

Western Illinois University
Academic Affairs, Annual Reporting Documents —Deans
Academic Year 2021–2022

Due to Provost's Office: **April 15, 2022**

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 university, 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. We also encourage and nurture continued faculty growth as artists, scholars, and teachers. All of our programs also have a special connection to the community. Our students and faculty are involved in learning opportunities that impact the community.

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.

Arts Leadership degree. The department of Theatre and Dance has been working on establishing a degree option within the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program. We feel the 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, once it has been built.

Clinical Doctorate for Audiology (Au.D.). The Speech Pathology and Audiology department's hearing clinics continued to be vital to the stability of their 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, student would be prepared to enter the healthcare profession to provide patient-centered care in prevent, identification, diagnosis, and evidence-based treatment of hearing, balance, and other auditory disorders for people of all ages. Student earning the degree will be able to seek jobs in hospitals, schools, university clinics, nursing homes, private practice, industry, and many other employment setting. 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.

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.

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Rising cost of graduate assistantships. The amount of funding for our graduate assistants needs to be adjusted for the increase in minimum wage rates. Otherwise, we will have fewer dollars to award and attract quality graduate students.

Competitive faculty salaries. Some of our faculty have valuable professional experience in their fields. It has been difficult to hire and keep some faculty, who are hired at the temporary, Unit B faculty salary levels.

The need for facility and equipment upgrades. 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.

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*
- 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

2017	104
2018	78
2019	96
2020	116
2021	81

New Transfers

2017	73
2018	68
2019	79
2020	58
2021	55

New Graduate

2017	70
2018	53
2019	50
2020	77
2021	56

Continuing Undergraduate and graduate students

	UG	Grad	Total
2017	740	148	888
2018	673	134	807
2019	664	133	797
2020	657	153	810
2021	569	154	723

- b. 5 years of headcount enrollment by race/ethnicity, gender, and country of origin

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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
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

c. 5 years total credit hour production by department

COLLEGE AND DEPARTMENT	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION	32,168	28,882	27,361	25,638	25,805
Art & Design	4,324	4,252	3,812	3,430	3,380
Broadcasting & Journalism	3,603	3,483	2,893	2,527	2,461
Communication	9,567	9,032	8,739	8,011	7,991
Museum Studies	501	583	499	448	462

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School of Music	6,994	6,366	5,909	5,770	6,412
Speech Pathology & Audiology	2,359	1,952	2,035	2,121	2,285
Theatre & Dance	4,820	3,214	3,474	3,331	2,814

- 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.

Enrollment thresholds in some Art and Design studio courses are 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 to the the unique nature of individualized and group instruction in these courses.

The Museum Studies graduate program also has moderate ratios, which allow students to receive individual interaction from faculty. Individual interaction 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 national accreditation requirements.

Enrollment thresholds in dance technique or applied theatre classes are 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 2021: 186 UG, 52 Grad
- b. Total number of degrees conferred per department and/or program

Undergraduate	
Art & Design	14
Broadcasting & Journalism	36
Communication	70
Music	33
Speech Path & Aud	16
Theatre & Dance	17

Graduate

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Communication	5
Museum Studies	13
Music	10
Speech Pathology	20
Theatre	4

c. Number of degrees conferred per race/ethnicity, gender, country of origin

	<u>International</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Indian</u>	<u>Asian</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Islander</u>	<u>Unk</u>	<u>More</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
UNDERGRAD												
Art & Design	-	1	-	-	5	8	-	-	-	4	10	14
Broadcasting & Journalism	-	16	-	-	3	15	-	1	1	27	9	36
B.A. in Communication	-	21	-	-	9	35	-	1	4	24	46	70
B.M. in Music	1	1	-	1	2	27	-	-	1	8	25	33
B.S. in Speech Pathology & Audiology	-	1	-	1	-	14	-	-	-	1	15	16
Theatre & Dance	1	1	-	-	2	13	-	-	-	6	11	17
GRADUATE												
M.A. in Communication	1	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	2	5
Museum Studies	-	1	-	-	-	11	-	-	1	4	9	13
Music	3	-	-	-	-	6	-	1	-	7	3	10
M.S. in Speech Pathology	-	-	-	-	1	19	-	-	-	2	18	20
M.F.A. in Theatre	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	2	4

6. Retention of students

List retention initiatives for the following:

- a. Current students
- b. Transfer students

Theatre and Dance has several initiatives aimed at retention. The department has “Rocky Buddies,” a program to provide support for freshman and transfer students in their transition to WIU. Majors are matched with new students who have chosen similar areas of study. They also hold welcome meetings and cookouts to unite the new and current students. The department holds Unified Auditions in the first week of each semester. Every new student can participate in production activities of their shows. A special production, New Friends: Freshman Showcase, features new student majors or minors. The department schedules other social activities throughout the fall and spring semester to bring students and faculty together in informal settings.

