Greetings! We are very excited to bring to you this new initiative from the UMD School of Fine Arts which we have called The Promethean. In Greek mythology, Prometheus stole fire from Zeus to bring down to humans, an act that led to the development of arts and civilization. Our goal is to bring awareness to current activities in SFA to you, as well as bring attention to the wonderful achievements of fellow SFA alumni. Our goal is to produce two issues of The Promethean this academic year, and four in subsequent years.

The faculty, students and staff at SFA want you to know that we are not only very proud of everything you have accomplished since you graduated, but that we would like to see you back to hear and view what the faculty and students are working on now. In the near future, we will be informing you of alumni events in the units of SFA, and I hope you will know how important you are to the success and growth of SFA.

If you haven’t done so recently, please take a moment to visit UMD Alumni Relations and update your contact information, and provide some information on your current activities on that same page. We very much want to know what you’ve been doing since you earned your degree and want to celebrate the achievements of SFA graduates!

To find events in SFA this year, please visit: tickets.umn.edu
Welcome to our very first UMD School of Fine Arts Alumni newsletter. I am overjoyed to be serving my “Alma mater” as Dean of the School of Fine Arts. We want to bring you all back to UMD and especially to our programs in the School of Fine Arts. Many of you have remained connected and supportive of our efforts, but we know that far too many have wandered to parts unknown and engaged in wonderful lives, careers, and endeavors. It’s time for you to share, and for us to share with all of you what we are currently doing in SFA. As an alum, I know that it is our many decades of alumni that have help form, develop, and further our School of Fine Arts. So, let’s stay connected! This newsletter is our way of saying hello and welcome home to the School of Fine Arts at UMD.

Robert W. Kase
Dean, UMD School of Fine Arts

Hello SFA Alums!

I envy those who call themselves alumni of UMD School of Fine Arts!

I am not one of you, (graduating from Saint John’s University in Collegeville, MN) yet as a large, and always growing group, you stand out. UMD School of Fine Arts seems to remain embedded in the hearts of so many of you, and your generosity to scholarships and programs attest to that spirit of community. I have met a number of you on my travels to the east and west coasts, and numerous alums in the Twin Cities. It’s been my pleasure and honor, for almost twelve years, to work with many of you on all matters philanthropic. THANK YOU! Going forward I look forward to visiting with you to learn where your future philanthropy may reside. I look forward to showing you the powerful impact your gifts are making on the future artists, arts educators, and global citizens we are preparing here in the School of Fine Arts.

Robert Hoffman
Senior Development Officer, UMD School of Fine Arts

First proposed in 1972, the School of Fine Arts at the University of Minnesota Duluth welcomed its first classes in the Fine Arts in 1973, just prior to the completion of the Marshall Performing Arts Center (MPAC) in 1974. Comprised of the Departments of Art, Music and Theatre (which had been part of the Department of Speech), the new School of Fine Arts declared its mission to be the cultural center of not only the UMD campus, but of the Arrowhead region, by offering education and cultural programming in the fine arts. Included with the academic units, the Tweed Museum of Art became a cornerstone of the School and continued its mission to support the students, at the time, in the Department of Art as well as the Duluth community. In 2018, the School of Fine Arts continues its mission and has expanded to include the Fine Arts Academy, the addition of Design to the Department of Art and Design, the construction of Weber Music Hall, and the technical renovation of the Marshall Performing Arts Center. Under the leadership of Dean Dr. Robert Kase (a 1973 alumni of the Department of Music at UMD), the School of Fine Arts looks to expand its enrollment and degree offerings and continue to be a source of pride at the UMD campus.
ART & DESIGN

