

Western Illinois University
Academic Affairs, Annual Reporting Documents — Deans
Academic Year 2023–2024

Due to Provost's Office: **May 17, 2024**

The College of Fine Arts and Communication

The Purpose of These Documents

With this annual report, Deans and Chairpersons/Directors will align past and future work in their programs and in the colleges as a whole with wider planning in the Division of Academic Affairs, as well as with the University's larger Strategic Plan, *Higher Values in Higher Education, 2017-2027 (HVHE)*. Among other things, in the report Deans will describe what is unique about their College, document progress on enrollment, program development, and faculty development; document and develop recruitment and retention initiatives; and, finally, record and celebrate faculty, staff, and student successes and achievements.

In order to understand the context for these documents, please review the current version of the University's strategic planning document, as well as the supplemental planning documents on recruitment, retention, University distinctiveness, QC planning, and so on. All of these documents can be found at http://www.wiu.edu/aasp/university_planning/. Also, when reading the University's planning documents, please note the following vision, mission, and core values of the institution:

WIU Vision

Western Illinois University will be the leader in educational quality, opportunity, and affordability among regional public universities.

WIU Mission

Western Illinois University empowers students, faculty, and staff to lead dynamic and diverse communities. We provide student-centered undergraduate and graduate programs characterized by innovative teaching, research, and service, grounded in interdisciplinary, regional and global perspectives. We engage our students in educational opportunities guided by a professional and diverse faculty and staff in collaboration with alumni and community partners.

WIU Core Values

Academic Excellence

Central to our history and tradition is the commitment to teaching, to the individual learner, and to active involvement in the teaching-learning process. WIU's highly qualified, diverse faculty promotes critical thinking, engaged learning, research, and creativity in a challenging, supportive learning community. Western is committed to an academic environment that encourages lifelong development as learners, scholars, teachers, and mentors.

Educational Opportunity

Western values educational opportunity and welcomes those who show promise and a willingness to work toward achieving shared educational goals. WIU is committed to providing accessible, high quality educational programs and financial support for our students.

Personal Growth

Because Western values the development of the whole person, WIU is committed to providing opportunities for personal growth in an environment that supports the development of wellness, ethical decision making, and personal responsibility.

Social Responsibility

Western is committed to equity, social justice, and diversity, and will maintain the highest standards of integrity in our work with others. WIU serves as a resource for and stimulus to economic, educational, cultural, environmental, and community development in our region and well beyond.

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1. What is unique and special about your College?

The primary focus of the College of Fine Arts and Communication is to provide exposure to and training for artists, professionals, and scholars. Students will comprehend the complexity of visual and performing arts, communicative arts and sciences, and interactive media through the study and applications of the aesthetics, creativity, history, and theories. The College showcases the various modes of expression that define communication and the arts, serving as a major cultural center for the region as it seeks to educate both the campus and community in how the arts and communication serve, inform, and contribute to the totality and quality of life. We also encourage and nurture continued faculty growth as artists, scholars, and teachers. The College is committed to expanding recruitment/retention activities and enrollment for our programs through participation in Discover Western and WIU admissions activities, visits to area high schools, colleges, and universities, and conducting individual meetings and virtual events with prospective students and parents. The College is also committed to utilizing online and social media marketing tools in an effort to community/regional schools, art organizations, museums, clinics, retirement homes, and hospitals to expand our mission throughout the Macomb community and Western Illinois. All of our programs, students, and faculty make an impact in the community. With the construction of the Center for Performing Arts, synergies between the community, university and the region, and a renewed belief in how the Arts Matter, COFAC has proven time and again to be one of the showcase units at WIU.

2. Enrollment growth possibilities in your College

Include in this description, where possible, market data, audience profiles, national trends, employment data, and other indicators of market potential.

The creation of the School of Communication and Media will allow for greater synergies and opportunities for recruitment, student retention, degree opportunities and a focus at expanding programs under one umbrella. The newly proposed Public Relations degree (awaiting IBHE final approval) is just one way the combinations of BCJ and COMM will be a driver for growth.

Arts Leadership degree. The Department of Theatre and Dance is in the final stages of establishing a degree option within the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program. This degree will provide another unique curriculum offering in the college. Students will have opportunities to hone their skills in the COFAC Recital Hall and the WIU Center for Performing Arts.

Bachelor's Degree in American Sign Language. Our rapidly growing minor in ASL has shown that the need is ample in our region for a full degree in American Sign Language.

Clinical Doctorate for Audiology (Au.D.). The Speech Pathology and Audiology department's hearing clinic has continued to be vital to the stability of the undergraduate majors and graduate students. Revising the audiology graduate program will increase the services that the department can provide to the local community. Students who graduate from the undergraduate program will have the option of applying for the M.S. in Speech Pathology, the clinical doctorate in Audiology, and/or dual-certification. These types of options are excellent for recruiting and retaining students.

Students who successfully complete the degree will be eligible for state licensure and depending on their completed degree, Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC/A). After completion of the AuD program at WIU, students would be prepared to enter the healthcare profession to provide patient-centered care in prevention, identification, diagnosis, and evidence-based treatment of hearing, balance, and other auditory disorders for people of all ages. Students earning the degree will be able to seek jobs in hospitals, schools, university clinics, nursing homes, private practice, industry, and many other employment settings. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projections (2016), the number of employed audiologists will increase 20% before 2026. This rate is notably faster than the 7% average growth rate for all occupations.

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With the construction and completion of the Center for Performing Arts, The School of Music and the Department of Theatre and Dance have a once in a lifetime opportunity for growth. With support from admission and the rest of the university, all areas within the college can benefit from this new exposure, as well as the university as a whole. We are proud to be leaders in the effort to remind everyone that this university is growing.

Expansion of the Music Business Degree in the School of Music to include a non-performance option BA in Music Business.

3. Barriers to growth in your College

Loss of Talent Grant/Tuition Waiver funds. The allotment of these funds for our programs has been cut every year. Those funds assist in recruiting quality students. These reductions have impacted our programs ability to remain competitive with other institutions in the state. Competition for talented arts students continues to grow. Just like a talented quarterback or lineman for football, a talented trumpeter has multiple college offers to weigh. We do not have to be the highest offer, (though we do need to be competitive) but we have to be the best. We have a rich tradition of success and professionalism in our arts programs, but we cannot falter in striving for the best talent as well. Cutting student support while putting \$120 million into the Center for Performing Arts seems counter-intuitive. We continue to find creative ways to support our students, but we need support from the institution as well.

While we have one new amazing facility working toward completion, the need for facility and equipment upgrades looms large. A lack of repairs and improvements to facilities, especially impacting our accredited programs, have impacted recruiting efforts and the quality of the educational experience for our students. These facility impairments also make our reaccreditation efforts extremely challenging.

Most importantly what holds each and everyone of us back at Western Illinois University is communication and collaboration. We are a college where collaboration is a necessity for excellence. We have our faults to be certain and of course our own issues in the communications realm. However, we all continually have to justify our existence internally. Each and every time there is an administrative change we relive, much like the movie Groundhog's Day, the same series of events, justifying our programs and mission. In the twelve years I have been at WIU, we have had four Presidents, eight Provosts, seven vice presidents for Finance and Administration, three vice presidents for the Foundation and six vice presidents for student affairs/success. In addition to two boards of trustees compounded by resignations and replacements. Add to this two APER reviews and living under the constant cudule of layoffs and cuts and this uncertainty day-in and day-out, creates distrust and silos each of us, as we are in a real fight for our lives within our own institution. This lack of stability disrupts any forward momentum as we constantly fight for resources and support. Real dialogue across the institution would work to create buy-in and community and help in creating solutions that engage all parties across campus.

We have so much talent across all areas of the university that goes untapped. The university needs to instill real, direct and authentic routes for communication. Engage deans and chairs and bring faculty and staff into the conversations about our futures and the health of our institutions and our way of life.