The department of Communication conducts an annual Career Preparation Day, featuring WIU alumni, to enable majors to better understand and promote the value of their degrees to future employers.

The Broadcasting and Journalism department held a virtual panel discussion with alumni in December 2020. Students could also attend a virtual meeting in 2021 with alumni in a Negotiating a Contract workshop. The department continued paying entry fees for students to compete in a state, regional, and national award competitions. The department also awarded talent grant/tuition waivers for students working in radio, news and sports production.

The Speech Pathology and Audiology department received a large endowment, which allows

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graduate students to receive a \$2,000 per semester scholarship.

The School of Music sponsored a Musician Wellness Series in the spring 2022 semester. The series allowed students to have virtual and in-person activities designed to help them with physical and mental wellness. SOM Ambassadors contributed to retention efforts through communication with freshmen throughout the year. The department also held student and faculty discussion sessions with University Counseling, Student Development and Success Center, and Executive Director of Retention Initiatives regarding student mental health and wellness.

The Museum Studies graduate program held a virtual symposium for their students. The event connects students with alumni and other museum professionals.

The College started an “Undergraduate Student Leadership Award” program. One student was chosen by each department to receive an award (to be presented in a livestream event in the COFAC Recital Hall in April). The recipient exemplifies the best qualities of being a student, provides guidance and support to other students in and out of the classroom, and delivers service to others.

The Dean’s Office also initiated a small way to recognize COFAC majors on their birthdays. Students are emailed during the week of their birthdays and invited to the dean’s office for a birthday cookie.

7. Recruitment of students

List recruitment initiatives for the following:

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

The School of Music held a number of recruitment activities on-campus, off-campus, and virtually throughout the year. Faculty are involved in clinics, festivals, symposiums, tours, and other events with prospective high school and transfer students. It is essential for WIU faculty to develop relationships with music professionals at high schools and community colleges, providing free lessons and performances to showcase the program.

The department of Speech Pathology and Audiology held a SPA Day in the spring 2022 semester in association with a Discover Western. The event was an opportunity for faculty, staff, and students to walk potential students and their families through how our program operates. The department received a \$15,000 award from the Mellinger Foundation to use for undergraduate scholarships. The department also holds a fall and spring Graduate Open House for prospective graduate students.

The department of Theatre and Dance was very active in recruiting new students. They contracted with a recruiting/marketing company to assist in finding prospective students and allowing students to submit applications on their platform. The number of students who have applied for admission to the department has more than tripled this year. Faculty, staff, and students also travel to conferences and festivals to recruit new students. The department also conducted five (with a six planned in April) “A Day in the Life…” events, which offer students two day long campus visits to campus. Other activities include “text-a-thons” employing current students texting prospective students and “production post cards” inviting prospective students to spring productions.

The department of Broadcasting and Journalism created a Recruitment Committee in 2020. The group reaches out to each student on the prospective list. The department is also planning a “Day in the…Media Life” event (March, 2022). The event allows prospective students to attend a tour of facilities and a class, tour the live sports truck, participate in a live radio broadcast, and observe a live

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TV newscast. The department also offers incoming freshmen living in the Living, Learning Community floor a tuition waiver.

The department of Art and Design sponsored a High School Art Exhibition and Awards virtual event in the fall 2021 semester. Over 100 high school students from seven high schools participated in the event. Faculty also participated in the Prairieland Art Show, a regional high school collaborative show. Department representatives also attended two high school career fairs this spring.

The College designed “flip cards” for each undergraduate program in COFAC. The laminated cards were designed to have one side featuring a picture of a student, five or six talking points about the program, and contact information for the department. The other side had a QR code with a link to the department’s website. The cards were distributed to all WIU Admissions Counselors during their fall meeting. The cards were also mailed to counselors/administrators in 16 area school districts. The Interim Dean and COFAC chairs/directors met virtually with representatives from eight of the districts to connect, discuss, and answer questions about our academic programs. We plan to target other school districts around the state, beginning with the Quad Cities area in the near future.

The COFAC International Committee was charged with adapting the flip cards to attract international students. The committee is also working on a crowdfunding event to raise scholarship money for international students.

At the beginning of the year, we produced a hard copy magazine documenting our efforts in recruiting, retention, and alumni engagements. The College is proud of our efforts and understands our future depends on continuing to generate new ideas to attract students to our programs.

The College worked with University Television to feature one undergraduate student in each program and have that student provide a testimonial on his or her experience in the department. The videos are used at Discover Western events and can be found on each department’s website.

A postcard, welcoming prospective students to the college, was designed by the dean’s office. The Interim Dean penned handwritten notes to each accepted student in the college every week.

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*

COFAC New Faculty Mentoring workshops. In 2021, we began our third year of mentoring new faculty in the college. We scheduled monthly sessions with senior faculty from each department. Sessions were held in person and virtually in the University Union, the WIU Art Gallery, and the WIU Horn Field campus. Faculty mentors organized a “welcome bag” containing gifts from WIU and the Macomb community. Topics with the new faculty included preparing retention documents, handling course delivery in a pandemic, and dealing with classroom conflict.

