FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends of the Arts:

I am pleased to present the first issue of the Temple University Center for the Arts Newsletter.

As we enter the second year since the formation of the Center, it has come to define the synergy between the performing, visual and media arts at Temple. The Center serves as the gateway for creative collaboration between the Boyer College of Music and Dance, Tyler School of Art, the Division of Theater, Film and Media Arts and the community. With a student enrollment of 3,100, the Center offers 1,400 performances, exhibits, lectures, screenings, master classes and productions each year – all open to the public and most of which are free.

If you haven’t been to campus lately, I extend an invitation to visit. Parking is affordable and plentiful. Night life at Temple is abundant and you may be surprised at all the activities taking place on a daily basis. The newly opened Morgan Hall offers varied dining options and a beautifully lit terrace just a few blocks away from the Temple Performing Arts Center, Rock Hall, Temple Contemporary, Tomlinson Theater and Conwell Dance Theater.

Please take a moment to visit arts.temple.edu, browse the comprehensive arts calendar and see all the Center has to offer. Within these pages is just a small sample of the many accomplishments of our outstanding students, alumni and faculty.

If you would like to learn more about how you can support the arts at Temple, please see the inside cover page. I hope to see you on campus.

With warm regards,

Robert T. Stroker
Dean and Vice Provost for the Arts

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> Big Bang Theory star and his wife create theater scholarship
> Film and Media Arts: LA Study Away Program
> Tyler alumna exhibits at Philadelphia Museum of Art
> Boyer’s Mosaic Concert culminates presidential inauguration

arts.temple.edu
JAMES M. JORDAN

‘77, ‘86 BYR

James Jordan is recognized and praised in musical circles as one of the nation’s preeminent conductors, writers and innovators in choral music. While at Temple, he studied under legendary Temple faculty Elaine Brown and Edwin E. Gordon.

Jordan has authored more than 30 books on all aspects of the choral art, and has been described as a “visionary” by The Choral Journal. Gramophone hailed him as a conductor of “forceful and intimate choral artistry.” The American Record Guide has praised his recordings as “without peer.” His career and publications have been devoted to innovative educational changes in music education and the choral art; his conducting text Evoking Sound was named a “must read” on a list of six books by The Choral Journal.


ALBERT R. PALEY JR.

‘66, ‘69 TYL

A world-renowned modernist metal sculptor, Albert R. Paley Jr. has been an active artist for over 40 years, and is one of the most highly regarded and influential artists in that medium. His work is in the permanent collections of over 30 museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. He is the first metal sculptor to receive the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Institute of Architects.

Paley is most known for his large-scale, site-specific installations commissioned by both public and private institutions. He has completed more than 50 site-specific works, including such notable examples as the Portal Gates for the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., Portal Gates for the New York State Senate Chambers Museum of Art, a 40-ton sculpture for Adobe Systems in San Jose, Calif., major entrance rotunda gates for the San Francisco Civic Center Courthouse, and a sculptural relief for Wellington Place, Toronto, Canada. In 2007 PBS aired an Emmy Award-winning documentary chronicling Paley’s construction and installation of The Sentinel for the Rochester Institute of Technology. PBS again featured Paley’s work this fall on the program, FORGE: Exceptional artists forging metal, magically transforming it by fire.

In addition to his artistic endeavors, Paley is also broadly published, an international lecturer, holds an endowed chair at RIT in Rochester, N.Y., and is the recipient of four honorary doctorates in fine art.

AMINA ROBINSON

‘99, ‘03 TFM

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Amina Robinson started acting while attending Temple as a theater major. She found immediate success after graduation, performing on Broadway (Mamma Mia, Godspell) and with the Broadway National Tours (Mamma Mia, Little Shop of Horrors). She has performed in various regional productions including at the Williamstown Theater Festival, Philadelphia Theater Company, Baltimore CenterStage, and was nominated for an AUDELCO award for work as Juliet in Romeo and Juliet at the Classical Theater of Harlem.

Branching out to television and film, Robinson went on to appear in numerous national commercials, as well as voice-over work for radio and television. She has guest starred in many television series as well, including Law and Order, Smash, Mercy, and a recurring role on Nurse Jackie.

