



STATE *of* THE ARTS

2020 IMPACT REPORT



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Arizona Arts



DEAR COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS,

It is my pleasure to share with you the *State of the Arts | 2020 Impact Report*. This report captures the extraordinary accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni during the 2019–20 academic year, which witnessed the creation of Arizona Arts.

Arizona Arts brings together the highly ranked academic programs of the College of Fine Arts and university's world-class visual and performing arts presenting units, creating a unified gateway to our unique arts assets, experiences, and educational programs. In addition to celebrating the accomplishments of the dedicated and talented individuals who comprise Arizona Arts, *State of the Arts* makes visible the significant progress we have made in realizing our collective goal—outlined in the UArizona strategic plan—that the arts play a central part in the university's land-grant mission.

I don't need to tell you that 2019–20 was an academic year unlike any other. The intertwined challenges posed by the global pandemic, the resulting financial crisis, and the renewed focus on racial justice are unprecedented—and remain very much with us. I am incredibly proud of, and humbled by, the ways in which we have met these challenges with resilience, determination, and creativity—skills and attributes that are at the heart of our work in the classrooms, studios, galleries, concert halls, and other spaces that we long to fully inhabit as soon as we can.

In closing, the activities and accomplishments recorded in the pages that follow would not have been possible without the unwavering support of President Robert C. Robbins, Provost Liesl Folks, and the University's entire Senior Leadership Team. I also wish to recognize our many patrons and donors, whose generosity demonstrates the belief we share in the transformative power of the arts for our students, our university, our communities, and our world.

With warmest best wishes,

Andrew Schulz
Vice President for the Arts
Dean, College of Fine Arts

Above: Dean Andy Schulz with the University of Arizona Symphonic Choir.

Cover: Diego Abeytia, drum major of the Pride of Arizona marching band, on University Avenue near Main Gate. Photo: Nick Smallwood



Arizona Athletics commissioned School of Art alumnus Danny Martin (MFA '08) to paint a mural, *The Cactus Comet Rides Again*, on Arizona Stadium celebrating the cultural heritage of the Southwest and the history of Arizona football.

The University of Arizona elevates the arts on campus

Arizona Arts became the newest division at the University of Arizona on July 1, 2019, creating a unified gateway to the unique visual and performing arts assets, experiences, and educational programs at the University of Arizona. Arizona Arts brings together the highly regarded academic programs in the College of Fine Arts—the schools of dance; art; music; and theatre, film and television—together with the university’s world-class arts presenting and engagement units, including the Center for Creative Photography, the University of Arizona Museum of Art, Arizona Arts Live, and Arizona Arts in Schools K-12 programs.

The Arizona Arts Mission

Arizona Arts integrates the arts throughout the university experience and beyond in order to establish the university as an arts destination. In doing so, we ensure that all students—regardless of major—have opportunities for meaningful experiences in the arts, and that the arts play an essential role in realizing the university’s land-grant mission.

Arts Master Plan approved

After a year of study, research and conversation, the Arts Master Plan was approved by University leadership. Working in coordination with the University’s Planning Design and Construction team, and with significant input from Arizona Arts staff and faculty, we enlisted Phoenix-based architectural firm DLR Group to head up the planning effort, led by architects **Peter Rutti** and **Michael Rudolph**, both Arizona alumni. The Master Plan will be our roadmap for realizing the facilities transformation that we know is essential for the success of the arts initiative in the university strategic plan. Details to come!



Arizona Arts and its neighbors threw an incredible Block Party in fall 2019. Over 500 guests enjoyed food, music, and performances from School of Dance, Eller’s Ellervator Pitch, a CAPLA VR experience, the Speak-Easy Xylophone Ragtime Band, and a stage-combat performance by theatre students.

Kennerly Archive acquired by Center for Creative Photography

*In the Room with **David Hume Kennerly** Featuring **Jon Meacham** Presented by Bank of America*, a conversation between two Pulitzer Prize winners, delighted a packed house at Centennial Hall, over Family Weekend, and celebrated the [acquisition of the Kennerly Archive](#) by the Center for Creative Photography.

Kennerly is one of the most celebrated photojournalists of the modern era. His images have appeared in hundreds of publications, including the covers of *Time*, *Newsweek* and *Life*. He has photographed 10 U.S. presidents, and many other world figures and newsmakers.

Spanning more than 50 years of history dating from 1965, the [Kennerly Archive features nearly 1 million images](#), prints, objects, memorabilia, correspondence and documents.



David Hume Kennerly and Rebecca Kennerly recreate his famous photo of President George W. Bush and Michelle Obama on the University Mall during Family Weekend.



Arizona Arts centerpiece of *Wonder* campaign

Arizona Arts was featured in the University's national marketing campaign, *Wonder Makes Us*, video vignettes and ads on buses and billboards in California, Texas and on the interstate from Phoenix to Tucson. [The first video featured School of Art professor **Sama Alshaibi**](#), an internationally-renowned multimedia artist, strikingly filmed on location at the Arizona Heritage Waters of Willcox Playa in southeastern Arizona.

[Wonder Makes Us Create](#)

"Wonder makes me get up every day and try harder," Alshaibi said. "Wonder is the vitality of life. Wonder is in the present. It looks towards the future and it definitely recognizes the past."

Arizona Arts was slated to headline at Wonder House, the University's branding activation at South by Southwest® when COVID-19 arrived. As a response to the crisis, the University once again turned to Arizona Arts to create an impactful statement of resilience and grit with the video, [Wonder Makes Us Find a Way](#), created remotely by art students of all disciplines.

The Wonder campaign also featured three arts students: [Claudia Molina](#) (art), [Melissa Requist](#) (music) and [Hayley Meier](#) (dance).

CFA Virtual Graduation Ceremony

On May 15, the College of Fine Arts celebrated its graduates in these uncertain times with an unprecedented ceremony, [a virtual graduation](#). For many, the highlight of the ceremony was a very special version of The Beatles' song, [All You Need Is Love](#), by the students from the School of Theatre, Film & Television, which was **commissioned for the University graduation ceremony**.



Less than two weeks later, George Floyd was killed on a street in Minneapolis and another worldwide movement began.

Black Lives Matter

Arizona Arts [stands recommitted to the important work of effecting change](#) within our communities. “This is not a time to be quiet,” wrote Dean Schulz. “Our promise is to speak up and take concrete action in this moment and beyond, because not to do so comes with a price. We stand with the victims of racism and anti-Blackness who experience the violence of social inequity often with fatal consequences. We will listen and support efforts to undo systemic injustice, and we invite you to hold us accountable as we pledge to focus on the power of art to create positive change.”

[Arizona Arts stands in solidarity with Black Lives Matter.](#)

COVID is met with resilience and grit

Throughout the spring, individuals and units reacted to the lockdown with innovation and resilience. Many events were offered digitally, but many others had to be cancelled. AZPM's *Arizona Illustrated* captured how the pandemic affected art students with video feature, [Art Interrupted](#). As the lockdown continued in the spring, arts of all types took center stage for millions of Americans while isolating, working and educating at home. Arizona Arts leaders spoke about the [importance of arts in the time of lockdown](#).

“The work of artists from around the world has helped us get through this time, and we owe it to the next generation of artists to make sure they can continue that work,” said **Hank Stratton**, head of BFA acting and artistic director of Arizona Repertory Theatre.



“Continue to create. What you produce doesn’t have to be marvelous, monumental or noble in any way. It’ll hold importance because it’s yours. Take this time to explore your art form and never take any moment for granted.”

– Delphine Chang

Photo: Ed Flores

Standout Students

Delphine Chang was the 2020 College of Fine Arts and the School of Dance **Outstanding Senior** this spring, graduating summa cum laude from the School of Dance with a minor in Arts Management.

Her impressive roster of roles in recent masterworks, included Larry Keigwin’s *Megalopolis*, George Balanchine’s *Concerto Barocco*, and principal roles in Balanchine’s *The Four Temperaments* and in the ballet, *Na Floresta*, by Nacho Duato.

“**Continue to create**” is [her advice for the next generation](#) of dancers. “What you produce doesn’t have to be marvelous, monumental or noble in any way. It’ll hold importance because it’s yours. Take this time to explore your art form and never take any moment for granted.”

Misael Barraza-Díaz (DMA candidate) [won the grand prize](#) in the 2020 Ex-Aequo International Classical Guitar Competition ([video interview](#)) over an international field and was awarded the prize for the best interpretation of a work by the Cuban composer Leo Brouwer. Barraza-Díaz is **one of the most outstanding Mexican guitarists of his generation**; he has won 10 international competitions. He was awarded the 2020 Distinguished Graduate Student Award by the Fred Fox School of Music.

When the pandemic hit, Arizona MFA Design and Production students **Rachel Wilkins**, **Elizabeth Eaton** and **Ryan B. Moore**, along with **Maryan Trombino-Arthur**, manager of the School’s Costume Shop, immediately began [making masks for health care workers](#) and first responders in Tucson to address the shortage of masks.

Dorsey Kaufmann (MFA ’20) created an interactive art installation, *Ripple Effect*, which [visualizes water quality data](#) through sound, light and water. The installation was shown in rural mining communities across Arizona to communicate information about their local water quality data, using art to effectively communicate complex scientific issues.

“Art can be used in research as a way to connect and reach a broader audience, as a communication tool, but I also think it’s important to state that **art can be research in its own right**. What an artist can contribute is something tangible, something crafted and made, that people have a physical relationship to and that cements itself in the politics, culture, time, and place of that instant.” [Dorsey Kaufmann Q & A](#)

Sophomore **Levi Powe** performed *Poema III* by Marlos Nobre on the [NPR show, From the Top](#). Powe, a Tucson native, studies cello with **Dr. Theodore Buchholz** at the Fred Fox School of Music. On the show he was asked, “Are there certain emotions or storylines that you think of when you play *Poema III*?”

