

expressions

cfpca

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college of fine, performing and communication arts



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letter from the dean



Dear CFPCA Alumni, Supporters and Friends,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to this newly designed issue of *Expressions*. As the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts (CFPCA) continues to evolve, we decided that a re-envisioned magazine would better capture the passion we have for our students' continued growth and success.

After all, we have served our students for nearly 30 years through our 16 undergraduate and 10 graduate programs. With over 2000 majors in our four departments, the college's sheer size makes it a major force in the life of the university. But even more impressive are the roughly 100,000 people who attend a college performance, lecture, show, film or contest each year. CFPCA is truly a force not only in higher education, but also in Detroit's artistic and professional communities.

We are proud of our students and the more than 17,000 alumni who have come through our doors. Many of our alums have gone on to extraordinary achievements within their chosen fields and we count among the ranks a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and recipients of and nominees for the Grammy, Emmy, Tony, Golden Globe, Obie, Screen Actors Guild and Caldecott awards.

This year, under the leadership of President M. Roy Wilson, Wayne State is announcing its second comprehensive campaign, *Pivotal Moments: Our Campaign for Wayne State University*. Since 1986, the college has been a place where pivotal moments are created and nurtured. From the student who attended her first debate trip, to many debut performances on the Hilberry stage, to the students who played with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, we have expanded horizons, explored the boundaries of creativity and contributed to the rich intellectual and artistic experiences of thousands of Wayne State Warriors (and a great number of Tartars as well!). For many

CFPCA students, the pivotal moments open new horizons to rewarding careers as artists, dancers, scholars, journalists, actors, performers, composers and leaders.

As CFPCA looks forward to its 30th anniversary and beyond, we too face pivotal moments. Higher education is changing at an accelerated pace and Detroit is going through a revolutionary revitalization. The visual and performing arts have never been more dramatic nor more critical to creating meaningful places and experiences. The needs and interests of students are progressing in exciting ways. Our plans for the future include a new Hilberry Theatre and a new performance complex to support the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance. The university's commitment to this wonderful new facility is a powerful statement about the arts and about the continued rebirth of Midtown. During the campaign, we are also working to significantly expand the number of endowed professorships in the college. And of course, scholarship support, the lifeblood of so many of our students' finances, will continue to be a fundraising priority.

I wish to invite you to consider your own pivotal moment with the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts and consider ways in which you can help ensure these opportunities are available for others.

Again, we hope you enjoy this magazine. I wish to thank Lisa Vallee-Smith and Airfoil Public Relations for their support in creating this new and revitalized *Expressions*. And I thank you all for your ongoing support of CFPCA.

Matthew W. Seeger
Professor and Dean



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Expressions

College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts

Matthew W. Seeger, Professor and Dean
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On the cover:

Macbeth returned to the Hilberry Theatre in 2013-14.

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made @wayne



Narjes Almajidi ventures Beyond the Armor

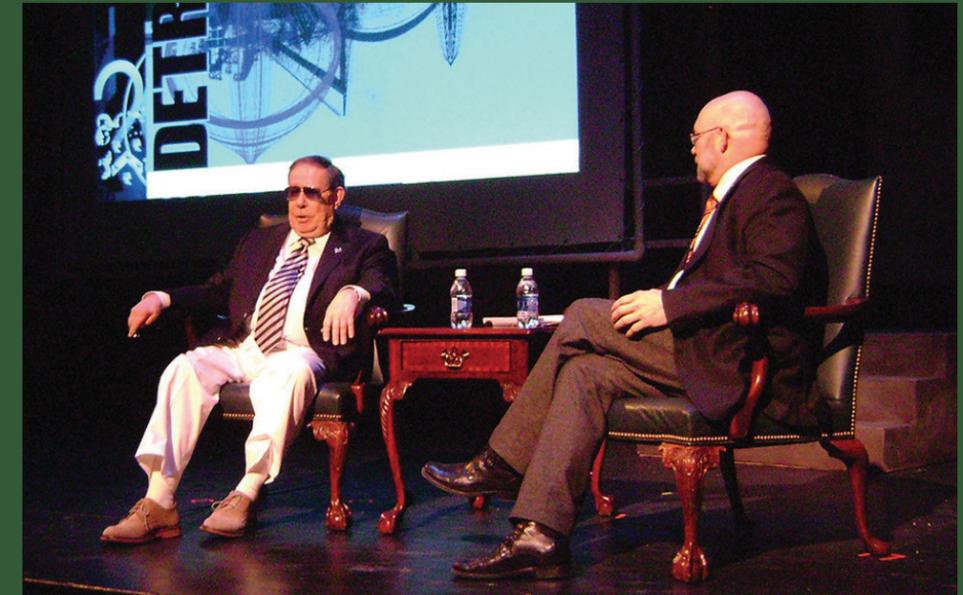
Ten local fashion designers, including Wayne State art major Narjes Almajidi, were inspired by the Detroit Institute of Arts' 2014 exhibition *Samurai: Beyond the Sword* and put their talents to the test in *Beyond the Armor*, a competition to create an outfit based on artworks and objects in the DIA's show. Narjes found her future aspirations in a class on patterns. "It was when I took the

flat pattern class that I was interested in the making of patterns and I thought I could make a career out of this," she said. "I loved making the patterns so I decided to go into design just for that." Completed ensembles in the DIA competition were on display during April and May. The public cast votes for the various outfits at three Detroit-area appearances and online. The ensembles then were featured in a fashion show at the DIA in mid-May. •

Visual futurists Syd Mead and Roger Servick stage triumphant return to Wayne State

CFPCA welcomed back to campus Syd Mead and Roger Servick '71 for a captivating lecture and Q&A session in March on their futurist artistic vision and career in science fiction, architecture and transportation design. An audience of designers, automotive enthusiasts, sci-fi fans and WSU students gathered in the Hilberry Theatre to be wowed by Mead's presentation of visuals from all sectors of his work.

Syd Mead began his career in industrial design at Ford's Advanced Styling Studio. He went on to design and illustrate for numerous corporations. In 1970 he founded Syd Mead Inc. in Detroit, through which he provided architectural renderings for several international



clients. Servick attended WSU in industrial design. He manages all business affairs for Syd Mead Inc. After moving his firm to California in 1975, Mead

began designing for major film studios. He provided designs for *Star Trek: The Motion Picture*, *Blade Runner*, *TRON* and *Aliens*. •

- Oct 13 Concert Band and Wind Symphony
- Oct 20 University Orchestra
- Nov 10 Concert Band and Wind Symphony
- Nov 24 Choral Showcase and Orchestra
- Dec 8 Jazz Big Band I
- Jan 26 Concert Band and Wind Symphony
- Feb 9 Concert Band and Wind Symphony
- Feb 23 University Orchestra
- Mar 9 Choral Showcase
- Mar 30 Jazz Big Band I and Orchestra
- Apr 27 University Orchestra and Chorus

Mondays at the Max with Wayne State

Featuring large ensembles from the Department of Music, the 2014-15 Mondays at the Max with Wayne State concert series, now in its third season, includes 11 dynamic performances. Orchestra Hall's 350-seat 'Music Box' space in the Max M. Fisher Music Center gives Wayne State's students the opportunity to perform in a professional venue that is part of the home

of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. All Mondays at the Max with Wayne State performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$5 to \$15 and are available at the DSO box office, DSO.org, or 313-576-5111. •



Tom Skerritt imparts career advice to Wayne State students

Movie, television and stage actor Tom Skerritt came back to where his remarkable career was launched when the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance presented "A Conversation with Apple Award Recipient Tom Skerritt" at the Hilberry Theatre in April. A fascinated audience enjoyed Skerritt sharing his favorite memories. "Wayne State is where a lot of significant things happened for me," he said. "I had some wonderful professors. Now that I'm back I see it's more of a powerhouse than it was 50 years ago."