Participation in the CT Vivian Scholar program. COFAC led the effort to increase diversity in faculty ranks by participating in the program and having three scholars chosen for the 2021-22 academic year. All three scholars taught classes and were featured in presentations. Following reviews, each participant was offered a tenure-track contract for 2022-23. The department of Theatre and Dance is currently searching for a CT Vivian Scholar for the next academic year. The College hopes to continue being a significant part of the program.

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The College received permission to search for Unit A tenure-track positions in Communication, Broadcasting and Journalism (2), School of Music (3), and Museum Studies. Included in those hires, two new chairs/directors will be joining the college next year. The College also received approval for to search for Unit B positions in Speech Pathology and Audiology and Broadcasting and Journalism.

COFAC also moved some proven faculty to tenure track lines. Qualified faculty members, hired as temporary Unit B faculty, were moved to tenure-track lines during the year. In all of the cases, the individuals had established records of teaching effectiveness and were contributing in several areas in their respective programs. We are extremely glad to retain these people in our college.

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. 23 total general education courses
- b. In 2021, 2022 COFAC offered 10 FYE courses
- c. 972 (491/481) total number of major courses
- d. 94 (45/49) total number of independent study, internship, and other courses
- e. 188 (98/90) total number of graduate courses
- f. 865 (434/431) number of courses offered through Macomb campus
- g. 23 (11/12) number of courses offered through QC campus
- h. 84 (46/38) 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)*

MFA in Theatre, Technical Direction emphasis. Graduate students interested in expanding their theatrical knowledge in construction, management, and organization of productions.

Master of Music Therapy. Graduate students interested in continuing their education and advance their clinical practice as musical therapists.

11. Eliminated academic programs

List eliminated majors, minors, other

N/A

12. Faculty activities

Include the following:

- a. *Achievements*

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

Art & Design

Susan Czechowski

Interview and podcast recording- Shepard Fairey and Tyanna Buie, 4/5/21
2022-2025 Board of Directors, Southern Graphics Council International
2021 - present Resident Artist Board: North Art Studios, Peoria, Illinois

Keith Holz

“Witness to Global Realignment and Human Suffering: Oskar Kokoschka in Post-War London,” in: Sites of Interchange: Modernism, Politics, and Culture in Britain and Germany, 1919-1951.” Edited by Lucy Wasensteiner. Series: “German Visual Culture,” Volume 8. Series editor: Christian Weikop. New York and Frankfurt: Peter Lang Publishing, December 20, 2021, 283-302.

“Oskar Kokoschka's Amerika Kampagne,” and “Oskar Kokoschka's American Campaign,” in: Oskar Kokoschka: New Perspectives. Edited by Régine Bonnefoit and Bernadette Reinhold. Berlin: deGruyter Verlag, October 2021, 168-186, 187-203.(print and e-book editions)
Extensive editing and proofreading of 16 final English manuscripts translated from Czech and Slovak to English (16 chapters, 10 to 109 pages each) with translator Stephan von Pohl for *Nové realismy na československé výtvarné scéně 1918–1945. / Modern Realist Approaches across the Czechoslovak Scene, 1918-1945.* Ivo Haban and Anna Habanová, eds., Liberec: Regional Art Gallery and Liberec: National Heritage Institute, Czechia, Czech edition, English edition, March 2021.

“Nepříliš věčné, nepříliš nové: zobrazení řemeslné výroby a práce v průmyslu v umění meziválečného Československa.” [“Handicrafts under duress: interwar representations in word and image of German Bohemian glass workers.”] In: *Nové realismy na československé výtvarné scéně 1918–1945. / Modern Realist Approaches across the Czechoslovak Scene, 1918-1945.* Ivo Haban and Anna Habanová, eds., Stephan von Pohl, translator. Liberec: Regional Art Gallery and Liberec: National Heritage Institute, Czechia, Czech edition, August 2020, English edition, March 2021, 130-147.

Bill Howard

2021 Summer Stipend Grant, Western Illinois University
2021 Excellence in Teaching Award, College of Fine arts and Communication, Western Illinois University
2021 Honorary Alumni Award, Western Illinois University
Delta National Small Print Exhibition, Arkansas State University, State University, Arkansas
21st International Print Biennial, Varna, Bulgaria

Jenny Knavel

“SAQA Journal 2021”(Studio Art Quilt Associates), 2021, Volume 31., No. 2 Artwork was selected for the cover.

