

ACADEMIC Outreach

College of Arts and Sciences
THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE

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School of Music Hits High Notes in Community and Schools

The School of Music has a notable presence in nearly every musical venue in the area. "I'd be hard pressed to think of a music outlet we aren't involved in," says **Roger Stephens**, Professor and Director of the School of Music. The 190 recitals held by the school each year, which are open to the public, are only a starting point. According to Stephens, at least 90 percent of the school's 50 faculty members share their expertise with the community in orchestras, youth ensembles, pre-concert lectures, churches, and schools.

Stephens describes the relationship between the School of Music and the community as mutually beneficial, with local organizations, schools, and music faculty collaborating to form cultural and educational partnerships.

Part of this collaboration takes place with the twelve faculty members who enrich the cultural landscape by serving as principal musicians in the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra

"When people can't find the words to say something, they can say it with music."

(KSO) and Knoxville Jazz Orchestra (KJO). Faculty musicians in the KSO average 80-100 performances per year with the orchestra and are often featured in its concerts, with recent soloists including **Gary Sperl**, Associate Professor and KSO principal clarinet, and Associate Professor and Artist in Residence **Mark Zelmanovich**, the KSO Concertmaster. Faculty also take up the baton as conductors, sharing their expertise with groups such as the Knoxville Youth Symphony, conducted by **Sande MacMorran**, Professor and KSO principal tuba, and the Knoxville Youth Jazz Orchestra, directed by **Don Hough**, Associate Professor and KJO trombonist. The School of Music offers additional support to these ensembles by providing rehearsal space in the Music Building on campus.

"There are fewer barriers between the School of Music and the community than there are between other academic areas and the community," Stephens observes. "When people can't find the words to say something, they can say



Music student and Knoxville Opera Studio artist Crystal Stroupe performing with the assistance of students from Dandridge Elementary School.

it with music." The Knoxville Opera Studio is one program that has been reaching out with both music and words since 1984, through the cooperative effort of the Knoxville Opera and the School of Music's Opera Theatre Program. Stephens emphasizes the strength of the school's entire voice faculty as an important foundation of the program. Associate Professor **Andrew Wentzel** serves as Administrator for the Opera Studio, Associate Professor and Director of the UT Opera Theatre **Carroll Freeman** is the program's Artistic Director, and the Music Director is **Christy Lee**, Associate Professor of Collaborative Piano, Music Director of the UT Opera Theatre, and Director of Accompanying.

Wentzel and Freeman work closely with the five to six master's students in voice who receive funding to work in the Opera Studio. Not only do

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Lynn J. Champion, Ph.D.
Director of Academic Outreach

From the Director

Dear Readers,

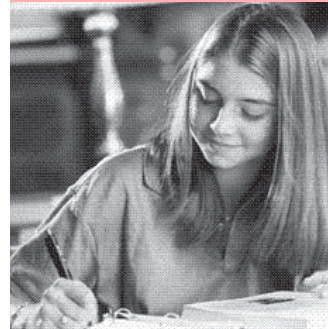
The large and diverse College of Arts and Sciences is comprised of the humanities and fine arts, the social sciences and the natural sciences. In this issue of the Academic Outreach newsletter, we feature departments and programs in the College that are engaged with the creative arts: the School of Music, the School of Art, the Department of Theatre and the Clarence Brown Theatre, and the Creative Writing Program in the Department of English. In addition to offering numerous musical programs, theatre performances, art exhibitions, and an outstanding creative writing program as part of the educational experience of our students, the faculty involved with these creative arts include their students in collaborative engagement with the community. These mutually beneficial partnerships with public schools and local arts and cultural organizations result in noteworthy contributions to the education, enlightenment, and entertainment of audiences of all ages. The combined resources and talents of campus and community form a rich cultural environment that enhances the quality of life and contributes to the economic development of East Tennessee.

This issue illustrates how storytelling, poetry, painting, music, and theatre function not only as vehicles for creative expression, but also as pathways to understanding ourselves and others, guiding us toward insight into the human condition and addressing the wide range of human values. The creative arts intrinsically unite us as a community and perhaps more than any other aspect of the educational enterprise dissolve the invisible boundaries between campus and the larger community.

Lynn J. Champion, Ph.D.
Director of Academic Outreach
College of Arts and Sciences •

"The institute gives me a chance to bring fresh ideas into the classroom."