Matt Olin*
Assistant Professor
Graphic Design

Terresa Moses
Assistant Professor
Graphic Design

Dr. Sara Blaylock
Assistant Professor
Art History

MUSIC

Dr. Asami Hagiwara
Assistant Professor
Piano

Dr. David Chin
Assistant Professor
Concert Chorale
Vocal Jazz

Dr. Richard Robbins
Assistant Professor
Director of Choral Studies

Dr. Brett Linski*
Instructor
Oboe

Lorena Suarez*
Teaching Specialist
Piano

NOT PICTURED
Stacy Carolan*
Instructor
Trumpet
Fall 2018 Sabbatical replacement

Joseph Pettit
Assistant Professor
Double bass
Jazz Studies

THEATRE

Jon Brophy*
Instructor
Lighting/Sound

Thomas Jacobsen
Assistant Professor
Musical Theatre

Katie Kelly
Assistant Professor
Dance

Alice Shafer*
Instructor
Costume Construction

NOT PICTURED
Ashley Werely*
Instructor
Stagecraft

* UMD Alumni
Dr. Gene Koshinski, (Professor, Percussion) recently presented his concerto for two percussion and symphony orchestra, soniChroma, with the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra on October 6, 2018 featuring Department of Music faculty Gene Koshinski and Tim Broscious as soloists. Dr. Koshinski and Mr. Broscious (Quey Percussion Duo) will also be featured as evening concert performers at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC) in November.

In September, Dr. Jefferson Campbell (Professor, Bassoon) completed a tour of universities in Texas and Oklahoma with Dr. Gene Koshinski where he performed solo recitals of music he has commissioned over the last ten years, and featured on his upcoming recording release. The two performed and instructed master classes at the University of Texas at Arlington, Baylor University, and the University of Oklahoma.

Terresa Moses (Assistant Professor, Graphic Design) recently hosted The Natural Hair Symposium in Duluth, MN, which included natural hair artwork along with events coinciding to help educate on certain topics and issues in the natural hair community. The symposium included guest speakers and stylists, hair models (youth and adult), presentations on the historical context of natural hair, and product/styling demos. Project Naptural is an educational, grant supported, academic design research and cultural study about the social implications of natural hair and its effects on Black women.

David Bowen, (Assistant Professor, Sculpture) had a one-person exhibition titled observers and creators at the Cohen Gallery, Granoff Center for the Creative Arts at Brown University, Providence, RI. His work tele-present wind was featured at Azkuna Zentroa, Bilbao, Spain from May to September. Tele-present wind was created in collaboration with the Visualization and Digital Imaging Lab in SFA. To learn more about this work, visit dwbowen.com/telepresent-wind

Dr. Sara Blaylock (Assistant Professor, Art History) is co-director of the International Association for Visual Culture (IAVC), a professional organization for scholars, artists, museum professionals, and educators. IAVC recently held their biennial conference at the London College of Communication, University of the Arts London. The three-day event with the theme of “Visual Pedagogies”, drew nearly 150 people world wide. Through scholarly panels, hands-on workshops, keynote lectures, and in-depth conversations, the idea of teaching in an increasingly visual world was addressed, while focusing on how scholarship requires a care for context and impact.

Dear Finder 2018, co-written by Tom Isbell (Professor, Acting) and 7 students in 1997, is being reimagined in the Marshall Performing Arts Center beginning October 11. A poignant story about how we continue to deal with the legacy of The Holocaust, it is a remarkable artistic achievement. As part of the production, Professor Isbell and the Department of Theatre will be hosting an alumni reunion to commemorate the collaboration of the 1998 and 2008 previous productions.

Rachel Inselman (Professor, Voice) attended the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) National Conference in Las Vegas Nevada, where she made two presentations as part of a panel of experts about “Teaching Transgender Singers” and “Teaching Outside the Gender Binary: Working with Transgender or Non-Binary Singers.” Her presentations and lectures focused on binders, waist trainers, endocrinologists, hormone therapy, and mental health and how all of these can impact the voice and its development.

Dr. Jenna Soleo-Shanks (Assistant Professor, Theatre History) directed the UMD Department of Theatre’s production of Antigone by Sophocles, which was later selected to be performed at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region 5 as one of seven productions chosen for the seven-state festival.
ALUMNI DONATION INFORMATION

Did you know that alumni are the most powerful advocates for the School of Fine Arts and have the ability to influence current and future generations of students who are striving for a career in the arts? As those with past experiences of creating art at UMD, your positive, supportive words send a powerful message to parents and students who are currently making decisions on which collegiate program they will choose to help them achieve their artistic and professional goals. We need you to help be the voice that encourages them to consider the School of Fine Arts at UMD as their top choice. In entrance interviews, when students are asked why they are considering UMD, most cite a recommendation from a teacher/director/family friend or alum as the top reason they want to attend UMD. You can help us grow the School of Fine Arts in enrollment and prestige, by helping us get the word out to talented, prospective students you encounter. How many times have you been contacted by the University of Minnesota to ask for a donation? Once? Three times? A hundred? If you want to directly help the UMD School of Fine Arts with a donation, there is an easy way to do so without stressing your monthly budget and without worrying about where your donation will be placed. The UMD Making a Gift website allows you to choose from a range of scholarships in the School of Fine Arts, (including department and area-specific funds), and best of all, you can set up small, monthly withdrawals from a credit or debit card. Any amount can have a huge impact if many are contributing! There are close to 3500 alumni of the School of Fine Arts; if 500 alumni chose to donate $10.00/month, that would be $60,000.00 of scholarship funds available for current and future UMD SFA students each year. Your gift is tax deductible and will make an incredible impact on the success of our students in the School of Fine Arts.