“Yeah, I like to imagine I’m out in the middle of the desert, just wandering along.”

The **Arizona Repertory Theatre’s** production of *Spring Awakening* swept the major categories for musicals in the 2019 Mac Awards from the Arizona Daily Star. [Who won Best Actor and Actress?](#)

School of Art's [Tamrin Ingram](#) was one of nine graduating MFA artists in the world selected by *Lenscratch* to participate in *Thesis Project*, a photo feature series that [allows Tamrin to share her thesis project](#) as well as her thoughts on the photo community and navigating the art world during the pandemic and beyond.

At the invitation of the New York Philharmonic Archives, several music graduate students — **Olman Alfaro Portuguez, Donté Ford, Grant Knox, Tad Biggs, Eloy Ramirez, Charles du Preez,** and **Mariana Mevans Vidal** — [researched the Austrian composer and conductor Gustav Mahler](#) (1860–1911), who spent his final years in New York City. The students looked into Mahler's connection with the city, identifying locations, dates and facts that would help the Philharmonic curate a successful virtual walking tour. The tour, part of the [Philharmonic's two-week digital festival](#), "Mahler's New York," is presented by Google Arts & Culture.

Playwright **Fly Jamerson** (MFA Generative Dramaturgy '19) was commissioned by **Lauren Gunderson**, the country's **most produced playwright**, for [a New Now Commission](#). [The play, *Frozen Fluid*](#), was included in The Loom New Works Festival at Woven Theatre and a finalist for the Kitchen Dog Theatre New Works Festival.

MFA artists [Martin Krafft](#) and [Alex Turner](#) were selected for the 2020 Society for Photographic Education's (SPE) **Student Awards for Innovations in Imaging**. Five students were recognized from across the nation and two were Wildcats. Jurors selected award recipients based on "work that demonstrates the most innovative and unique uses of photographic techniques." Turner also earned an **MFA Scholarship award from Photo Lucida**, [wrote a feature for Terrain.org](#) and [was interviewed in Lenscratch](#).

First-year music student **Jack Zager** and his writing partner [won a juried national competition for short musicals](#) at Showsearch 2019 in Los Angeles, directed by Arizona alumnus **Richard Israel**.

Imagine that you are a theatre student at the University of Arizona and your father, inspired by your musical theatre experience, decides to enroll in the School of Theatre, Film & Television too. **Xander Mason's** dad, **Christopher Mason**, did just that. Mason, a former air traffic controller, graduated this spring with a BFA in Design & Technical Production, and [was awarded Outstanding Senior](#) of his School.

Graduate student **Ana Maria Iordache** (MM, Guitar Performance), [won first prize at Festival Internacional de Guitarra de Madrid](#) 2020. In addition, she was a prize winner of the New York Guitar Competition and the GuitarFest West Competition in Calgary, Alberta. From Romania, Iordache studies with Professor **Thomas Patterson** in the Bolton Guitar Studies Program.

Triathlon by **Bella Maria Varela** won first place in [MOCA Tucson's 2020 5 Minute Film Festival](#). Varela was also chosen to be included in [En Foco's](#) Nueva Luz Fashion Issue. Varela's *Cheering Cheerleader* was one of 20 images from 20 artists to be featured. The issue focuses on fashion as it related to body, group identity, beauty standards and self-presentation.

Works by student choreographers **Jared Baker** (MFA in Dance) and **Hannah Weinmaster** (BFA in Dance) were accepted by the [Palm Desert Choreography Festival](#). The trip included 19 dance majors and was made possible by philanthropic support.



Imagine getting a call two hours and 15 minutes before curtain and being asked to take on the lead role of the Emcee in *Cabaret*. You are not the understudy. You haven't rehearsed the dialogue or lyrics. You haven't learned the staging marks or musical cues. **You have an hour to prepare.** Find out what happens when musical theatre student **Xander Mason** becomes the Emcee.

[The show must go on.](#)

Amanda Coote (pictured) was the College's 'Outstanding Senior' at the 2019 Fall Graduation Convocation. She graduated with a double degree: Bachelor of Arts in Film and Television and a degree in Creative Writing.



Photo: Rebecca Sasnett

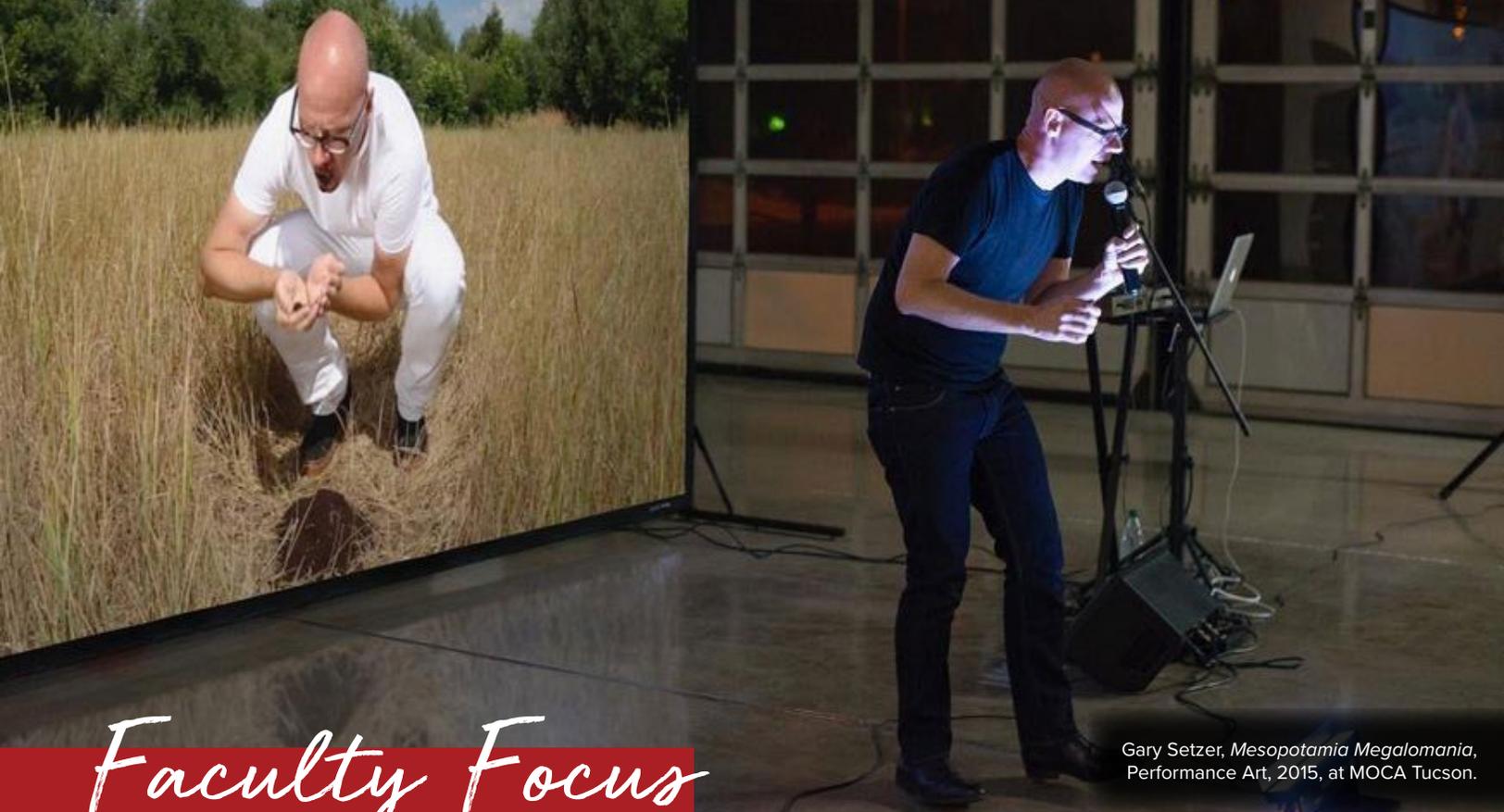
MFA artist **Benjamin Dearstyne Hoste** was selected for the 2020 recipient of the [Marcia Grand Centennial Sculpture Prize](#). His project, *Prevailing Winds*, explores our contemporary state in which alternative facts continue to supplant reason and reality despite overwhelming evidence.

DMA cellist **Diana Yusupov** (DMA candidate) won first place in the Ladies Musical Club of Seattle [Frances Walton Solo Competition](#). The prize included a September 2019 tour of Washington, performing recitals and performances on live radio.

Morah Riedl (MA '19) curated the exhibition [A New Unity: The Life and Afterlife of Bauhaus](#) in Fall 2019 at The University of Arizona Museum of Art. The exhibition featured artwork by MFA artists **Venessa Ball, Valentin Mancha, Kenzie Wells**, and **Rachel Wilkins** and involved collaborations with colleagues in the Department of German Studies, Humanities Week, CAPLA, Art History, School of Music, Book Arts & Letterpress Lab, and the Center for Creative Photography. Riedl is now the Curator of Community Engagement at MOCA Tucson.

*"I'm really inspired by sci-fi movies. My dad raised me on 1950s sci-fi horror, so **Vincent Price is my favorite actor of all time**. My first novel that I wrote was an homage to 1950s sci-fi. That is where my ideas come from, start with a wacky scenario then try to find the heart in it."*

– Amanda Coote



Gary Setzer, *Mesopotamia Megalomania*, Performance Art, 2015, at MOCA Tucson.

Faculty Focus

School of Art professor **Gary Setzer** was selected as the recipient of the [Provost Award for Innovation in Teaching](#). This award was established to acknowledge outstanding faculty whose teaching portfolios and instructional effectiveness merit special recognition.

Provost Liesl Folks told Setzer in the award letter, “You were selected and recommended by the university committee because of your developing a ‘complete transformation’ of the traditional Studio Foundations curriculum and launching a ‘nationally recognized model for pedagogical and curricular innovations’ for the First Year Experience (FYE) program. I am incredibly impressed with your dedication and passion as a teacher and mentor. Your teaching accomplishments and leadership bring distinction to the University of Arizona.”