SHARPENING PENCIL AND MIND AT UT'S BRIAN N. CONLEY YOUNG WRITER'S INSTITUTE



Creative energy filled the Humanities and Social Sciences building on Saturday, March 4, 2006, as 82 middle and high school students and teachers participated in the Brian N. Conley Young

Writers' Institute (YWI). Sponsored by the Creative Writing Program of the English Department in association with the John C. Hodges Better English Fund, the YWI has served over 1300 students since its start 13 years ago. Because of a generous endowment from publisher and UT alumnus Brian Conley, for whom the institute is named, the institute's workshops are offered to students and teachers free of charge.

The YWI is directed by Marilyn Kallet, Professor of English and Hodges Chair for Distinguished Teaching, and the success of this outreach teaching program is directly related to the strength of the Creative Writing Program, which Kallet also directed from 1986 to 2003. Through the

Visiting Writers program, the Creative Writing Program sponsors regular campus visits by such distinguished writers as Tess Gallagher, X.J. Kennedy, Poet Laureate Ted Kooser, and Lucille Clifton. These writers offer readings open to the public and visit schools and community groups, in addition to expanding opportunities for students on campus through classes and workshops. As students learn from these prestigious writers and expand their own talents, they in turn strengthen the Young Writers' Institute by sharing their expertise with YWI participants. This year Kallet shared directorship of the program with Casie Fedukovich, a master's student in creative writing. A number of creative writing graduate students who have nationally published works also served as YWI instructors this year.

According to Kallet, "The goal of the program is to provide a place for students to come and increase their writing skills." She points out, "There is a wealth of talent



UT Art Goes "Downtown" in the City

In 2004, Paul Lee, Professor and Director of the School of Art, envisioned not only extending the artistic richness of the campus beyond the university's boundaries, but also contributing to the revitalization of downtown Knoxville. With these goals in mind, the School of Art affirmed its commitment to outreach service and teaching with the opening of the UT Downtown Gallery at 106 South Gay Street. The gallery's location represents the connection between town and gown, housed next door to the historical Emporium Building, which is home to the Arts and Culture Alliance of Greater Knoxville.

The opening of the Downtown Gallery was welcomed by city residents as well as the local arts and culture community. "The addition of the UT Downtown Gallery was key to the creation of that critical mass of cultural activities necessary to draw residents and visitors to the 100 Block and Market Square Districts of the city," observes Liza Zenni, Executive Director of the Arts and Culture Alliance of Greater Knoxville. "Two years ago, what is now this vibrant arts district was an area of the city in acute need of urban renewal. The unusual and sometimes esoteric programming of the UT Downtown Gallery enhances the diversity of experiences available to the broader community and, in a very real way, brings the ethos of our wonderful University into the front room of the city," Zenni adds.

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out there—some students are talented beyond their years. The Young Writers' Institute offers encouragement, approval, and tools for writing."

The YWI offers morning and afternoon workshops, with enrollment in each limited to 15 or fewer per session to allow for individual attention from the professional writers who serve as instructors. Writing for a substantial portion of the allotted time is encouraged, so that those in attendance not only receive writing instruction, but also put it to use. Each workshop focuses on a different genre of writing, offering participants the opportunity to learn more about journalism, screenwriting, fiction, and poetry. In the process, students discover the importance of clear and effective communication, descriptiveness, critical thinking, character-building, and understanding other points of view. An open mic ended the day with readings by participants.

Teachers acknowledged the instructional benefits of the program. Lane Rosencrans, a teacher at Independence High School in Franklin, Tennessee, observed that "The institute gives me a chance to bring fresh ideas into the classroom." Jeanette Woods, a Carter Middle School teacher, agreed: "I received a lot of great ideas to use for writing classes and learned to be careful to not take away from student creativity when grading." Judy Colocotronis, a teacher at the Episcopal School of Knoxville, appreciated the opportunity that YWI provides: "Our students were very enthusiastic, and we were very grateful to be able to bring them."

One sign of the program's success is that many students and teachers return in subsequent years. According to Kallet, "They come back knowing that this is the club to be in." In the weeks following the YWI, Kallet visits some of the participating schools to follow up on concepts learned in the workshops: "We keep the dialogue going. We are a community of writers in Knoxville, and we are trying to expand it." •



Students learn about perspective and motivation by writing poems based on information exchanged with another student.