Wayne State's Sarah Applebaum Nederlander Endowed Award for Excellence in Theatre is named for Sarah Applebaum Nederlander, or "Apple" as she was affectionately known, and is given by WSU on behalf of the Nederlander family which owns and operates theatre venues nationwide. Each theatre professional honoree conducts master classes for students while visiting campus. Tom Skerritt and his wife Julie returned in 2007 as well, when he received WSU's Arts Achievement Award. •



Photo: Felix Li

CFPCA welcomes President M. Roy Wilson with Inauguration Concert

CFPCA welcomed incoming Wayne State President M. Roy Wilson and his wife, Jacqueline, with a special inauguration concert April 3, part of two days of ceremonial and scholarly events celebrating the inauguration of the university's 12th president. An audience of the campus community and surrounding area packed the Community Arts Auditorium to enjoy a program of the best of our college.

"I was captivated by the talent and passion of the students and faculty members who performed at the

President's Inauguration Celebration," said Mrs. Jacqueline Wilson. "The range of expertise on stage, combined with the depth and creativity of each piece, was remarkable."

Performances included song and dance from *Guys and Dolls*, a short film titled *Summertime* and a Concert Chorale performance of "This Little Light of Mine." The WSU Chamber Winds and Jazz Big Band also performed. MJS Packaging hosted a post-show reception for President and Mrs. Wilson and the student performers. •



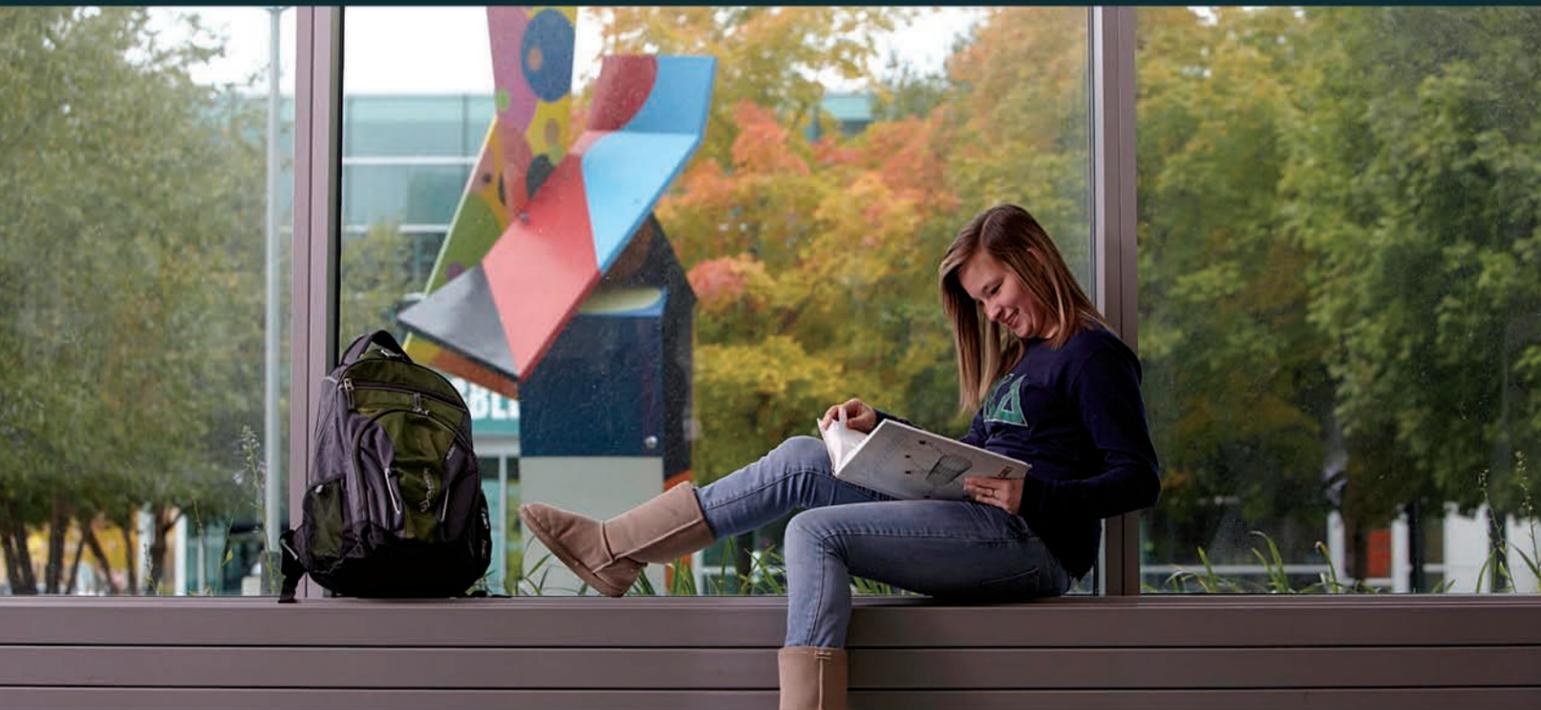
Urban Debate League spans 30 years

Now celebrating its 30th anniversary, the Detroit Urban Debate League (UDL) is a partnership between Wayne State and the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues extending the social and academic benefits of debate to many Detroit high school students. The league is a prominent education initiative involving more than 250 debaters from 18 Detroit public schools.

"The Wayne State Forensics Union considers outreach to our local community to be of utmost importance," said Kelly Young '06, WSU associate professor and director of forensics. "Working 30 years with the Detroit Urban Debate League, Wayne State debate has helped Detroit students develop effective advocacy, communication and critical thinking skills."

Each summer, UDL organizes a free debate institute at Wayne State to prepare students for the upcoming season and provide teachers with professional development. The centerpiece of UDL's activities is a series of monthly citywide debate tournaments held at WSU. Such experiences have a powerful effect on students' self-esteem and interest in education. •

wayne state comprehensive campaign



Pivotal Moments

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Aristotle observed, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." And each habit is ultimately composed of moments. Moments that drive progress, change lives, build futures and inspire others.

