Dear College of Fine Arts
Alumni and Friends:

As you can see, our semi-annual newsletter has a new look! This newsletter features the design work of our new student designer, Michael Jung (junior, Graphic Design).

You’ll read about a few of the exciting recent developments in the College, including the successful first year of our new Museum Studies Certificate, entrepreneurial and community engagement activities, student and faculty research, and news from our faculty, alumni, and friends.

As we move into the fall semester, we will be welcoming many new faculty members who will be joining us to develop the nation’s best transformative experience in the arts! Stay tuned.

Margaret “Peg” Kennedy-Dygas
Dean

The Ohio University Foundation Board had their June meeting in NYC and attended a Saturday evening performance of “Aladdin.” A reception was held afterwards to honor Jonathan Freeman (BFA ’72), who voices Jafar in Disney’s “Aladdin” (1992) and plays the same character in the musical, and J. Allen Suddeth (BFA ’74), who staged fights and action scenes for the musical.

Grant Latimore (BFA ’59) has recently retired from dentistry but remains a member of two art groups and continues to create art with watercolor, pen, ink, and jewelry fabrication.

James McLaughlin (BFA ’68) currently serves in many roles including Artist-in-Residence at Central Trinity UMC, Booking Agent at Zanesville Concert Association, Director of the Zanesville Civic Chorus, Adjudicator for OMEA, and a private music teacher in voice, piano, and organ.

Betsy Broomhall Wells (BFA ’69) discovered her love of hand weaving while at OU and currently has two looms in a small studio in her home where she creates pieces to sell and as gifts for family and friends.

Kevin Bryce (BFA ’74) has been working on the development of new digital campaigns and websites for the U.S. Veterans Administration.

Linda Cundiff (MFA ’78) has been teaching art courses to undergraduates and serving as department chair at Campbellsville University in KY for 32 years.

Michele Lepore-Hagan (BFA ’80) won the Democratic Primary for Ohio State Representative for the 58th District.

Milica (Mila) Govich (MFA ’84) had a supporting role in the feature film “The Fault in Our Stars” that opened nationally in June.

Eric Coble’s (MFA ’93) play “The Velocity of Autumn,” starring Estelle Parsons and Stephen Spinella, opened on Broadway this past spring.

Dara (Wetzel) Gillis (BMUS ’93, MM ’02) conducted the Rutherford B. Hayes High School Symphonic Choir at the 2014 OMEA Professional Conference and began a two-year term as President of the Ohio Choral Directors Association.

David Malloy’s (BMUS ’98) recent musical “Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812,” received a record-breaking 11 nominations each for the 2014 Lucille Lortel Awards, an OBIE award, the 2013 Richard Rodgers Award for Musical Theater, the Off Broadway Alliance’s Best New Musical Award, 5 Drama Desk nominations, and 2 Drama League nominations.

Jeff Rosenberg (BFA ’04) wrote, produced, directed, and acted in the movie “OJ: The Musical.” Also appearing in the movie: Jordan Kamp (BFA ’04), Tom Myers (BFA ’04), Eric Martig (BFA ’04), Ben Begley (BFA ’04), Kat Primeau (BFA ’08), and John Atzberger (BFA ’06).

Luke Frazier (MM ’09) served as Music Director and Conductor for the opening of the National Portrait Gallery’s “American Cool” exhibition and as Conductor and pianist for “A Delicious Musical Evening” in New York City. He has also been appointed the Pops Conductor of the Fairfax Symphony.

John Lopez (MM ’11) completed his DMA in Wind Conducting at the University of Georgia, and was appointed Associate Director of Bands/Director of Athletic Bands at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, VA.

Joshua Nightingale (MM ’12) had his essay on the clarino trumpet accepted for publication in the International Trumpet Guild Journal.

Thank you for your responses!
More alumni news will be included in the Spring 2015 Newsletter.
The I. Hollis Parry/Ann Parry Billman Fine Arts Award was established by the College of Fine Arts in 1997. This award was created by OU alum David Billman (BMUS ’86, MM ’91), who wished to honor his mother’s original School of Music gift by opening it up to graduate students within the entire College of Fine Arts and by adding an entrepreneurial component. Billman’s goal was to create an opportunity for graduate students to challenge themselves by completing a project they might otherwise not be able to during their graduate education.

“My goal in creating this award was to encourage graduate students in Fine Arts to envision a project that was bound in real life, beyond just their degree, that they would need funding to complete,” said Billman. “I wanted to start something that would be a learning experience for faculty and students and foster a sense of collaboration in all Schools in Fine Arts. I hope to give students a better idea of what their life and profession will be like after graduation when they need to put together project proposals and budgets for grants, writing submissions, and other creative endeavors.”

To date 19 awards of $5,000 have been given to support graduate student projects, many of which could not have been completed without this generous funding. Graduate student recipients have utilized this funding to travel, conduct research, and shoot or edit films among many projects.