Equinox 2022 - Western Illinois University Art Gallery, Macomb, Illinois
Midwest Views 2022 - Wisconsin Museum of Quilts and Fibers, Cedarburg, Wisconsin
The Natural Dyes in Northeast America Symposium Three: Pasts & Future Exhibition 2021 Online, hosted virtually by Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada
Racine and Vicinity Show 2021 - Racine Art Museum Racine, Wisconsin
Common Thread 2021 2021 - Textile Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Reproductions of the Past 2021 - China National Silk Museum, Hangzhou City, Zhejiang

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Province, China

Sherry Lindquist

2022-2025 Board of Directors, International Center for Medieval Art
"The Renaissance Uncanny." Renaissance Society of America (online;
previously scheduled in Dublin). Co-organized with Diane Wolfthal.
"Political, Artistic, and Existential Borders in the Hours of Thomas
Butler," Leeds International Medieval Congress, 2022. Session:
"Transgression and Conflict in Multi-Text Manuscripts," organized by
Mary Bateman.

"Curating Monsters: Grappling with Medieval and Modern Otherness in the Gallery." 55th
International Congress of Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI. Session: "Medieval exhibitions in
the Era of Global Art History," organized by Gerhard Lutz and Lloyd de Beer.
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.

Duke Oursler

St. Paul, Bronze, St. Paul Catholic Church Macomb, IL

Ian Shelly

Social Distance: Revisited, Invitational Exhibition, Rushville, Illinois
Works on Paper, International Juried Exhibition, The In Art Gallery (Online) - Juror: Laura F.
Gibellini 3rd place award
10x10x10xTieton 2021, International Juried Exhibition, Tieton, Washington - Juror: Theresa
Bembnister, Valerie
Lazalier (Catalog)
That Which Surrounds You, International Juried Exhibition, Online - Juror: Asya Abdrahman
Drawn to Macon IV, National Juried Exhibition, Macon, Georgia - Juror: Kristy Edwards
Honey, I Shrunk the Art, Regional Juried Exhibition, Northport, New York
Together, National Juried Exhibition, Woodstock, Illinois
Non-Traditional, International Juried Exhibition, The In Art Gallery (Online) - Juror: Jessica
Lynn Hunt 3rd Place Award
Elevate, National Juried Exhibition, Online - Juror: Cbabi Bayoc
Sculpture at the Kavanagh, Regional Juried Exhibition, St. Charles, Illinois

Broadcasting and Journalism

Quintin Parker:

Submitted Sports BCJ Mini Tour Video to BEA Awards Competition for peer review in the faculty
category. – Dec. 17, 2021

Submitted ESPN production to BEA awards competition for peer review in the faculty category.
– Dec. 17, 2021

Submitted a Photoshop tutorial to BEA Awards competition for peer review in the faculty
category. Collaboration project with Rajvee Subramanian. – Dec. 17, 2021

Launched production of Sports Broadcasting Club Documentary - Leatherneck Insider show. –
Dec. 10, 2021

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Filmed The Summit League Soccer Championships held on campus. – Nov. 11-13, 2021

Volunteered and assisted with Gordy Taylor/Macomb on the Move - Studio Production in Sallee Hall - Hosted by Former Macomb Mayor Tom Carper. – Nov. 8, 2021

Darina Sarelska:

Accepted for publication: Journalism Practice special issue “Disinformation studies as an emerging research field. In print, 2022

J. Jenkins & D.Sarelska: “Reporting the Coronavirus: Journalists Working Under Lockdown in Spain, Italy, and Bulgaria During the 2020 COVID-19 Outbreak”

Accepted for conference presentation: 72nd Annual International Communication Association Conference. In review, 2022

D.Sarelska & J.Jenkins: “The Watchdog Function Made Room for the Service Dog”: Journalists’ Role Conceptions in Bulgaria, Italy, and Spain During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Executive Producer for the Bulgarian Parliamentary Election coverage for BG Voice, Chicago, IL

Jessica Martin:

Advised/Supervised students - virtual conferences IBS, NBS, and SINBA.

Advised students who won MidAmerica – Emmy for News Report-Serious News, and Talen-News.

SINBA award for Outstanding Television News Reporting

IBS Best College/University TV News Station

Advises for the WIU chapters of the Broadcasting Production Club, Student Chapter of the National Broadcasting Society, and the Students of Illinois Broadcasters Association.

Adviser/Creator of the Proxy Report which is a special project that was launched in September 2021.

Member of the Associated Collegiate Press, Broadcast Education Association, Emmy MidAmerica Chapter, IBS Radio & Television, Illinois News Broadcasters Association, and National Electronic Media Association.

Co-Founded L.I.O.N. (Life Integrated Outreach Network) which is a non-profit organization which helps improve accessibility to life-sustaining resources to those in need.

Will Buss:

Facilitator/participant in a weekly podcast program, “Shop Talk,” at TriStates Public Radio.

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Substitute broadcaster for the “Morning Edition” at TriStates.
Reporter/writer for weekly column for the McDonough County Voice.
Member - Proxy Report
Adviser to the WIU Chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists.
Member - Illinois News Broadcasters Association, Society of Professional Journalists, and Illinois College Press Association.

Pechulano Ngwe Ali:

Submitted Panel Proposal – “Critical thinking in Journalism and Mass Communication Education” – Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Conference 2022.

