



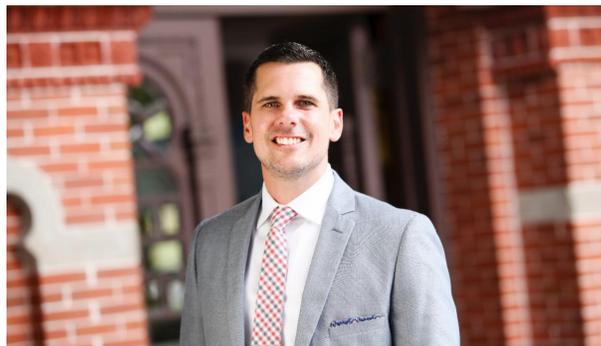
# CAL *Currents* : The Newsletter of the College of Arts and Letters

Vol 3 | Issue 3 | April 2020

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## A Message from the Dean



Well, this semester didn't turn out like any of us imagined. Undoubtedly the COVID-19 crisis has significantly disrupted our semester - and our lives. I think in the College of Arts and Letters the shift to remote learning and teaching was especially profound - we lost so many recitals, screenings, performances, lectures and gatherings that are at the heart of what we do in the college. Of course, creativity and the ability to engage productively with emerging technologies is also in our collective skillset.

In this issue of *CAL Currents*, you'll read about just some of the many truly inventive ways that faculty engaged with students online, the way our students continued to demonstrate their ability to collaborate and create even while physically isolated, and how we reminded ourselves and our friends that the arts and humanities are anything but marginal - they really do matter and they really do make our lives that much better (and the next time anyone tells you the arts are not practical, please refer them to the face masks produced in art studios on campus for Tampa Bay first responders).

I look forward to being back on campus and in community with the talented students, staff and faculty that make the College of Arts and Letters so special and I equally look forward to celebrating the CAL Class of 2020 in the weeks ahead. Stay safe and stay passionate.



David Gudelunas, Ph.D.

Dean and Professor

## CAL Responds to the COVID-19 Crisis

The Arts really do make a difference!



**The Fab Lab creates masks and the Art and Design Department makes personal protective equipment available for first responders**

**Dr. Emma Quintana**, coordinator of [UT's Fab Lab](#) and a faculty member in the **Department of Art and Design** used the high tech equipment in UT's Digital Fabrication Lab [to manufacture protective face shields](#) for healthcare workers on the frontlines throughout Tampa Bay. To assist in her effort, [several donors helped financially](#) including Citi and a member of the **College of Arts and Letters Advisory Board**.

The rapid pivot of the Fab Lab from a space where Art and Design students have classes and create innovative projects to a manufacturing facility for essential healthcare items was widely covered by [WTSP/ CBS](#), [Florida Politics](#) and the [Tampa Bay Business Journal](#) among other media outlets.

**Prof. Michael Ingold**, **CAL Studio Safety Coordinator** also coordinated the donation of unused masks that were used in some other [Art and Design](#) studios on campus for immediate healthcare needs. The [effort was spearheaded](#) by **Dean Paul Greenwood**, CNHS.



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## Broadcast Journalism students produce informative media packages about the impact of COVID-19

Students studying with **Dr. Christopher Boulton, Department of Communication**, produced informative media stories as part of the UT-TV Practicum course about how the COVID-19 crisis was affecting University of Tampa students both close to and far from campus. Both of these clips were completed and submitted after UT transitioned to remote instruction.

In the first clip, UTTV Reporter Spencer Posse [investigates what Tampa residents are doing during the COVID-19 pandemic](#). The second looks at [how students at home across the country](#) were adapting to safer-at-home requirements.



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## The Show Goes On(ine) for Theatre Students and Audiences

Students slated to take to the Falk Theatre stage for the [Spring production of "The Learned Ladies"](#) had their costumes and blocking ready when the COVID-19 crisis forced classes to move to remote instruction. Being creative and resourceful theatre majors, however, the show still went on as scheduled opening night - only online. Director **Dr. Bob Gonzalez** and **CAL Technical Theatre Coordinator Alex Amyot, Department of Theatre and Dance**, moved the show from the Falk to computer screens across the globe.