As Wayne State University embarks on an ambitious new campaign, the entire community will focus on these moments. *Pivotal Moments: Our Campaign for Wayne State University* will allow the university to celebrate and enhance our community's unique events and experiences while promoting the advancement of its programs and facilities. The goal is to raise \$750 million by the university's 150th anniversary in 2018.

College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts

As WSU's second comprehensive campaign, this university-wide effort will facilitate important and transformational change. In 2009, *Wayne First: The Campaign for Wayne State University* exceeded its goal of \$500 million and the success of the Wayne First campaign serves as a model for this next campaign effort.

"We're starting in a different place," said Susan Burns '84, president of St. John Providence Health System Foundations and member of the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts Pivotal Moments campaign committee.

Her fellow committee members are Daniel J. Loepp '82 '86, president and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield

of Michigan, David Lubin, president of MJS Packaging, Phoebe Mainster '83, professor of English at Wayne State University, and Lisa Vallee-Smith '84, co-founder and co-CEO of Airfoil Public Relations. These committed alumni, community leaders and friends come from a variety of fields and backgrounds but all share a commitment to the college and a passion for its mission.

Burns, who spearheaded the Wayne First campaign as vice president of development and alumni affairs for Wayne State University at the time, noted that this committee is "getting energy from what we're doing for the community," an energy that helps push them to achieve the same, if not greater success this time around. The committee hopes to generate a catalytic excitement around the campaign and the university that will perpetuate more interest and participation.

The theme of pivotal moments is designed to resonate with the experiences of so many Wayne State

"I am especially proud to come from a university that means so much to Detroit and Michigan."

Daniel J. Loepp, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan President and CEO

students. "Again and again I hear from alumni about a transformational experience they had at Wayne State" said Dean Matthew Seeger. "Perhaps it was a specific class, or performance opportunity, or maybe an internship that opened a door to new opportunities. This is what we do so well." Various units of the university have their own projects and priorities but the ultimate goal is to increase visibility and stimulate collaborative, cross-disciplinary development for all of Wayne State. "We want to build prestige for everyone," said Burns.

"I am especially proud to come from a university that means so much to Detroit and Michigan," said Daniel J. Loepp. "Wayne State University is already one of the best urban research universities in the country. The wisdom and skills imparted by Wayne State faculty are changing lives and positively



affecting our communities. Everything the university does, through medical education, research, media arts and in so many other ways, makes our world better. When I look around and see more than 60,000 alumni living and

working right here in metropolitan Detroit, I see concrete proof that Wayne State makes our city better."

The money raised in new gifts and pledges, including gifts to the endowment, spendable gifts and planned gifts, will be put toward the construction and renovation of campus facilities, the implementation of new academic and extracurricular programs, endowed professorships, scholarships for students and much more. The results of this campaign will endure well after new structures are completed and new programs are implemented. For years to come, faculty, students and visitors to the university and members of the community will continue to benefit from the generous gifts and sense of pride the campaign will provide. "This campaign truly is a pivotal moment for our college," noted Dean Seeger.

As an inclusive campaign, all gifts, no matter the size, are important. Each contribution will help Wayne State University achieve its vision to become the nation's preeminent public urban research university. Every gift makes a difference and WSU invites alumni, friends, family and supporters to participate in this effort.

Join us in celebrating Wayne State University's pivotal moments and be a part of many exciting moments to come. For more information about how you can contribute to *Pivotal Moments: Our Campaign for Wayne State University*, contact Laura Orme, director of major gifts, at 313-577-5336 or visit pivotalmoments.wayne.edu.

Comprehensive Campaign Priorities

Hilberry Gateway Project: This state of the art facility involves three phases: a new main theatre, new support spaces and renovation of the existing Hilberry Theatre. Since its founding 50 years ago, the Hilberry has brought over 2 million visitors to campus.

Program for Urban Health Communication and Promotion: Health information and promotion are increasingly important to efficient and effective health care, particularly in urban contexts.

Cultural, Artistic, Social and Economic Entrepreneurship: Building on existing efforts in the areas of entrepreneurship, this effort will provide our students with greater opportunities for success.

Fund for Student Activity and Engagement: Opportunities for students to engage, explore, create, discover, experiment, and investigate beyond the classroom are critical.

Endowed Professorships: Endowed professorships provide the prestige, visibility and flexibility to allow programs to grow and expand in new ways.

Scholarship Support: CFPCA students require ongoing funding support for tuition and fees. Scholarship programs, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, are among the most direct ways development efforts help students achieve their academic goals.

the business of art

Detroit's creative community gathered at Wayne State University's Old Main building en masse on Thursday, June 26, 2014, for The Business of Art, a playful and productive panel discussion that explored the role of business and entrepreneurship in the arts.

Presented by the alumni office of Wayne State's College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, the event featured artists and arts advocates as the discussion's panelists. All of them WSU alumni, the panelists answered questions, shared best practices for establishing a career as an artist and imparted lessons learned from their own experiences.



The evening's conversation was candid and insightful, and showcased the importance of fostering entrepreneurship in the arts, especially in the continuously evolving creative environment in Detroit.

"Detroit has a deeply rooted entrepreneurial spirit, and the development of social media has created new opportunities for artists to promote their work," said Matthew Seeger, dean of the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts. "The network has

always been critical to the artist and even with digital tools, face-to-face contact is still essential. We are excited to provide our alumni and the community with opportunities to connect and the necessary tools to promote their own arts-based entrepreneurial pursuits."

The panelists, April Boyle '00, Brent Smith '14, Dominic Arellano '05, Jocelyn Rainey '98, and moderator Adriel Thornton '09, each contributed something profound to the discussion and

infused their responses with personal anecdotes and professional experience.

Jocelyn Rainey, for instance, challenged the notion of the starving artist, asserting "that's why we're here—we're not going to have the starving artist anymore." Determined to eliminate that stigma, Rainey empowered the audience, reminding them that "you have to know that your artwork is important and that you have something to say."

The Business of Art's discussion of

practical skills paired with creative encouragement initiated an important dialogue and will lead to a set of resources that will lend themselves to a more inspired and informed creative community in Detroit.

"We are so excited by how Detroit's creative community, most notably our alumni, have embraced The Business of Art," said CFPCA Alumni Officer Rhonda Welsh. "As an inaugural event, it was a great success. But, it was only the

beginning. Our goal is to keep the conversation going through a website, a social media presence and subsequent events."

