Dear Alumni and Friends of the College of Fine Arts,

As the 11th Dean of the Ohio University College of Fine Arts, I am thrilled to greet you. CoFA was founded in 1936. Each one of you has been touched by its rich heritage, and each of you has passed on that heritage in your life and work. Today, CoFA is a vital and creative hub that touches thousands of people every year.

Much has changed recently, including the merger of three of our programs into a single unit: The School of Dance, Film and Theater. Our School of Art has recently changed its name to The School of Art + Design. The rate of change we are experiencing is accelerating! Therefore, CoFA has begun a comprehensive, three-year strategic futuring process to steer our way thoughtfully through deep change so that we can serve our students, community and region even better.

Enjoy reading about highlights in CoFA. Then take a moment to fill out and return the reply card so that we can be connected with YOUR news. Look for our next Newsletter in late summer! Please stop by Jennings House if you are in Athens. I’d love to meet you!

Margaret "Peg" Kennedy-Dygas
Dean, College of Fine Arts

Alumni Snapshot

Lucy Sexton (BFA, Dance ’82) has been appointed as Associate Artistic Director of the newly developing performing arts center at ground zero in Manhattan.

An article in The New York Times (Feb. 12, 2014) identified Sexton as joining the team of individuals who are working to develop productions and devise designs for the new building designed by Frank Gehry.

Lucy has been the Director of the New York Dance and Performance Awards, or “Bessies” since 2009 and was the Artistic Director of the 75th Celebration of the College of Fine Arts held in 2012.
Kennedy Museum of Art Upgrades Coming

By: Claire Berlin

The Kennedy Museum of Art currently occupies two floors of the historic Lin Hall building at The Ridges and Museum Director Edward Pauley is looking ahead to the future of the museum.

“In the coming year the museum will be launching a campaign to raise funds to upgrade the HVAC climate control system, which has been in operation for 17 years, to help maintain the artworks,” said Pauley. “These upgrades are all about environmental control throughout the museum, whether the artworks be on display or in storage. The new system is the best way to insure that objects in the collection and on loan are cared for properly.”

Part of the effort to fund these upgrades will come from opportunities to name spaces in the museum, as most of the hallways or galleries remain unnamed. This initiative will be underway soon and naming opportunities are projected to range from $50,000 to $275,000.

Donald Roberts Kennedy Museum of Art Collaboration

This past fall Donald Roberts, an Ohio University Emeritus Professor of Art and master printer, collaborated with the Kennedy Museum of Art to showcase world-class prints from the permanent collection, in conjunction with a selection of prints from the Trisolini Print Project (1978-84). Roberts created and ran the Trisolini Print Project, inviting a series of visiting artists to Ohio University to produce editions of prints, assisted by Roberts and graduate printmaking students in the School of Art + Design.

“Graduate art students became the studio assistants for producing these prints,” said Jeffrey Carr, Kennedy Museum of Art Registrar/Preparator. “A number of those art students went on to become master printers themselves, so the Trisolini Print Project had a generational impact.”

In addition to the print project, the late Dean Henry Lin expressed an interest in building a print collection for the College of Fine Arts and enlisted Roberts as the consultant to create this collection. The artworks have since become a part of the Permanent Collection in the Kennedy Museum of Art.
World Music & Dance Festival Concludes Fourth Year

By: Claire Berlin

This spring marked the fourth year of the World Music and Dance Festival, an event that gives students and the community an opportunity to experience a variety of cultures firsthand through lectures, workshops, and concerts.

Despite the arctic temperatures in Athens and a temporary closure of the campus, the event boasted a record number of 18 visiting guest artists during the week and high student participation.

“These experiences introduce different ways of conceptualizing the arts and potentially open up new avenues of creativity, expression, and aesthetic appreciation for students,” said co-Director and co-Founder of the Festival Paschal Yao Younge. “Given the increasingly changing demographics of our student body, global arts, such as music and dance, are needed for our students to develop frameworks that support intercultural understanding.”

New Clinic Helps Fine Arts Students Stay in SHAPE

By: Meghan Malone, COFA PACE Writer

Students in the College of Fine Arts are now able to gain the access they need in procuring physical care for strenuous performances. Established in the summer of 2013 and funded by Ohio University’s 1804 grant, the SHAPE Clinic (Science and Health in Artistic Performance) is the brainchild of a collaboration between the Division of Athletic Training in the College of Health Sciences and Professions and the College of Fine Arts. SHAPE is the first of its kind to provide a comprehensive clinic for all major performing arts including music, dance and theater, and revolves around a three-pronged approach by providing clinical care, research and education.

“Performers have a significant rate of injury,” says Dr. Jeff Russell, Director of the SHAPE Clinic and Assistant Professor Athletic Training. “[They] are just as much athletes as the guys in the Convos. Our intention is to take care of [them] in the same way.”

New Technology Advances Production for the Theater Division

By: Meghan Malone, COFA PACE Writer

This spring semester the Theater Division collaborated with the School of Art + Design by utilizing its CNC Router (Computer Numerical Control) to produce a variety of ornate décor for its newest production “The 39 Steps.”

Similar to a printer, the CNC router uses a digital file that tells the router tool how to plot the coordinates of the product, and then proceeds to cut out the shape onto wood or other material.

“Most universities that have a competitive training program in theater technology have access to this type of equipment, so it’s really good that we’re getting on board with it,” says Daniel Denhart, Associate Professor of Production Design and Technology. “To tell potential students that we have access to this kind of technology, really helps them make the decision to come to OU.”