Two College of Fine Arts professors earned the **Taubeneck Superior Teaching Award** from the [Arizona Humanities Seminars](#) program. Art History Professor **Dr. Paul Ivey** received the award for a third time. His course was [The Sixties: Culture, Counterculture, Art](#). **Dr. Theodore Buchholz**, associate professor of cello, [was honored for his lecture series, *The Cello*](#).

Associate Professor **Dr. Chad Nicholson** was one of five university faculty named a **Five-Star Faculty finalist**. Nicholson was invited to provide master classes, clinics, and critique wind bands at the [Carnegie Hall Symphonic Series](#) in Manhattan.

School of Theatre, Film & Television Associate Professor **Jacob Bricca**, ACE and Adjunct Instructor **Lisa Molomot** were awarded co-production funding from ITVS for their feature documentary [Missing in Brooks County](#), which is screening at film festivals around the country and will be broadcast on PBS in 2021.

Four **Art & Visual Culture Education (AVCE)** faculty members [were recognized with major education awards](#).

Dr. Carissa DiCindio, Women’s Caucus Kathy Connors Teaching Award for excellence in teaching, mentoring, and collaboration from the National Art Education Association (NAEA).

Dr. Amy Kraehe, Mac Arthur Goodwin Award for Distinguished Service within the profession for outstanding achievement, contribution and service in previous years to the field of art education from the NAEA.

Dr. Ryan Shin, Outstanding Higher Education Art Educator Award from the Arizona Art Education Association (AAEA), given to one outstanding AAEA member for service and contributions to art education that merit recognition and acclaim.

Dr. Gloria Wilson, NAEA Women’s Caucus Mary J. Rouse Award, in recognition for distinguished contributions by early career professionals in art education.

Faculty from the School of Theatre, Film & Television were awarded [CFA Diversity/Inclusion Curriculum Grants](#). **Michael Mulcahy** and **Jacob Bricca** are overhauling their classes, *Film and Television Aesthetics* and *Documentary History*, to reflect a broader range of voices and viewpoints. Three faculty members are creating/teaching new courses: **David Morden**, *Hidden in Plain Sight: The Queer Voice in 19th and 20th Century Theatre*; **Dr. Bradley Schauer**, *Alternative Cinemas*; and **Dr. Barbara Selznick**, *Television's Complex Comedies*.

Daniel Asia, a professor of composition at the Fred Fox School of Music, [was nominated to serve a six-year term](#) as a member of the **National Council on the Arts**. Asia is founder and director of the American Culture and Ideas Initiative, which celebrates the impact of fine arts in American culture.

Assistant Professor **Autumn Eckman** was one of 15 choreographers – out of 750 entries – to be invited to the **Women in Dance Leadership Conference** in Philadelphia, to perform her work, *Sardine*. Plus, she had a residency at the Giordano Dance Chicago, [where she choreographed *Retroverse*](#), in collaboration with composer Dan Myers.

Autumn Eckman in *Reframe*, a collaboration project shot in abandoned buildings in Tucson to evoke the experience of isolation.

The School of Theatre, Film & Television's **Joe Klug** was the [2020 recipient of the USITT Rising Star Award](#), given annually to a young professional at the beginning of their career. The **award recognizes excellence and artistic achievement** in scenic, lighting, sound, and projection design or a convergence of these theatre design disciplines.

Assistant Professor **Alejandro Macias** (2D/Painting and Drawing) was selected and participated as an [artist-in-residence](#) at **The Studios at MASS MoCA** in North Adams, Massachusetts.

Associate Professor and playwright **Elaine Romero** was commissioned by Burning Coal Theatre Company in Raleigh, North Carolina, to write *A Sentiment* for [The 19th Amendment Project](#), which brought the country's top women playwrights to write plays in honor of the **100th year anniversary of women receiving the right to vote**. Burning Coal Theatre Company has partnered with the Justice Theatre Project to produce *A Sentiment* as a film.

Matthew Williams, an assistant professor of music, was named to the editorial board for *Update: Applications of Research in Music Education*, a peer-reviewed journal from the [National Association for Music Education](#), which brings research in music teaching and learning close to everyday practice to help teachers apply research in their music classrooms and rehearsal halls.



Dr. Jennie Gubner, PhD ethnomusicologist, violinist, and visual ethnographer, chair of [Applied Intercultural Arts Research](#), presented a paper on [transforming student perceptions of dementia](#) through music and filmmaking in the Journal for the American Geriatrics Society. The article received the *Best Education Paper* prize.

TFTV's **Jenny Lang** served as Production Stage Manager on [Ordway Center for the Performing Arts'](#) production of *42nd Street and Smokey Joe's Cafe*, directed by Broadway- and Emmy-winning choreographer **Joshua Bergasse**.

Dr. José Luis Puerta, assistant professor, was named President of the Tucson Guitar Society, established the Tucson Guitar Quartet, and recorded the CD, [Latin American Soundscapes](#), at the Haskell Recording Studio at the Fred Fox School of Music. José is second-from-the-left on the album cover.



Dr. Theodore Buchholz and **Dr. Paula Fan** from the Fred Fox School of Music recorded an album, [Afterglow: The Forgotten Works for Cello & Piano](#) by Henry Hadley, which garnered critical success. *Fanfare Magazine* wrote: "I sincerely doubt that these pieces could be any better played than they are here. Five stars: An exceptional recital of unjustly neglected music."

Music's **Dr. Matthew Tropman** released [Study, his third commercial album](#), which includes many never-before-recorded works performed on euphonium and the world's first commercial recordings of Theo Charlier's *Transcendental Études*.



New Faces/Roles

Dr. Lori Wiest began her duties as the [next Director of the Fred Fox School of Music](#), on July 1. For Dr. Wiest, this was a homecoming, as she received her doctorate in Choral Conducting from the University of Arizona School of Music 30 years ago this spring under the guidance of **Dr. Maurice Skones**.

“I am honored and excited to be joining the University of Arizona as the Director of the Fred Fox School of Music,” she wrote. “**I have always felt a special connection to Tucson** and the school. It is with great pride that I return to work alongside such talented colleagues and students as we continue to achieve excellence, create new paths, and lead in new directions.”



The College of Fine Arts features some of the most accomplished faculty in the world in our classrooms, studios, and stages. A new class of faculty joined the staff in the fall of 2019, including **Jeehey Kim, Gloria Wilson and Alejandro Macias** (Art); **Molly Gebrian, Fanya Lin, Jennie Gubner, Marissa Olegario** (pictured), **Kay He and Robert Gordon** (Music); and **Andy Belser and Emily Smokovich**, (TFTV). [Learn about their backgrounds](#), areas of interests and career highlights.

Deanna Fitzgerald was [appointed as the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs](#). “I am delighted that Deanna has agreed to join the College of Fine Arts leadership team,” said Dean Schulz. “She has served with incredible effectiveness in recent administrative positions in the School of Theatre, Film & Television and in the Fred Fox School of Music, and I look forward to working with her in this new role.”

Arizona Arts [recognized staff for reaching a milestone](#) in their years-of-service at the University – 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years – at the second annual Spring Convocation, including **Dr. Paul Ivey** (School of Art) and **Angela Telesco** (University of Arizona Museum of Art) for their 30 years of service.



Alumni Pride

Melinda Burke (Arizona Alumni Association) with Brad Slater, the 2019 CFA Alumnus of the Year, and Dean Andy Schulz.

Partnering on programs with the School of Theatre, Film & Television and the School's Hanson FilmTV Institute, **Brad Slater** (Media Arts '96) has taken his successful career experiences to help the next generation of Arizona students, who are interested in breaking into the entertainment industry. For his outstanding career achievements and his unwavering dedication to the College and its students, Brad Slater was honored by the University of Arizona Alumni Association as the 2019 Alumnus of the Year for the College of Fine Arts. [Slater is the senior partner and agent at WME](#), representing **LeBron James** and **Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson**, among others. He tells students "Believe that your best is good enough" and why he is an [Arizona Wildcat no matter what](#).

American Factory, edited by **Lindsay Utz** (BA '03), won the **2020 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature** and now streams on Netflix as the first acquisition of Michelle and Barack Obama's Higher Ground Productions. In a story for *Variety*, Lindsay discussed the task of [whittling down 2,000 hours of footage](#) to create the documentary. In December 2019, Indiewire hailed Lindsay as an [influencer shaping the art of cinema](#) today.

Netflix Head of Original Films **Scott Stuber** helped steer the company to [a record-breaking 24 Oscar nominations](#), led by Martin Scorsese's *The Irishman* and Noah Baumbach's *Marriage Story*.

John Matter (BA, Media Arts '01) [earned an Emmy Award](#) for his work on **the HBO hit series, *Game of Thrones***, at the Primetime Creative Arts Emmy Awards in September. John was part of the GOT team that won the Emmy for Outstanding Sound Editing for a Comedy or Drama Series; Matter served as the dialogue editor for the series.

Tyler Gillett (BFA '04) was named as the **director of *Scream 5***, the latest installment of the wildly successful *Scream* horror franchise. [Gillett will direct a cast](#) that includes original cast members **Courtney Cox, David Arquette** and **Neve Campbell**.

"After spending time speaking with Radio Silence (Gillett's production company), they have shown such love, respect and admiration for Wes Craven and all that he's created in the *Scream* franchise," Campbell said in a statement. "I am beyond excited to step back into the role of Sidney Prescott and return to Woodsboro."

Nine years after making his Broadway debut as an understudy in *Sondheim on Sondheim*, actor **Kyle Harris** (BFA '08) returned to play three roles in the [Olivier, Drama Desk and Drama League winning play, *The Inheritance*](#).