Full of pragmatic advice, powerful motivation and plenty of storytelling and laughter, The Business of Art engaged the local art community and tackled a critical issue in today's artistic landscape, opening the door for further discussion and growth. •

the business of



The event's panelists were April Boyle, director of small business initiatives at D:hive; Brent Smith of hip hop duo Passalacqua and rap group Cold Men Young; Dominic Arellano, executive director of Forward Arts; and Jocelyn Rainey, dean of instruction at Wayne County Community College District and founder of Finding Mona Lisa 313, Found Art in Odd Places 313, and JRainey Gallery. Adriel Thornton, music and production director of the Detroit Electronic Music Festival (DEMF) and founder of the event production company FreshCorp, served as the event's moderator. For more information about CFPCA alumni programming, please contact CFPCA Alumni Officer Rhonda Welsh at 313-577-1087.



broadcasting excellence



bringing the work of wsu media arts students and area artists to detroit public tv

A television series titled *MetroArts Detroit*, produced at Wayne State University, began airing on Detroit Public Television, Channel 56, in 2012. The program, now in its third season and renewed for a fourth, features artists from the metropolitan Detroit area who represent the disciplines of visual, performing and communication arts.

MetroArts Detroit is the first TV series created by an all-student and

faculty crew at the university's new 5057 Midtown Studio. The Midtown Studio is a renovation and modernization of the historic original WXYZ-TV studio space where venerable programs from the golden age of TV and radio, such as *The Lone Ranger* and the *Soupy Sales Show*, were created.

MetroArts Detroit brings awareness to up-and-coming artists and supports artists who have worked their entire lives in the

metro Detroit area. Each show is composed of two or three artist segments, with guests describing current work and future endeavors. Depending on the discipline, the artists either perform or showcase their creative works during their segment.

Episodes from the current and past seasons of *MetroArts Detroit* can be viewed online at metroartsdetroit.com.



cfpca internships expanding horizons



"Airfoil Public Relations was my first internship and first experience with a U.S. company after I moved here from Russia to pursue a master of communication at Wayne State. Although I had six years of professional experience and a year of studies in the master's program, the internship was a major adjustment. I got lucky ending up at Airfoil, with its friendly environment and understanding and helpful staff.

At an internal agency meeting, CEO and fellow Wayne State alum, Lisa Vallee-Smith, praised an assessment project I had worked on, exclaiming 'This is how a competitive assessment should look.' Myriad simple things I take for granted now in my work as a managing director at *The Economist* were shown to me for the first time at Airfoil, setting me up for career success."

— Elena Sukacheva, communication '00

"After I graduated I had an internship at ALPS Automotive, a supplier in the auto industry. The internship lasted six months, and after it I wanted to find something that was less in the automotive field and geared more toward consumer products. The internship helped me decide which aspect of design I wanted to focus on. My first job was as a 3D designer, creating exhibitions, packaging and displays for Manfrotto Bags, which makes vests, bags and carrying solutions for the military and photography industry. The second job I had was at one of the better design studios in Israel, Mobius Design, handling a wide variety of consumer products. Since I was good at hand sketching as well as presentation-building using Adobe programs, I had an advantage over the other designers at the company."

— Adam Ostroff, art and art history '04



"In summer 2013 I had the incredible opportunity to intern at *The New York Times*. Over the 10 weeks I was at the Times, everyone on staff was incredibly supportive as I learned the ropes. I got to observe the paper's newsroom, watch decisions being made and meet some of the biggest names in the industry. Interns had the chance to sit in on page one meetings, watching the top editors decide which stories were fit for the following day's front page. During an intern speaker series, I listened to, and got to ask questions of, David Carr, a media columnist for the Times; Margaret Sullivan, the public editor; Andrew Rosenthal, the editorial page editor; and Susan Chira, assistant managing editor for news."

— Emily Mormon, current WSU journalism major

"When CFPCA Dean Matt Seeger approached me with the idea of doing an internship in development for the college I was elated. For the last several years, in addition to working full time in the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance, I have been completing class work toward an MBA/MFA in theatre management. Since all of my degree work has been theoretical, an internship in development is the perfect marriage of theory and practical application. For the past few months I have conducted donor research and initiated contact with potential donors. In the coming months I will be assisting CFPCA major gift officers Laura Orme and Heather Mourer in a variety of development activities. I am very excited to be a part of the important work that they do every day."

— Patrick Field, current theatre management MFA





hilberry
ateway
project

setting the stage for success

An anchor at the south end of campus, the Hilberry Theatre serves as a gateway to the arts at Wayne State University. When the university began imagining a new home for its Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance, it seemed appropriate to name the initiative the Hilberry Gateway Project. The initial planning process was supported by a grant from the Kresge Foundation.

The \$48.6 million project currently is in the fundraising phase, and is a priority project of the university's \$750 million fundraising campaign, *Pivotal Moments: Our Campaign for Wayne State University*. "The Hilberry Gateway Project will create a modern performance space that reflects the talent and creativity of our student artists and will help best prepare them to make their mark on the world," said M. Roy Wilson, president of Wayne State University. "This new arts complex will also contribute greatly to the revitalization of Detroit, which we are deeply committed to as a university community."

The university has commissioned conceptual renderings for an enhanced and expanded Hilberry Theatre facility.

With additional support from alumni, friends, corporations and foundations, the university will move forward with the design process and select an architecture firm. "The university is excited about the vision of the Hilberry Gateway Project," said Chacona Johnson, vice president of development and alumni affairs. "To make that vision a reality, investment by alumni and friends of Wayne State will be critical."

Since the Hilberry was founded as the nation's first graduate repertory company 50 years ago, local residents have supported its success. Most notably, The Understudies, a formal group of Hilberry Theatre patrons, has played an integral role in ensuring the theatre's prominent place in the Detroit arts

community. "The Hilberry is one of the crown jewels of Midtown," said John Wolf, chair of the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance. "The theatre helps make this an active, vibrant neighborhood. We have great relationships with our patrons, who support our talented students as they hone their skills."

Both the theatre and the dance programs are nationally recognized for their excellence. "The faculty at the Hilberry is very impressive," said Miles Boucher, a third-year student earning an MFA in acting. "They have some wonderful credentials." Wayne State has launched the careers of many great actors, designers and dancers.

"The dance program provided an

"This new arts complex will also contribute greatly to the revitalization of Detroit, which we are deeply committed to as a university community."

M. Roy Wilson, president, Wayne State University



environment for me to grow as a dancer and dance maker," said Bryan Strimpel, who graduated with a BFA in dance in 2011. "Wayne State brings in so many guest artists every year, and it really gives the students the opportunity to make some potentially pivotal connections. I developed a wonderful relationship with Nicholas Leichter, and we went on to collaborate on a duet that we premiered together in 2012."

While the Hilberry Theatre is a landmark in Midtown, Wayne State's performing arts programs have outgrown the

space. The building originally was built as a church in 1917. Under the leadership of Wayne State University President Clarence B. Hilberry, the university purchased the building and renovated it to function as a theatre. "The Hilberry is a wonderful historic building and has served us very well," said Matthew Seeger, dean of the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts. "However, the space is no longer adequate to support technologically intense theatrical productions."

Due to space constraints, the Hilberry's

scenery and costume design facilities are housed in a separate building, while the dance program operates out of Old Main. The dance studios can no longer accommodate the number of patrons who want to attend the performances. The Hilberry Gateway Project will allow the entire Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance to create and perform together under one roof.