Long form auto documentary – “Macomb 1906: An Unsolved Cop Murder”

“Shades of a Story” – CT Vivian Scholar Presentation – February 2022

Rajvee Subramanian:

Publication: Henson, H., McDaniel, J., Subramanian, R. and Edwards, T. Intervention and assessment of earthquake knowledge at rural schools near the New Madrid seismic zone, USA. Nat Hazards (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11069-020-04215-1>

Workshop - Media Literacy Workshop - Beardstown High School students

Works in Progress: *Digital Media Production* (book)

Interactivity & Credibility: “A Content analysis of Popular free Weight Loss Mobile Applications”

Submitted a Photoshop tutorial to BEA Awards competition for peer review in the faculty category. Collaboration project with Quintin Parker. – Dec. 17, 2021

Yong Tang:

Yong Tang, *Mass Media Law in China: An Insider's Look at How the Ruling Party Controls All Forms of Public Communication* (work in progress) (book proposal submitted to Harvard University Press).

Yong Tang, *Open Government Information Regulations: China's Long Road to Its FOIA That Could Have Prevented the Global COVID-19 Pandemic* (work in progress) (book proposal submitted to University of Pennsylvania Press).

April 2021 - Invited forum speaker – “COVID-19 and the Role of Communication.” International Law Institute.

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September 2021-present - Reviewed the book *Zoning China: Online Video, Popular Culture, and the State* (published by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press, MIT Press) (work in progress).

July 2021 - Reviewed one article for *Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly*. January 2021 Reviewed 13 book proposals for AEJMC-Peter Lang Scholarsourcing Program.

Eun Go:

"Understanding the effectiveness of online engineering education in the time of Covid-19" - American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) (Peer-reviewed)

"Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in PR Education: How PR Programs Can Create a More Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive Environment in Public Relations Classrooms" - the Journal of Public Relations Education.

Department of Communication

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

Museum Studies

Dr. Angela McClanahan-Simmons has published articles, joined committees and planned and implemented a major international virtual conference.

In spring 2022 Dr. Pamela White conducted the review of the Southern University of New Orleans Museum Studies Program.

School of Music

Whitney Ashe

Headliner at the 2021 CU Jazz Festival

Featured artist at the Central Illinois Jazz Society in February 2022

Courtney Blankenship

Elected as Music Industry Board Member to the National College Music Society Board

Book Review of: The Artist's Guide to Success in the Music Business Rock Music Studies

Bruce Briney

5 concerts as music director with Quincy Symphony 2021-2022

7 concerts as section trumpet with Quad Cities Symphony

Commissioned and premiered two new orchestra pieces (Kepler and Wonder of the Waters) of Steven Taylor UIUC, and Randall Faust (WIU retired)

LBQ premiere performance with WIU Wind Ensemble at 2022 Band Showcase

Richard Cangro

Korean International Music Education Association 2021 Conference - Keynote speaker (virtual);

Nebraska Music Educator Association 2021 Conference, presenter;

Alabama Music Educator Association 2022 Conference, presenter;

Performer in concerts with Jacksonville, Knox-Galesburg, and Quincy Symphony Orchestras;

Conductor for Quincy Area Youth Orchestra

Hong-Da Chin

Music Written:

Secret Cities for cello solo (premiere on 3/7 at WIU)

Hanging on by a Thread for piano four four hands (TBD performances in 2022-2023)

Performances:

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"...tears...yet far yet near..." was performed by No Exit New Music Ensemble at several venues in Cleveland and Kent, OH

"Secret Cities" for cello solo premiered by Craig Hultgren at the WIU New Music Festival at Western Illinois University

"Two Broken Records" was performed by the Ogni Suono Saxophone Duo at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Penn State, Rowan University, the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Alfonzo Cooper, Jr.

Presented the the kickoff Black History Month event in collaboration with the WIU Music School and the Multicultural Center, presenting a recital of music by African American composers, both living and deceased. This recital was dedicated to the memory and legacy of the late Rev. Dr. C.T. Vivian, and the title of this recital was I, Too Sing: Songs of the Dark Brother.

Brisa De Paula

WIU Faculty & Guest Artist Virtual Recital, November 2022

Recital and masterclass at Miami University Bassoon Day on November 13, 2021 in Oxford, OH.