4. Enrollment

Institutional Research will create a "College Profile" for Deans and Chairpersons/Directors. Please note that most information can be found in the Fact Book. Include the following:

- a. 5 years of headcount enrollment by new freshmen, new transfer, new graduate, and continuing undergraduate and graduate students in your College*
- b. 5 years of headcount enrollment by race/ethnicity, gender, and country of origin*
- c. 5 years total credit hour production by Department/School*

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d. *Identify faculty-student ratio by College and Department/School, with explanation of disciplinary norms*

a. 5 years of headcount enrollment by new freshmen, new transfer, new graduate, and continuing undergraduate and graduate students in college

New Freshmen

2019	96
2020	116
2021	81
2022	113
2023	101

New Transfers

2019	79
2020	58
2021	55
2022	50
2023	36

New Graduate*

2019	50
2020	77
2021	56
2022	49
2023	63

*The Theatre Arts MFA performance program brings in a 3-year cohort. 2022 is a graduation year and 2023 will start a new class.

Continuing Undergraduate and graduate students

	UG	Grad	Total
2019	664	133	797
2020	657	153	810
2021	569	154	723
2022	543	146	689 (including 14 second majors)
2023	506	131	651 (including 14 second majors)

b. 6 years of headcount enrollment by race/ethnicity, gender, and country of origin

**DATA UNAVAILABLE IN FACT BOOK FOR 2023

College of Fine Arts & Communication

Fall Term	International	American				Pacific		Two or More	Unknown	Male	Female	Total
		Black	Indian	Asian	Hispanic	Islander	White					
2017												
Undergrad	9	193	2	8	56	1	437	27	7	336	404	740
Graduate	12	10	-	-	8	-	113	2	3	49	99	148
Total	21	203	2	8	64	1	550	29	10	385	503	888
2018												
Undergrad	10	168	-	6	54	1	407	19	8	287	386	673
Graduate	15	5	-	1	6	-	100	4	3	47	87	134

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Total	25	173	-	7	60	1	507	23	11	334	473	807
2019												
Undergrad	8	149	1	11	58	1	400	25	11	288	376	664
Graduate	13	9	-	1	5	-	99	3	3	52	81	133
Total	21	158	1	12	63	1	499	28	14	340	457	797
2020												
Undergrad	6	164	-	9	61	-	380	26	11	285	372	657
Graduate	8	10	-	1	6	1	120	3	4	62	91	153
Total	14	174	-	10	67	1	500	29	15	347	463	810
2021												
Undergrad	7	127	1	10	47	1	338	26	12	237	332	569
Graduate	19	10	-	1	6	-	110	4	4	65	89	154
Total	26	137	1	11	53	1	448	30	16	302	421	723
Fall Term	International	Black	Indian	Asian	Hispanic	Islander	White	More	Unknown	Male	Female	Total
2022												
Undergrad	9	193	2	8	56	1	437	27	7	336	404	740
Graduate	12	10	-	-	8	-	113	2	3	49	99	148
Total	21	203	2	8	64	1	550	29	10	385	503	888

c. 5 years total credit hour production by department

COLLEGE AND DEPARTMENT	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION	28,882	27,361	25,368	24,933	24,407
Art & Design	3,812	3,430	3,380	3,499	3,502
Broadcasting & Journalism	2,893	2,527	2,461	2,017	1,613
Communication	8,379	8,011	7,991	7,366	7,268
Museum Studies	499	448	462	356	299
School of Music	5,909	5,770	6,412	6,503	6,555
Speech Pathology & Audiology	2,035	2,121	2,285	2,094	2,120
Theatre & Dance	3,474	3,331	2,814	3,098	3,050

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- d. Identify faculty-student ratios by college and department, with explanation of disciplinary norms.

Faculty-student ratios in COFAC can vary, due to disciplinary norms and accreditation requirements.

NASAD Accredited requirements call for enrollment thresholds in some Art and Design studio courses to be 8 students for undergraduate courses and 5 students in graduates classes. Due to the unique nature of these courses, smaller ratios are needed in order to facilitate more individualized instruction. Individual interaction allows for immediate feedback encouraging student participation, supporting individual learning, and honing technical skills.

BC&J courses involving hands-on instruction in video, news and sports production are smaller.

Many SOM applied study courses also have smaller faculty-student ratios due to the unique nature of individualized and group instruction in these courses per NASM.

The Museum Studies graduate program also has moderate ratios, which allow students to receive individual attention from faculty. This individual attention allows for immediate feedback encouraging student participation, supporting individual learning, and honing technical skills.

SPA courses involving faculty supervision of students conducting client diagnostic and screening also limit ratios due to ASHA national accreditation requirements.

NAST requires enrollment thresholds in dance technique or applied theatre classes to be 8 students for undergraduate courses and 4 for graduate courses.

5. Degrees conferred

Include the following:

- a. *Total number of degrees conferred for most recent academic year*
- b. *Total number of degrees conferred for most recent academic year per department and/or program*
- c. *Number of degrees conferred for most recent academic year per race/ethnicity, gender, country of origin*

a. Total number of degrees conferred 2023: 110 UG, 67 Grad

b. Total number of degrees conferred per department and/or program

Undergraduate	
Art & Design	16
Broadcasting & Journalism	18
Communication	36
Music	18
Speech Path & Aud	9
Theatre & Dance	13

Graduate	
Communication	13
Museum Studies	10

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Music	22
Speech Pathology	14
Theatre	8

6. Retention of students

List retention initiatives for the following:

- a. *Current students*
- b. *Transfer students*

The College of Fine Arts and Communication prides itself in our retention initiatives. Year after year we tend to hold the highest or close to highest retention rates across the university
See COFAC Attachment #1
See COFAC Attachment #2

7. Recruitment of students

List recruitment initiatives for the following:

- a. *First-year students*
- b. *Graduate students*

The College of Fine Arts and Communication also prides itself in our recruitment initiatives. In a highly competitive marketplace, COFAC must continue to raise the bar on recruitment. Partnering with Admissions and Enrollment Management would assist us greatly in our pursuit of talented, exceptional students in the arts and communication fields.

See COFAC Attachment #1
See COFAC Attachment #2

8. Recruitment and retention of faculty and staff

Describe the following:

- a. *Initiatives to retain faculty and staff*
- b. *Plans to hire faculty and staff*

While budget constraints always come into play in the search request process, the college is committed to filling critical positions while leaving empty lines where we can. As a vital team player at the university, COFAC understands the need to be fiscally responsible in an effort to keep the university headed in the right direction. As we have shown time and again, COFAC is one of the colleges committed to returning funds and lines when and where possible.

As we recruit for fewer positions, excellence, diversity and need are critical for our continued success as a college. We strive to ensure all of our searches are thorough, allowing for the top candidates to reach the finalists level. We have to be great to be relevant. COFAC has always had a search and screen policy and will be revising it later this summer, in order to best serve all our areas as well as the university. The Reverend Dr. C.T.Vivian program needs full support and must be carried forth in an effort to ensure the classroom meets the needs of today's students.

In terms of retention, the deans are actively committed to illustrate support through attendance at numerous departmental events and meeting individually with faculty.

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We are in progress identifying funds for the staffing and hiring needs for the Center for Performing Arts. Given no funding, we have been juggling budgets to accomplish meeting the base needs for operations of the center when the building opens in 2025.