Please visit the website below to start your contribution today: z.umn.edu/3roe

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

SPOTLIGHT: RANDY LEE

UMD is proud to claim alumnus Randy Lee who has been recognized by the Minnesota Music Educator’s Association as Minnesota Music Educator of the Year. Mr. Lee was honored at the annual MMEA Midwinter Clinic in Minneapolis, MN this past February. This honor is part of an entire career of acknowledgements for his contributions to music education, and the impact he has had on students in his program and throughout the state. Congratulations Randy!

Randy Lee has enjoyed a long career of music teaching/making. He has taught bands, lessons, and classroom music in Hermantown for over 30 years after starting his career in McGregor. He has a master’s degree in education-instruction from UW-Superior and a bachelor’s degree in music education and a minor in Jazz Studies from UMD. Randy conducts many honor band and jazz events in the state/region and has presented instrumental music and jazz topics at national and state conferences. He has been section coach for various honor events including MMEA All-State Band and Jazz Band and recently served as VP Jazz Education Chair for the MMEA Board. He is Past National President and Past National Secretary of the American School Band Directors’ Association and has been elected to several state positions for ASBDA, currently as Treasurer. He is also on the North East MN Band Directors’ Association Board and a member of Phi Beta Mu. For the school district, Randy has served on Principal Advisory and Staff Development Committees. Randy often attends conferences and seminars (or helps organize them) to learn the latest practices for music teaching. Randy is a founding member and chair of NoteWorthy Kids, a Twin Ports area non-profit seeking funds to provide music instruction to low-income school children. Randy is Founder, Artistic Director, and a featured woodwind soloist of the Big Time Jazz Orchestra, made up of the finest big band jazz musicians in northern MN, which performs concerts for charitable causes, raising funds for various organizations.

To update your information, please visit: update.umn.edu
Established in 2006, The Society of Prometheans recognizes alumni who have demonstrated the passion, commitment, and talent to achieve the highest levels of excellence in their art and profession, and to benefactors who have enabled the School of Fine Arts to achieve new levels of excellence in programs. To date, 48 individuals have been recognized at the annual Society of Prometheans event hosted by the School of Fine Arts at the University of Minnesota Duluth, representing a broad range of experience and achievement throughout the arts field. These alumni collectively represent the different departments and units of the School of Fine Arts; the academic departments of Art & Design, Music, and Theatre, and the other artistic units: the Fine Arts Academy, the Tweed Museum of Art and once part of SFA – the Glensheen Mansion.

Named for Prometheus, the Titan god who brought fire and civilization to mortals as well as the arts and sciences and the means of survival, the Society of Prometheans represents those who have demonstrated their willingness to give of themselves to stoke the flames of passion for art.

PROMETHEUS, TEACHER IN EVERY ART, BROUGHT THE FIRE THAT HATH PROVED TO MORTALS A MEANS TO MIGHTY ENDS.

We are proud that the current Dean of the School of Fine Arts, Dr. Robert Kase, was the first awardee of the Promethean Award in Music for his artistic achievements and academic leadership in the field of music.
2018 HONOREES