Mike Fansler

WIU Wind Ensemble Performance: Illinois Music Education Conference, Peoria, IL, January 2022

Professional Recording (Klavier Records) "as the fireflies watched" (December 2021)

Jena Gardner

Masterclass with University of Arkansas Horn Studio. September 22, 2021

Masterclass with West Virginia University Horn Studio. October 5, 2021

Quad-City Symphony Orchestra. November 20, 2021

Quad-City Symphony Orchestra. December 12, 2021

International Women's Brass Podcast Interview. February 9, 2022

Western Horn Festival. April 3, 2022

Knox-Galesburg Symphony Chamber Concert. May 21, 2022

International Women's Brass Conference May 25 - 28 (provost travel award)

Presentation: Brass Injury Prevention Pedagogy

Presentation: Diversity in the Horn Quartet with Cobalt Quartet

Adjudication: Horn Solo Competition Judge

Anita Hardeman

Publication of an article in a conference proceedings ("The French operatic prologue as liminal space" in

Proceedings of the 2018 Society for Eighteenth-Century Music Conference) -- anticipated summer 2022

Served as external evaluator on Promotion and Tenure portfolio for Dr. Devin Burke, University of Louisville

Jason Hawkins

Clinician and Director of ILMEA district events as listed in recruitment activities above

Director of the Suburban Prairie Conference Choral Festival (Chicago Suburbs)

Clinician for the Vocal Jazz Ensemble Readings Session at the Illinois Music Education Conference

Adjudicator for WorldStrides Heritage Festivals (Choral)

Guest speaker for the University of Central Florida Music Education Convocation (Meaningful Assessment in the Music Classroom)

Jennifer Jones

Accepted manuscript for publication with Music Therapy Perspectives

Understanding the Experience of Discussing Race and Racism During Clinical Supervision for Black Music

Therapy Students with ith co-author Janae P. Imeri

Suyeon Ko

Accepted proposals to Flute Festivals:

- The Flute Society of Washington: Performance presentation of Inventionen, Version fur Zwei flotes

- National Flute Association: two performance proposals

James Land

Presentation at the Illinois Music Education Conference

12 performances with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra

Two presentations and a solo recital at the Great Plains Regional Tuba and Euphonium Conference at Drake University.

Natalie Landowski

Duo Red Vespa's recital, "In a Woman's Voice: Spoken-Word Compositions by American Women" Recital and Masterclass, Utah State University

Adjudicator, MTNA Illinois State Piano Competitions

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Kenny Lee

Guest conductor in Atlanta with the Gwinnett Symphony Orchestra
Performance and masterclass at Stetson University
Performance and recording session in Boston at the New England Conservatory (upcoming)
Performance in San Francisco
Performances in Boulder, Colorado at the Flatirons Chamber Music Festival
Summer Stipend Project recording session

John Mindeman

Received Summer Stipend award to compose a new piece for trumpet and wind ensemble - to be premiered in the 2022-2023 school year
Performed multiple concerts as principal trombonist of the Quincy Symphony Orchestra
Arrangements performed in Dec. 2021 by the New York Philharmonic Brass and the Bakersfield (CA) Symphony Orchestra

Kevin Nichols

Presentation at the Illinois Music Education Conference
Performances with Heartland Festival Orchestra, Knox-Galesburg Symphony, Peoria Symphony Orchestra, Quad Cities Symphony, Post 6 Big Band, and Lamoine Ramblers

James Romig

THE COMPLEXITY OF DISTANCE, for solo electric guitar, will be released on New World Records in June 2022.

Emily Sevcik

Publication: Sevcik, E. E. (in press). Eva Augusta Vescelius: Life and music career before 1900. Journal of Music Therapy, 1-28. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jmt/thac004>
Conference presentations at the Great Lakes Region of American Music Therapy Association Regional Conference and the AMTA National Conference
American Music Therapy Association 2021 Anne Emery Kylo Professional Scholarship Recipient and the 2021 Past Presidents' Conference Scholar Award Recipient

Istvan Szabo

Performed as soloist with the Clinton Symphony Orchestra and the Muscatine Symphony Orchestra

Lynn Thompson

Director of Music, Wesley United Methodist Church, Macomb, IL
Recordings of performances in songs from Excelsius by Mari nne Kreitlow awarded Creative Support Grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board

Brian Winnie

Winnie, Brian J. "What's in Your Vocal Modal? Establishing a Voice Quality in the Choral Rehearsal." Podium ACDA-IL 48, no. 1 (2021): 3-5. (also forthcoming in the Choral Journal)
Guest presentation at the Estill Voice North American Summit in June 2022.

