

Student and Alumni Activities

Art and Design

Nine ceramics majors attended the NCECA Conference in Portland OR from March 7–11, 2006: The students included, **Danny Crump, Anthony Magnetti, Scott Schmidt, Tawny Betts, Christina Krell, Lyle "Pete" Bringham, Deric Ence, Heath Papa** and **Merinda Harmon**.

Graphic design students attended the national HOW Design Conference in Las Vegas, NV, June 12-15, 2006. Students attending were: **Jillian Phillips, Terral Fox, Holly Cobabe, Janae Jorgensen, Molly Blanchard, Elizabeth Huntsman, and Lindsey Harward**. In addition to fundraising, they received support from the SUU Student Senate and the CPVA Dean's Office. The students will do a presentation about their experiences at the conference in the fall.

At the May 6, 2006 commencement ceremony for CPVA **Brian Christensen** was recognized as the Outstanding Student in Art & Design. Brian plans to pursue a degree in Dentistry.

Recent Graduate Memories

Cordelle Morris (06) recalls the first time he met Henry Brimmer (former faculty member) before he was a student here. Cordelle showed Henry some of his work and he reported that, "He immediately began to critique my work and started teaching me before I was even a student." Cordelle also mentioned that the additional instruction he received from the newly hired graphic design faculty member Dave Richardson enabled him to work successfully as a student designer for the SUU Admissions Office, as well as take on the assignment of designing the new website for CPVA. Last year Cordelle worked full time as the Assistant Designer for the SUU Publications and Photo Services office. Cordelle reported that he recently accepted a position as a designer for the Leavitt Group here in Cedar City.

Music

Current Students

This summer music department students involved with USF include **Heather Burton** and **Emily Smolka** as *Greenshow* musicians, **Kristen Mabb** as a performer in *H.M.S. Pinafore* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and **Chad Baker** as a pit musician. Over at Tuachan, **Suzanne Wood** and **Tamera Leake** are pit musicians for *Peter Pan*. Working for the LDS Church in Nauvoo, IL are music students **Jason Kreitzer** and **Tennassa Harmon**.

Recent Graduates & Alumni Notes

Amber Ashton (06) has been accepted into the Master of Music Therapy Program at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI. **Sara Stout Butt** (06) is going to be teaching Junior High School (6th to 9th grades) at the North Star Academy and living in Midvale, UT. **Olivia Biddle** (05) will be begin graduate school this fall at Arizona State University in voice. **Kristin** and **Andrew Briggs** (06) were accepted to *La Musica Lirica*, a five-week opera training program held each year in the town of Novafeltria, which is located northeastern Italy. Kristin and Andrew will both be teaching in Mesa, Arizona this fall. Kristin will be teaching at Carson Junior High School and Andrew will be teaching at Mesa Junior High School and Brimhall Junior High School.

Emily Grady (06), who also was the Outstanding Student in music this year, has been accepted by the School of Music at the University of Utah. Emily will be a graduate teaching assistant and will be studying with Lori Wike, Principal Bassoonist for the Utah Symphony. **Matthew Mortensen** (06) was

accepted to continue his piano studies at the graduate level at the University of Southern California and the University of Illinois. He will be attending USC in the fall of 2007. **Andy Rasmussen** (06) has been accepted to the graduate program in music at Brigham Young University. **Aaron Templin** (03) reports that he received his Master of Music in Music Theory from the University of Arizona in May. In the fall, he will begin working on his Ph.D. in Music Theory at Arizona.

Recent Graduate Memories

Andrew Briggs (06) shared these memories about his studies at SUU. Some of the highlights included: "Singing Mozart's *Requiem* in Carnegie Hall with the SUU OPUS Chamber Choir, and being in New York City for five days--I won't soon forget that. Being involved in SUUSA also made my SUU experience well rounded. I learned so much, and, that's how I met my wife!"

He went on to recall his study with Dr. Bart Shanklin, former chair and faculty member in the department. Andrew noted that, "One of the things that has stuck with me the most, is that during a time in my life when I was seeing all the many possibilities that were coming up and the fun things to do, Dr. Shanklin, sat me down and said 'Listen, Andrew; sometimes, the good can be the enemy of the best.' In other words, we have to have our priorities straight to be able to see what we want the most first, or what will be the best for us. I have used that advice ever since, and will never forget it."

Theatre and Dance _____

Recent Graduates

Cammery Blevins (06 Theatre) will begin a yearlong internship at the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts (PCPA) in Santa Maris, CA this fall. In the summer she will be a stitcher for PCPA and in the fall she will be a design assistant. She then will be going on to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. **Jake Corn** (06 Theatre) will be working in the USF Ticket Office this summer and in the spring semester of 07 he will be attending Bible College at Atlanta Christian College. **Andrew Hunsaker** (06 Theatre), one of two Outstanding Students graduating in Theatre this year, is a member of the USF acting company this summer and in the fall he will be a theatre teacher at Tuacahn High School with his new bride. Andrew plans to continue on to graduate school in the near future. **Katie McNamara** (06 Theatre) has been working as a freelance stage properties artisan in the Phoenix area for the past few months and also reports she has been moonlighting as a stage electrician as well. She will be working in props this summer at Shakespeare Santa Cruz, California. **Merriane Nedreberg** (06 Theatre) is working in the stage properties area for USF this summer and will be headed to the California Institute for the Arts (CalArts) in Valencia this fall to study in properties design and production. **Miranda Wright** (06 Theatre), our other Outstanding Student in Theatre this year will be also be attending CalArts in the fall in the MFA program in Producing and Management.

Josh Bennett (03 Dance) will be performing in the national tour of the musical *The Producers* this coming fall. The tour is schedule to run a year.

Steve Nielsen is the dance coach for the new Cirque du Soleil production *Love* at the Mirage.

Recent Graduate Memories

Merriane Nedreberg shared that, "Some of the best advice I ever received was when Chris Lusk had JR Sullivan (USF Assoc. Artistic Director) come to speak to the directing one class. He told us something that will stick with me forever. He said to remember that, "Theatre is not a living, it is a life."

Arts Administration _____

Arts Administration Students Internships Span the Globe

As part of their graduation requirements for the MFA Arts Administration degree, each student must complete a three-month internship at the end of their second year of study. The students this year are literally scattered around the world. **Anna Ables** is working with the Chicago Film Festival in Chicago, IL. **Rachel Bishop** is working the Nevada Arts Council coordinating the statewide grants panels for the Council. Rachel was also singled out as the Outstanding Student in the MFA program this year. **Melanie Kieffer** is working with the LDS Church coordinating an annual summer presentation of the

Nauvoo Pageant that takes place in Nauvoo, IL. **Todd Seipert** is completing his internship with the Sydney Symphony in Sydney, Australia.

Each student will be returning to Cedar City in mid-August to make presentations about their internship experiences before they head off to greater adventures.

Recent Graduate Memories

Sometimes the unexpected can throw you a curve that side tracks your plans. For **Melanie Kieffer** (MFA 06) her run in with a dry erase board may have slowed her down, but she kept on track. She relates the following: “I was only in school for half a semester when a 250 pound dry erase board that was five panels thick fell on me and pinned me to the ground. I had to get major surgery to reconstruct my right arm, which shattered into more than 1000 pieces. I had to have two plates and almost two dozen screws put in my arm to reconstruct it. I missed two months of intense graduate study work and have been working for one and one-half years to make up lost time and class work....however I am still graduating with my original class. It has NOT been easy!”

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