Jerry Kaldor, Department of Music

Mr. Jerry Kaldor is the Elementary Music Specialist in the Hermantown Schools, where he has been teaching for 30 years. A Two Harbors native, Jerry had his first significant musical experiences singing in school and church choirs when he was young. After graduation from Two Harbors High School, Jerry attended the University of Minnesota Duluth and graduated in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts in Music Theory and Composition. While at UMD, he participated in both the University Singers and the Elizabethan Singers. After graduation he directed the choirs at the Cathedral Junior High School in Superior, Wisconsin, as well as the elementary choirs at Lincoln Park and Piedmont Elementary Schools. Mr. Kaldor later earned the Bachelor of Music in Choral Education with a concentration in K-12 music from the University of Minnesota Duluth where he was a graduate assistant. Jerry began teaching at Hermantown Community Schools in 1988 as an Elementary Music Specialist. In 1992, he founded and directed the Hermantown Youth Chorus that has now become the Lake Superior Youth Chorus, and served as its Artistic Director for ten years. In 2005, he earned the Master of Arts in Music Education with a Kodály Concentration from the University of St. Thomas. He has also served as the Director of Collegiate Chorus at the College of St. Scholastica. For the past twenty-five years he has served in worship ministry with the Vineyard Church, and has performed for many years in the Arrowhead Chorale.

Sharon Mollerus, Tweed Museum of Art

Sharon Mollerus has served on the Tweed Museum of Art Advisory Board and provided invaluable insight for public relations, the adaptation of K-12 education programming, and the scope of museum outreach. She also serves the Duluth community as member of the Board of Directors of the Stella Maris Academy, and is a member of the DSSO Symphony chorus. In addition, Sharon has been a celebrated educator at San Diego State University, and locally at the College of St. Scholastica. Her varied professional background includes experience as a legal secretary in securities and insurance defense law firms, a medical transcriptionist, a full-charge bookkeeper for a medical office, and owner and proprietor of her own word-processing and typesetting business.

Sara C. Olson, Department of Theatre

Sara is a 1991 graduate of the University of Minnesota Duluth with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and Music. Sara also earned a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Design from the University of Minnesota (1994), as well as a Master of Arts in Education (2009). Her talents have spanned industry, theatre, education, and film in the nearly thirty years since. Shortly after graduation, Sara worked at VEE Corporation in the Twin Cities, making hats, heads, and mascots for Sesame Street Live and other corporate clients. In the years since, she has been a costume designer, craftsman, milliner and supervisor for theatre groups spanning the spectrum of community, university, and regional companies. She was invited back to UMD twice as a guest designer and artist-in-residence. During the past eight years, Sara has focused exclusively on the booming film industry in Georgia, holding key roles in costume departments. Her production credits include many of the recent blockbuster films where she has worked closely with the industry’s top designers building costumes for films such as The Hunger Games: Mockingjay (parts 1 & 2), Ant Man, Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 2, Captain America - Civil War, Antman and the Wasp, and First Man. She has also been part of TV series like Netflix’s Stranger Things Seasons 1 and 2 (where she built the famous “Eleven” smocked dresses) and others.

Bud Rodecker, Department of Art & Design

A graduate of the UMD Department of Art & Design and multiple national and international award-winner, Bud Rodecker is now a Principal Designer at Thirst in Chicago, and President of the Society of Typographic Arts. In his career, Bud balances design work with pedagogical opportunities including lectures and teaching. In 2012, he served as a juror for the UMD Department of Art & Design Annual Student Exhibition and inspired a generation of designers with his story. Working collaboratively, Bud’s inventive design explores the space between logical constraints and formal play, balancing form with meaning. Bud’s dedication to learning as well as his innovative approach to design embody the Department of Art & Design’s commitment to a lifetime of creativity.
UMD Theatre opened its 2018–2019 season on October 11, 2018 with Dear Finder 2018, and is one of the most moving and poignant retellings of how we struggle with the lessons and legacy of the Holocaust. The rest of the lineup is:

Significant Other, November 8–17
Dance Works, November 29–December 2
Love’s Labor Lost, February 7–16
Time’s Up, March 7–23
Sister Act, April 18–27

Fall kicks off many exciting Music events at the Weber Music Hall, including: UMD Jazz Scholarship Fund Concert on October 22; the Sounds of the Season Concerts on November 30, December 1 and December 2 featuring Orchestra, Wind Ensemble and Choirs; and ending the fall semester on a high note with the world-renowned choral group Chanticleer on December 8.

Visit UMD’s Tweed Museum of Art this Fall to see the exhibition 122 Conversations by Annie Labovitz in coordination with the Duluth Sister Cities organization. You can also come to see the Visual Culture Lecture Series and senior exhibitions at the Tweed Museum of Art all year long.

Looking back and moving forward, UMD Theatre’s 1998 and 2008 casts of Dear Finder soon to be joined by this semester’s production, Dear Finder 2018!