The Hilberry Gateway Project is planned in three phases. During phase one, a new 500-seat main theatre will be constructed on the corner of Cass

Conceptual design only



and Forest avenues, adjacent to the current Hilberry venue. The space will feature a modified thrust stage with appropriate wing space and a modern fly system. In addition, the theatre will include special effects technology, improved acoustics and audio-visual equipment, state-of-the-art lighting technology and new seating. The facility also will feature new dressing rooms, make-up rooms, production accommodations, box office and guest amenities.

Occurring simultaneously will be phase two, the construction of adjoining scenery and costume studios, as well as scenery storage areas. When phase two is finished, designers will be able to

build sets on site and move pieces from storage to the stage more efficiently. Completing phases one and two together will ensure that Hilberry productions can continue uninterrupted.

Phase three will reconstruct the current Hilberry stage into a 200-seat venue for dance, theatre, lectures and films. The venue will provide a flexible performance and gathering space that will serve the needs of the entire university. The lower-level Studio Theatre will continue to function as a learning laboratory, where productions are entirely performed and directed by Wayne State students.

As part of the Hilberry Gateway Project, the historic Mackenzie House, currently

located next to the Hilberry Theatre on Cass Avenue, will be carefully relocated. The Mackenzie House is owned by Wayne State and is used by the non-profit group Preservation Detroit. "The university and the college recognize the importance of the Mackenzie House," said Seeger. "The Hilberry Gateway Project will honor that building's long history as part of our community."

While the planned new facilities are exciting, faculty and students are most enthusiastic about continuing Wayne State's legacy of great theatre and dance through the Hilberry Gateway Project. "Ultimately, what you are giving to is not a building," said Boucher. "It's not a facility, and it's not anything material. It's us—it's students. We are the product of the Hilberry."

For more information on the Hilberry Gateway Project and giving opportunities, contact Laura Orme, director of major gifts for the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, at 313-577-5336 or lauraorme@wayne.edu. •

stepping

UP

wayne state dance takes "hissy fits" to the kennedy center

The Wayne State performance of "Hissy Fits" represented the East Central Region of the American College Dance Festival Association.



Dancers from Wayne State's Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance were selected to represent our region of the American College Dance Festival Association (ACDFA) at the National College Dance Festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., June 5. Our dancers performed a beautiful piece titled *Hissy Fits*, created by New York choreographer and Complexions Contemporary Ballet

company co-founder/co-director Dwight Rhoden. Prior to the performance, Wayne State President and Mrs. M. Roy Wilson hosted a reception with a light dinner at the Kennedy Center's Roof Terrace Restaurant. The ACDFA festival highlights the highest quality of choreography and performance that is being created on college and university campuses. There were 30 schools represented during

three days of performances and classes at this national festival. Wayne State dancers learned *Hissy Fits* during Rhoden's Fall 2013 residency at WSU. The residency was so successful that the students were invited to perform *Hissy Fits* with Complexions Contemporary Ballet in New York City at the Joyce Theatre as part of the company's annual gala. Following, in the winter 2014 semester, *Hissy Fits*

represented WSU at ACDFA's East-Central regional festival in Athens, Ohio, and received the highest honor, to be selected for the National ACDFA performance at the Kennedy Center. "Our partnership with Complexions Contemporary Ballet has provided our Wayne State dance majors an unparalleled opportunity to consistently work with internationally renowned professional dance artists," said

Meg Paul, dance lecturer and coordinator of Wayne State's Complexions program. For the past four years, Complexions co-artistic directors Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson have brought their company and summer intensive to our campus where they teach and mentor our students during a rigorous 2-week period. WSU's students train in technique and repertory and also chaperone and perform

at the Music Hall Center during the intensive. Because of this ongoing training, the WSU students have progressed significantly in the Complexions technique and pedagogy. "These exceptional learning events have been integral to our students' growth and readiness for the professional world upon graduation," said Paul. •

the max jacob family
a cornerstone of wayne state history



legacy

Wayne State University has been at the forefront of Detroit's cultural and economic innovation for multiple decades. This growth and longevity can be credited to many things—a commitment to academic excellence, ground breaking research, artistic distinction and a rich history. This success is a clear outgrowth of support provided by individuals, organizations and institutions.

One such institution is the Max Jacob family. With Wayne State connections dating back to the 1940s, the Jacob family has been an essential part of the WSU story.

"The Jacob family is preparing to celebrate the 150th birthday of Max Jacob. He founded M. Jacob and Sons and the Max Jacob House on our campus is named for him," said Matthew Seeger, dean for the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts. "Our college has had a longstanding relationship with the family and we look forward to this milestone."

In 1882 at the age of 18, Max Jacob came to the United States from Lithuania. Pursuing the American dream, Jacob put his ambition into action. He started his own business in 1885 as a modest, one-man bottle distribution effort serving local breweries. Jacob's business became a family operation and was renamed "M. Jacob and Sons" as his sons William, Ben and Sam joined the ranks.

The U.S.'s oldest bottling distributing company, their company has since evolved into one of the nation's premier packaging innovation leaders, expanding into the plastics industry and opening branches. Renamed MJS Packaging in

2014, the company continues to showcase the durability of the bonds formed by the Jacobs.

The Jacobs prioritize philanthropy and this emphasis has resulted in impressive corporate responsibility as well as individual giving within the family. David Lubin, the first non-Jacob family member to serve as company president, has diligently continued the legacy.

"Giving back to the community is critically important," said Lubin. He further stresses that the legacy of outreach and service started with Max and has been passed down from generation to generation.

The Jacobs' first major contribution to Wayne State University came in the form of the iconic Max Jacob house. The pale yellow, two-story Mediterranean-style home was built in 1915 by Martin N. Burkheiser and occupied by Jacob until 1925. In 1944, the structure was acquired by Wayne State University and housed the slide collection and offices of the art history program. In 1977, the house underwent a major renovation, supported by the Jacob family. The house was remodeled again in 1998 to serve as the home of then university President Irvin D. Reid. Today, the house is located at 451 W. Kirby Street across from the Community Arts Center and serves as the president's second official residence for receptions and events.

The Wayne State connections extended to Max's granddaughter, Elaine, a 1942 WSU alumna in industrial design. Elaine joined the M. Jacob and Sons team in the 1950s, spearheading the company's foray into plastics. She led the plastics

division for several years with the help of Bob Stieler, a 1956 alumnus of Wayne State's business school. Stieler served the company for 56 years and was one of its most successful salespersons.

Elaine Jacob has maintained her connections with Wayne State through several donations and contributions to events, programs and facilities. One of the college's art galleries, which presents regional, national and international contemporary art exhibitions, bears her name. Located in Old Main, this beautiful space is a living testament to this rich and long-standing relationship. Elaine along with other members of the Jacob family also established an endowed scholarship in industrial design to celebrate M. Jacob and Sons' 125th anniversary in 2010. The Jacob family's dedication to the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts has enhanced the cultural, academic and social experiences of students, residents and visitors for decades.