Theatre and Dance

Dan Schmidt (Technical Director/Production Manager) –

USITT Presenter - Costume Storage for '21, Scenic Cataloging for '22

Creator - Tool Tutorial Website

Artist - Rocky On Parade

Member – USITT

Member – SETC

Hadley Kamminga-Peck (Head of Directing/Head of History) –

Director - MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR – Festival 56

Director – LEGALLY BLONDE – Timber Lake Playhouse

Writer – THE LADY M. PROJECT – Local Theatre Project

Writer – MARGARET OF ANJOU

Illinois State Chair – KC/ACTF Region 3

Lisa Wipperling (Instructor of Musical Theatre Voice) –

Soloist – Kevin Nichol Recital

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Co-Writer – MARGARET OF ANJOU
Soloist – Whitney Ash Recital
Respondent – KC/ACTF Region 3
Member – SETC
Musical Arranger – HANNAH: THE MUSICAL
Lysa Fox (Head of Musical Theatre) –
Performer – ALWAYS PATSY CLINE – Ozark Actors Theatre
Director – URINE TOWN – Idaho Rep
Director – WORKING – Indiana Rep
Musical Theatre Intensive Coordinator – KC/ACTF Region 3
Lara Little (Instructor of Dance) –
Faculty Advisor – University Dance Company
Faculty Advisor – University Theatre Club
Board Member at Large/Treasurer – CORPS de Ballet International
Donald Laney (Instructor of Dance) –
Soloist – “I might have been alright” – West Virginia Dance Company
Performer – NUTCRACKER – Beckley Dance Theatre
Choreographer – THE WORLD GOES ‘ROUND – Clinton Area Showboat Theatre
Faculty Advisor – University Dance Company
Rebel Mickelson (Head of Costume Design) –
Costume Design – 39 STEPS – Cumberland County Playhouse
Creator – THEA 165 Class Donation of pillows/fidget blankets – McDonough District Hospital
Artist – Rocky on Parade
Member – USITT
Steven House (Head of Scenic Design) –
Artist – Rocky on Parade
Board Member – Illinois Theatre Association
Board Member – WIU Performing Arts Society
Member – USITT
Member – SETC
Member – Macomb Art Center
Winner – COFAC Excellence in University and Community Service
Tammy Killian (Chairperson)–
Artist – Rocky on Parade
Performer – ALWAYS PATSY CLINE – Ozark Actors Theatre
Member – USITT
Member – SETC
Member – Dramatist Guild
Member – American Association of Community Theatres
Member – Macomb Art Center
Faculty Advisor – BYOP (Playwriting Group)
DC Wright (Head of Movement/Stage Combat) –
Fight/Intimacy Director – ROMEO AND JULIET – Festival 56
Performer – EDWIN AND BOOTH IN OTHELLO – Milwaukee Chamber Theatre
Performer – MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS – WIU Alumni Theatre

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Regional Representative Coordinator – Society of American Fight Directors

Faculty Advisor – WIU Stage Combat Club

Adam Lewis (Head of Undergraduate Performance) –

Performer – OUTSIDE MULLINGAR – Richmond Hills Playhouse

Respondent – KC/ACTF Region 3

Faculty Advisor – Surgin' Generals Improv Troupe

Faculty Advisor – BYOP (Playwriting Group)

Performer – G.I.T. Improv – Black Box

- IT'S YOUR FAULT
- SHAKESPEARED!

Josh Wroblewski (Head of Lighting Design) –

Lighting Consultant – 34th Annual Young Playwrights Festival – Pegasus Theatre

Script Evaluator – 35th Annual Young Playwrights Festival – Pegasus Theatre

Member – USITT

Faculty Advisor – WIU USITT Chapter

13. Grant activities and external funding

Illinois Arts Council Grant \$13,600

Mellinger Foundation-Speech Pathology and Audiology \$15,000

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 keep students informed and entertained. Our programs also serve the physical needs (speech and hearing) of students.

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 provide five-camera livestreaming 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+).

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.

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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*

a. Student clubs and organizations

SOM: American Choral Directors Association, Western Illinois Student Chapter National Association for Music Education, WIU Collegiate Chapter Mu Phi Epsilon, Beta Omicron Chapter, Music Business Association Music Therapy Association, Music Teachers National Association, WIU Collegiate Chapter, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Kappa Psi Chapter, School of Music Ambassadors, Sigma Alpha Iota, Mu Kappa Chapter

T&D: WIU USITT Chapter, Surgin' Generals, University Theatre Club, University Dance Company, Shades of Vision (BIPOC Student Organization) and WIU Stage Combat Club

BC&J: WIU Chapter of National Broadcasting Society, Students in News Broadcasters Association, and National Association of Black Journalists

MST: GEMS (Graduate Students in Museum Studies)

A&D: Kappa Pi, WIU Ceramics Club and Metals Club

SPA: WIU Student Speech Language Hearing Association (WIUSSLHA)

b. Results of any student surveys in your college, including surveys on student success, program development, student satisfaction, etc.

The School of Music conducted a new student survey in the Fall 2021 semester, gathering information primarily related to recruitment and contributing factors to students' decision to attend WIU. Significant factors included cost of attendance, talent grant or scholarship support, the WIU Cost Guarantee, campus visits, and lessons or clinics with WIU Music Faculty.

c. All new initiatives in the college regarding student success

SOM: As a result of discussions regarding student mental health and wellness, the School of Music launched a Musicians' Health and Wellness Series in the Spring 2022 semester, which includes guest presentations on breathing, mindful movement, mindful meditation, and introductory yoga skills.