The highlight of her work in film has been her role as Jermaine in the Oscar Award-winning film Precious. The film was nominated for multiple Academy Awards, “Best Ensemble” by the Screen Actors Guild Award and the Washington DC Area Film Critics Association, and won at the Boston Society of Film Critics awards.

In addition to acting, Robinson mentors and trains aspiring actors of all ages, teaching numerous workshops and classes for organizations such as Temple University, Freedom Repertory Theater, Harlem School of the Arts and more. She is also the founder of the 426 Project, an organization aimed at helping women and children.
Graduation.
to see where his journey will take him after
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to see where his journey will take him after
graduation.

Isabella Fehlandris, currently a senior theater
student with a concentration in acting. She
is originally from Wilmington, Del. and has
performed in theaters across Delaware and
Pennsylvania. In addition to acting and dancing,
Isabella also models. Her post-graduation plans
include auditioning in Philadelphia and the
surrounding areas to pursue her acting goals,
getting her CrossFit and Pilates certifications,
traveling and learning Italian.

Peg Dissinger ’66 BYR joined the Night Owls
because she thought it would be “a great
opportunity to get back in shape and play with a
group again.” It worked. “I’m starting to feel like
a musician again,” she said. “I particularly like
the fact that there’s an age range from college
students all the way up to Walter and me.”
(Walter Johnson ’57 FOX)

For information about joining the Temple
University Night Owls band, contact
TUNightowls@gmail.com. The Night Owls,
featured in a Philadelphia Inquirer article (April 29,
2013), perform twice a year: in late fall and spring.
The next concert is April 21, 2014 at 7:30PM at
the Temple Performing Arts Center. The concert
is free and open to the public.

Kunal Nayyar, ’06, TFM plays a shy astrophysicist in the CBS hit
comedy, The Big Bang Theory, but isn’t timid when it comes
to giving back to Temple. Nayyar has pledged $125,000 for
the Kunal and Neha Nayyar Scholarship Fund, established by
Nayyar and his wife, Neha Kapur, to support the careers of
current theater students. The fund will provide two annual
$10,000 scholarships for theater students who study acting
and have demonstrated financial need, with a preference for
students who attended urban public schools.

In addition, the fund will give $5,000 per year to the Depart-
ment of Theater to support student travel to graduate-school
auditions, showcases, festivals and conferences.

Isabella also models. Her post-graduation plans
include auditioning in Philadelphia and the
surrounding areas to pursue her acting goals,
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traveling and learning Italian.

Molly Clark Davis, director of Alumni Relations for the
College of Music and Dance’s choral faculty, Paul Rardin,
Rollo Dilworth and Mitos Andaya will lead workshops and
rehearsal sessions.

The weekend will include choral-favorites reading
sessions led by Emeritus Professors Robert Page, Alan
Harler and Janet Yamron ’54 BYR, ’57 EDU. Attendees will
have opportunities to rehearse and sing, participate in
workshops, get a tour of Main Campus, attend concerts
and enjoy social activities to catch up with fellow alumni.

Registration materials will be available in January 2014.
For additional information, visit
alumni.temple.edu/choralreunion or contact
Molly Clark Davis, director of Alumni Relations for the
Arts at molly.clarkdavis@temple.edu.

The Princess Grace Awards recognize the talent of
individual artists in theater, dance and film, and provide
recipients with financial assistance to complete research
projects and theses. Applicants must be affiliated with
a school or organization to be eligible to apply and are
nominated by faculty. Awards are granted in theater,
playwriting, dance performance, choreography and film.

The Princess Grace Awards Foundation has awarded
five Philadelphia alumni with Princess Grace Awards
since 2006. This year, two Philadelphia alumni
were nominated for the prestigious Princess Grace Award
over the past five years:

2013 Mark Tumas ’13 TFM
2012 David Romberg ’07 TYL, MFA candidate TFM
2012 Fiona Otway MFA candidate TFM
2009 Chinonye Chukwu, ’10 TFM
2009 Fiona Otway MFA candidate TFM
2008 Chinonye Chukwu, ’10 TFM
DANCE ALUMNA FINDS SUCCESS IN BROOKLYN

After completing her graduate work at Temple, Tanya Calamoneri ’12 BYR assumed responsibilities as project manager at DanceMotion USA at the Brooklyn Academy of Music—a program of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. DanceMotion USA is a cross-cultural exchange program that connects America’s finest dance companies with international artists and communities. Now producing her third season, Calamoneri is sending such companies as Mark Morris Dance Group and Rennie Harris Puremovement to the Middle East, South America and Central Asia. She is also artistic director of Company SoGoNo, a movement-theater ensemble that combines butoh (an avant-garde Japanese dance form) with postmodern dance, live theater and multimedia performance.

