposium of [Online Journalism](#) in Austin. The paper will also be published in the ISOJ journal.

David Nolan was honored by the National Press Photographers Association with the [Robin F. Garland Educator Award](#).



Dave Nolan

Journalism and Mass Communication Student / Alum Accolades

The [Bobcat Promotions](#) student staff, made a visit to the United Nations as part of their first professional development tour in New York. They were welcomed at the [United Nations](#) daily press briefing. During the five-day trip, the students and BPR Advisor, **Chuck Kaufman** met with a wide range of public relations organizations, from large firms Burson-Marsteller and OgilvyPR to a niche firm, Boneau Bryan-Brown, Inc., New York’s largest firm focused on theater productions. They also learned about sports PR by visiting CitiField and New York Mets marketing officials, international media relations at the United Nations, and about issues facing a museum that attracts a world audience, the 9/11 Memorial Museum.