9. Courses

Include the following:

- a. *Total number of general education courses*
 - b. *Total number of FYE courses*
 - c. *Total number of major courses*
 - d. *Total number of independent study, internship, and other courses*
 - e. *Total number of graduate courses*
 - f. *Number of courses offered through Macomb campus*
 - g. *Number of courses offered through QC campus*
 - h. *Number of courses offered through Online campus*
-
- a. 161 total general education courses (77/71/13) FS23/SP24/SUM23
 - b. In 2023-2024 COFAC offered 10 FYE courses
 - c. 1,367 (599/620/148) total number of major courses (grad and undergrad)
 - d. 139 (38/56/45) total number of independent study, internship, and other courses
 - e. 255 (109/115/31) total number of graduate courses
 - f. 828 (406/407/15) number of courses offered through Macomb campus
 - g. 27 (13/14/0) number of courses offered through QC campus
 - h. 101 (33/28/73) number of courses offered through Online campus

10. Number of new and revised academic programs

Include the following:

- a. *New major options (include audience for the program and aspect of mission served by the program)*
- b. *New minors (include audience for the program and aspect of mission served by the program)*
- c. *New certificates, emphases, or other (include audience and aspect of mission served)*

Changes to The BCJ offerings
Creation of the School of Communication and Media
Theatre and Dance, MFA option in Arts Leadership

Future Possibilities include certificates in:

Playwriting
Piano
Music Business
Communication sub fields
Art Studio
ASL

11. Eliminated academic programs

List eliminated majors, minors, other

Prior curriculum review across the college eliminated courses for minor offerings that were distinct minor only courses. All minor options offered are based on major course offerings. No additional classes are needed.

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12. Faculty activities

Include the following:

- a. Achievements*
- b. Professional development*
- c. Outreach and significant service*
- d. Research (books, articles, conference presentations, other)*

Art and Design

Susan Czechowski

Secretary for the Board of the Southern Graphic Council International: Co-organizer Verified by Proof SGCI 2024 Annual Conference.

Prints, Keefe Gallery, Buchanan Center for the Arts, Monmouth, IL 2024

Dollar General, AS 220 Galleries, Providence, RI 2024

36th Annual McNeese Works on Paper, Shearman Fine Annex, Lake Charles, LA 2023

Print Austin, Blue Genie Art Bazaar, Austin, TX 2023

Keith Holz

“Obituary: Otto Karl Werckmeister (1934-2023).” *Texte zur Kunst* (Berlin), no. 131, September 2023, 251-253.

Jenny Knavel

The Floating World, Joe McCauley Gallery, Heartland Community College, Normal, Illinois.

2023 Juried Exhibition

Flora, Steinhauer Trust Gallery, University of Wisconsin Madison Arboretum, 2023 Solo Exhibition.

In Progress - Photography commission for SMILES (Special Methods In Learning Equine Skills).

Sherry Lindquist:

New book: *The Book of Hours and the Body: Somaesthetics, Posthumanism, and the Uncanny* (Routledge, 2024)

<https://www.routledge.com/The-Book-of-Hours-and-the-Body-Somaesthetics-Posthumanism-and-the-Uncanny/Lindquist/p/book/9780367504526>

Chapter forthcoming: “Curating Monsters: Grappling with Medieval and Modern Otherness in the Gallery,” with Asa Mittman. *Curating the Global Middle Ages*, ed. Gerhard Lutz and Lloyd DeBeer, ICMA Viewpoints series with Penn State University Press.

Upcoming Key note:

2024 “Gender, Posthumanism, and the Hours of Mary of Burgundy,” Keynote lecture for the Society of the Study of Early Modern Women and Gender, at the Renaissance Society of America meeting, Chicago, IL

Recent Keynote:

2023 “Hieronymus Bosch’s Nudes,” keynote lecture for the Feminist Art History Conference, American University, Washington DC

Recent Conference papers:

2023 “Reading in Stone: What Are Books Doing in Burgundian Sculpture of the 15th Century?” *Burgundian Sculpture of the 15th c.* (December 11-13).

2023 “Accessories of Sin: Demonic Fashion in Boschian Hellscapes,” 58th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. Session:

“Dress and Textiles II: Embellishment and Decoration,” organized by DISTAFF.

Upcoming Conference papers:

2024 “Post-, Trans-, Anti-, and Meta-Humanisms (Books of Hours).” 59th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. Session:

“Medieval Art History Tomorrow —A Whiteboard Session.”

2024 “Gender and the Commendation of Souls,” Harlaxton Medieval Symposium, Harlaxton College, Lincolnshire.

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Recent Conference session organized:

“Demons and Death in Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts,” 48th Annual St. Louis Conference on Manuscript Studies (June, 2023).

Board of Directors: International Center for Medieval Art

Editorial Board: Visualizing the Middle Ages series. Brill.

Publications in progress:

Book: Hieronymus Bosch's Creatures (contract with Abbeville Press)

Chapter: Books, Bodies, and anti-Jewish implications on the Well of Moses by Claus Sluter” (for the Proceedings of the Burgundian Sculpture of the 15th c)

Chapter: Gender and the Commendation of Souls in Fifteenth-Century English Manuscripts.” (for the Proceedings of the Harlaxton Conference)

Article: Jean Gerson and Art: The Limitations of Images;

Article: “Saints, Sovereigns and Severed Heads: A New Reading of the Martyrdom of St. Denis by Jean Malouel and Henri Bellechose”;

Damon McArthur

“Guru,” cartoon. The Wall Street Journal. New York, NY. (Sept. 2023) (52)

“Taste Profile,” cartoon. The Wall Street Journal. New York, NY. (May 2023) (52)

Duke Oursler

Commission - designed glassware for the Modelo Especial for 3 cities in the state of Ohio: Columbus, Cincinnati, and Cleveland.

Nancy Shahani

Holt Renfrew Holiday 2023 Retail Catalogue, Holt, Renfrew & Co., Limited, 2023 Catalogue, Toronto, Canada.

Ian Shelly

DelectABLE - The Fine Art of Dining: Sixth Biennial National Functional Ceramics Exhibition, National Juried Exhibition, Art Students League of Denver, Denver, Colorado, 2023

Shapes of Influence, National Juried Exhibition, Springfield Art Association, Springfield, Illinois, 2023

Partners in Art, Regional Invitational Exhibition, Macomb Arts Center, Macomb, Illinois, 2023

Down on Paper, National Juried Exhibition, Vestige Gallery, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, 2023

Broadcasting and Journalism

Dr. Eun Go received a 2024 Summer Stipend from Western Illinois University. She will use the stipend to research the ongoing impact of public relations in broadcasting and journalism.

Dr. Pam Peters received a Provosts Travel Award to present original research at the Broadcast Education Association annual conference, which was held in October at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C.

Dr. Peter Gloviczki presented research (via Zoom) about the evolving mobile, social and digital broadcasting and journalism environment to graduate students at the University of Ottawa in November.

The Department of Broadcasting and Journalism is collaborating with local organizations on a podcasting workshop, which will be held later this month in Macomb.

Broadcasting and Journalism professors Dr. Will Buss and Dr. Pam Peters regularly appear on Tri States Public Radio's “Shop Talk.” The pair participate in a dialogue with TSPR News Director Rich Egger.

Communication

Department of Communication faculty published nine articles/books over the past year, made ten presentations to regional and national conferences, and engaged in the delivery of an impressive 21 professional workshops.

Additionally, the following faculty/staff achievements are noteworthy:

Dr. Chris Carpenter received the COFAC Award for Excellence in Scholarly & Professional Activities in May 2023.

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Dr. Josh Averbeck received the COFAC Award for Excellence in University Service in May 2023.

Assistant Professor Stacey Macchi received the COFAC Award for Excellence in Teaching in May 2023.

Assistant Professor Stacey Macchi conducted a LinkedIn workshop for McDonough County CEO students.

Academic Advisor Jennifer Grimm received the COAA Advisor of the Month Award for both May 2023 and October 2023.

Department of Communication, Western Illinois University graduate and current doctoral student at Temple University Simu Dey and Professor Josh Averbeck authored a chapter in a new book on mobile communication in Asian society and culture entitled “Facebook-Based Mental Health Discourse in Bangladesh: Self-Disclosure, Social Support, and Consultation.”