Kevin Coochwyte (BFA, Studio Art '00; Isleta/Hopi) joined the staff at [Eighth Generation](#) as a graphic designer. The Seattle retail business creates 100% Native-designed products with a flagship store at Pike Place Market. In April **they donated 10,000 masks** to the Seattle Indian Health Board.

A veritable who's who of industry luminaries – all School of Theatre, Film & Television alumni – participated in panels and conversations at this year's [I Dream in Widescreen](#) showcase of student films, presented on [the school's YouTube account](#).

Special guests included Netflix's Head of Original Film **Scott Stuber**, film editor **Lindsay Utz** (BA '03; *American Factory*, *Miss Americana*), director **Tyler Gillett** (BFA '04; *Scream 5*, *V/H/S*), Sundance Film Festival Shorts Programmer **Mike Plante** (BFA '94), WME agent and partner **Brad Slater** (BA '96), casting director **Eyde Belasco** (BA '91; *Sorry To Bother You*, *Transparent*), producer **Allison Vanore** (BFA '04; *After Forever*), writer/producer **Peter Murrieta** (*Mr. Iglesias*), emerging directors **Darious Britt** (BFA '12; *Unsound*) and **Christopher Cegielski** (BFA '16; *Reagan*) and actors **Vinessa Vidotto** (BFA '18: *Lucifer*), **Kyle Harris** (BFA '08; *Indoor Boys*), **Carly Natania Grossman** and **Michael Schulz**. The Loft's **Jeff Yanc** (BA '94, MA '97) hosted.

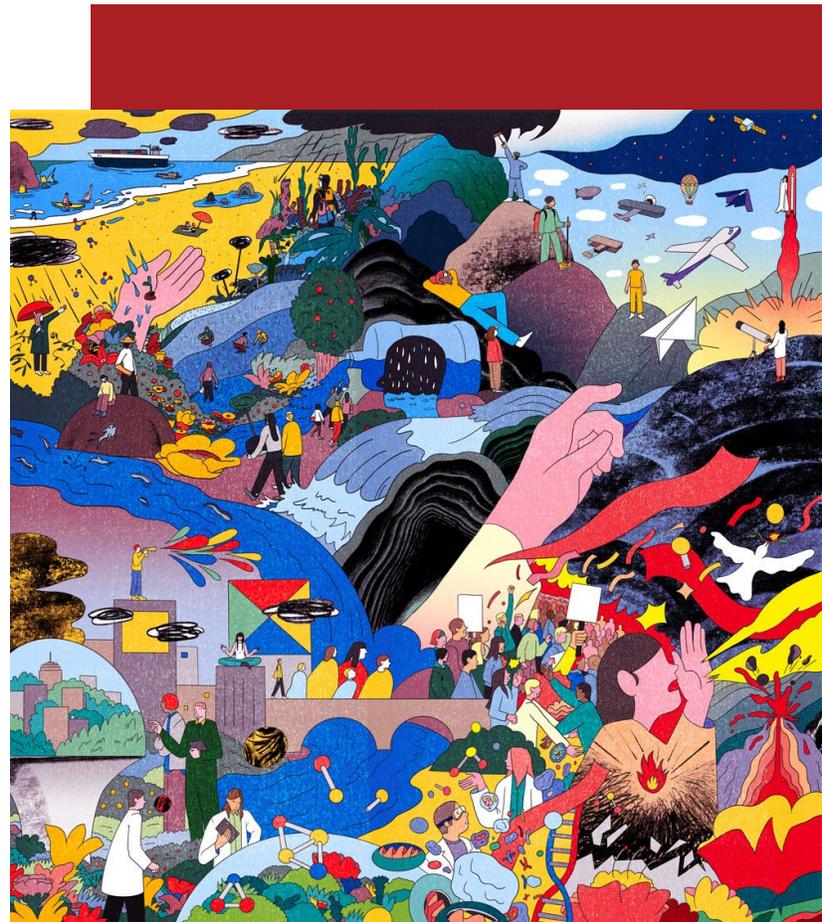
TFTV alumna **Sierra Ornelas** is a Navajo Mexican-American [writer and showrunner](#) for NBC shows like *Superstore*, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* and *Rutherford Falls*. Ornelas [created the Donation 4 Navajo Nation Challenge](#). Within a couple of weeks her campaign delivered over \$250k for medical supplies and essential items like PPE to Navajo citizens.

Sadie Shaw (BFA '19, Art & Visual Culture Education) is the neighborhood president and creator of the Sugar Hill Oral History Project. She [was profiled on AZPM's Arizona Illustrated](#) in a feature about the Sugar Hill, Tucson's historically black neighborhood. Shaw also launched her candidacy for the Tucson Unified School District's governing board.

Megan Garcia (BFA '19) was featured in the *New York Post* when becoming a Rockette in New York City [Watch the moment when Garcia was hired](#) on the spot at the finale of the Rockettes' summer intensive training program. **"I've wanted to become a professional dancer nearly all my life,"** she told the Post. "It was a dream come true."

Garcia commented on the Arizona Arts IG account:
"I love representing UA here in NYC! Bear Down!!

Shelly Hawkins (MFA '17) is the founder of [Hawkinsdance, a Tucson contemporary dance company](#) that has performed in non-traditional spaces, including the Tucson Museum of Art. This year the troupe performed outside underneath the stars at Reid Park: **Pleiades Dance Concert in the Park**. Hawkins formed the group around **the idea of uniting the community around art**, and expresses ideas about feminism, transformation, the afterlife and the exploration of truth.



Corriere Della Sera - Pianeta 2020

Mark Wang (BFA, Visual Communications '14), an illustrator and comic artist from Tucson, has published his work in *The New York Times*, *Medium.com*, *Bloomberg Business*, *Money Magazine*, and four covers for [Corriere Della Sera's Pianeta 20](#), this year. He also exhibited a mural at the Chinese American Museum LA exhibition, *Red Envelope Show*.

Joshua Blake Carter (BFA '09) was nominated for **Best Choreography** for *Disney's Newsies* for the Joseph Jefferson Awards for Chicago's Equity theaters. Carter is director of *Giordano II* and the operations manager for [Giordano Dance Chicago](#), a company that currently features numerous Arizona alumni: **Jack Halbert**, **Adam Houston**, **Natasha Overturff**, **Zachary Heller**, **Keenan Schember**, **Nicholas Lampson**, **Skylar Newcom** and **Madison Mistone** (*Giordano II*).

Alex Yonkovich (BFA, '15) completed a five-year stint in Las Vegas with [The Beatles LOVE by Cirque Du Soleil](#) in 2020. She began with the production the year she graduated from Arizona in 2015 as an ensemble dancer. She served as Dance Captain for one year and Artist Coach for four months.



Photo: Bill Wadman

Keitaro Harada (MM '08) was appointed as music and artistic director of the [Savannah Philharmonic](#), beginning July 2020. Additionally, Maestro Harada was named associate conductor of the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra starting April 2021.

Robert Williams (BM '71) is retiring after a **46-year career as the principal bassoonist** in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. He lives in Tucson with his wife, Treva Womble, retired DSO Oboe/English hornist, where they run their company, Womble/Williams Double Reeds. Robert recently released [a mini-documentary of his innovative reed-making process](#).

Adam Gurczak (BM, Bass Performance '17) earned his MM at Boston Conservatory and was hired as Artistic Programs Administrator for Yo-Yo Ma's Grammy Award-winning [Silkroad Ensemble](#).

Spencer Clark (BM in Jazz Studies, '18) was accepted as a [Henri Mancini Institute Fellow](#) at the University of Miami in 2019 as part of the M.M. in Studio Jazz Writing program. His arrangement of *I Shot the Sheriff*, featuring Arturo Sandoval and Lucy Woodward, was premiered at the 2019 Jazz Roots Concert *British Invasion - Latin Style* in Miami.

Saul Millan (BM in Jazz Studies, '17) and **Gus Woodrow** (B.M. in Jazz Studies, '18) performed, produced, and engineered the horn parts for the Cuarteto De Nos song, *Punta Cana*. The song was nominated for a **Latin Grammy in the Best Rock Song** category and [has 3 million+ views on YouTube](#). Millan and Woodrow also performed with Los Esplifs for the Kennedy Center's *Arts Across America*, a series that promotes how musicians are positively responding to COVID-19.

Jada Pearman (BFA '19) [joined the world-renowned Paul Taylor Dance Company](#) in the summer of 2019, following an audition process that included 300 dancers. Pearman said that Arizona prepared her for the opportunity. "(Classes) taught me a lot about how to push myself. In dance now, you have to be very versatile ... It made me such a well-rounded dancer."

Arizona Athletics commissioned School of Art alumnus **Danny Martin** (MFA '08) to paint a mural, [The Cactus Comet Rides Again](#) on Arizona Stadium to celebrate the cultural heritage of the Southwest and the history of Arizona football. The mural features Wildcat legend **Art Luppino**, AKA *The Cactus Comet*. "It was a humbling experience to be invited back by my alma mater to do something on that scale," Martin said.



Engaging Arizona

Just Najima performing at Wooden Tooth Records for The Tucson Studio concert series.

Arizona Arts Live (formerly UA Presents) launched [The Tucson Studio](#) as an online resource for Southern Arizona musicians that offers technical assistance with audio and video production for live performances. The program's first effort was a concert series featuring local and regional artists set in iconic Tucson venues. Plus, viewers can donate directly to the artists on multiple platforms.

Acts have included **Brian Lopez, Gabriel Ayala, Maxi Larrea, Mattea, Carlos Arzate & The Familia, Just Najima** (pictured), **Pete Swan Trio** and others at the Tucson Botanical Gardens, Wooden Tooth Records and the Health Sciences Innovation Building.

[Arizona Arts in Schools moved quickly](#) to make its in-class and on-campus programs online, creating **at-home learning modules** for its four disciplines, along with resources of at-home learning, like Upbeat's Found Sound video about making drums out of normal household items.