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## Student and Faculty Achievements Celebrated Remotely

The Annual [College of Arts and Letters Student Awards Ceremony](#) and the [CAL Faculty Awards presentation](#) were dislocated from campus to various kitchens and living rooms, but thanks to post-production help from **CAL Media Production Coordinator Warren Cockerham** and **Film, Animation and New Media majors Brett Weiner and Quinn Agnew**, the College

was still able to gather virtually to celebrate the best among the best. Watch for a special cameo from **UT Trustee and CAL Advisory Chair Charlene Gordon** presenting her annual awards at the CAL Student Awards ceremony (above).

Below you can see the presentation of the 2019-2020 faculty awards to the following outstanding faculty:

Outstanding Faculty Achievement in Scholarship or Creative Work: **Dr. Kacy Tillman**

Outstanding Faculty Achievement in Service: **Prof. Corey George**

Outstanding Faculty Achievement in Teaching: **Dr. Chris Gurrie**

Outstanding Faculty Achievement in Mentorship: **Prof. Aaron Walker**

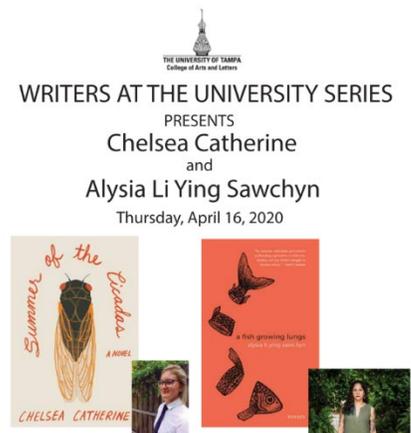
Outstanding Part-Time Faculty Member: **Prof. Tara Swartzbaugh**

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## "Writers at the University" Brings Distinguished Authors to the (virtual) Campus

[Chelsea Catherine \(UT MFA '15\)](#), winner of the Mary C. Mohr Award from *Southern Indiana Review* and author of the Quill Press Award winning forthcoming book "Summer of the Cicadas" and Alysia Li Ying Sawchyn, an editor of *The Rumpus* and author of "A Fish with Lungs" read from their respective works and participated with engaged students as part of the annual Writers at the University.

The event is presented by **Prof. Shane Hinton** and the **Department of English and Writing**.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA  
College of Arts and Letters

WRITERS AT THE UNIVERSITY SERIES  
PRESENTS  
Chelsea Catherine  
and  
Alysia Li Ying Sawchyn  
Thursday, April 16, 2020

12 pm: Writing Bad Women with Chelsea Catherine  
2 pm: In Defense of Telling: Writing Exposition with Alysia Li Ying Sawchyn  
7 pm: Reading and Q&A with both authors

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## Photography Students Document the Pandemic



©[Taylor McCormick](#), Tales of a Toilet Paper Hoarder,  
Long Island, NY

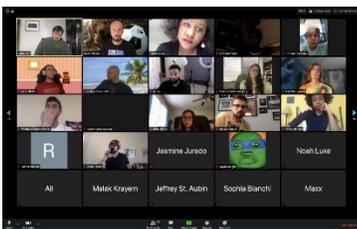


©[Valeria Santeusanio](#), Social Distancing, Miami, FL

Photography students in **Prof. Jaime Aelavanthara's** Digital Photography and Experimental Photography participated amongst hundreds of photographers worldwide in the [Lenscratch](#) "Self Quarantine" exhibition, making photographs to respond to COVID-19 during the transition to online classes. See [their work compiled here](#) , and the full exhibit on [Lenscratch](#) .

## Finding Success with Remote Instruction

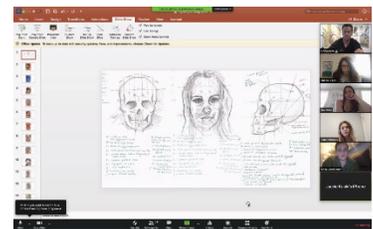
**CAL students and faculty use technology and creativity to ensure that quality UT instruction continues remotely.**



[Andrew Hauser](#), postproduction supervisor at Netflix, visited with students in the **Film, Animation and New Media Department** as part of **Prof. Aaron Walker's** class. Hauser has worked on a great number of films including "Brittany Runs a Marathon" and "The Miseducation of Cameron Post," winner of the Sundance 2018 Grand Jury Prize. Future filmmakers were able to ask questions and hear from Hauser's vast experiences in the industry.