Dr. Chris Carpenter delivered the annual Thompson Lecture with his presentation on “When sharing memes backfires: The role of social media memes in increasing polarization.”

Dr. Josh Averbeck received two Top Paper Awards from the Communication Theory and Argumentation Interest Groups of the Central States Communication Association.

Instructor David Zanolla was selected as the Distinguished Alumni Keynote Speaker for WIU's Undergraduate Research Day.

School of Music

Dr. Brian Winnie, Director of Choral Studies, conducted a performance of the WIU University Singers at the Midwestern American Choral Directors Association Conference in Omaha, NE.

Dr. Kenny Lee, Director of Orchestral Studies, conducted the Illinois All-State Orchestra at the Illinois Music Education Conference and performed with the Czech Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra in the Czech Republic.

Dr. Jason Hawkins, Assistant Director of the School of Music, adjudicated choirs at the San Francisco Heritage Festival in California.

Dr. James Romig, Professor of Theory and Composition, had works performed at the Prague Quiet Music Festival in the Czech Republic and at the Bowling Green State University New Music Festival.

Dr. Nicholas Miguel, Assistant Professor of Voice, performed a series of concerts with True Concord Voices and Orchestra in Tucson, AZ.

Dr. Richard Cangro, Professor of Music Education, presented at the Symposium on Music Pedagogy in Montenegro, served as a guest lecturer at the University of the Philippines, and presented the Distinguished University Professor Lecture.

Dr. Brian Locke, Professor of Musicology, presented at the American Musicological Society National Meeting in Denver, Colorado.

Dr. Natalie Landowski, Assistant Professor of Piano, presented a lecture recital at the College Music Society's Southwest Chapter Conference at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA.

Dr. Alfonzo Cooper, Jr., Assistant Professor of Voice, and Prof. Linda Andrews, Instructor of Organ, presented a recital at the First Presbyterian Church featuring the world premiere of a commissioned work in honor of civil rights leader C. T. Vivian at which the composer and two of Vivian's children were in attendance.

Dr. Kevin Nichols, Associate Professor of Percussion, led a performance with the WIU Percussion Ensemble at the Illinois Music Education Conference in Peoria, IL.

Dr. Nicole Gillotti, Assistant Professor of Trumpet, released a solo album titled “Many Faces” featuring commissioned works for trumpet and piano.

Dr. Jett Walker, Assistant Professor of Trombone, performed at the 2024 International Trombone Festival at Texas Christian University.

Dr. Elisabeth Marshall, Assistant Professor of Voice, performed with the Handel and Haydn Society Chorus and the New York Philharmonic in Handel's Messiah in New York City.

Dr. Gina Yi, Assistant Professor of Music Education, presented at the Illinois Music Education Conference in Peoria, IL.

Dr. Charlie Chadwell, Assistant Professor of Saxophone, and Dr. Suyeon Ko, Assistant Professor of Flute, performed at the North American Saxophone Alliance Conference in Oklahoma.

Speech Pathology and Audiology

Dr. Julie Cox will be granted tenure in July

Dr. Cox and Dr. Martin have published two articles

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Dr. Cox, Dr. Silberer, and Haleigh Ruebush presented at National Conference (ASHA)
Nicole Pierson is officially ABD in her doctorate program- expected to finish Spring 2025
Nicole Pierson, Angi Martin, and Julie Curless have been trained to give the ADOS which is part of the comprehensive evaluations that take place in the Autism Clinic. This will allow for more children to be evaluated in a timely manner.

Theatre and Dance

Lysa Fox – Head of Musical Theatre

January 2023 - Director - Almost, Maine / Grandstreet Theatre, (Helena MT)

June 2023 - Director / Choreographer - The Prom / Tent Theatre (Springfield, MO)

Active panel member of the Illinois Articulation Initiative Theatre Arts Panel

KC/ACTF Musical Theatre Intensive Coordinator - Festival 54 / Virtual

KC/ACTF Production Respondent

Steel Magnolias - Culver-Stockton College - in Region V

You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown - Lewis University

The Dining Room - Culver-Stockton College - in Region V

Consultant for John Gribas, Associate Dean for Fine Arts and Humanities, Idaho State

Hadley Kamminga-Peck – Head of Directing/Theatre History

Director/Playwright - *UNDONE: The Lady M Project* at the Savoy Theatre, produced by Local Theatre Company in Denver, CO

Director - *THE GULF*

Director - *PUSSY RIOT*

Director - *THE KING STAG*.

KC/ACTF Illinois State Chair.

Rebel Mickelson – Head of Costume Design

Costume Design - *DIAL M FOR MURDER* / Cumberland County Playhouse

Costume Design - *Poets of Darkness* by Donald Laney / Birke Foundation Marshal University

Costume Design - *ALL SHOOK UP* / Cumberland County Playhouse

Costume Design - *CLUE* / Creede Repertory Theatre

Costume Design - *MOUNTAIN OCTOPUS* / Creede Repertory Theatre

ITA eFollowspot Article - “Rediscovering Costume History”

ITA eFollowspot Article - “Study Abroad at the Prague Quadrennial”

Illinois Theatre Association Theatre Board Member – College/University Division

Carolyn Blackinton – Head of Performance

Performer - *CHICAGO FIRE – Merle's Mom* (TV Series).

Director – *NEXT TO NORMAL*

Steven House – Head of Design

Illinois Theatre Association Board of Directors

Artist - *Rocky on Parade*

Scenic Design - *YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN* - Clinton Area Showboat Theatre

Scenic Charge - *YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN* - Clinton Area Showboat Theatre

Scenic Design - *SCHOOL OF ROCK* – WIU SummerStage

Workshop Leader - Tenure Q and A with Experts - Illinois Theatre Association

Vice Chair- Graduate Council

Chair - Director of the CPA Search Committee

Member - COFAC recruitment Committee

Josh Wroblewski – Head of Lighting Design

Sound and Projections Designer - *RIDE THE CYCLONE* - WIU

Lighting Design - *THE MOORS* - Millikin University

Lighting Design - *NEXT TO NORMAL* - WIU

Lighting Design - *LEAVING IOWA* - WIU

Lighting Design - *BEAUTIFUL THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL* - Omaha Community

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Playhouse

Lighting Design - SCHOOL OF ROCK – WIU SummerStage

Lighting Design - THE PIANO LESSON - A Public Fit Theatre Company

Lighting Design – RENT - Omaha Community Playhouse (Nominated for Best Lighting Design Omaha Entertainment and Arts Awards)

Lighting Design - WOMAN IN MIND - WIU

Lighting Design - 36th Young Playwrights Festival - Pegasus Theatre Chicago

Workshop Presented at USITT- Spotlight Mastery: Illuminating the Art of Followspot Calling

Workshop Presented - Resume Doctors at USITT

Member - Lighting Commission for USITT

Advisor - Shades of Vision (BiPOC Student Group)

Advisor - USITT Student Chapter

Member – WIU Commencement Speaker Committee

Member – CAGAS

Adam Lewis – Head of Undergraduate Performance

Performer – VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE – Okoboji Summer Theatre

Director – BAREFOOT IN THE PARK

Director – BYOP (Bring Your Own Play)

Director – LEAVING IOWA

Performer – GUYS WITH TIES (Improv)

Performer – QCSportz (Improv)

DC Wright – Head of Movement/Stage Combat

Fight/Intimacy Director - MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR - Festival 56 in Princeton, Illinois;

Fight/Intimacy Director - THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG - Circa '21 Playhouse in Rock Island, Illinois;

Instructor - the Dueling Arts International Winter Workshop;

Instructor - the Central Illinois Stage Combat Workshop;

Instructor - the Central Illinois Stage Combat Teacher Trainer;

Instructor - the Dueling Arts International Stage Combat.