Led by Assistant Professor **Joe Klug**, the School of Theatre, Film & Television faculty [taught 150 Southern Arizona high school students](#) in free **Virtual Theatre Lab** seminars on scenic design, speaking with a British accent, technical direction, sound design, costume design and voice.

Double Reed Day brought nearly 75 oboists and bassoonists of all ages from across Arizona to campus.

UA Presents couldn't throw its volunteer appreciation party this year because of COVID-19, so House Manager **Tadj Roi Hodges** wrote them a song instead. If you've ever worked/volunteered in a venue, [this serenade is for you](#).

The University of Arizona Museum of Art (UAMA) partnered with Assistant Professor **Dr. Carissa DiCindio** (AVCE), **Dr. Yumi Shirai**, graduate students in ARE 520, and artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities at ArtWorks. The graduate students collaborated to implement and assess the value of an **expressive arts therapy curriculum to promote learning**, self-expression, sharing, and processing of loss-related experiences and stories. University students and artists worked together to transform these unique grief-related stories into a public art exhibition, [Crafting My Story](#).

The UAMA and the Department of English's Prison Education Project partnered with seven units of the Arizona State Prison Complex in Tucson, guiding art appreciation, label writing and art jurying workshops, leading to [Hobby Craft: Artwork from the Arizona State Prison Complex](#). Curator **Olivia Miller** and **Chelsea Farrar**, curator of community engagement, shared their findings from this partnership at the Association of Academic Museums and Galleries annual conference.

The Arts & Visual Culture Education collaborated with Nosotros Academy and Tucson United School District to include **Art Meals, engaging visual arts activities** in [TUSD's Grab-and-Go Mobilized Meals](#) in spring 2020. Art Meals provide opportunities for expression and art therapy addressing this time of crisis. The inexpensive activity sheets include drawing prompts, coloring activities, educational information, and games without requiring special supplies.

The UAMA offered family-friendly art activities to the Tucson community via YouTube with [Art Sprouts: Home Edition](#). The program provides in-home activities for young children, ages 2-5, like Create a Drawing Robot!, Doodle Drawings and Minimalist Sculpture.

Arizona Arts partnered the University of Arizona's [Government & Community Relations](#) to host the Community Partner Breakfast on the Centennial Hall stage. Attendees included civic, education, art and tourism administrators, including two mayors. Speakers discussed the many community partnerships that emanate from Arizona Arts, including Dean **Andy Schulz**, **Chad Herzog** (*Arizona Arts Live*), **Anne Breckenridge Barrett** (*Center for Creative Photography*), **Brad Richter** (*Arizona Arts in Schools*), **Chelsea Farrar** (*Museum of Art*), **Vicky Westover** (*Hanson FilmTV Institute*) and **Tyler Meier** (*Poetry Center*).

[DocScapes Film & Workshop Series](#) hosted a free public screening at The Loft Cinema of *Unsettled*, an award-winning documentary that tells the stories of LGBT refugees and asylum seekers resettling in the U.S., followed by a workshop with producer Jen Gilomen on *The Many Roles of the Documentary Producer*.

Prior to COVID-19, Professor **Theodore Buchholz** routinely went into Tucson area schools to work with young cellists. This spring Buchholz [offered free, online, cello lessons](#) with middle and high school students. In addition, he coordinated the String Project that enrolled a record 101 local K-12 students.

Center for Creative Photography Chief Curator **Dr. Rebecca Senf** released [Making a Photographer: The Early Work of Ansel Adams](#), co-published by Yale University Press and CCP. She spoke about her research process for over 300 people in Tucson during the Center's annual Ansel Adams birthday celebration in February.

The UAMA **3D printer was used to print masks** by the Catalina Foothills High School Pioneer Robotics Club for health care workers and essential staff, including the Pima County Health Department, the Sunrise Drive Elementary staff and more.

The inaugural [Red Screen Film Festival](#), a free festival celebrating Indigenous world cinema, featured four Arizona alumni filmmakers: **Christopher Nataanii Cegielski** (BFA '14), **Stacy Howard** (BFA '17), **Sarah Del Seronde** (BA Political Science '98, MA American Indian Studies '00), and **Donavan Seschillie** (BA '12). A partnership between Arizona and Northern Arizona University, the festival was presented by the Hanson FilmTV Institute and NAU Cline Library.

From left-to-right: Red Screen Film Festival co-director Shepherd Tsosie with filmmakers Sarah Del Seronde, Blackhorse Lowe, Stacy Howard, Christopher Nataanii Cegielski, and Deidra Peaches.



A photograph of Dr. John Milbauer, a man with grey hair and a beard, wearing a dark blue sweater over a white collared shirt. He is sitting in a brown leather armchair in a library, looking towards the camera with a slight smile. He has a laptop on his lap. The library has wooden bookshelves filled with books, a patterned carpet, and a window with blinds in the background. A blue jacket is draped over the chair next to him.

“We in the arts have so much to learn from and share with other fields and other parts of the world. This was an extraordinary opportunity.”
– John Milbauer

Dr. John Milbauer, a JFK Fellow, in Harvard Law School's library.

Global Impact

Piano Professor **Dr. John Milbauer** earned a Master in Public Administration degree as a **John F. Kennedy Fellow** at [Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government](#) with the support of the College of Fine Arts, the Fred Fox School of Music and the Provost's office. Beginning in July 2019 with an intensive daily regime of quantitative analysis and microeconomics, the year-long program continued with studies in adaptive leadership, management, public ethics, global governance, big data and inequality, and economic development strategy. Milbauer supplemented his studies at the Harvard Business School (*Arts and Cultural Entrepreneurship*) and MIT (*Innovation Ecosystems, Regional Acceleration*), while also serving as Co-Chair of the HKS Arts and Culture Caucus and Associate Editor of the HKS *LGBTQ Policy Journal*.

Projects while at Harvard included formulating strategies to push for the removal of anti-gay penal codes in the Eastern Caribbean as well as generating growth diagnostics for Ethiopia with colleagues from Yemen and Pakistan. Milbauer was inspired by regular contact with such public figures as Cornel West, Samantha Power, David Gergen, Ricardo Hausmann, Wendy Sherman, Raj Chetty, and especially his advisor Ron Heifetz, and credits his 200 MPA classmates — one-third from countries with developing economies and political systems— for creating an environment of inquiry, growth, and mutual respect.

Photography, Video and Imaging Professor **Sama Alshaibi** was featured in the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art's *State of the Art 2020*, **one of the most prestigious contemporary exhibitions in the country**. This *Hyperallergic* article discusses how she brought elements from *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves* together to [comment on current sociopolitical realities](#) in her sculptural installation, *The Cessation*. Alshaibi also had a one-person exhibition at Ayyam Gallery in Dubai.

The Government of Colombia and the City Council of Medellín awarded music alumnus, conductor **Dr. Juan Montoya** with the [Order of Merit Don Juan del Corral](#) – Silver Category. **The award is one of the highest honors for a citizen** to receive and commends Dr. Montoya's successful music career.

Art History Professor **Dr. Irene Bald Romano** led an international team of scholars examining the confiscation, theft, and trade in Egyptian, Greek, Etruscan and Roman antiquities during the Nazi period. She is the academic editor and co-author of a monograph to be published as a special Issue of the *Journal of the International Association for Research Institutes in the History of Art*, in collaboration with the Getty Research Institute and the Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte of Munich.

Hank Stratton, artistic director for Arizona Repertory Theatre, traveled to Paris and London with School of Theatre, Film and Television Director **Andy Belser** to explore study abroad opportunities for students. Stratton, a stage and screen veteran, shares his experience, in [Two Americans in Paris \(and London\)](#).

Dance faculty **Christopher Compton** and **Tamara Dyke-Compton** presented virtually at the [11th Annual International Conference on Visual and Performing Arts](#) in Athens on *The Mindful Dancer: Implementing mindfulness, healthy rhythms, and habits in the technique class*, discussed ways in which mindfulness practices, healthy habits, and daily rhythms in dancers at the individual level can contribute to the creation of a healthy, supportive, and empathetic dance community.

Assistant music professor **Dr. Jennie Gubner** is a founding partner/faculty member of an Erasmus+ European Union-funded, multi-year summer program (2020-2023) in innovative approaches to arts-based research called *Encounters between Arts, Ethnography, and Pedagogy*, based in Lesvos, Greece. Collaborations come from academic and arts institutions in Norway, Greece, Netherlands, United Kingdom, and Sweden.

Director of Jazz Studies **Angelo Versace** participated in the Fu Jen Catholic University Jazz Camp in Taipei, sponsored by the [American Institute of Taiwan](#). Versace returns each year as a standing faculty member to direct big bands, coach combos, teach improvisation classes, conduct camp master classes, and teach jazz piano classes and lessons.



HarpFusion (left-to-right): Hunter Ackerley, Director Dr. Michelle Gott, Victoria Gonzalez, Sarah Carruth, Xiaodi Xu, and Yvonne Cox.

Photo: Marie Teemant

Faculty members **Dr. Michelle Gott**, director of HarpFusion, and **Autumn Eckman**, choreographer, collaborated with MFA artist **Dorsey Kaufmann** on [Mirage, a three-part multimedia performance](#) that was set to be performed in the Harpa Concert Hall in Reykjavik, Iceland, when the COVID-19 crisis hit and was cancelled.



Lawrence Gipe, *Where We Were, and How We Got There*, 2015, graphite on paper, 42" x 600"

Lawrence Gipe, associated professor at the School of Art, organized *Quarantined Visions*, an [online exhibition of work created during the COVID-19](#) pandemic lockdowns in *Artillery* magazine, beginning with images from China. Gipe also taught a two-week course in residency at Tsinghua University in Beijing and gave a lecture on the importance of conceptual development and social interaction between artists and the community.