**Dr. Alyssia Miller**, Professor of Instruction in **Languages and Linguistics**, designed an Escape Room online. The project was *La Casa de Papel* themed (a Netflix series in Spanish), so the objective is to rob the Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre and escape with the money. Students have to complete a series of tasks to successfully break into the Fábrica, steal the money, and escape. It has the added difficulty of being completely in Spanish. It requires both critical and creative thinking and taps into many different



**Prof. Chris Valle**, Chair of the **Department of Art and Design**, wasn't sure he could teach painting online after the semester transitioned to remote instruction for the second half of the semester. Using new technologies to teach classic techniques has worked out, however, and students have continued to receive critiques and feedback of their projects online.

areas of study like art, geography, history, math, and Spanish culture.



[Jenna Laine](#), on-air reporter at ESPN, virtually visited part-time faculty member **Prof. Chris Giandola's** communication course to discuss her experiences in the sports journalism field.



**Dr. Vanessa Rukholm, Associate Professor of Languages and Linguistics**, used the Talk Abroad online platform so her students of Italian could speak with native Italian speakers in Italy in real time. Many of the conversations focused on the impacts of corona virus in Italy and the United States.

Proposals for local news stations:



**Prof. Tim Arnold**, Part-time Professor of **Public Relations**, in concert with the Evoke agency, engaged one of their clients – the American Cancer Society – and five class partnerships presented full PR campaigns to promote Minority Cancer Awareness Month for Tampa Bay.

## Justin Long Directed Film Shoots on Campus with Student Help on Both Sides of Camera

The film brought stars Justin Long along with Ryan Phillippe, Judy Greer, Patrick Duffy, Luis Guzman and Melanie Lynskey to campus.



Prior to the campus closing this semester, students from the **Film, Animation and New Media** and **Communication Departments** had [the experience of working on a Hollywood set...on campus](#). Students studying film and media worked in many capacities behind the scenes from production assistants to art assistants under the watchful eye of **Prof. Aaron Walker, Associate Professor FMX**, who coordinated the production on campus.

Fletcher Lounge transformed into a dining room and the Registrar's Office served as a hall of records. Students from across the College of Arts and Letters took advantage of having Hollywood right on their doorstep. Students from the **Department of Theatre and Dance** got to be on set as extras and had plenty of opportunity to interact with the A-list talent on campus.

**Tyler Martinolich '05**, executive director of the Tampa Hillsborough Film and Digital Media Commission, and a part-time professor at UT, helped bring the production to campus and arranged numerous internships for UT students that took place throughout Tampa Bay this Winter.

## CAL Faculty and Student Excellence

**CAL faculty and students are productive scholars and creative leaders. This is just a small sampling of their recent achievements (many pre-pandemic!).**



Students from the **Department of Music** won several top prizes at the 2020 Tampa Bay National Association of Teachers of Singing competition in February. They attended the competition with **Dr. Hein Jung, Associate Professor of Music** and Vocal Director.

Below are the winners (and pictured above with Dr. Jung).

**Katherine Knippel** -First Place in Third Year College Classical Division

**Kelly Collins** -Second Place in Third Year College Classical Division

**Nina Venucci** -Third Place in Third Year College Classical Division

(UT swept the Third Year College Classical Division!)

**Alexis Ault** -Second Place in First Year College Classical Division

**Brilea Harre** -Third Place in First Year College Classical Division



**Dr. Kacy Tillman, Associate Professor of English and Writing** and co-director of the Honors Program, is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Research grant to support her work on black loyalists. Her research will take her to London to explore archives and writings.

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Students in **Prof. Warren Cockerham's Film Animation and New Media** cinematography course [shot the latest music video](#) from Chicago based indie rock band Fran. You can see the final product, produced entirely by students as part of Prof. Cockerham's class, [here](#).



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A group of 14 students studying in the **Department of Theatre and Dance** and the **Department of Music** who form the TampaTones won big at the International Competition of Collegiate Acapella in February. The TampaTones won **first place** to become the Southern Quarterfinal Champions, placing them among the top 50 acapella groups in the nation.

The group was founded by junior Musical Theatre major **Robert Debellis** who wrote and arranged the music for the winning set. The group also won best choreography ( **Emily Shurr**) and best lead vocalists **Robert DeBellis** and **Sarah Joyce**.

The group is student run and you can [see their winning performance here](#).



Senior **Art Major Nneka Jones** recieved the Roddy Brownlee Reed Award of Artistic Excellence for "Shooting Range Target" at the Gasparilla Festival of the Arts.

Nneka won the third biggest prize of the festival competing with over 900 established artists.