Dan Schmidt –

Technical Director - LAST TRAIN TO NIBROC

Technical Director - NEXT TO NORMAL

Technical Director – 1968

Technical Director - RIDE THE CYCLONE.

Technical Director – MARY POPPINS - Edgewood High School.

Sound Designer - PUSSY RIOT

Sound Designer - THE GARBOLOGISTS

Creative Co-Producer - FORGOTTONIA with Chris Vallillo.

Workshop Presenter - Broke & Bespoke - USITT

Artist - Rocky on Parade

Lisa Wipperling – Professor of Musical Theatre Voice

Member - Faculty Senate

Member - BGS Advisory Committee

Member - Ad Hoc committee for Showcase 24

Member - Search Committee for the new Instructor of MT, Piano position

Performer – WIU President's Holiday reception

Performer/Band Leader - Women's History Month at the Wine Sellers

Performer – The Jazz Combo

Performer - Bill Maakestad Combo

Performer -The Jazz Quartet for YPAS

Performer - THE DROWSY CHAPERONE - Black Hills Playhouse

Performer - 9 TO 5 - Black Hills Playhouse

Director - THE LAST TRAIN TO NIBROC

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Director - Underground Cabaret 2024
Director - THE THEORY OF RELATIVITY - Monmouth College
Performer - THE PROM - McCleod Summer Playhouse
Performer - THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHTTIME

Donald Laney – Head of Dance

GRANTS:

WV Dance Company - The Forging of Tu Linh (2023) - funded through a grant from the WV Dept. of Arts, Culture and History with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Poets of Darkness (duet version) – created as a solo in 2023 - funded through a Birke Foundation grant from Marshall University

West Virginia Dance Company Performances - Public Concert Tour - Funded through the Benedum Foundation and WV Dept. of Arts, Culture and History with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Denita Inez and Ayodele Masterclasses partial funding through a PAS Grant.

WEST VIRGINIA DANCE COMPANY PERFORMANCES

Auto-Bio #3 – Self-examination of mental reality (2023)

Poets of Darkness (duet version) – created as a solo in 2023

10/23 – FestiFALL – Charleston, WV

11/23 – West Virginia Wesleyan College

*1/24 – Western Illinois University – Informal Concert – I Was Almost Alright

2/24 – Greenbrier Valley Theatre – Lewisburg, WV

3/24 – Beckley Concert Series – Beckley, WV

4/24 – Shepherd University – Shepherdstown, WV

5/24 – American Dance Festival Studio Series – Durham, NC

6/24 – West Virginia Governor School for the Arts – WV Wesleyan College, WV

GUEST ARTIST - Beckley Dance Theatre School; Beckley Performing Arts

12/23 - The Nutcracker – Beckley, WV; The Greenbrier Hotel, Lewisburg, WV

CHOREOGRAPHY

8/23 - The Forging of Tu Linh (2023) – West Virginia Dance Company

Performed on Educational Tour – 55 schools; Public Concert Series

10/23 – Auto-Bio #3 – Self-examination of mental reality (2023)

10/23 - Halloween Dancing Pants (2000) - Beckley Performing Arts

Performed at Halloween Show – 10/23 @ Woodrow Wilson High School

10/23 - NEXT TO NORMAL – WIU

11/23 - 1968 - Devised Dance Concert – Western Illinois University – Co-director

2/24 – RIDE THE CYCLONE – WIU

3/24 – LUST LOVE LOSS – WIU; ACDA

5/24 – MY FAIR LADY – Cortland Repertory Theatre, NY

6/24 – NEWSIES – WIU Summer Stage, IL

MASTERCLASSES/RESIDENCIES

3/24 – North Central Region ACDA – Masterclasses (2)

6/24 – Quad City Ballet Summer Intensive – Rock Island, IL

West Virginia Governor School for the Arts – WV Wesleyan College, WV

Sharon Nott – Head Accompanist

* Accompanied students in guest artist master classes.

*Accompanied students in “Screening Auditions” and previews for students competing in KC/ACTF

*Accompanied DUMELA CABARET

*Accompanied auditions for perspective musical theater majors

Community Service:

*Accompanied District 4 Festival elementary chorus

*Accompanied 4; 6-12 grade choral concerts in Macomb School District

*Accompanied junior high and high school Solo and Ensemble contests

*Pianist at First Christian Church services and events

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Sheryl Meyers – Costume Shop Manager
Illinois Little People Entertainment – Strippers
Designer/Constructor/Quick Rigger –
Barbie Costume
Sexy Oompa Loompa
Race Car Driver
Fire Fighter

Tammy Killian – Chair of Theatre & Dance
Producer – Full Season of Plays – WIU T&D
Scenic Designer/Producer – THE GULF – WIU T&D
Director/Producer – BYOP (Bring Your Own Play) – THE LIGHT and 40 MINUTES TO GO
Costume Designer/Producer – SCHOOL OF ROCK – WIU SummerStage
Acting Coach – LEAVING IOWA – WIU T&D
Facilitator – WIU T&D Boot Camp
Facilitator – WIU T&D Screening Auditions
Facilitator – Summer Professional Theatre Interviews/Auditions
Workshop Presenter – WIU Writing Festival '24
Narrator – Tenebrae Service – Wesley United Methodist Church
Director/Producer – BYOP (Bring Your Own Play) – F*@K YOU AMANDA and
CRUMBLIN' CROWNS
Member – MHS After Prom Committee – Macomb High School
Playwright – BARBARA IN THE GARBAGE – Presented by Carl Sandburg College
Mentor – MYLO (Macomb Youth Leadership Organization) – MHS
Board Member/Secretary – MAC (Macomb Arts Center)
Respondent/Adjudicator – Trumbauer High School Theatre Festival, Alabama

Museum Studies

Dr. Heidi Lung
Professional Service:
National
Regional Representative for the Award of Excellence Selection Committee, American
Association for State and Local History, 2024
Content Advisory Committee, Alliance of American Museums, 2023-24
Grant Panel Reviewer, Museums Empowered Grant, Institute of Museum and Library
Services, 2024
Regional
Professional Mentor, STEPS-IMA, Iowa Museum Association, 2024
State/Local
Board Member, German American Heritage Center and Museum, 2024
University
WIU-QC Wellness Committee, 2023-24
WIU New Faculty Mentor and Fall Orientation Panelsist, 2023
Peer Reviewed Presentations:
STEPS-IMA Reflections, Iowa Museum Association Annual Conference, Quad Cities, IL/IA,
2023
Learning from Luchadores, Iowa Museum Association Annual Conference, Quad Cities,
IL/IA, 2023
Academic Tenure Reviews:
Meena Selvakumar, Associate Professor, Information School, University of Washington,
2023
Grant Submissions:
Mentorship and Leadership at All Levels, 21st Century Museum Professionals Grant,
Institute for Museum and Library Services, 2024, proposed, \$258,843.00

Dr. Angela McClanahan-Simmons
Publications:

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'Project Loops, Edgelands and the Permanent Reimagining of Landscape.' Journal of Contemporary Archaeology.

Peer-reviewed conference papers:

'The Materiality of Death Images in 20th Century Kentucky and Transappalachia:

Producing and Reaffirming Kinship through Funerary Photography.' Delivered at Appalachian Studies Association Annual Conference, West Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC, USA.

'Things in Place: Revisiting Biographical Objects.' Delivered at Iowa Museums Association annual conference, Western Illinois University, Moline, IL, USA, 2 October.

Service to the Profession:

Advisory Board Member, Visual Culture in Britain (Taylor and Francis/Routledge)

Peer reviews:

Post-Medieval Archaeology, journal article peer review. (In progress)

Berghann Books, pre-publication book manuscript review. (In progress)

Journal of Visual Art Practice (Taylor and Francis), article peer review, submitted 1 December.