Dr. Sarah J. Moore, the Art History Program Chair, spent a month in Lisbon researching that city's World's Fair from 1940. She was selected to present research on the Lisbon World's Fair at the annual [Popular Culture Association](#) meeting.

The Fred Fox School of Music hosted a showcase a **national, award-winning Mexican youth orchestra**, [Esperanza Azteca](#), a celebration of our binational cultural heritage.

Java Magazine profiled artist **Papay Solomon** and his first solo exhibition, [African for the first time](#), at the Joseph Gross Gallery. The exhibition was a response to the School of Art's VASE lecture series theme, *STOP. LOOK. LISTEN. Art and Social Justice*.

"Representation is important, so important. To me, it's critical that I'm represented correctly, so I like to pay that forward with people I sit with: Do unto others as you want done to you," Solomon said. "I'm trying to paint life, not just portraiture."

There's nothing dreadful about this crown, Portrait of Fiston Dimanche Nbarabu Buhendwa - Congo, oil on linen, 2019, by Papay Solomon.



The online art publication, *Hyperallergic*, featured the University of Arizona Museum (UAMA) of Art group exhibition, [Other TARGET/s](#) in which artists condemn migrant detention, mass incarceration, and the juvenile justice system, while portraying resiliency, grace and dignity.

Dr. Chad Nicholson, director of bands, was a featured guest conductor at Tokyo's leading international school, [The American School in Tokyo](#), conducting Japanese and American student musicians at a special combined concert.

The UAMA **Edward Hopper** painting *The City*, was loaned to the [Fondation Beyeler in Basel, Switzerland](#), for a solo exhibition of the artist's work.

Assistant Professor **Greg Pierotti** was the opening speaker and workshop leader at the second annual [Documentary Theatre Festival](#) in Hong Kong. He also led workshops with Hong Kong student protesters.

Professor **Tom Patterson**, director of the [Bolton Guitar Studies Program](#), gave numerous performances and master classes in Brazil, Columbia, British Columbia, and several in China.



Wildcat Spirit

David Hume Kennerly, "Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, before Addressing the Congressional Women's Caucus, United States Capitol, Washington, D.C." (detail) 2001, Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona: David Hume Kennerly Archive © Center for Creative Photography, Arizona Board of Regents

In response to COVID, the Center of Creative Photography initiated a **new Social Media Response Team** to re-imagine CCP's social media platforms as spaces for photographic education and public engagement, and such platforms as [CCP's Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) have witnessed a 20% and counting increase in followers.

New social media content series have included features on students-in-focus, stories from the CCP collection, highlights from the world of photography and art news, plus *Introducing...*, that looks beyond the CCP collection, focusing on some of photography's most exciting contemporary practitioners.

The Center [launched its first-ever mobile app, CCP Interactive](#). Audiences can listen to commentary about art and archival collections, enjoy unique digitally-designed photography viewings, and have immersive experiences with current CCP gallery exhibitions, like *Ansel Adams: Signature Style* and *The Qualities of LIGHT*.

CCP expanded interdisciplinary education through photography, including the launch of [CCP's LENS Curriculum Initiative](#), which involved educators across camps experimenting with integrative learning models through visual and archival materials.

Composer Tom Peterson's *Quintetto Profano*, a piano quintet for quarantined musicians, [had its world premiere online](#), performed by Fred Fox School of Music graduate students. As part of **Dr. Matthew Mugmon's** undergraduate music history course, *Quintetto Profano* brings together music composition, performance, and scholarship to explore the meaning of art in a time of crisis. The composition was made possible with the support of the Arizona Center for University Education Scholarship.



Gwen Stefani

23 mins • 🌐

My mind is blown! Hearing Tragic Kingdom arranged like this is a reminder what a genius Eric Stefani is as a writer & for starting **No Doubt** ❤️ I walked around the house after wondering if I was in a dream ✨ Thank u **The Pride of Arizona Marching Band** for this incredible performance! 🙌🙌🙌 gx #MusicsAGift #MusicMoves #MusicOneLove

The Pride of Arizona marching band [presented a stunning No Doubt tribute](#) at the 66th Annual University of Arizona Band Day. The medley included tracks *Tragic Kingdom*, *Don't Speak*, *Hella Good*, and *Just a Girl*. And the band seemed to like it.

The two-day [TURN UP Multimedia Festival](#) became **the first in-person event on campus to transform into a virtual one**, thanks to music professor **Kay He**. “Art has no boundaries, as artists we all belong to the same art community,” He wrote. “We want to TURN UP the volume and visibility of artists from underrepresented groups in music, art, and technology despite the current situation. We promote equality, culture-connecting, and interdisciplinary collaboration.”

The School of Dance was the **first-ever pre-professional ensemble**, and the second group worldwide among professional and pre-professional ensembles, to perform Jessica Lang’s masterwork, ***Escaping the Weight of Darkness***. The School received permission by The George Balanchine Trust to perform another masterwork, ***The Four Temperaments*** for the second time. Four new works were created by faculty, [including *Gold Jackets*](#) by **Autumn Eckman**, with three in-progress that were planned for *Spring Collection 2020*.

Dance Magazine explains why the School of Dance is the ultimate prep for company life, stating, “If you’re looking to get a [head-start on your professional dance career](#)—or to just have a college experience that balances company-level training and repertory with rigorous academics—the **School of Dance**’s undergraduate and graduate programs have myriad opportunities to offer.”

[How can we tap the power of the brain](#) to enhance our creativity? **Andy Belser**, director of the School of Theatre, Film & Television, and **Molly Gebrian**, assistant professor of viola, have researched the field of neuroscience, learning and creativity in theatre and music to discover how to improve how students learn and perform.

The 15th Annual [I Dream in Widescreen](#) – the School of Theatre, Film & Television’s signature showcase of senior thesis films – went digital for the first time. The two-day event was produced by a team led by the School’s new Advancement & External Relations Director, **Kerryn Negus**, a former film publicist and Cannes veteran, along with faculty **Lisanne Skyler** and **Beverly Seckinger** and marketing staff member **Jordan Lorsung**. The event attracted over 10,000 YouTube views.

Arizona Arts in Schools’ **Brad Richter** hosted two Lead Guitar Virtual Concerts, featuring famous guitarists, like **Sergio Vallin**, **Alex De Grassi**, **Sergio Assad** and **Zach Filkens** of OneRepublic, who played [an exclusive rendition of their hit, *Counting Stars*](#), forming a play-along classical guitar orchestra of students from around the country. These showcases, with nearly 16,000 views, were connecting performance opportunities for students with limited access to arts learning during the pandemic.

Derek van der Merwe, the assistant vice president and chief operating officer for Arizona Athletics, gave the Keynote Address at the 2019 Fall Commencement, sharing his unique perspective on [the relationship between athletics and arts](#).

“How do you design a football stadium? Art. How do you engage the consumer experience? Art. Every part of our experience, the narratives, the storytelling. Every part of it is impacted by art.

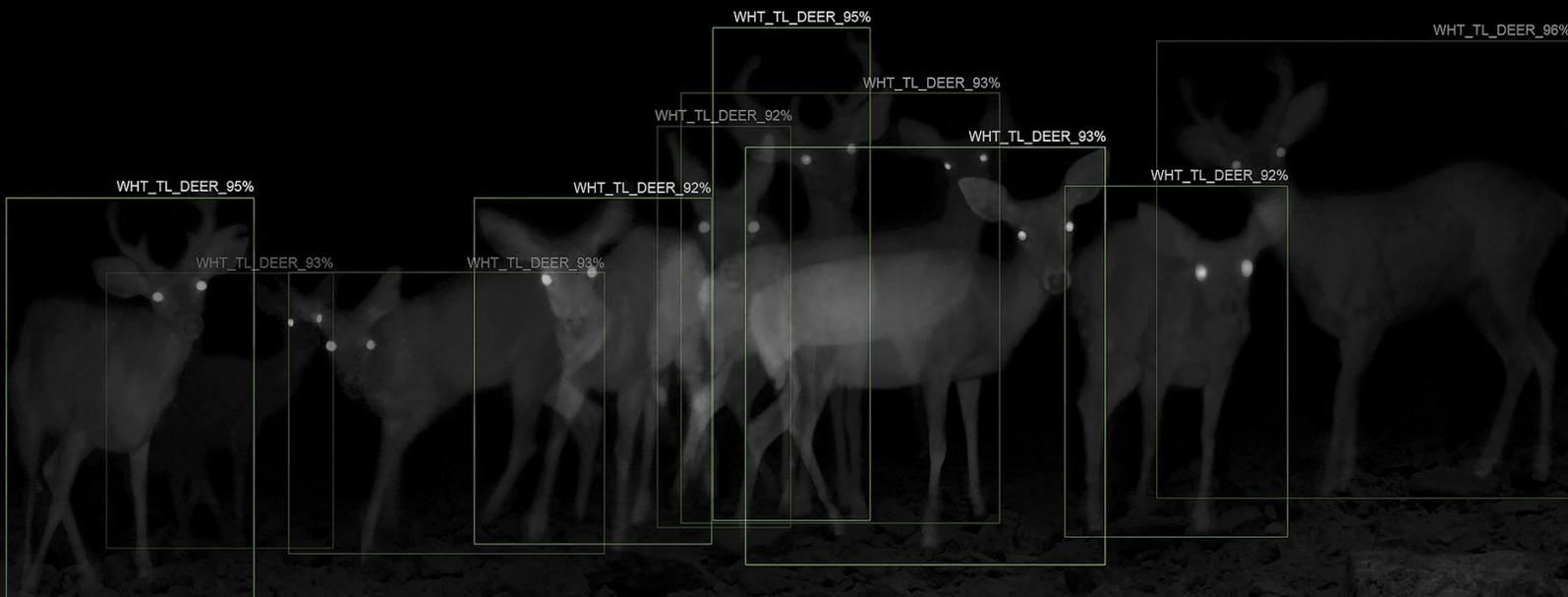
“The ability of an artist to see something unique and special in something that is ordinary is what amazes me. It’s how the artist sees life and its beauty. It’s that creativity that inspires people. Only an artist can do that.”