Deborah Jacob, fourth generation family member and company board member, spoke about the role of the company. "Philanthropy begins at home. The Jacob family and M. Jacob and Sons are extraordinarily proud of their relationship with Wayne State University."

The Wayne State community and those at the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts are grateful for the generosity, ongoing friendship and positive impact of the Jacob family and MJS Packaging, and wishes them all the best as they celebrate decades of family, tradition and success. •



"Giving back to the community is critically important."

David Lubin, president, MJS Packaging





great impressions

The James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History was proud to host the Mid-America Print Council's (MAPC) 2014 conference, titled *Print City Detroit*, September 24 to 27. Print City Detroit was made up of workshops, demonstrations, panel discussions, keynote speakers and exhibitions, all surrounding the field of printmaking. In addition to activities on the Wayne State campus, area galleries, museums, letterpresses and other cultural venues in and around Detroit hosted conference events. During the conference, Detroit's biennial international light installation program, DLECTRICITY, took place throughout Midtown on September 26 and 27.

Hosting a conference of this size and

geographic reach uplifts Wayne State's stature in the field, which helps the university recruit and retain the best art faculty. The MAPC conference coming to Wayne State and Detroit was advantageous to WSU's art students, too. "Our students had the opportunity to meet faculty and students from elsewhere, hear their ideas and see their art, as well as share their own," said Professor John Richardson, chair of the department. "This is an opportunity for our students to become professionalized in a way that would not be possible without such an event."

Special guest speakers at *Print City Detroit* included artist Enrique Chagoya, artist Judy Pfaff and editor in chief of *Art in Print* magazine, Susan Tallman.

Fifteen Detroit galleries and venues exhibited during the conference the curated, themed print portfolios of 34 MAPC members. Exhibitions included an Enrique Chagoya retrospective and book signing in Wayne State's Elaine L. Jacob Gallery; a solo exhibition of the work of 2014 MAPC Outstanding Printmaker Mary Manusos in Wayne State's Art Department Gallery; and a MAPC Members' Juried Exhibition, also in the Art Department Gallery. The members' exhibition was juried by Marilyn Symmes, director of Morse Research Center for Graphic Arts and curator of prints and drawings at Rutgers University's Zimmerli Art Museum. •



Paul Hogle,
executive vice president,
October 10, 2014



Erik Ronmark,
general manager and artistic
administrator,
November 21, 2014



Anne Parsons,
president and CEO,
January 16, 2015



Leonard Slatkin,
music director,
February 27, 2015

turn up the speakers

Leaders of one of the world's top orchestras, the DSO, share their wisdom at Wayne State

Expanding on the longstanding connection between Wayne State's Department of Music and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Wayne State University presents the WSU/DSO Speaker Series, an exciting group of conversations featuring top-level administrators from one of the most celebrated orchestras in the world.

The WSU/DSO Speaker Series is an opportunity for Department of Music students to connect with some of Detroit's most successful arts administrators. "Building on our close relationship with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the WSU/DSO Speaker Series is yet another way that Wayne State's Department of Music gives students the ability to connect with the nationally recognized organizations within our neighborhood," said Professor Norah Duncan IV '86, interim department chair. "With high-level executives from one of the world's great orchestras, discussions will focus on entrepreneurship and what resources are available to students and alumni."

All lectures will be held in the Schaver Music Recital Hall of the Old Main Annex building; enter at 480 W. Hancock Street. Professor Duncan will facilitate the 45-minute, mid-day discussions which will focus on each guest speaker's experiences and expertise. Visit events.wayne.edu/music and search each speaker's date for more details. •



the beat is on

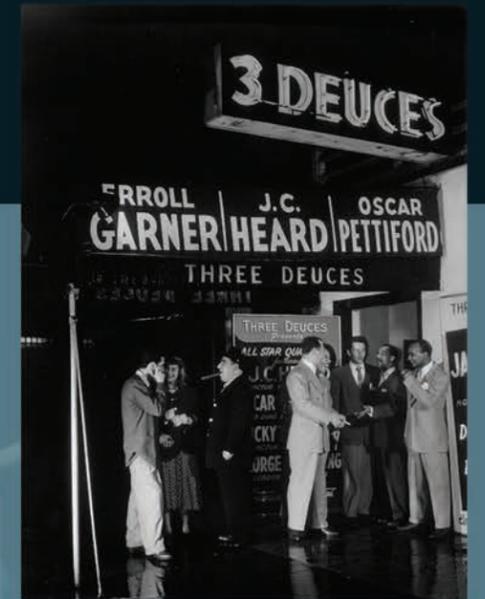
keeping the flame through jazz week @ wayne

Eric Heard physically resembles his Japanese-born mother, the elegant Hiroko (Nagata) Heard, but his twinkling eyes and easy laugh are the unmistakable trademarks of his father, the renowned drummer JC Heard.

James Charles Heard, better known as JC, played on some of the world's most important jazz and Big Band records. Known as a "utility drummer" because of his ability to fit into any situation, his accomplishments were far from utilitarian. The African American graduate of Detroit's Cass Technical High School was not only a drummer and percussionist but also a vocalist, bandleader, soloist, film star (in Japan) and talk show host.

"Growing up I didn't think it was anything special. Our home was always filled with musicians."

Eric Heard, son of JC Heard



Clockwise from top: 1) JC Heard headlined Three Deuces jazz club back in the day; 2) Heard collaborated with such fellow jazz greats as Miles Davis and 3) Dizzy Gillespie.



He lived in Japan from 1953 until 1957 but he had to leave after his visa expired. He left behind a wife and young son. They reunited in 1967.

"I arrived in Detroit and I didn't speak a word of English," said Eric Heard. "My father came to pick me up in a sky blue 1966 Lincoln Continental. It felt as big as the jet I'd taken here from Japan."

The younger Heard's comfortable life in a small apartment in Japan changed exponentially when he came to the motor city. He arrived in the United States during summer vacation and he had plenty of time to accompany his "bigger than life" father to rehearsals. He was surrounded by jazz musicians talking about tours and recounting experiences with luminaries like Oscar Peterson and Ahmad Jamal.

His suburban Detroit home is filled with mementos from his father. A drum set is showcased in the basement. Awards adorn the walls. An *Esquire* magazine statuette commemorating excellence in drumming is displayed proudly. But his father's prominence escaped him as a child.

"Growing up I didn't think it was anything special. Our home was always filled with musicians. They'd stop by when they passed through Detroit. Cab Calloway would come over. I remember one Jazz Cruise hanging out with Uncle Diz and Mel Torme. Now I wish I would have realized how special it was," said Heard.

