Music Therapy at FGCU

On April 21st, the FGCU Board of Trustees unanimously approved the proposal for a new Bachelor of Music Therapy degree for the Bower School of Music & the Arts. Final approval is anticipated this summer from the State University System (SUS) Board of Governors. The degree plans will also be submitted for approval to the American Music Therapy Association and the National Association of Schools of Music. This new degree program is proposed to begin in Fall 2015. Graduates will be eligible to sit for the national examination in music therapy administered by the Certification Board for Music Therapists. Upon passing, the credential, ‘Music Therapist-Board Certified’ (MT-BC) is awarded leading to gainful employment as music therapists.

Music therapy has experienced consistent growth since its inception in 1950 as an allied health profession. There are over 6,200 credentialed music therapists in the United States, including 250 music therapists employed across Florida in special education programs, veterans hospitals, state institutions for persons with mental health needs, nursing homes, hospice services, and those with medical conditions.

Support for music therapy at FGCU is strong. The SUS Board of Governors recently recognized music therapy as a ‘critical work-force-health area of strategic emphasis’. The one-million dollar endowment from the Southwest Florida Children’s Charities will provide students with ‘state-of-the-art’ education and training, including specific outreach to children with special needs. This proposed program will fulfill the vision of Alan and Marilyn Bower Korest, for music therapy as a degree offering in the Bower School of Music. In addition, several local music therapists have expressed interest in serving as clinical supervisors for future music therapy students.

Congratulations to Michael Rohrbacher (music) and all who have helped to make this degree a reality.

Theatre BA is Listed in Top 15 in the country

The theatre program was recently recognized as one of the 15 Top BA Theatre Programs in the nation by onstageblog.com. Tuition rates, value of the degree, quality of the faculty and other criteria were considered. A statement from Dean Robert Gregerson: “I want to congratulate you all on the recent recognition by OnStage as a top B.A. Theater program in the country. This is a wonderful acknowledgement of the quality work that you all do with your students. Congratulations, and keep up the good work!”
Faculty News

Mary Voytek (art) received the Second Place Award for her aluminum sculpture titled *Tillandsia Variablis* at the *Flora and Fauna of the Islands* Art Exhibition. This exhibition was in the Founders Gallery at BIG Arts in Sanibel, Florida throughout March 2015.

In January, Gerritt VanderMee (theatre) played the role of William Desmond Taylor in Mack and Mabel at TheatreZone (SW Florida’s Professional Musical Theatre). In March, he played Dr. Price Duff in *Dear-Est Pauline: Letters of Love and Liberation*, a co-production with the Holocaust Museum and Education Center of Southwest Florida.

In April, Michael Salmond (art) and art major, Ian Jackson, were judges at North Fort Myers High School ‘Digital Knight’ art and design competition.

Troy Jones (music) was recently honored with one of two FGCU grant-in-aid awards. This year he will complete his PhD.

Student News

The theatre program’s Stagecraft class, spent a day at Busch Gardens where they spoke with a Stage Manager from one of the park’s many live performances and with the Director of Entertainment Operations to learn more about alternative professional opportunities. Later in the semester, they met with legendary Broadway Stage Manager, Paul Phillips.

During the spring semester, students in Digital Media Design 2 (art) worked with Jane Billings the creative director of Friends of Foster Children Forever. The project was to completely redesign all elements of the charity’s marketing and design presence. This included branding – a new logo, color and typeface treatments; a website, the monthly newsletter and mass marketing email blasts. The students, working in groups, had 8 weeks from launch to presenting to the charity.

The students of Mary Voytek’s (art) Environmental Art class participated in FGCU’s Earth Day Celebration by putting on Runway Earth: Fashions for a Sustainable Planet (photo on next page by James Greco).

A few of BSM&A’s student internships: Spring 2015: Marile Franco worked with Sothebys International Realty as a Graphic Designer. Summer 2015: Maddie Chaffe will work with Noise Media Fort Myers as a Graphic Designer.

We would love to hear your news! Tell us your student, faculty, alumni and program news for the Summer newsletter. Text and photos welcome.

Send to: Joanna Hoch at jhoch@fgcu.edu

Deadline for the Summer newsletter: August 1, 2015
**Faculty News, continued**

Tyler Layton (theatre) appeared in the leading role of Nola Parsons in Split in Three at Florida Repertory Theatre in Fort Myers.

Morgan T. Paine (art) gave a presentation in February at the Annual Conference of the College Art Association in New York City entitled, “Numbers alone do not tell the whole story, but they do say something”. The presentation was a part of a panel that discussed the supply and demand relationship of an MFA degree in visual arts and design. His talk identified the names of all 260+ current MFA degree awarding institutions, their cost of attendance, the total number of MFAs conferred in the 2012-2013 academic year, (more than 5,900) and the total of cost of those degrees as being more than three hundred and forty million dollars.

Chris Endrinal (music) was elected to the Music Theory Southeast (MTSE) Executive Board as one of the two Members-At-Large. MTSE is the regional music theory society, made up of members from Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Dance instructor, Lynn Neuman (theatre), was a featured speaker at the Association of Performing Arts Presenters Conference Awards Lunch in New York City in January. She spoke about her environmentally driven work.

**Student News, continued**

Congratulations to the following music students:

Chansik Youn (freshman, piano perf.) was named the best Senior Instrumentalist in the Alliance for the Arts Young Artists Awards. He also won the Florida State Music Teachers Associations Gray Perry Competition as the finest freshman or sophomore pianist in the state. He will perform at the State Conference in the fall.

Priscila Navarro (senior, piano perf.) won the Young Artist Division of the MTNA Piano Competition for the state of Florida. She was also chosen as one of the three finalists for the High Point University 2015 Piano Competition, and will compete in June in North Carolina. Ms. Navarro has been invited to perform the Rachmaninoff Third Piano Concerto with the National Orchestra of Peru in Lima.

In mid-April, the Bower School of Music hosted two music competitions for the Southwest Florida Symphony Society: the Jillian Prescott Music Awards and the Marilyn Van Sickle Vocal Music Scholarship Competition, in which several of our BSM students placed:

Prescott Awards ~ Overall Young Artist Winner: Priscila Navarro (senior, piano perf.); Young Adult Voice Winner: Lauren Davis (senior, vocal perf.); Rising Star Awards in Voice: Christopher Chandler (junior, vocal perf.) & Noelle Aparte (freshman, BME)

Van Sickle Awards ~ Winner: Noelle Aparte; Runner-up: Juan Miguel Ayesta (junior, vocal perf.).

Elise Sherron (sophomore, piano perf.) was selected into the Florida Intercollegiate Band with a performance in Tampa at the FMEA conference.

Pedro Che and Jason Gomez (both junior, piano perf.) each performed a full solo recital on the Koreshan State Historical Site Music Series.

Manuel Molina (junior, piano perf.) was awarded a scholarship as the winner of the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra Society Competition.