President Robert C. Robbins was on hand for the [opening of the new Physical Therapy and Pilates studio](#) at the School of Dance in January. The 750-square-foot space is focused on conditioning, injury prevention and physical rehabilitation for dance majors, who benefit from the collaboration between athletic trainers, physical therapists and doctors from Dance, Campus Health Services, Arizona Athletics and Banner/UMC.

“Some of the best athletes at the university are in the dance program and ... they’re always undefeated,” he said.

Athletic Trainer Kristin Miller with
President Robert C. Robbins.





The School of Art's photography graduate program was ranked No. 3 in the nation. This image was taken by Alex Turner (MFA '20) on the U.S.-Mexico border as part of his *Blind River* project.

By the Numbers

The College of Fine Arts has delivered the largest class of first-year students in 16 years, preliminary numbers indicate. [The new student enrollment number for 2020-21 is 403](#), the first class to top 400 since 2004. And this new class is diverse; 46.65% self-identify as non-white. The number of Black students grew by 45% from last year and Native Americans doubled.

"We recruit nationally in a very competitive environment, and our partners at the University in enrollment, marketing and communications have played a significant role in increasing our visibility in key markets with the 'Wonder' campaign," said Andrew Schulz, Dean of the College of Fine Arts.

"I am heartened that even in a time of significant challenges for the arts broadly, students continue to see the value in coming to Tucson for the world-class training we offer in our highly-ranked academic programs in art, music, dance, theatre, and film."

"Our [photography program](#) is a powerhouse. An amazing, high-profile faculty and wildly ambitious student population combined with unprecedented resources in the Center for Creative Photography and the broader photo community in Tucson make for an unmatched combination."

Colin Blakely, School of Art Director

The School of Art's photography graduate program was ranked [No. 3 in the nation](#) by the *U.S. News and World Report*. The program moved up six spots in the publication's peer assessment survey, taken every four years. The school's MFA program overall jumped from No. 55 to 32.

The School of Art's [Illustration + Design program](#) was **ranked No. 9 nationally for public universities** in a ranking from Animation Career Review, which considered nearly 150 institutions. "There are very few public institutions with a program specifically dedicated to illustration," said Blakely. "It is great to see our growing program gain the recognition it deserves."

The University of Arizona is [one of the world's top institutions for arts and humanities studies](#). According to *Times Higher Education*, the university [ranks No. 11 among U.S. public institutions](#) and No. 80 out of 536 colleges and universities worldwide.

U.S. News & World Report ranked the university's [arts and humanities programs No. 30](#) in the area of global and regional research reputation and academic research performance, using indicators such as publications, citations and international collaboration in the 2020 Best Global Universities report of the world's elite research institutions.

[Arizona Arts in Schools](#) and Lead Guitar provided daily to twice-weekly arts classes for 4,531 students through **free and sustainable arts programs in public schools** where 80% or more of students are eligible for free/reduced price lunch – schools which have a correlating lack of access to critical resources and opportunities including arts education.

This effort also included:

- 5,850 in-school service hours
- **110 public school teachers received 880 hours of professional development**
- 78 schools hosted year-long in-school arts programs designed by Arizona faculty and staff
- 28 In-school concerts from global touring artists were attended by 10,000 additional students
- 14 Arizona students and faculty were included on instructor teams
- 2 Virtual Showcase Concerts with 15,661 YouTube views

[School of Dance](#) season subscriptions reached an all-time high of **860 subscribers** to the 2019-20 season. This represents a **9.6% increase** from 2018-19, and continues a four-year trend in exceptional growth: **6,693 tickets** were sold prior to the March closure. The School of Dance produced **33 performances pre-COVID**, including six performances in service to the wider community and in addition to the regular performance season.

The School of Dance once again received high marks in various national rankings, including from [College Magazine](#) (#10), [College Gazette](#) (#7) and the [OnStage Blog](#) (Top 30).

The School of Theatre, Film & Television has jumped 10 spots from last year in [The Wrap's annual Top 50 U.S. Film Schools](#) and is now **one of the Top 25 Film Schools in the U.S.**, as ranked by Hollywood professionals.

@UArizonaArts

The Arizona Arts **social media platforms grew by 86%** in followers.

149%  [Instagram](#)

119%  [Twitter](#)

63%  [YouTube](#)

22%  [Facebook](#)

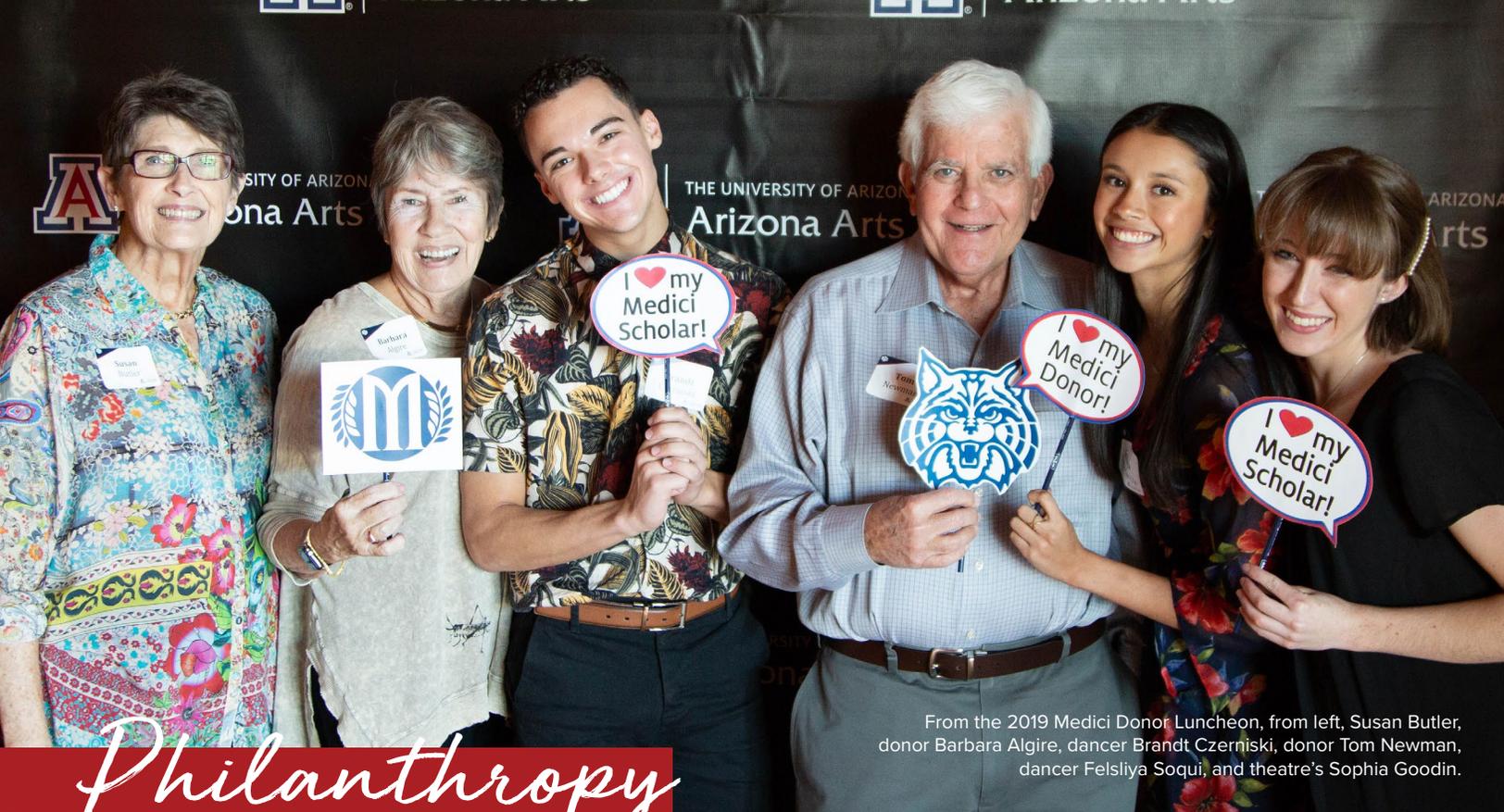
Today, the [Arizona Arts IG account](#) has the **eighth-largest following** out of 20 college accounts at the University of Arizona, growing from 714 followers to 1,787.

The Arizona Arts message resonated during the COVID crisis and reentry. Over a six-month period, the Arizona Arts account had the **third-largest Instagram follower growth** for Colleges (Feb.-Aug.) behind only Eller College of Management and the Tucson College of Medicine.

The collective of Arizona Arts' units has an overall social following of **64,230, an improvement of 25.7%** since Spring 2019.

Diego Abeytia, Pride of Arizona drum major.





From the 2019 Medici Donor Luncheon, from left, Susan Butler, donor Barbara Algire, dancer Brandt Czernjski, donor Tom Newman, dancer Felsliya Soqui, and theatre's Sophia Goodin.

Philanthropy

Our loyal donors and alumni [generously supported Arizona Arts](#) with a record dollar amount of over **\$12.5 million in gifts** last year. Over the past year Arizona Arts has continued to build momentum while navigating a new COVID-19 world. We are grateful to our donors as they help us create new experiences for students and ensure an exciting and sustainable future for the arts at the University of Arizona.

We are especially grateful for a seven-figure donation to the **School of Art**. A formal announcement will be forthcoming with details about the donor and the transformational impact the gift will have on the school and its students. The School of Art also received \$150,000 from **Patricia Morgan** and **Peter Salomon** to support the commission of a major public artwork to activate the Speedway pedestrian underpass that serves as a main point of entry to the Arts District. The project, in conjunction with the gift noted above, serves as a first step in realizing the vision of the Arizona Arts Master Plan.