University Service Activity:

'Get Lit': Hosted 126 students who rotated in groups through my ARTH 180 Intro to Art General Education course on April 4, 2024 as part of 'Get Lit', an all-day program at the QC campus in which regional high school students are introduced to the experience of a wide range of college-level courses.

Led the Virtual Sensorium for neurodiverse students with students in the Museum Studies program on behalf of the WIU Initiatives in Accessibility Committee, of which I am a member.

Member, CAGAS (Fall 2022-present)

Member, Initiatives in Accessibility Committee (November, 2023-Present)

QC Faculty Council, COFAC Representative (2022-2025)

Workshop Training, National Park Service Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)

Advisor, Graduate Experience in Museum Studies (GEMS) Student Club

13. Grant activities and external funding

Illinois Arts Council Grant – BCA

Illinois Arts Council grant – Tri States Public Radio

Mellinger Foundation Grant – Speech Pathology and Audiology

Twelve (approx.) Externally Funded Graduate Assistantships

Corporation for Public Broadcasting – Tri States Public Radio

Radio Information Services, Illinois State Library Grant-WIUM/WIUW

14. Value of programming

Explain how departments, programs, and other aspects of your College add value to the educational experiences of Western's students.

The College of Fine Arts and Communication brings the visual and performing arts to the student population. We also feature media programming that keeps students informed and entertained. Our programs also serve the physical needs (speech and hearing) of students. 2023-2024 saw 27,713 visitors to our campus through COFAC events.. Through Recruiting events, performances, gallery shows, recitals, lectures and our Speech and Hearing Clinic, COFAC serves as a major entry point for our region and beyond. From five to ninety-five years of age, we proudly welcome all our community and provides services and value second to none. With the completion of the Center for Performing Arts, we expect that impact to grow substantially. WIU and Macomb are truly THE ARTS DESTINATION for the region.

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COFAC Recital Hall

The Recital Hall offers an outstanding performance space for audiences to experience outstanding musical presentations through the year. The Recital Hall also provides five-camera live-streaming capabilities. The School of Music presents an average of 175 events each year in the Recital Hall.

Local News and Sports Coverage

Broadcasting and Journalism provide WIU and the local community with award-winning coverage of local news (NEWS3) and WIU sports events (ESPN+) and the DOG radio station.

Speech and Hearing Clinic

WIU students can have their speech and hearing evaluated free of charge at the WIU Speech and Hearing Clinic, operated by the department of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

Theatre and Dance Productions

The department of Theatre and Dance produces 13-15 stage productions throughout the year. Students can attend the events for free.

Art Exhibitions and Events

The department of Art and Design holds student, faculty and guest artist exhibitions throughout the year at the WIU Art Gallery and other on-campus locations.

15. Student success

List the following:

- a. Student clubs and organizations in the College*
- b. Results of any student surveys in your College, including surveys on student success, program development, student satisfaction, etc.*
- c. All new initiatives in the College regarding student success*
- d. All initiatives to support underrepresented student populations in your College*

Art and Design

Molly Borth has been accepted with a full ride and assistantships to the MFA Printmaking program at SUIC; Exhibition - 2 Fat 2 Furious, Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI 2024; Portfolio Presentation SGCI Providence 2024

Mackenzie White has been accepted with a full ride to the MFA painting program at SIUE.

Kieara Morey: artwork will be used as divider in 2024 WIU Elements publication

Rivers Ashton: Portfolio Presentation SGCI Providence 2024; 2024 SGCI Membership Portfolio Exchange

Andrew Tomlinson: 2024 SGCI Membership Portfolio Exchange

Broadcasting and Journalism

Leatherneck Insider, WIU Sports Broadcastings weekly sports variety show, has won 2024 Best Sports Program at the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS) Awards in New York City.

News3 Students interviewed Interim President Dr. Kristi Mindrup in March 2024, which was a great opportunity for our students to be “covering the campus.”

Jaycie Doerr (junior, Broadcasting & Journalism) attended the Mid-America Emmy Awards Saturday in Branson, Missouri, where she was presented two journalism scholarships, including the Walter Cronkite Scholarship. She also received the Michael Hardgroves Scholarship.

The Western Courier and Editor-in-Chief Jaycie Doerr had an excellent showing at the 2024 Illinois College Press Association Award Ceremony in Chicago, Illinois, USA. Jaycie and the Courier received multiple accolades for

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their outstanding work.

The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) held a panel on February 23rd to discuss cultural competency and improving experiences across our community.

Members of organizations and departments from across campus participated in the panel, which was organized by the NABJ students.

Sports Broadcasting students continue exemplary hands-on coverage of Leatherneck Athletics, as part of our multifaceted partnership with ESPN & Athletics.

Communication

Major student achievements and recognitions for the 2023-2024 academic year include:

Gracie Julian (May '23) and Becca LaMont (May '23) were both accepted into the Disney College Program.

Lee Caron, Fall 2023 Thompson Undergraduate Scholar Award

Shahed Rahman, Fall 2023 Thompson Graduate Scholar

Christine Elliott, Fall 2023 Department Scholar

Graduate student Shahed Rahman earned the Top Student Paper Award from the Central States

Communication Associations Communication and Technology Interest Group for his paper, Exploring the Impact of Social Media Use on Attitudes towards Advertising, Ad Engagement, and Perceived Annoyance.”

Graduate student Zaynab Yusuf presented her research paper at the National Communication Association conference.

Marcus Jefferson, Spring 2024 Thompson Undergraduate Scholar Award

Zaynab Yusuf, Spring 2024 Thompson Graduate Scholar Award

Madison Lindsey, Spring 2024 Department Scholar

Madison Lindsey, Spring 2024 COFAC Student Leadership Award (Communication)

Graduate students Zaynab Yusuf, Shahed Rahman and Victoria Emereonye presented a panel on social media at the Central States Communication Conference.

School of Music

Martin Medrano, graduate violinist, was awarded a Fellowship Assistant Award for the Mostly Modern Festival in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Denzel Abarquez, graduate pianist, received 2nd Prize in the professional category of the Birmingham International Music Competition.

George Pärvu, freshman violinist, won the first prize at the Nouvelles Etoiles International Competition in Paris, France.

Speech Pathology and Audiology

Just over 70% of our freshmen and new transfer students made the Dean's List (Honors) fall semester. Compared to the university numbers, this is incredible and shows the recruitment efforts to recruit students of high caliber at the undergraduate levels is working towards our strategic goals

We accepted eleven of eleven WIU graduates into our FALL 2024 cohort. This senior class is outstanding and is the first of its kind. Every one of them has accepted our offer and will be continuing their education with WIU. These students were instrumental in recruitment efforts of other students to join their class. They truly are the most amazing group of students.

Five of our seniors attended the ISHA convention in Chicago in February 2024. They competed in the scholastic bowl against 11 graduate programs. These five students were tied for first place until the final round. They ended up getting fourth place out of 12 schools- eleven of which were all graduate students. We had the only team with undergraduate students.

Theatre and Dance

Jan. 2024 - KC/ACTF WIU T&D sent 20 students/faculty to Region 3 Festival in Michigan.