“My graduate work at Temple fostered a more deeply nuanced understanding of cultural sensitivities,” she says. “On a daily basis, I put into practice the workshopping and collaboration skills I developed in classes I took with Professors Kahlich, Welsh, Meglin, Hilsendager and Bond.” Calamoneri also credits Professor Merián Soto who “provided opportunities for me to explore and expand my creative voice through her classes, and to work as her choreographic assistant.”

Prior to joining DanceMotion USA, Calamoneri held numerous artistic and administrative positions: Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics at NYU; The Field, a performing arts service organization in New York; and Studio 111, a live work rehearsal and performance facility in Brooklyn. She is the recipient of several honors, grants and awards, including an Isadora Duncan Dance Award; several Zellerbach Family Foundation grants; a New York Innovative Theatre Award; and grants from the New York State Council on the Arts. She is also a member of the Congress on Research in Dance and the Society of Dance History Scholars.

She taught several dance courses at Temple and New College of California, and master classes at Stony Brook University and Tisch School of the Arts. Calamoneri studied butoh dance at New York University and international relations at American University.

“Never one to shy away from successfully balancing creative, academic and administrative responsibilities, Calamoneri also became the mother of twins while a graduate student at Boyer.

A LEGEND COMES TO THE GEORGE AND JOY ABBOTT CENTER FOR MUSICAL THEATER

Legendary songstress Barbara Cook (seated in photo) visited campus in October for a master class with musical theater and voice students. The master class, a collaboration between the Department of Theater and the Department of Voice and Opera, was part of the George and Joy Abbott Center for Musical Theater 2013 fall series, which included classes with the Tony-nominated songwriters of the Broadway musical, A Christmas Story and the Department of Theater’s fall 2013 production of Oklahoma! Mrs. Joy Abbott (standing in red) also attended.


TEMPLE CONTEMPORARY: A TRANSFORMATION

Robert Blackson, director of Exhibitions and Public Programs at Temple Contemporary (formerly Temple Gallery) at Tyler School of Art, has caught the attention of regional and national media through his vision of creating programming for the general public and envisioning the space as a platform for dialog and social action.

He has successfully done so with diverse programming such as “Moments of Silence,” a semester-long exhibit that encapsulated recorded moments of silence expressed in commemoration of Sept. 11, 2001. On a less serious note, what better way to churn butter than through a free aerobics class? With a live DJ, “Feel the Churn” offered a pint of cream for each participant who then shimmied and shook their way through a fitness session that ended with bread freshly baked on site.

This year’s programming also includes “Class Reunion,” a teach-in, sermon and sing-along highlighting the financial history and emotional impact of student loan debt in America, and “Funeral for a Home,” which honors personal histories connected with disappearing homes, abandonment and contemporary social landscapes in Philadelphia.

Programming is determined by a 35-member volunteer advisory council comprising neighboring high school and Temple students, faculty and civic leaders representing a range of interests (economists, farmers, philosophers, artists, community activists and historians).

Before Blackson came to Temple in 2011, he was curator of Public Programs at Nottingham Contemporary in the UK, where he worked with numerous universities, artists and writers to develop an eclectic and discursive program of lectures, screenings, performances and live events. Blackson has contributed to a variety of catalogues and publications, including Art Journal, Cabinet and Labyrinth, and has lectured internationally on issues related to contemporary art practice. He is an Andy Warhol Curatorial Fellow and a graduate of Rhode Island School of Design and The Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College.