Please check back in the fall for a feature story about this year’s Billman Award winner Chris Daly and his research project.

**History of the Parry/Billman Award**

By: Claire Berlin, Manager of Communications & Marketing

This summer marked the second year of the re-invented Summer Music Camp created and run by the School of Music. The camp is designed for high school vocalists, instrumentalists, and pianists who want to enhance their musicianship and interact with other student musicians from across the state and region. Students develop their skills through large ensemble participation, master classes, lessons, academic classes, and concerts.

“Our music camp is distinctive because participants work directly with our talented School of Music faculty,” said Christopher Hayes, Director of the School of Music. “Participants of all skill levels are able to learn one-on-one with faculty during the camp and the highlight is a combined performance of camp students with the Under The Elms concert series.”

**Summer Music Camp**

By: Claire Berlin, Manager of Communications & Marketing

Dr. Andrew Trachsel, Director of Bands, leads the campers in a full-band rehearsal in preparation for their finale concert.

/ Photo provided by the School of Music

From Left to Right: Dean Margaret Kennedy-Dygas, Chris Daly (MA Art History), David Billman (BMUS ’86, MM ’91). Chris Daly is the 2014 recipient of the I. Hollis Parry/Ann Parry Billman Fine Arts Award.

/ Photo By Claire Berlin
Mechanical Engineering graduate student Randy Robert and his friend from across the Atlantic, Fabrizio Boco, had an idea, a big idea, for a product to more easily access your home garage door while in your vehicle. But they didn’t know how to make this idea come to fruition, so Randy started by talking to Nathaniel Berger, Operations Coordinator at the College of Fine Arts CREATE_space.

“Randy came to The CREATE_space looking for a way to push his vision forward; a way to take his idea to invention,” said Berger. “I walked Randy through the resources we offer here, and talked with him concerning his intentions of the processes & product. In the end he needed two major things: access & support to our 3D printer, and insights into design user experience. I got Randy started, taking his computer aided draft (CAD) files, and worked with him to get them ready for printing. We loaded the files into our Makerbot Replicator 2 and away we went to Randy’s first manifest of his idea. As we watched the printer hypnotically lay down the design with melted plastic we dove deep into the conceptual and financial framework he wanted to explore with his iterative manufacturing process. In the end we walked away with a shared understanding of how to go about expounding upon his kernel; he was ready to grow his concept and embrace rapid iteration.”

And that is how the Garage Beacon idea and manufacturing strategy was cultivated and created, a process that started at the beginning of April and is being put to the test in the real world. The overall goal of Garage Beacon is to automatically open your garage door when you get within range, thus eliminating the need to locate and push an opener. It also does other neat things like closing your garage door for you if you forget and allows you to grant other people access without the need for another remote control. You can also track who was using your garage and when they accessed it.

“The coolest part of Garage Beacon is that with the help and technology of The CREATE_space it only took Fabrizio Boco and I five days to go from concept to a working prototype and a month for people to be able to pre-order this new gizmo,” said Randy. “I was able to do this because of tools that are widely accessible to everyday people like the 3D printer in The CREATE_space, open-source hardware provided by RFduino, and a new rapid development application available for the iOS and Android devices called Arduino Manager. Nathaniel Berger in particular is an energetic and thoughtful coach to students and faculty who provides useful and practical feedback without getting in the way of the creative process.”

The CREATE_space is an interdisciplinary resource for Ohio University students, faculty, and staff, for Creative Research Exploring Arts, Technology, and Entrepreneurship. The space provides various resources, including training, consultations, select services, and equipment.

Our goal is to encourage and support a center of diverse artistic process and products, with an emphasis on the contemporary and collaborative. Participation embracing interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary collaboration and experimentation push the bounds of tradition, and move culture forward.
This spring semester marked the completion of the first class of the newly offered Museum Studies Certificate program. As a final project, students developed and installed two exhibitions titled “Constructing Perspectives” and “EXCESSive.” The 2013–14 class was comprised of 15 students from a variety of majors and Colleges on campus including art history, history, geological and life sciences, and anthropology.

The exhibitions are part of the academic requirements for the spring semester practicum course, Museum Fundamentals II, where students were assigned to one of four different museum specialties. These included curator, registrar, educator, and designer. Students were divided into two cohorts with each cohort being responsible for fully implementing, from concept to installation, an interdisciplinary exhibition.

According to instructor and Kennedy Museum of Art Director Ed Pauley, “The museum field includes an impressive number of disciplines and interests. As such, this program is intended to reflect that diversity. The rich mix of students, representing a variety of disciplines, helps to insure that the program and thus the final exhibitions provide a basic foundation for students interested in the profession.”

The exhibitions are on display at the Kennedy Museum of Art through September 7, 2014.