Awards:

Musical Theatre Intensive Alternate - Michael McNamara

Irene Ryan Selectors Award for Comedy - Nora Wragg

KC/ACTF Region 3 Student Council National Conference Nominee - Kena McCance

KC/ACTF National Competition – Kena McCance will represent WIU KC/ACTF Region 3 as the Student Government Representative

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KC/ACTF Nominations for the Competition in Jan. 2025:

LAST TRAIN TO NIBROC

Irene Ryan Nominees:

Nora Wragg

Erik Larsen

Student Design/Tech Nominations:

Shelby Doyle – Costume Design

Kimani Gordon – Lighting Design

Mikey McNamara – Stage Management

Faculty Nominations:

Lisa Wipperlng – Directing

Nominated for -

Celebration of Associate Productions

Costume Parade (May/Raleigh Scene 1)

WE ARE P*\$\$Y RIOT or Everything is PR

Irene Ryan Nominees:

Elizabeth Huntley

Eva Albright

Certificate of Merit:

Rio Canas - Excellence in Costume Design

Bryan Zipp - Excellence in Lighting Design

Ensemble - Excellence in Ensemble Production

Emma Wahlmann - Excellence in Stage Management

Other Recognitions:

Celebration of Associate Production - Recommend the trial scenes

Costume Parade - The ensemble

RIDE THE CYCLONE

Irene Ryan Nominees:

Elizabeth Huntley

Jakob Innes

Certificates of Merit:

Acting - Ensemble

Trevor Turner – Lighting Design

Emma Wahlmann – Stage Management

Recommendations:

Recommended for “Evening of Scenes”

THE KING STAG

Irene Ryan Nominees:

Sara BenBella

Bryan Larson

Certificates of Merit:

Acting – Dylan Flaig

Costume Design – Corinna Knighten

Stage Management – Molly Montgomery

Recommendations:

Recommended for “Costume Parade”

Museum Studies

Museum Studies Graduates

1. Zackary Baraglia

2. Charolette Drennen

3. Julia Gabbard

4. Sadie Hynick

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5. Alex Nasharr
6. Eli Sadler
7. Anna Thomas
8. Lindsey VanDieren

New Graduate Professional Appointments:

Zackary Baraglia, Event Coordinator at the Ellwood House Museum, IL
Sadie Hynick, Associate Collections Manager, Prince's Paisley Park, MN
Addison Marsengill, Curatorial Assistant, National Danish American Museum, IA
Jordan Miller, Curatorial Assistant, U.S. Naval Seabee Museum, WA
Elyse Nerenberg, Tall Grass Archaeology, IA
Hope Stropes, Assistant Curator of Collections, Ella Sharp Museum, WI

The College holds the Departmental Scholars Awards each year in April to honor outstanding scholarly efforts in our students.

16. Alumni highlights

List notable highlights from College alumni.

Art and Design

Kyla Culbertson - WIU visiting artist workshop and exhibition; Summer artist residencies at Haystack Mountain School of Arts & Crafts and Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts.
Joe Murzuch - Table and Shelf solo exhibition, 155A Gallery, East Dulwich, London, England.
Sarah Smith Howerter - Soon to be published Illustrator, children's book The Taming of "Terrible T", written by Rose Guthrie.

Broadcasting and Journalism

Alum Mike Nobler featured in December 2023 issue of Sports Illustrated.
Brendan Reidy and Dylan Smith anchored together on WGEM (Quincy) in early 2024.
BC&J alum Shaun Newell (Class of 2002) and colleagues from WMBD-TV (Peoria, Ill) spoke to our Broadcasting and Journalism classes on February 20. Shaun is WMBD Vice President/General Manager.
Broadcasting alum Mike Nobler guest lecture via Zoom with Dr. Eun Go's Sports Public Relations class on March 28. Nobler is video director for the NFL's Miami Dolphins.
Broadcasting and Journalism alumna and former BCJ News Director Emily Manley on the third floor of Sallee Hall on March 21. Emily visited classes, attended a news meeting and spent time providing advice to current students. Emily works as the chief capitol bureau reporter at the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City for Nexstar stations.
Alum Brendan Reidy (Broadcasting and Journalism, 21) on the third floor of Sallee Hall on March 20, to meet and share with our BC&J students. Brendan works as Sports Director at WGEM-TV in Quincy, Illinois
Alum Dylan Smith (Broadcasting & Journalism, 2022) visit us on the third floor of Sallee Hall on March 18, to meet with students and discuss his work as a multimedia journalist and weekend anchor at WGEM TV in Quincy, Illinois

Communication

Numerous alumni participated in our Career Preparation Day during the Fall 2023 semester. Several alumni were invited to speak to selected classes over the course of the year.

School of Music

Rebecca Bressanelli ('13), has been appointed Coordinator of Academic Services for the DePaul University School of Music and will be overseeing the School of Music Careers Services program.
Scott Jones ('94), was named the IADA District 6 Athletic/Activities Director of the Year.
Paul Casiano ('21), completed his final recital for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance at the University of Iowa and is currently working to record an album of solo piano music by Filipino composers.

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Daniel Ayala ('20), released a new book, Harmonic Concepts and Improvisation Techniques.

Speech Pathology and Audiology

We continue to increase alumni annual giving to our speech and hearing clinic and individual scholarships

Theatre and Dance

JC Clementz (MFA Directing 2010):

Director of Casting and Artistic Operations – Steppenwolf Theatre Company

Melody Betts (MFA Acting 2009):

Performer - THE WIZ – Broadway Tour/Broadway - 2024

Mark Ryan Anderson (BFA Musical Theatre 2013):

Performer - FIDDLER ON THE ROOF at The Gateway Playhouse (Feb 5, 2024)

Performer - JERSEY BOYS at The Gateway Playhouse (Aug 6, 2023)

Sarah Bertram (BFA Musical Theatre 2016):

Performer -Purina Commercial - 2024

Nissi Shalome (BFA Musical Theatre 2019):

Performer - “Count Down to Christmas” with Mario Lopez on the Family Channel

Amina Alexander (MFA Lighting Design 2020):

Assistant Lighting Designer –

SHUCKED (Broadway),

THE FAR COUNTRY (Off Broadway)

KPOP (Broadway)

BLACK NO MORE (Off Broadway).

Maddie Lego (BFA Musical Theatre 2017):

Performer (Wrestler) – WOW Superheros – Goldie Collins

Performer – WILD PARTY – Jaxx Theatricals LA

Taylor White (BA: Performance 2018):

Stage Manager/Production Manager – Celebrity Cruises

Logan Edris (BFA Musical Theatre 2019):

Performer – ALADDIN – Disney Cruises

Performer – LITTLE MERMAID – Disney Cruises

Brian McKinley (BFA Musical Theatre 2018):

Director of Education/Community Engagement – The Black Rep

Tyler Herald (BA: Production/Design 2016):

Assistant Designer – Van Gogh Immersive (original)

Assistant Designer – Hamilton Immersive

Assistant Designer – BEATLE JUICE – Broadway/National Tour

Scenic Designer – RETRACTION – Off Broadway

Scenic Designer – GOLDEN CAGE – Off Broadway

Scenic Designer – FINDING MADAME CURIE – Off Broadway

Kellie Cameron (BFA Musical Theatre 2016) & Chris Guidi (BA: Performance 2016):

Co-Founders – Storybook Touring Theatre

Izzy Maxwell (BFA 2024) company member for Blues Clues national tour.

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Museum Studies

Vanessa Sage, promoted in 2024 to Associate Curator, Figge Museum
Kelly Lao, took position in 2023 as Vice President of Museum Experiences, Putnam Museum
Liz Crooks, Director, Pentacrest Museums, University of Iowa
Nathan Kraft, Director Bix Beiderbacke Museum
Brian Allen, Director, German American Heritage Museum
Clair Tobin, Assistant Director, German American Heritage Museum
Ashlie Scott, Collections Assistant and Guest Services, Colorado Rail Road Museum
Neville Crenshaw, Special Exhibitions, Saint Louis Science Center
Abby Klug, Museum Specialist, Edwards Creative
Victoria House, Archaeological and Archival Collections Technician
Kenedy Heimerdinger, Digital Education Coordinator, State Historical Museum of Iowa
Kristen Michael, Executive Tours Coordinator, Buffalo Bill Center of the West
Matthew Toland, Director, Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology
Kelly Duffy, Deputy Director, National Museum of the American Sailor
Madison Basso, Curator, National Museum of the American Sailor
Chandler Cox, Volunteer Coordinator, Family Resources
Jeremy Murray, Curator of Collections, Carver County Historical Society
Jess Cruz, Exhibit Preparator and Outreach Coordinator, University of Northern Iowa
Melanie Wier, Assistant Curator, Herbert Hoover Presidential Museum
Emily VanWaardhuizen, Collections Coordinator, Karpeles Manuscript
Devin Oake, Curatorial Assistant, Putnam
Maryam Qaryaqos, Arabic Interpreter, Rock Island and Milan School District
Katie Conrad, Director at Rockwall County Historical Foundation Museum

17. Community and/or regional engagement from College:

List notable community and regional engagement activities.