THE CLARENCE BROWN THEATRE: Reaching Tomorrow's Audiences Today

Each year, the Clarence Brown Theatre (CBT) invites elementary through high school students and teachers to participate in programs designed to enrich their understanding of theatre. "Outreach is one of my personal interests," states **Cal MacLean**, who will join the faculty as Professor and Head of the Department of Theatre in July 2006.



Through its First Wednesdays program, the CBT offers discounted tickets to teachers for the first Wednesday performance of each of the season's productions. Additionally, teachers are invited to a post-play discussion with CBT personnel in order to learn more about the play and the theatre's production of it, expanding the knowledge of theatre that teachers bring back to the classroom. Spring 2006 First Wednesdays performances and discussions include *As You Like It*, *Stones in His Pockets*, and *Big River*.

The CBT also invites students to the theatre through the Season for Youth program. The theatre selects three productions out of every season and offers performances of each for elementary, middle, and high school students at special times during the school day and at discounted prices. Four to five performances of each production are designed to enhance school curriculum because the CBT chooses plays that students often read for class. Recent examples of plays appropriate for younger audiences include *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *All the Way Home* (based James Agee's *A Death in the Family*), and *A Christmas Carol*. Approximately 5,000-6,000 students come to the CBT each year in conjunction with this program.

The CBT not only invites all East Tennessee schools to these performances, but also reaches out to middle Tennessee and rural Appalachian areas in southwestern Virginia, southeastern Kentucky, and Northern Alabama. For many of these students, the Season For Youth offers their first chance to experience theatre in person, exposing them to the different worlds and viewpoints relayed

through dramatic performance.

To assist teachers and students in preparing to attend a Season For Youth performance, the CBT provides a teacher's guide to the schools. The guide is tailored to each production and includes character listings, information about the playwright and relevant social, cultural, political, and historical contexts, a preview of the CBT production, an interview with the director, information about technical elements such as lighting and scene design, and lesson plans and activities for the classroom. After the performance, the CBT offers an opportunity to discuss the play with the cast, which also gives students a chance to learn more about theatre and theatrical professions.

The Summer Acting Workshop is another outreach teaching program that brings students to the CBT, marking its fifth year this summer. Led by **Kim Midkiff**, CBT Education and Outreach Director, and CBT Artists in Residence **David Brian Alley** and **Carol Mayo Jenkins**, the two week program hosts high school or first-year college students with any level of acting experience, offering instruction in areas such as voice, movement, and improvisation. Group work is also emphasized to encourage collaboration, an important element of theatrical work, as everyone prepares for a performance open to family and friends on the last day of the workshop.

In previous years, the program has hosted students from California, Kentucky, and North Carolina in addition to Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, and Sevier Counties in Tennessee. The 2006 Summer Acting Workshop will take place June 19-30, with classes to be held at the Ula Love Doughty Carousel Theatre and the Clarence Brown Studio Theatre.

"As part of the humanities, theatre helps students understand the challenges of life and ask questions that help them discover their identities."

Teachers who have been involved in the CBT's outreach programs cite them as an important component of theatre education. Deborah Webb Parkhurst, a theatre teacher at Sevier County High School, comments that "As part of the humanities, theatre helps students understand the challenges of life and ask questions that help them discover their identities." She adds, "The CBT program is guided by extremely competent professionals who seem dedicated to teaching and sharing their vast knowledge."

Katie Alley, who teaches theatre at Bearden High School, similarly notes that “Theatre is about reaching out to the audience and provoking, entertaining, and educating. CBT outreach is an excellent model of that very concept.”

For more information about the Clarence Brown Theatre’s outreach programs, please visit <http://www.clarencebrowntheatre.org/>. •

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these graduate students gain professional experience by performing secondary roles in Knoxville Opera Company productions, they also take a leading role in bringing live opera to elementary and middle schools with five to ten performances and lectures each year. The program introduces students to the opera through a performance followed by a question and answer session designed to teach them about the production of an opera and its historical and cultural context. School visits also include hands-on education as students participate in an operatic mini-production. Opera Studio personnel perform the singing parts, and students audition for and perform roles as scenery, sound effects, conductor, chorus, and props.