He was an adult before he realized that it was no normal childhood. Adjacent to a picture of his mother taken by The Mills Brothers, the hugely famous photograph, "A Great Day in Harlem" is perched on the piano. In it, JC Heard is shown flanking Roy Eldredge with Dizzy Gillespie (whom Eric Heard affectionately refers to as Uncle Diz) on the other side. This legacy of greatness, in part, drove Heard to create the JC Heard Jazz Week @ Wayne.



The weeklong workshop, in partnership with Wayne State University and the Detroit Jazz Festival, provides high school students with a jazz education that goes beyond traditional high school curriculum. One of the highlights is a live performance at the Detroit Jazz Festival.

When asked how the elder Heard would feel about the event, his son replied, "He would love it. He would be ecstatic. From 1982 until 1988, many of his band members were students from Wayne State — Scott Peterson, Russ Miller '93 '02, Walt Szymanski — he used many WSU musicians. He wanted the young guys because he felt that he could mold them to his musical philosophy. He said that the young guys had fire."

Without question, JC Heard broke much new ground. Eric Heard is very accomplished in business but he longs to leave a legacy as enduring as his father's.

"For me, it is amazing that my father was such a giant. I would love to take the JC Heard Jazz Week @ Wayne to an international audience. I want it to be bigger."

While it was JC Heard who recognized "the fire" present in young musicians, it is Eric Heard who keeps the flame alive through Jazz Week @ Wayne. •

Photos this page and next:
Len Katz, Detroit Jazz Festival

all that jazz

For the ninth year, Wayne State's Big Band performed on the Amphitheater Stage of the Detroit Jazz Festival, Labor Day weekend. Under the direction of Professor Christopher Collins '88, director of jazz studies, the WSU Big Band took the stage with 2014 Detroit Jazz Festival Artist in Residence Joshua Redman in a concert titled *Jazz Speaks for Life – Music Inspired by the Civil Rights Movement*. A celebration of the 50th anniversary of the passing of America's Civil Rights

Act, the concert featured Marcus Belgrave, Aaron Goldberg, Greg Hutchinson, Reuben Rogers and the Motown Legends Choir.

"Few universities can rival Wayne State's unique connection to jazz," said Collins. "Our location in one of the legendary jazz cities and our legacy as one of the oldest jazz studies programs in the region suggest jazz is in the cultural DNA of our students and our institution."

Wayne State's collaborative association with the Detroit Jazz Festival, now the largest free jazz festival in the world, is a powerful expression of the university's connection to Detroit and the urban culture. "In addition to our ongoing educational initiatives, including JC Heard



Jazz Week @ Wayne and Jazz-Infusion Mentors programs, WSU students and faculty perform regularly at the Detroit Jazz Festival with headliners, artists in residence and as leaders of their own creative ensembles," said Collins. "That's a win-win for both the university and the festival, with far-reaching benefits to our students, curriculum and community."

For three years, Collins has served as the festival's artistic director, the first professional musician to be named to that post. He has been involved in the festival as a performer for 30 years and served on the festival's board of directors since 2009. As fellow citizens of the city of Detroit, the university and the festival are two institutions whose missions in jazz overlap. Wayne State proudly serves as educational partner to the Detroit Jazz Festival. •



wsu summer children's theatre tours area schools, brings youngsters to the hilberry

The Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance presented a hip-hop reimagining of the folktale classic *Stone Soup: A Wrap Opera* as its 2014 installment of Wayne State's annual Summer Children's Theatre.

Told in variations across many cultures, *Stone Soup* is a folktale in which an outsider persuades ungenerous and suspicious townspeople to provide him with food. A tramp using nothing but his wits, some wily tactics, and a stone gets a group of battling siblings to cooperate, accomplishing what they could not achieve individually.

"This is a simple story about cooperation," said Director John Wolf, who also is chairperson of the department. "We hope that *Stone Soup* provided youngsters with information about the benefits of learning to work together."

The story has been told in many ways by many cultures over the years. Here,

Stone Soup: A Wrap Opera re-tells the tale in the language of urban America – hip-hop and rap – reaching students of the 21st century using their own form and style. According to Wolf, "Wayne State University is uniquely situated to reach the children of Detroit. Creating a hip-hop version of *Stone Soup* provides a fun, contemporary and accessible path to these students."

Stone Soup: A Wrap Opera toured free of charge to Detroit Public Schools throughout the summer, performing for 6,500 children at 25 different schools. The 40-minute show

also was staged at the Hilberry Theatre for several performances in June.

The tour to Detroit Public Schools is part of an ongoing commitment to educational outreach by the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance. "It is vital to keep the arts alive in the minds and imaginations of young people," said Wolf. "Cuts in education budgets have resulted in the removal of imagination-enhancing



classes. *Bringing Stone Soup: A Wrap Opera* to school children does not replace those important classes but enhances the creative thinking of children." •



a tour de force for Lavinia Hart

As the Hilberry Theatre closed its 51st season, audiences got to experience familial dysfunction at its most delicious in the 2014 production of *August: Osage County*. The Pulitzer Prize winner and Tony Award winner for Best Play, by Tracy Letts, ran April through May. Darkly comic and bitingly witty, *August: Osage County* explores painful issues all American families have to face, and then some.

Associate Professor Lavinia Hart '94, head of Wayne State's MFA acting program, played Violet Weston, the drug-addled family matriarch, to tremendous critical acclaim. Detroit area theatre reviewer Robert Delaney summed up the production as "an absolute triumph for all involved." He especially praised the work of Hilberry alumnus James R. Kuhl '09 as guest director and Hart in the role of Violet, describing her work as "the sort of performance that makes one doubt anyone else could even handle the role. The subtleties and nuances she brings to her portrayal testify to what a truly great talent she is." Kuhl returned to the Hilberry where

he earned his MFA in acting. He is artistic director at Tipping Point Theatre in Northville, Michigan, and has worked as an actor with numerous companies around the region, including Purple Rose Theatre and the Michigan Shakespeare Festival.

Hart originally was reluctant to take the part. "There is an unspoken policy that we are here to support the ensemble company of MFA actors," she said. "If there are 'old' characters in the shows, then we coach actors in physical movement and appropriate stage makeup and vocal patterns, and we expect the company to stretch." But Hart was urged by fellow theatre program faculty members to allow for a break with tradition and immerse herself in the role.

Hart was artistic director of the Attic Theatre in Detroit for 19 years where she acted in, directed and produced more than 100 professional productions. She is a winner of the *Detroit Free Press* Lee Hills Award and was named Michiganian of the Year by *Detroit News Magazine*. •

Upcoming at the Hilberry Theatre

Romeo and Juliet
by William Shakespeare
October 24 – December 13, 2014

All in the Timing
by David Ives
November 21 – January 31, 2015

The Way of the World
by William Congreve
January 16 – March 7, 2015

An Enemy of the People
by Arthur Miller
February 20 – March 28, 2015

The 39 Steps
adapted by Patrick Barlow
April 10–25, 2015

View the 2014-15 season schedule for WSU dance, the Bonstelle Theatre and the Hilberry Theatre at wsushows.com

a legacy of
vision
 &
support



“What is so special about Bob and Maggie is the depth of their vision and commitment.”