To see what’s happening at Temple Contemporary, visit tyler.temple.edu.
The Los Angeles Study Away Program, housed in FMA, provides students with direct learning insights and professional work experiences in the media and entertainment industries and a taste of what it’s like to live and work professionally in Los Angeles. Internship opportunities span a broad spectrum including film, television, advertising, public relations and entertainment management. The program is open to all Temple students, 143 of whom participated in 2013.

With a full academic year curriculum, the Internship and Entertainment Industry Perspectives courses serve as the cornerstone to both undergraduate and graduate students’ professional and academic experience. Additional classes include: L.A. Plays Itself; a writing intensive screening course; The Art of the Sell; a producing course that focuses on providing students with the skills to navigate the art and commerce of the industry; Screenwriting Master Class: a workshop structured to prepare students critically and practically in the writing of a first draft of a feature screenplay; and L.A. Culture: a course that takes students out of the classroom and provides opportunities to see Los Angeles through the lenses of its art, architecture, culture and history. Future courses are currently being developed at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

During the summer the program offers a full-time course load for students at all levels while providing optional courses such as the L.A. Culture class as an additional offering. For more information, contact Alison Crouse at crousea@temple.edu.

NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT

When Eileen Aurelia, ’12 TFM auditioned for the role of Jasmine at the 2,000-seat Hyperion Theatre in Disneyland after graduating from Temple, the casting director looked at her resume and said, “Dan Kern was your teacher? I knew him in L.A.!”

“That’s just a small example of the power my connections at Temple gave me,” says Aurelia. She also credits guest artists brought in from the Department of Theater with getting auditions and faculty for preparing her so well in finding the right agent—which she did two months after moving to Los Angeles.

While playing the role of Little Becky Two-Shoes in Temple Theater’s production of Urinetown, Aurelia was appreciative of the camaraderie between students. “There were no egos to be found,” she said. “This was a testament to the leadership and professional environment created by Peter Reynolds (head of Musical Theater) and music director, Ryan Touhey.”

She also credits the generous time her professors devoted to theater students. “They would make time to talk to you if you needed advice or wanted to work on a scene,” she said. “I am pretty ambitious and knew I was headed to New York after graduation so it was great to have people to talk to about this.”

In addition to her many roles at Temple, including Mimi Marquez in Rent, Diana Morales in A Chorus Line and Rosie in Sweet Charity, she enjoyed the GenEd classes and noted that they “were vital in my development as a well-rounded person and actor.”

Beyond her training at Temple, Aurelia attended the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and has performed in productions at the Walnut Street Theater.

Aladdin is a full-scale, 45-minute musical that runs four times daily. If you’re ever in Disneyland, be sure to go and support a fellow Owl.

To Market, To Market

The 2013 Art Market at Tyler drew over 500 people to campus in October for a two-day event that hosted artists and craftspeople selling their work. Participating artists were selected by Erin Waxman ’00 TYL and Megan Brewster ’00 TYL, owners of Art Start Gallery and Boutique in Philadelphia. Visitors were able to watch and participate in hands-on demonstrations by artists, such as silk screening by Candy Depew ’97 TYL at Candy Coated Center in Philadelphia. A portion of the proceeds from Art Market benefit Tyler scholarships.

Tyler alumni and students who participated in the show included:

Kristen Brennan, ’91; James A. Christensen, ’91; Patricia Dougherty, ’82; Dominique Ellis, ’13; Anne Foresman, ’86; Steven Hagan, ’02; Ellen Himic, ’06; Stephen Nelson, ’80; Michael Neville, ’08; Mira Ramchandani, ’12; Ronald Seals Jr., ’11; Eva Shelley, ’05; Jason Sorvari, ’06; Duc Tang, ’12; Mario Zuccca, ’03. Tyler student groups: Tyler Ceramics Collective; Tyler Glass Guild; Tyler Photography.

L.A. Study Away Alumni:

Shaniece Cole, ’13, Development and Production, Disney ABC Television Group
Shanice Cole, ’13, Assistant to Digital Production, Warner Bros.
Ian Rose, ’13, Assistant to Documentary Filmmaker, Kirby Dick
Justin McGoldrick, ’12, Montecito Pictures and formerly an Agent’s Assistant at CAA
Brian Lipko, ’12, Director’s Assistant, SMUGGLER
Maureen Kaiser, ’12, Advertising Coordinator, Food Network
LaToya Stromth, ’12, Casting Producer,
Genealogy Roadshow, PBS
Stephanie Everett, ’10, Asst. to VP of Int’l Production,
FOX Filmed Entertainment
Jack Mulligan, ’06, Manager, Disney Channels Worldwide,
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As if performing in a Broadway musical that has won nine Tony Awards isn’t an education in itself, Lawrence Stallings ’03 TFM is still learning.