Stephens calls such outreach teaching activities “informances” because they are both pleasing and educational, citing the faculty Brasswind Quintet as another example. Featuring Sande MacMorran on tuba, Don Hough on trombone, Associate Professor **Calvin Smith** on horn, and Professor **Cathy Leach** and graduate student Sarah Chumney on trumpet, the ensemble gives performances in schools and teaches students about the instruments they play, musical careers, and the art of music-making. By doing this, the ensemble also educates students about the rewards of teamwork and dedication, in addition to the



Music student and Knoxville Opera Studio artist Alex Benford helping Dandridge Elementary students learn their roles in Benjamin Britten’s *EE-OH*.

ways in which music contributes to cultural identity and quality of life. The popular group visits as many schools as schedules will allow, averaging four “informances” per semester as they reach out to schools that do and do not have music programs.



The School of Music also engages in outreach teaching through the Strings in the Schools program. Begun with the partnership of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra and now under the sole directorship of the School of Music, the program brings instruction in string instruments to Knox County Schools, at no cost to the schools. Currently, two full-time graduate assistants teach beginning string classes at Farragut Intermediate and Bluegrass Elementary schools. Forty students, who would not otherwise be provided the opportunity, are enrolled at each school. In addition to developing musical interest and talent through the program, students are learning the value of collaborative effort, practice, and responsibility through being part of a musical ensemble.

These programs provide only a few examples of the ways in which the School of Music is involved in enriching community life, educating students, and increasing the visibility of the College of Arts and Sciences and the University of Tennessee. Stephens says that his office receives “tons of letters” of appreciation: “There is an ongoing recognition process from schools and local groups.” Thinking again of the benefits for everyone, he explains, “We share what we do and give back to the community, and the community is very welcoming.” •

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The program-
ing has,
indeed, been
diverse, ranging
from painting
and photography
to river rocks.

The gallery welcomed a record crowd of over 400 on opening night with an exhibit entitled "Life in the City: The Art of Joseph Delaney," which featured the work of this nationally known African-American painter originally from Knoxville. This exhibit was so popular that it went on the road to East Tennessee State University to be enjoyed by audiences in the northeast area of the state.

In connection with UT's Environmental Semester, the gallery opened "Holston River Diaries" to the public in January and February 2005. This exhibit featured two 25-foot long pools of water containing fountains and waterfalls, demonstrating the environmental connections between the beginning and ending points of the river in Emory, Virginia, and Knox-

"... the UT Downtown Gallery enhances the diversity of experiences available to the broader community. . ."

ville. The exhibit also included outreach teaching at Holston Middle School, where 100 of the school's students created work that became part of the exhibition. The April 2005 exhibit "Let Us Now Praise Famous Men: Walker Evans Photographs" reflects the gallery's ability to connect campus and community. Held in conjunction with the community-wide James Agee Celebration, the exhibit was also listed on the Dogwood Arts Festival's Gallery Walk.

In Summer 2005, the gallery hosted "Through the Lens of Ed Wescott: A Photographic History of World War II's Secret

City," which featured photos of Oak Ridge National Laboratory and was included in the Oak Ridge Homecoming 60th Anniversary Celebration. In addition to documenting Oak Ridge's role in the Manhattan Project, the exhibit attracted many long-time residents of Oak Ridge who were searching for friends and relatives in the photographs. Another recent exhibit, "The Unreal Tournament," provides an example of an "art happening," a live exhibition which featured two performance artists battling one another with video images. UT student works are also exhibited and reflect the enormous creativity of the student artists. In April of this year, James Greene's MFA Thesis exhibit, "Valuistics: The Making Of," contained pink silk-screened images of product logos and illustrations of home interiors, with the aim of examining consumer behavior.

The Gallery attracts a broad audience which includes groups of students from area public schools as well as the general public. Attendance for at least three of the exhibits has approached 1500.

Mike Berry, a portrait and landscape painter who holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia, manages the Downtown Gallery. Having studied with well-known painters such as expressionist Wolf Kahn and portrait painters Michael Shane Neal and Bart Lindstrom, Berry's education and experience enable him to respond to visitors' questions and to make presentations on behalf of the gallery to community and civic groups such as Rotary Clubs and the Knoxville Garden Club. His active participation in the arts community and arts organizations strengthens the ties between the university and the local community of artists.

Through the UT Downtown Gallery, the School of Art is extending its teaching mission beyond the boundaries of the university campus by providing opportunities for members of the community to experience art through a variety of media. In this way, the School of Art is also contributing to downtown redevelopment and cultural renewal by creating vibrant public space and programming which enriches the quality of life in the city and adds to the cultural resources that generate economic vitality in the downtown area. •

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