The **School of Art's Advisory Board** raised funds for a mural to be painted on the Joseph Gross Gallery by internationally renowned artist and alumnus **Karlito Miller Espinosa**. The mural was postponed due to COVID-19.

The **School of Theatre, Film & Television** received an anonymous gift of \$250,000 which arrived at a pivotal time with COVID-19 forcing the closure of its theatres for all performances. The funding will allow the School to invest in equipment to present outdoor productions and allow actors' to learn in entirely new settings. It will also fund a digital showcase that will allow performers' filmed work to be shared with many more agents and casting directors worldwide.

The **School of Dance** received funding from **Joyce Crain** and **Carl Philabaum** for the production of **Masterworks Repertoire**. Their generous support provides opportunities for dancers to expand technically and artistically through performing significant repertoire—from the past and present.

The **Center for Creative Photography** received a significant capital gift from **Paul and Alice Baker** to fund the creation of the new **Alice Chaiten Baker Interdisciplinary Gallery**. Last October the Center hosted *David Kennerly: In the Room* featuring a conversation with Jon Meacham. Bank of America donated \$250,000 to sponsor the event and the Center secured \$100,000 individual donation to fund digitization of the Kennerly archive.

The CCP also received a significant capital gift from **Patricia Morgan** and **Peter Salomon**, **Ken and Judy Riskind** enhance the entryway to the Center, tying the CCP more closely with its Arizona Arts partners across Olive Road. The Center was fortunate to receive a COVID emergency grant from the **Terra Foundation** which will be used to fund virtual and digital programming until it is safe to physically open again. The Center is grateful to its members and [Director's Circle](#) donors who continue to support the Center on an annual basis and to the many collectors, gallerists, and individuals who donate photographs and archives. These important **gifts totaled more than \$2 million** last year.

The **University of Arizona Museum of Art** received \$10,000 from the **Garfield Foundation** to support the continued growth of the Archive of Visual Arts and the digitization and processing of the **Frances O'Brien Archives**. The museum also received \$4,300 from the **Community Foundation of Southern Arizona** to expand and support *Mapping Q*, a series of art workshops for LGBTQ+ youth between 14-24 where participants explore topics of art-making, self-care and harm reduction.



Arizona Arts in Schools/Lead Guitar is entering the third year of a three-year commitment totaling \$343,000 from the **David and Lura Lovell Foundation**. Lead Guitar received multiple NEA grants for specific projects over the past year and a \$36,000 Arts Works grant. An additional \$50,000 in was received in June through NEA CARES.

[Medici Circle](#) donors brought in \$62,000 last year. We are grateful for their continued support of our scholars. These gifts have an incredible impact on the creative journeys of students throughout the College of Fine Arts!

Arizona Arts Live Executive Director **Chad Herzog** [spoke about the importance of investing](#) in the arts for a talk with community creatives. “The arts invite us to look at our fellow humans with generosity and curiosity. If we’ve ever needed that capacity in history, we need it now. We need it today. **Investing in the arts empowers people.**”



In Memoriam

Dr. Patricia Van Metre was [a force of nature](#) on the University of Arizona campus. She was a sought-after administrator, who served in leadership roles for the Extended University, College of Academic Affairs, the Graduate College and the College of Fine Arts. Pat died on June 5, 2019. She was 87.

“She was famous on this campus,” said **Jory Hancock**, Director of the School of Dance. “She was a stunningly brilliant administrator, especially in the eyes of President Henry Koffler and Provost Nils Hasselmo, and certainly was treasured by other administrations that followed.” She was a Life Member of the Dance Advisory Board.

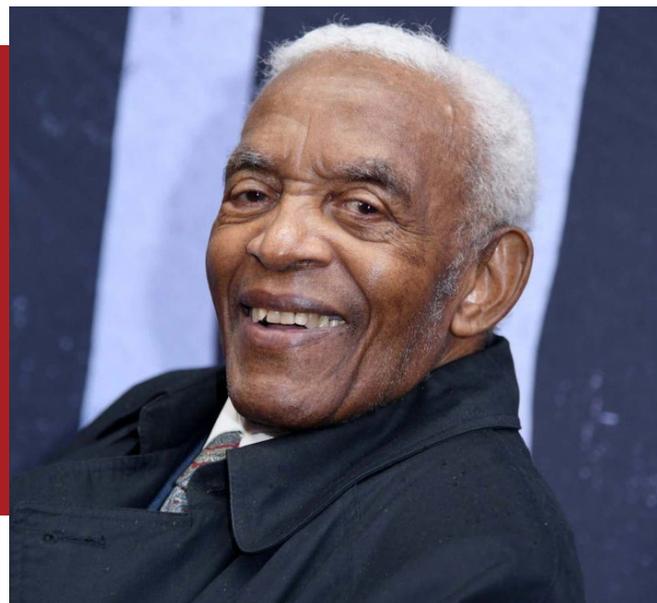
As the Acting Dean for College of Fine Arts, Pat inherited a \$18 million renovation and expansion project for the Fine Arts facilities in the early 1990s, during a time of budget cuts. **Judy Bassnett**, who was hired by Pat as Acting Associate Dean and served as a coordinator on the project, remembers a determined Dean Van Metre fighting for the arts. “Pat would not allow them to cut one square foot from the design,” Bassnett writes.

“When I attend an Arizona Repertory Theatre production in Tornabene or a concert in Holsclaw or Marroney or walk into the Gross Gallery I always look about at the four corners, the ceilings, the space ... I remember what a fight Pat Van Metre made for it all ... for a college she had no degree in, but for the love she held for the arts, faculty and students.”

Irving Burgie

The man who wrote the calypso classic, *Day-O (The Banana Boat Song)*, Arizona alumnus **Irving Burgie**, died Nov. 29, 2019, at 95. Considered one of the greatest composers of Caribbean music, Burgie attended classes at the Fred Fox School of Music in 1948-49, after serving in World War II in an all-black U.S. Army battalion. Using the G.I. Bill, Burgie explored music education, initially taking classes at Brooklyn College, then the Julliard School in Manhattan, before attending the University of Arizona, majoring in voice. **His songs sold over 100 million records worldwide.** He was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2007.

[The New York Times' obituary of Mr. Burgie.](#)



Ann Blackmarr

Patron of the Tucson arts community, **Ann Blackmarr** was tragically taken from us April 19, 2019. Ann served on the Advisory Boards for both the College of Fine Arts and UA Presents. She and her husband, Neal, supported well over 100 art students for a summer study aboard, internship or scholarship opportunity. Ann established the G. Ann Blackmarr Endowment for students in theatre design and technology at the School of Theatre, Film & Television.

[“Ann was a true patron of the arts,”](#) said Lisa Comella, former CFA senior director of development. “Her heart was with our students and faculty. She didn’t care where you were from or whether or not you had means – she cared about helping our students and she cared about promoting the arts. I’ll always remember her kindness, her optimism and her candor. Ann was an original.”

Peter Coogan

Donor and friend **Peter Coogan** passed away on April 9, 2020. Thanks to the generosity of Peter and his wife, Debbie, the Fred Fox School of Music [acquired two new Steinway grand pianos](#) for Holsclaw and Crowder Hall. We are truly grateful to Peter and Debbie, both Music Advisory Board members, for their support. [Debbie Coogan was interviewed](#) by WBUR Radio Boston.

Len Coris

College of Fine Arts board member **Len Coris** died on Jan. 31, 2019. Len’s love of art led him to establish the [Tucson Healing Art Program](#), which improves the hospital environment for patients, visitors and staff through art and music. The program has now placed over 1,000 paintings and sculptures on the Tucson Medical Center campus.

He was an active volunteer in the Tucson community for over 20 years, mentoring graduate students at the University of Arizona. Len and Doris volunteered as Reading Seed coaches, working one-on-one with students at Soleng Tom Elementary for over 10 years.

Lisa Marie Kanouse

School of Art alumna **Lisa Kanouse** (BFA '00) was well known for her paintings of local landmarks and is a finalist for Best Visual Artist for Tucson Weekly’s The Best of Tucson 2020. She died April 7, 2020.

Lisa, a Tucson native, began her study of art and design at the Parsons School of Design in New York, before finishing in Tucson. Lisa’s unique style was influenced by Mexican folk art and classical European artists. In 2004, she studied tile mosaics, sculptures, and ceramics in Vincenza, Italy and Faenza, Italy.

Ruth Kolker

School of Dance donor and friend **Ruth Kolker** died on July 13, 2020. Ruth served on the School of Dance Advisory Board for more than a decade. She shared her passion for the program far and wide, and introduced many Tucsonans to the School of Dance and the University arts programs. Along with her husband, **Dr. Ron Kolker**, she was especially dedicated to supporting students through the Medici Scholars program. In addition to the College of Fine Arts, she supported many community causes, including the Jewish Family & Children’s Service of Southern Arizona. We will miss her infectious positivity and openhearted spirit.



Sheila Pitt

A professor at the School of Art for over 30 years, **Sheila Pitt**, passed away on April 30, 2020. As an educator, she taught art students printmaking, but as an individual, she taught us all the power of determination, perseverance, and resilience. Her life was turned upside down after a catastrophic accident in 2008. She was thrown from a horse, breaking her neck and becoming quadriplegic. Sheila had to relearn how to make and teach art. [She returned to the classroom in 2009](#), after one year of surgeries and challenging rehabilitation.

“I decided to major in art specifically because of Sheila Pitt,” alumna Mora Kelleher-Smith remembers. “At the beginning, I thought she was really hard, but her confidence in me has given me confidence in myself. She has taught me that I can always do better.”

Sheila was a woodcut printmaker. After the accident, she learned to sketch with her non-dominant, mostly paralyzed hand, on a computer, which she continued to do, along with teaching, for nearly 12 more years.

A passionate teacher and a generous colleague, she will be greatly missed.

Sheila Pitt, *The Collar*, etching on paper, 2010.