*Matthew Seeger, dean,
 College of Fine, Performing and
 Communication Arts*

The names Maggie and Bob Allesee are synonymous with community support and philanthropy. The fruits of their generosity are widely felt throughout metro Detroit and WSU’s College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts is only one of many institutions that has benefited from their love of arts and culture. This dynamic husband and wife team has improved the quality of life for many by creating greater access to the arts.

“What is so special about Bob and Maggie is the depth of their vision and commitment,” said Dean Matthew Seeger. “They see opportunities to move programs forward in significant ways and invest in those efforts. The dance program, for example, is one of the best in the country because Maggie and Bob saw the potential and invested.” He added, “They are very special people.”

Maggie named the Department of Dance with a generous gift in 2000 and later, when the department of dance merged with theatre, the department became the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance.

Maggie is an avid member of both the dance program’s support group, known as The Choreographers, and the theatre support group, The Understudies. Her

passion for the department runs deep and she actively supports every major dance initiative at Wayne State, including the annual summer dance intensive with Complexions Contemporary Ballet, as well as the program’s regular appearance at the American College Dance Festival. Maggie has also provided gifts to support the Rose Marie Floyd fund for ballet and the Hilberry Gateway Project.

The Allesee’s support of CFPCA spans across the college. Their generous gift to the Department of Communication created the Bob Allesee Visiting Professorship in Media Studies. The professorship allows the Department of Communication to bring distinguished media professionals, such as *Star Wars* film editor Richard Chew and acclaimed *Daughters of the Dust* director, Julie Dash, to campus to work directly with students. Acclaimed documentary film maker Fred Wiseman, whose work has influenced generations of documentarians, will be the next Allesee Chair. Wiseman, in conjunction with the Detroit Film Theatre, will premiere his newest documentary *National Gallery* and he will teach workshops for advanced media arts students.

The benefits of their investments are evident in the quality of the programs and performances. This year, the dance program once again appeared at the American College Dance Festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and earlier appeared at the Joyce Theatre with the Complexions Contemporary Ballet Company in New York. And true to their legacy of support, Maggie and Bob were in the audience.

“They rarely miss a performance,” said Eva Powers ’79, associate professor of dance. “Maggie is our dance angel, a member of our dance family, and an inspiration to us all.” •

“Millions will see this work and learn more about the Cass Corridor Movement and the WSU Art Collection.”

Sandra Schemske, Art Collection Coordinator



rock and roll
 hits cobo

The latest piece of public art on view in Detroit’s downtown COBO Hall convention center is a striking piece from the Wayne State University Art Collection. *Rock and Roll* by Robert Sestok was installed in June in the center’s southeast main level, across from COBO Arena’s food court. Sestok created the 165 inch by 52 inch sculpture of painted canvas, cable and neon lights in 1978. It was gifted to the University Art Collection in 1992 by James Pearson Duffy, for whom the WSU art department is named.

“It was a challenging installation but the end results are terrific,” said Art Collection Coordinator Sandra Schemske. “Millions will see this work and learn more about the Cass Corridor Movement and the WSU Art Collection.”

The Cass Corridor era emerged in

the 1960s when explosive social and political movements gave rise to the rejection of the values of post-World War II middle class society. The counterculture of the 1960s and 1970s had its roots on college and university campuses, including Wayne State University. Bordering the campus of Wayne State was a depressed inner-city neighborhood bisected by Cass Avenue, known as the Cass Corridor. By most estimates, its population included 50 to 75 artists working in buildings with studio complexes (Old Convention Hall, Common Ground and the Forsythe Building), storefronts, lofts, basements and apartments. Many of these artists were instructors, students or former students in Wayne State’s art department.

“Early in my career the ‘downtown’ experience inspired deconstructivist

methods for creating art,” said Sestok. “People were using found objects and other non-traditional materials in their work, tearing things apart and reconstructing them, processes that harmonized with the reality of the Cass Corridor in the ‘60s and ‘70s.”

Cass Corridor artists developed a pride and affection for their area of the city, fostered by a shared sense of community and a passion for art-making. The powerful sense of community established in the Cass Corridor produced an explosive energy and intense artistic flowering.

The Cass Corridor aesthetic has come to be thought of as raw, gritty and seemingly unrefined, with a reliance on found industrial objects. A distinctly urban aesthetic has become the legacy and influence of the movement. •



"I can remember very vividly this moment in conversation with Professor Jeff Rebudal in the 'J.M. Rebudal Suite.' He gave me some encouraging and intentionally intimidating (I surmise) advice that will always stay with me. He said that if I want to do this [dance], I have to decide to completely commit myself to it. And that I can."

— Bryan Strimpel '11, founder, *bryanstrimpelMOVEMENT* dance company



"My time at Wayne State University changed the course of my life and career in a way that I could have never imagined. From a very early age, I set my sights on becoming a journalist and telling people's stories. I thought that was the way I could use my talents and passions to make a difference in my community. Through the leadership and mentorship of Professor Jack Lessenberry and the Journalism Institute for Media Diversity, I realized that my true calling was not simply reporting on the problem but becoming an active part of the solution, leading me to my dream job at the ACLU of Michigan."

— Rana Elmir '04, deputy director, *ACLU of Michigan*

my pivotal

"The confidence that I gained upon receiving an 'A' in Art Composition from Olga Constantine, a professor whom I greatly respected, set me on the path to my career as a commercial interior designer. It continues to hold me in good stead as a fiber artist today."

— Carole Harris '66, president, *Harris Design Group*



moment

"Many studies over the years have repeatedly pointed to the power of written and verbal fluency as important ingredients for success. I attribute my strengths in these areas to the well-rounded education I received at Wayne State. It enabled me to develop the skill sets to communicate and connect at all levels. These have been invaluable in my business career."

— Steven Plochocki '73, president and CEO, *Quality Systems, Inc.*



"My pivotal moment was when I played in the WSU Electronic Music Ensemble and helped the ensemble become an accredited class. It helped give me an artistic voice, confirmed my own skills from other music classes, and was a direct correlation to what I was doing at the time, helping produce Movement: Detroit's Electronic Music Festival. Thank you Professor Tom Court for believing in us!"

— Dominic Arellano '05, executive director, *Forward Arts*



"I enrolled in Wayne State University when I was 17 out of financial necessity. I could not know then the rich tapestry the theatre department would provide me: The Eva Woodbridge Victor Theatre Scholarship, the WHERE'S CHARLEY USO European Tour, leads in stunning main stage and studio productions. I was starring on Broadway before I truly recognized the professional habits I had been taught—to hang up my costumes, handle props, arrive early (and prepared) to rehearsal, and best of all, to respect and love the work."

— Barbara Tarbuck '63, film, TV and stage actress



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