In the fall and spring semesters, the School of Music offers the WIU Community School of Music, which provides high-quality, affordable, music instruction to the community. Instruction includes private lessons and group classes for people of all ages.

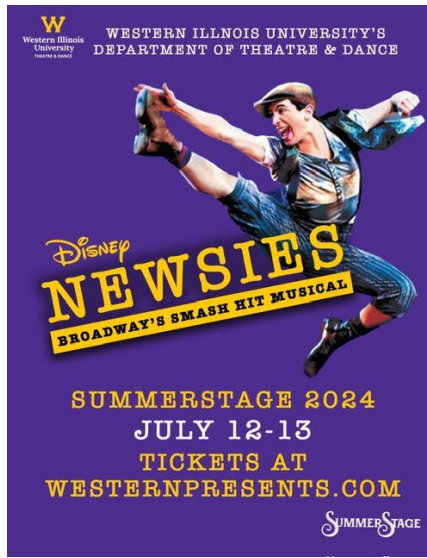
Each summer, the School of Music also offers the Summer Music Institute. Day Camps allow area youth to come to campus and have the opportunity to develop musical skills and knowledge in a fun-filled, nurturing environment. The Institute has been restructured through the Community School of Music and has seen considerable growth in just its second year. Currently enrollments stand at 130+ for summer 2024.

While it had been postponed during the COVID pandemic, the College has brought area theatre talent, including local students in fourth grade through high school, to campus during the summer for our “SummerStage” production. After weeks of rehearsal, the event concludes with live productions available to the public.

This year's production is NEWSIES!

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(A little shameless advertising!)

The Speech Pathology and Audiology clinic serves the community in many ways. Faculty and students diagnose and treat clients in the on-campus clinic. Additionally, they serve clients at Bridgeway, Elms, West Central Illinois Special Education Cooperative (Macomb), and Knox-Warren County Special Education Cooperative (Monmouth, Roseville, and Abingdon). The services not only provide a much needed service to our community members and our local school districts, but it is providing experience for our students.

Clinic Counts (includes cancelled appointments) as of 5/14/2024

Fall (Aug. 2023-Dec. 2023)					
Speech Clinic		Hearing Clinic		Autism Clinic	
Teletherapy Appts.	480	Adult Appts.	151	Diagnostic Appts.	10
Individual Appts.	1216	Child Appts.	45		
Group Appts.	240	OAE Appts.	5		
Diagnostic Appt.s	30	ROTC Appts.	9		
DX Waitlist	10	Aid Check Appts.	119		
Bridgeway Clients	8	Aid Consult Appts.	28		
Elms Clients	5	Aid Fitting Appts.	11		
School Clients	86	Mosaic Appts.	14		
		APD Appts.	2		
		WCISEC Days	4		
Total	2075	Total	388	Total	10

Spring (January 2024-May 2024)					
Speech Clinic		Hearing Clinic		Autism Clinic	
Teletherapy Appts.	180	Adult	78	Diagnostic Appts.	9
Individual Appts.	695	Child	37		
Group Appts.	493	OAE	5		
Diagnostic Appts.	23	ROTC	6		
DX Waitlist	13	Aid Check	85		
Speech Waitlist	5	Aid Consult	25		
Bridgeway Clients	7	Aid Fitting	13		
Elms Clients	3	Mosaic	7		
School Clients	89	APD	0		
		WCISEC Days	14		
Total	1508	Total	270	Total	9

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Summer (June 2024-July 2024)			
Speech Clinic		Hearing Clinic	
Teletherapy Appts.	0	Adult Appts.	13
Individual Appts.	130	Child Appts.	5
Group Appts.	360	OAE Appts.	
Diagnostic Appts.	4	ROTC Appts.	
DX Waitlist	13	Aid Check Appts.	6
Speech Waitlist	10	Aid Consult Appts.	1
		Aid Fitting Appts.	1
		Mosaic Appts.	
		APD Appts.	1
Total	517	Total	27

Through the BCA, PAS and YPAS, we are providing exposure to the arts for not only the youth of Illinois (over 3,000 this past year), but we are promoting and facilitating lifelong learning through the arts for everyone in our community in West-Central Illinois.

BCA

The Bureau of Cultural Affairs (BCA) has endeavored through the years to provide high quality, affordable performing arts programs for the citizens of West-Central Illinois, as well as the Western Illinois University (WIU) campus community. The BCA is unique in that it has a diverse membership, including college students, faculty, staff, administrators and members of the community. The students of the BCA have excellent role models from non-students who choose to volunteer with our organization and through their own involvement meet a wide variety of community members who have a passion for the arts. Our lectures, demonstrations and educational outreach activities provide the information needed to have a greater understanding of and appreciation for the arts. We strive to find opportunities to get artists into our community to help foster the idea that the arts can be anywhere, as well as bringing in students to witness the vast job opportunities related to the arts. The BCA strives for diversity within our programming bringing to western Illinois performances ranging from dance to nationally known comedians such as The Preacher Lawson, Second City, Ryan Stiles, Larry Miller, and Jim Gaffigan, as well as internationally renowned violinist and Macomb native Benny Kim to the Tibetan Monks. The BCA brought to Macomb and the community a wide and varied assortment of artists, including Artrageous, Recycled Percussion, Doktor Kaboom, Ryan and Ryan Piano Duo, Step Afrika, and more.

YPAS

Through the Youth Performing Arts Series (YPAS), we bring in students from pre-K to High School to our campus facilities to experience top-flight performances ranging from dance to music to theater. In recent years, the shows selected are geared towards a topic of conversation in the school system such as anti-bullying and pro-recycling. All students and teachers attend the YPAS performances free of charge and transportation expenses are also covered 100% for the bus expenses. For many of these Illinois children the YPAS performances are their first exposure to the arts, of any kind. This year, we were able to expand our reach to a number of school districts in the 20 surrounding counties and provided arts entertainment to over 3,000 children.

18. Conclusion

The College of Fine Arts and Communication epitomizes what it means to be a Leatherneck. The members of our college; faculty, staff and students alike, believe in the mission of the college and this university. We will never be the largest, but we strive to be the mightiest. Our students learn from true professionals in their field, who are expected to continue practicing their craft professionally. Students are held to high standards of professionalism as well. Our performances, clinics, broadcasts, lectures and of course classroom instruction, allow students

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to learn and prepare for their futures as well as entertain and broaden our communities. The staff across the college is as dedicated as any and are exceptional in their commitment to all things WIU. We continue to do more with less year after year. Oftentimes, because of the college's unwavering commitment to recruitment and retention, we feel we are left to our own devices. Seldom do we know what the plan is from the institution on support and assistance for COFAC. We support events across campus every time we are asked. We believe in the all-for-one and one-for-all approach. The College of Fine Arts and Communication steps up each and every time it is asked to do so. Whether early warning grade reports, fall-to-fall retention or day of giving percentage by faculty, COFAC is a leader across the institution. WIU is an exceptional institution. Our mission has always been to educate students who do not have the same opportunity and resources as the vast majority of college attendees. When we embrace that mission and do what we do best, Western can be unstoppable.