“I really found a passion for being an actor at Temple,” said Stallings. “That’s what feeds the artist in me today. A passion to want to learn more, go deeper, be freer and really move people with my art.”

Stallings praises Temple in preparing him for what he would face as both an actor, and more specifically, an African-American actor.

“I remember asking in my interview at Temple about diversity in the department as well as with the material that would be selected for the program and I was assured both were already in place.”

“They made good on that promise.”

Stallings recalls the challenge from a voice class taught by Donna Snow (head of Undergraduate Acting). “There were a lot of foreign concepts at that time because I had studied psychology as an undergraduate,” says Stallings. “I was overwhelmed but that time at Temple forced me to make the commitment to hard work and being the best actor I could be.”

“Jan Silverman who taught text analysis and Kathy Garrinella who taught movement (both retired faculty) probably had the biggest impact on me. Jan taught me to trust my instincts as an artist, and that the ability to make it tangible is invaluable. Kathy showed me how much I love to dance. She was a champion for me the entire time I was there.”

Stallings’ resume is packed with performances, from a Member of the Tribe in Hair at the Al Hirschfeld Theatre to appearances on television shows on TLC, BET and Spike TV.

BARBARA CHASE-RIBOUD AT THE PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART: THE MALCOLM X STELES

Barbara Chase-Riboud’s ’56 TYL exhibit at the Philadelphia Museum of Art brings together more than 40 works from the United States and Europe, with a focus on her Malcolm X sculptures. A group of drawings from the late 1960s and early 1970s made during the development of the Malcolm X series and roughly 20 of the artist’s Monument Drawings from the mid 1990s are also on view.

The abstract sculptures combine cast bronze with wrapped skeins of silk and wool, fusing elements of armor and textiles in homage to Malcolm X. The exhibition runs through January 20, 2014.

Chase-Riboud is both an internationally acclaimed visual artist and an award-winning writer and poet, best known for her 1979 historical novel Sally Hemings. Currently she is preparing two anthologies of her poetry and collected letters for publication. She lives in Paris and Rome.

BOYER COLLEGE OF MUSIC AND DANCE: FIRST “MOSAIC CONCERT”

More than 200 music students and a dance student from Boyer performed in an evening concert held October 18 that culminated a day of events celebrating the inauguration of Temple’s 10th president, Neil D. Theobald. The first Boyer College Mosaic Concert included performances by the Temple University Symphony Orchestra, Wind Symphony, Jazz Band, Choirs, Percussion Ensemble, and voice and piano students. The concert concluded with a performance of Beethoven’s Fantasia for Piano, Chorus and Orchestra, Op. 80, with Dr. Charles Abramovic ’90 BYR as soloist. Dr. Emily Threinen (director, Bands) and Dr. Paul Rardin (chair, Choral Activities) were concert coordinators. The archived stream of the concert is available for viewing at temple.edu/boyer.
PAINTING ALUMNUS EXHIBITS AT THE WADSWORTH

A one-person exhibition by Virgil Marti ’90 TYL entitled “Ode to a Hippie” is currently on view at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art’s Matrix Gallery in Hartford, Conn. through January 2014.

“I call the show ‘Ode to a Hippie’ as a nod to John Keats, who is a central figure in the exhibition,” said Marti in a video about his work. He uses Keats Death Mask from the museum’s collection along with a collector’s life mask of the poet.

“Keats was a great writer of odes, thus the title of the exhibit,” he said. “The hippie being Paul Thek’s missing artwork, The Tomb (1967), also known as Death to a Hippie.”

Marti’s site-specific installation evokes life and death, an English garden with shrines, a faux natural setting embellished with “hippie-craft” elements including stained glass, macramé, airbrushed paint and velvet fabric.