T&D: Rocky Buddies

BC&J: Student Peer Mentors

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A&D: Faculty have been working with chair and advisors to better assist students who continue to have excessive absences. Faculty and/or advisors reach out to those students to try and help those who need it.

d. All initiatives to support underrepresented student populations in your college
SOM: The appointment of two C. T. Vivian Diversity Teaching Scholars in the Fall 2021 semester has had a positive impact on underrepresented student populations in the School of Music. In addition, all faculty have expanded programming to include more works by underrepresented composers. Academic advisors and faculty direct students to campus support services and frequently complete Leatherneck Care Referral Forms.

T&D: Dumela Alumni Organization (BIPOC Alumni Council), Shades of Vision (BIPOC Student Organization), Plans to do IDE training in the fall and specific area IDE training in spring 2023. Plans to hire a CT Vivian Scholar in 2022.

BC&J: Hired a CT Vivian Scholar in 2021.

A&D: Awaiting approval for a new department student organization, the “Black Artist Guild”.

16. Alumni highlights

List notable highlights from College alumni.

In 2021, the College started a new effort to engage alumni and highlight their achievements. The Interim Dean started a weekly podcast featuring alumni from the department of Broadcasting and Journalism. We have begun a second season of the podcast, highlighting almost 70 alumni success stories. <http://www.wiu.edu/cofac/podcasts/>

A second podcast with alumni from the other programs (Museum Studies, Art & Design, Theatre & Dance, Music, Speech Pathology and Audiology and Communication) within COFAC kicked off in September 2021. The podcast has a new episode every two weeks. http://www.wiu.edu/cofac/necks_chapter/

Art & Design alumni

Tyanna Buie (2006), Assistant Professor, College for Creative Studies, Detroit, MI
Andrea Kliffmiller (2021), Program Coordinator, The Hub Arts and Cultural Center, Rushville, IL
Sarah Warner (2021), Elementary Art Teacher, Clark County, Las Vegas, NV

Broadcasting & Journalism alumni

Denise Nelson (2006), Anchor, WQAD-TV, Moline, IL
Tenia Watson (2001), Executive Producer, “The Real”, Los Angeles, CA
Cisco Cotto (1998), Anchor, WBBM-AM, Chicago, IL
Rayvon Carter (2013), Senior Writer, Apple, Chicago, IL

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Communication alumni

Michael Gerrish (1997 & 1999), Marketing and Experience Officer, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

Erika Davis (2016 & 2018), Senior Communications Associate, TAWANI Enterprises, Chicago, IL

Museum Studies alumni

Abby Klug (2020), Exhibits Project Manager, Edwards Creative, Milan, IL

Neville Crenshaw (2016), Manager/Special Exhibitions and Featured Experiences/Guest Services, Saint Louis Science Center, St. Louis, MO

School of Music alumni

Benjamin Rogers (2018), “40 under 40” educator by Yamaha, Director of Choirs, Liberty Middle School, Spanaway, WA

Sean Klink (2020), Music Composition teacher, Monmouth College, Monmouth, IL

DJ Alstadt (1999), Director of Bands, Naperville Central High School, Naperville, IL

Orlando Riveros, Academic Director, Conservatorio Musicarte, Paraguay

Speech Pathology and Audiology alumni

Caitlin Egan (2014 & 2014), Speech Language Pathologist, UChicago Medicine, Chicago, IL

Patti Nemecek (1977 & 1978), Speech Language Pathologist, Macomb, IL

Theatre & Dance alumni

Amina Alexander (2020), Lighting Designer of STICK FLY, St. Louis Rep, St. Louis, MO

Nissi Shalome (2019), on national tour of SUMMER: THE DONNA SUMMER MUSICAL

Melody Betts (2009), on Broadway and on national tour of WAITRESS THE MUSICAL, also appeared in TV shows, “Chicago Fire”, “Chicago Code”, “Chicago PD”, and “Jesus Christ Superstar Live” on NBC.

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, 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. Both Day and Resident 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 was held virtually in summer 2021.

While it has been postponed during the COVID pandemic, the College has brought area theatre talent, including area students in fourth grade through high school, to campus during the summer for a “SummerStage” production. After weeks of rehearsal, the event concludes with live productions available to the public. COFAC is planning to resume SummerStage activities in summer 2023.

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-

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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.

Through the BCA, PAS and YPAS, we are providing exposure to the arts for not only the youth of Illinois (over 6,000 annually), 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 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

In normal years 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. The past two years, however, due to COVID-19, we offered the YPAS shows virtually through Zoom. We were able to expand our reach to a number of school districts in the 20 surrounding counties and provided arts entertainment to nearly 12,000 children.

18. Conclusion

I would like to acknowledge the efforts and persistence of administrators, faculty, staff, and students to continue to find ways to adapt and keep a high level of academic success during these unprecedented times. In addition to adjusting to pandemic conditions, we have been asked to do more with less. In spite of these obstacles, we have kept a true Leatherneck spirit and helped prepare our students for their futures. The people within COFAC have much to be proud of. As the interim dean, I am fortunate and blessed to be associated with so many wonderful people.