Chair's Update, Spring 2012.  

April 3, 2012

I hope everyone has had a productive winter and ready for new beginnings in the spring!

This past Winter Quarter we had many events and activities featuring the diverse talents and interests of our students and faculty members. Bridging Fall into the Winter was Peter Nabokov’s curated exhibit “Occupy Wall Street/Los Angeles — October – November 2011” featuring photography by Margaret Molloy. We also hosted an open forum on Occupy L.A., organized by Vice Chair of Graduate Affairs David Delgado. Dan Froot’s puppet theater project, Who’s Hungry – Santa Monica, in partnership with Dan Hurlin, premiered January 27 (ran Jan.27-28, Feb.3-4) at Highways Performance Space in Santa Monica. The department completed all of its admissions process for both the undergraduate and graduate programs – another exciting new group of students will join us next Fall. During that time period we presented our second MFA3 Concert with Heather Coker and Sarah Price Wilbur, followed by our undergraduates’ annual production WACSmash! (Feb.10-12) and the MFAZ concert that took place March 2d. Guest artist Miguel Guiterrez provided a week-long workshop/residency during 9th week (March 5-9), and finishing up the winter quarter we had our 10th week Pau Hana and Culture Crossing presentations. Project HeArt’s student presentations of visual art exhibitions and performances also returned during Finals Week. Also the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA) Dance Department presented their students’ performances in Kaufman Dance Theater during Finals Week. In between there were guest lectures/master-classes in our various courses, the “Chew on This” presentations by our graduate students and faculty (Tuesdays at noon), and David Gere's Art and Global Health Center project, Amp It Up! going into LAUSD high school. Congratulations to David for receiving a number of substantial grants that will propel his A|GH projects further globally as well as locally.

Spring Quarter calendar of events will be very full – I hope to see many of you at these events!

- MFA3 Concert (Sarah Leddy and Herbbie Moore) will take place April 13-14, as will the SOAA Open House for newly admitted students on the Friday of April 13.
- As previously announced, we will host the April 16-21 Regents’ Lecturer week-long activities in the department with world-renown artist Meredith Monk whose residency includes her company members – a project in partnership with UCLA Live. Much appreciation goes to faculty Dan Froot and UCLA Live staff Meryl Friedman and their respective teams in making the residency a reality. Monk’s public lecture will take place Tuesday, April 17, 7:30 pm in Kaufman 200. There will also be an exhibit of student art connected to the themes Monk is working with for her new piece (the art project, In Concert with Nature, is part of the School’s “Art Party” week-long series of activities on campus), planned for the first floor lounge in Kaufman Hall. Participants from across campus are expected, making this an exciting interdisciplinary experience for all.
- Immediately following the Monk residency, under the direction of faculty and Vice Chair of Undergraduate Affairs Vic Marks, we will host dance performance artist Faye Driscoll (April 24-May 4), whose concert performance (April 26-27, 8:30pm, Kaufman 200) and residency activities have been generously funded by a donor-initiated effort spearheaded by Brad Tabach-Bank and Dee Dee Dorskind. The department has received substantial contributions to launch this particular residency and performance project (Brad & Valerie Cohen, Dorskind Family Fdn., Morris & Bucky Hazan Family Fdn., Andrea Kraus, Beverly Loan Company, Francis & Virginia Maas, Jennifer B. Maguire & Stephen Maguire, Mel & Susan Plutsky, Mark & Lisa Schwartz, Jaclyn & Sydney Rosenberg Fdn., Ralph & Shirley Shapiro Family Charitable Fdn.). For more information on how you can play a role in this exciting initiative, contact UCLA Arts Development, development@arts.ucla.edu. We have raised a substantial amount but still need more in order to fulfill the vision of this project.
- Residency activities for both Monk and Driscoll include intensive workshops for our students as well as outreach into the community.
- During April the department will also host two job talks and visits from prospective candidates for the American Indian Studies Center. More information will be forthcoming about their visits. The search is chaired by faculty David Shorter (Vice Chair for Graduate Affairs).
- Not to be missed is our Senior Honors Projects showcase, "Point(s) of Contact." May 18-19, 8pm Kaufman Hall.
- Finishing the quarter with a bang will be our faculty choreography projects showcase on June 8-9, 8pm Kaufman 200. Directed by faculty David Rousséve, the presentation will include works by Rousséve, and guest faculty Lynn...
**Dally, Michel Kouakou, Ros Warby.** Over 50 students auditioned and most of them been cast to work with one or sometimes two of the choreographers.

- On-going **activities** will also take place in the spring such as our graduates’ “Chew on This” forum on Tuesdays at noon, and guest lectures or presentations during our **Thursdays at Noon.** (Watch for announcements!)

**Welcome to new guest faculty** members for this Spring: **John Malpede** (of the Los Angeles Poverty Department [LAPD] theater company) who will teach “Art as Social Action,” and **Ros Warby** who is teaching her performance project course. We **welcome back** retired Professor **Don Cosentino** who will teach his course on Vodou and Santeria, and **Kevin Kane** (director of the department’s High School Dance Theater Summer Intensive) who will teach a topics course titled “Transforming Teens: Developing a Progressive Performing Arts Curriculum for Adolescents”; **guest faculty members:** **Lynn Dally, Nick Duran, Simone Forti, Rennie Harris, Michel Kouakou, Patrick Polk, Viji Prakash, Willy Souly, Natsuo Tomita, Jason Tsou, Hesen Weiren, Kevin Williamson.** We extend our continued appreciation to our graduate Teaching Assistants/Associates/Fellows for their work with our students and faculty members.

Congratulations go to the many achievements of our students, faculty, and staff– too numerous to list here though we have posted them as they were announced throughout the year. There will be a compilation of this year’s recipients of awards, grants, job offers (to our recent graduates) and fellowships posted on our website soon.

As you can see, there is much to look forward to this coming quarter and beyond. Watch for additional announcements and postings of events. And, while the department (the UC in general) continues to have budget cuts and increased expenses affecting its programs, we are all trying to make a difference to ensure its well-being. Many thanks go to our staff members who are more than doing double duty in supporting our many needs, making up for positions lost to budgetary cuts.

Wishing all the best,

![Signature]

Angelia Leung, Chair

**p.s.** The department thanks the wonderful parents of our students for their support! Unrestricted contributions create opportunities to meet the department’s greatest needs, including student support and program improvements. I thank those who have made that contribution and I encourage all to do so. Please add to their gifts so that we can provide for full funding of all our classes, and further grow our scholarship and program support fund. This would be a most welcomed gift!

For information about making a secure gift online, visit us at: [www.arts.ucla.edu/giving](http://www.arts.ucla.edu/giving)

**HOT OFF THE PRESS! --** The department’s proposed new **BA degree in Dance** is officially approved effective Fall 2012. Also approved by the Undergraduate Council of the Academic Senate, we have a revised **BA in World Arts and Cultures** such that there is only the major in WAC, and no other concentrations. In the works for nearly two years of planning by the ladder faculty, we now have two discrete BA degrees: the **BA in World Arts and Cultures** and the **BA in Dance.** There will be a Town Hall meeting for our undergraduates in the spring quarter NOW SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY MAY 3, 12-1PM, KH200. Information concerning their options will be presented and questions answered. Save the date!