The Museum Studies Certificate is an interdisciplinary program offered through the School of Art + Design.

William (Bill) Condee, Professor of Interdisciplinary Arts, was awarded a Fulbright Senior Specialist grant to work with the University of Malaya in Malaysia over the summer. Condee visited Malaysia for six weeks teaching, consulting, and conducting research on Malaysian shadow puppetry.

“First, it was my inaugural trip to Malaysia and the puppetry there is very different than what I have studied, but also has similarities to other forms. Second, this trip will add to my course I currently teach in puppetry. I always like to show students how puppetry is done in different countries, and now I can incorporate Malaysia into that. And lastly, OU has strong ties with Malaysia in place already and I hope to strengthen these ties through the arts.”

The Fulbright Senior Specialist Program is a new initiative that offers short-term grants to U.S. scholars and professionals to work with overseas academic institutions in over 140 countries worldwide. Condee worked with the University of Malaya teaching and studying the history and art of Malaysian puppetry.

Condee started studying puppetry in 2001 when asked by the Southeast Asian Studies program to develop a course at OU that focused on puppetry. Since then he has traveled to several Southeast Asian countries, including a strong focus on Bali, to learn the practice and technique of various puppetry styles. In his role in the School of Interdisciplinary Arts and in Theater for the School of Dance, Film, and Theater he teaches classes that focus specifically on Southeast Asian puppetry.
**Film and Southeast Asian Studies Complete Documentary**
By: Meghan Malone, CoFA Marketing & Communications Assistant

Over the past two years, three students have worked to create a new documentary on the little known condition of the people of Sabah, Malaysia. Produced and directed by Southeast Asian Studies graduates, Vilashini Somiah (MA '14), Aziliana Aziz (MA '14), and film student, Matthew Fillmore (MFA '14), the film “Living Stateless” focuses on the lives of two illegal immigrant families living in Lahad Datu, with no documentation and no government to support them.

Born and raised in Malaysia, producer and co-director Vilashini Somiah was inspired and disturbed by what she saw as a child and desired nothing more than to shed light on the plight of the people of Sabah. Initially meeting in a documentary techniques course, Somiah, Aziz, and Fillmore would band together to visually tell the stories of the 1.9 million undocumented people of Sabah and make others aware of their plights.

“When they told me about it and I looked into it a little bit, the topic just caught me,” said Fillmore, the director, cinematographer and editor of the film. “Most of my work has some sort of human interest element to it and so I try to find projects that are very human-based and humanist in nature. And I think that this project fit in really well with this.”

Currently in its post-production stage, the film was shot in Kota Kinabalu, Semporna, and Lahad Datu, and funded through a collection of research grants, private donations, and Kickstarter. The crew traveled to Malaysia twice throughout the film’s two-year development and were able to find the two families to film, Han (of Bajau descent) and Ebelyn (of Suluk-Bajau descent) through the help of a non-government organization, Humana, a school for illegal immigrants grades 1st through 6th.

Fillmore hopes to complete a rough cut of “Living Stateless” by the fall and is optimistic about its distribution. Both Aziz and Somiah have worked up support among people with some sort of power in Malaysia and publicity has been gained through numerous articles and reports in local Malaysian newspapers. They also seek to distribute the film through educational venues, having recently attended a Southeast Asian Studies Symposium at Oxford University this past March.

**Fine Arts Focuses on New Teaching Academy**
By: Claire Berlin, Manager of Communications & Marketing

The College of Fine Arts has unveiled plans for a newly created Teaching Academy to start in the 2014/15 academic year.

This special Academy is to assist faculty in continual improvement in teaching and learning through dialogue, reflection, and peer support. This program is based on the successful practices of the university-wide Bruning Teaching Academy (an initiative of the Ping Institute for the Teaching of the Humanities).

“The goal of the Academy is to raise the profile of teaching and thus to improve the learning experience of our students,” said Dean Margaret “Peg” Kennedy-Dygas.

Professor William F. Condee will be directing the CoFA Teaching Academy, along with co-directors from the School of Music and School of Art + Design.

“Unlike other programs, the CoFA Teaching Academy is not intended to be a one-off or mentoring program; rather, its purpose is to promote conversations about teaching while professors work as equals with an interest in learning from one another,” said Condee.

The first year participants will be pre-tenure and teaching-only faculty members.

From Left to Right: In the Acting Fundamentals course Brett Layton (Sociology) and Jake Pruehs (Mechanical Engineering) work on an exercise, “Driving the Bus”, while Rebecca VerNooy, Assistant Professor of Performance in the Theater Division, observes and offers critique. / Photo by Claire Berlin

Ebelyn is a single mother of Suluk-Bajau descent, living in Sabah. Ebelyn is one of the main characters of the film. / Photo provided by Matt Fillmore

Matt Fillmore (MFA Film ’14) films as Han works on his boat. / Photo provided by Matt Fillmore