



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

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A Message from the Dean



This semester wasn't exactly the return to normal many of us were hoping for, but it was certainly a return to something closer to normal.

From the Fall musical 9-5 that marked the first large-scale production in Falk theater since the start of the pandemic to standing room only crowds for the annual holiday concert "Let Heaven and Nature Sing" that kicked off the return of the Damron Concert Artist series in the Sykes Chapel and Center for Faith and Values, it seemed obvious that audiences were ready to get back to live performances. And, of course, our students were excited to perform in front of live (and very appreciative) audiences again.

We also spent the semester settling into the dazzling new Ferman Center for the Arts. The Charlene and Mardy Gordon Performance Gallery played host to a kick off event for the Gasparilla Festival of Music, the BlackBox theater hosted its first MainStage play and the Charlene A. Gordon Theater was filled nightly with everything from lectures by top scholars to screenings of newly released Hollywood blockbusters.

We hope that you'll come visit us next semester and get inspired, be entertained, and support the next generation of scholars and creatives that call the College of Arts and Letters home.

Happy Holidays!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DAG", followed by a long horizontal line.

David Gudelunas, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Arts and Letters

CAL Student Excellence

ADPR major named "Emerging Professional" by PRSA

ADPR senior **Meghan Christopher** (pictured, right) was named the 2021 "Emerging Professional" by the Public Relations Society of America - Tampa Bay. Christopher serves as the President of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA).

The UT chapter of PRSSA is the third largest in the state of Florida - behind only UF and FIU.

Part-time professor **Kirk Hazlett** serves as the faculty advisor for the chapter where **Dr. Lina Gomez-Vasquez**, Assistant Professor of Public Relations, was named the November 2021 "Volunteer of the Month."



[Read More Here](#)

Communication graduate and undergraduate students rack up recognitions



Communication and Speech Studies (CSS) students as well as graduate students in the MA in Professional Communication (MAPC) have been busy presenting research at regional and national conferences.

At the Florida Communication Association's Annual Conference two undergraduates were recognized for their scholarship:

- **Tatiana Torres**, undergraduate journalism major won the *Top Undergraduate Paper Award* for her research paper "A Critical Analysis of Netflix's *Bridgerton* through the Lens of the First Amendment and Modern Defamation Laws"
- **Riley Robertson**, undergraduate communication and speech studies major won the *FCA Student of the Year Award*.

At the National Communication Association's national meeting in Seattle in November numerous MAPC students also presented their scholarship (pictured, above with CSS and MAPC faculty).

Students record music for the Tampa Bay SynchRays



Students in **Dr. John Nichol's** Recording and Electronic Music class partnered with the Tampa Bay SyncRays synchronized swimming team to produce special composition meant to be heard both under and above the water. You can [read more about the project here](#).

CAL Newsmakers

The College of Arts and Letters is a place where great things happen...and media notice.



Film students studying with **Prof. Gregg Perkins** were profiled by Bay News 9 making a short film at the Vu Studios in Tampa. The short film, directed by Perkins, was written using artificial intelligence and shot at the state-of-the-art facility housing one of the largest LED volumes in the country. UT has a partnership with Vu Studios that gives film students access to the next generation of film making technology.



Senior Musical Theater major **Jayrn McCann** was profiled on Bay News 9 about his role in the StageWorks Theater production of "Evil Dead." **Karla Hartley**, also a part-time professor of theater at UT, directed the production.



Several recent CAL graduates, including **Sydney Rhodes**, pictured left, were [profiled by 83 Degrees Media](#) about their plans after graduation from UT.

For Rhodes and Jackie Steele, the answer was CAL's new MA in Social and Emerging Media.

The [innovative new graduate program](#) can be completed in just one year and prepares students for a variety of careers at the intersection of technology, communication and marketing.

The New York Times

Dr. David Gudelunas, CAL Dean, had his research on newspaper advice columns [cited in an op-ed in the New York Times](#).

Tampa Bay Times

Dr. Marcus Arvan, Associate Professor of Philosophy, was [quoted in the Tampa Bay Times](#) discussing the ethics of travel during a local pandemic.

Happenings Around the College

Night after Night Students and Faculty in CAL Continue to Innovate, Entertain, and Educate.