**Dr. Amanda Firestone, Department of Communication,** was cited as an expert in fan fiction in [Forbes magazine recently](#).

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Tampa Mayor and UT Alumna Jane Castor was in attendance at a special event organized by two art loving professional women of Tampa, Jacqueline R. A. Root and Stacy Yates '02. They partnered with Scarfone/Hartley Gallery Director **Prof. Jocelyn Boigenzahn** to craft a special event for a small group of Tampa women professionals at the gallery for a first of its kind "Art Lovin' Ladies Event." The women explored the Meridian Scholar and Friends of the Gallery patron print collection vaults and purchased some of these treasures for their art collections to support future gallery programming.

**Spanish major Lauren Wilenski**, presented her research on language acquisition, conducted under the guidance of **Dr. Andrew DeMil, Associate Professor of Languages and Linguistics**, at the Florida Undergraduate Research Conference.



Junior **Graphic Design major Brooke Rogers** participated as part of a team of students that won first place in a statewide advertising and marketing competition. The Mobilize Student Ad Competition gives students [just 48 hours to design a campaign](#) for a non-profit organization.

# Graduation Traditions with New Technologies

Ceremonies and Rites of Passages Move Online for CAL Seniors



*EVERYWHERE...*  
**SPARTAN STRONG**

**Commencement Set for May 9th**

The College of Arts and Letters [will have its own virtual commencement](#) on May 9 at 11 AM. You can find out more information [here](#). Students graduating this May will also be [able to walk in-person at the December 2020 commencement](#). You can see a list of graduates from the College of Arts and Letters [here](#).

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## Departmental Send-Offs

Several academic departments around the College of Arts and Letters are planning their own special events at the end of the semester to honor graduates - safely from home.

The **Department of Communication** is having a special ceremony with three different student speakers and the **Department of Art and Design** will host its [annual BFA in Art show](#) and its [BFA in Graphic Design shows](#) online - showcasing the best student works.

The **Department of Music** is busy creating one final virtual performance by mixing together recordings completed by students remotely and the **Film, Animation and New Media Department** will be holding their annual BFA shows online as well for graduating seniors, their families and friends.

The **Department of Theatre and Dance** will be posting [final student performance pieces online](#) and many other departments are planning special send-offs for their majors.

**Ceremony Details:** Join us via Zoom in honoring the class of 2020! In order to allow every graduate a chance to speak, we've split the ceremony into 4 time slots between 1:00pm and 6:00pm - each hosted by a Communication faculty member. Communication major graduates can RSVP by signing up for a ceremony slot here: [Google Sheets Sign-Up](#)

**YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO:**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA COMMUNICATION MAJOR COMMENCEMENT**

**CLASS OF 2020**

**MAY 9, 2020**

**Featured Speakers**



**Raven King** (UT, 2020) is the Speaker of Assembly and General Manager of WUTT at The University of Tampa. As a Tampa local, Raven is the general Founder and Executive Director of a non-profit organization, Flows to Flashes Inc. helps at-risk youth successfully transition from adolescence to adulthood. Inspired by experiences at The University of Tampa, Raven aspires to eliminate the sales industry, while educating at-risk youth of the many opportunities and success at their reach. Leaving a legacy at The University of Tampa, Raven will continue to pave the way for other young Black women.



**Jessica Smith** (UT, 2020) is a Communication major with a double minor in Spanish and Law, Justice, and Advocacy at The University of Tampa. Jessica is a member of Alpha Chi Omega, The National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Jessica received the Dean's List distinction every semester at The University of Tampa. She is also the recipient of the 2020 Outstanding Student Award from the College of Arts and Letters. Jessica enjoys working with special needs individuals and spreading awareness about anti-bullying bullying efforts. She aspires to attend Boston College of Law in the fall of 2020 to continue her passion for advocacy and helping others.



**Brandon Lozano** majored in Communication at the University of Tampa before completing his undergraduate in the University of Southern California. Since then, he has also completed graduate degrees at UCLA and the University of Arizona. Brandon is currently a Manager of Development at Shogun Elite Productions, a film and TV production company founded by Josh Hill. Previously, Brandon was a Development Coordinator of Document Pictures, where he pitched creative content on script development and film in post-production, while building relationships with filmmakers on behalf of the studio. Prior to joining Document, Brandon worked in production and development at Los Angeles, DreamWorks Animation, and Fox. He is also currently pursuing a PhD in education at the University of Louisiana Monroe.

Support the Arts + Humanities at UT!