A Night of Experimental Dance



Directed by part-time Dance **Professor Amanda Sieradzki**, the evening featured investigational works by student choreographers and dance faculty — converging movement, music and spoken word. The program drew on a variety of themes, such as constellations, extraterrestrial encounters, social activism, the power of story and infectious rhythms inspired by two iconic Tampa spaces - Plant Hall and the Sticks of Fire sculpture in Plant Park. Guest Artist [Jon Lehrer](#) also worked with students on a special piece created just for UT.

Hollywood Comes to the Ferman Center



Justin and Christian Long (pictured above with **Professor Taylor Curry**, Assistant Professor of Film Animation and New Media), returned to campus this month to screen "Lady of the Manor," a major motion picture they wrote and directed. Justin Long also stars in the film alongside Ryan Phillippe, Judy Greer, Melanie Lynskey, and CAL alumn **Tamara Austin**.

The film was shot in early 2020 at several iconic Tampa locations including the UT campus. Over 25 film students from CAL worked as part of the crew with several dozen CAL theater students serving as extras on the film.

The Longs returned to campus for a special screening in the Charlene A. Gordon Theater, a meet and greet with community members, and a talkback moderated by **Prof. Curry** and **Prof. Aaron Walker**, chair of Film, Animation and New Media.

The University of Tampa Press Begins a New Chapter



Great things are happening at The University of Tampa Press as the academic publishing operation builds on its proud legacy by involving students in experiential education, reaching out to more diverse audiences, and innovating how an academic press operates.

Director of the Press **Dr. Dan Dooghan**, Associate Professor of English and Writing, says: "We have modernized our submissions infrastructure for *Tampa Review*, which is once again generating revenue. We are also returning to the publication of books through our long-running poetry contest, the acquisition of work from our established authors, and the development of new series in both the fantastic and translation."

Prof. Yuly Restrepo, Associate Teaching Professor, was named editor of *Tampa Review* and **Dr. Sarah Juliet Lauro**, Associate Professor, serves as editor of *Studies in the Fantastic*.

Lauro provides this sneak preview of the forthcoming Winter issue: "We are currently preparing the Winter issue, which will be a special issue devoted to the HBO series *Lovecraft Country*. Based on Matt Ruff's novel of the same name, this series produced by showrunner Misha Green folded together many recognizable elements of HP Lovecraft's fiction into the setting of 1950s Jim Crow America in a haunting portrayal of racism that speaks back to Lovecraft himself."

Scarfone/Hartley Gallery Collaborates with Dr. Carter Woodson African American Museum



Earlier this semester, the College's Scarfone/Hartley Gallery partnered with the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum to bring a powerful exhibit to campus. "REVERBERATIONS: Black Artists On Racism and Resilience" shared artwork from emerging and established Black artists who live and work in the Southeastern United States, including three alumnae from The University of Tampa: **Nneka Jones '20**, **Princess Smith '12** and **Prof. Kendra Frorup '92**, Associate Professor of Art + Design.

Jocelyn Boigenzahn, Director of College Galleries, said she was proud to partner and work with the team from the Woodson African American Museum as part of the galleries quest to connect with the Tampa Bay Community and be a place for cutting edge work in the city.

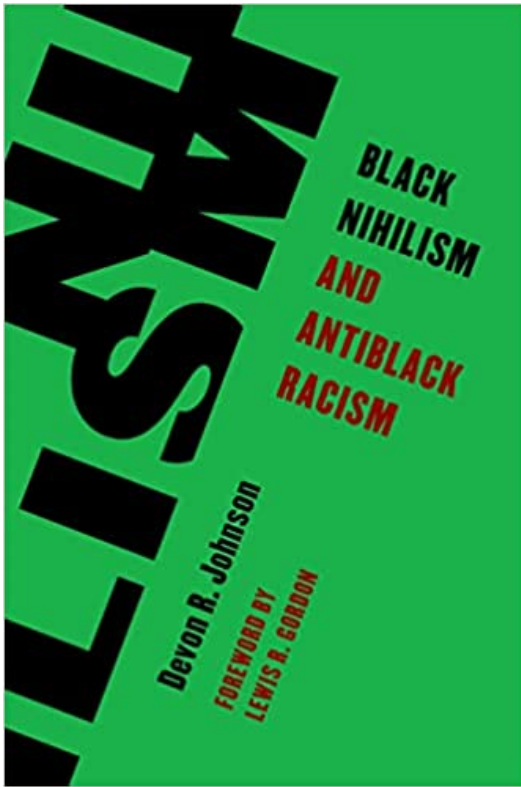
Dance Students Perform at Equality Florida Gala



Under the direction of dance program coordinator **Prof. Susannah LeMarquand**, dance students closed out the program for the annual Equality Florida gala held at Armature Works in Tampa Heights. The dancers stole the show and left the audience cheering for more.

CAL Faculty Achievements

The College of Arts and Letters is home to dynamic community of scholars and creatives



Dr. Devon Johnson, Assistant Teaching Professor, Philosophy, published a new book *Black Nihilism and Antiracist Racism* (Rowman & Littlefield).

The book is an important contribution to Africana philosophical thought connecting nihilism in black America to Western philosophy.

Dr. Floyd W. Hayes, Johns Hopkins University, says: "In *Black Nihilism and Antiracist Racism*, Devon Johnson presents a thoughtful and welcomed philosophical explanation, analysis, and argument of Black existential thought in response to the contemporary situation. This book demands our attention."

Prof. Lisa Jayne Willard, Assistant Professor, Art + Design, wrote about Herbert Bayer's 1953 World Geographic Atlas. This influential publication from the Bauhaus designer, Willard suggests, anticipated the age of infographics. You can [read more here](#).



Dr. Hein Jung, Professor of Music, performed in South Korea as part of the “Environmental Concert” to protect the endangered Korean bird at risk of extinction. The concerto she performed is a new composition, commissioned by the city of Seoul and can be seen in the broadcast recorded for Korean public television starting at about 46:50 above.

Dr. Angel Duncan, part-time professor of Art Therapy, published "Arts in Mind: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Museum Programs for Persons Living with Young-Onset and Early Stage Alzheimer's Disease" in the *International Journal of Lifelong Learning in Art Education* with co-authors Rachel Thompson and Jessica Sack (both of Yale University).



Prof. Jamie Aelavanthara, Assistant Professor of Art + Design, and **Prof. Amanda Sieradzki**, part-time professor of Dance, collaborated for a special art installation and performance as part of the 2021 Skyway series at the Tampa Museum of Art. The project fused Aelavanthara's photography with Sieradzki's choreography and featured four UT dance students. In the vide linked above both professors describe the collaboration and the importance of local art making.



Dr. Alyssia Miller De Rutté, Assistant Teaching Professor, Languages and Linguistics, published three recent articles (two with students from UT) and also received an award from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages and the Teaching Culture Special Interest Group for her work in teaching Medical Spanish/Spanish for the Health Professions.

Her recent journal articles are:

- Miller De Rutté, A. & Rubenstein, B. (2021). Acculturative stress and the effects on health and health behaviors in Hispanic immigrants: A systematic review. *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Health*.
- Miller De Rutté, A. & Barrie, A. (2021). A systematic review exploring acculturation and type 2 diabetes in Spanish-speaking populations. *Hispanic Health Care International*.
- Ortega, P., Hardin, K., Pérez-Cordón, C., Cox, A., Truesdale, D., Chang, R., Martínez, G., Miller De Rutté, A., Pérez-Muñoz, C., Rolón, L., & Shin, T. (2021). An overview of online resources for physicians learning Spanish to improve healthcare for linguistic minorities. *Teaching and Learning in Medicine*.

Be a Part of the Excitement in CAL



There is so much more to come this season - mark your calendars now for some of the best exhibits, performances, lectures and recitals anywhere in Tampa Bay.

You can find a [complete list of events](#) in the annual *Arts & Ideas* guide online and available for pickup at the Falk theater, the Scarfone/Hartley and Saunders Foundation galleries, the Sykes Chapel and Center for Faith and Values, or throughout the Ferman Center for the Arts. This year the guide was beautifully redesigned by Visiting Assistant Professor of Art + Design **Luciana Gassett**.

Be sure to join us as well for the return of the **Damron Concert Artist Series** in the Sykes Chapel and Center for Faith and Values as well as the all new **Charlene and Mardy Gordon Chamber Music Series** in the Charlene A. Gordon Theater.

[Click here to Support the Arts + Humanities at UT!](#)