

College of Performing and Visual Arts Welcomes New Faculty and Staff

The College of Performing and Visual Arts is excited to announce 11 new faculty and staff for the 2008-09 academic year. These new additions offer an international perspective to the growing fine arts college. Each educator brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the students of SUU.

Art and Design

Kyle Petersen, Visiting Assistant Professor of Photography, has a Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) degree from the Savannah College of Art and Design and a Bachelor of Arts from Bradley University. Petersen hails from Wheeling, Ill. His photography work has been exhibited in Atlanta, Miami as well as Savannah and Peoria. He recently displayed a solo exhibit at the Blue Tower Gallery in Atlanta, GA. Petersen will teach photography and digital imaging classes this year.

Yueqi Zhang joins the faculty as an Associate Professor of Graphic Design. Yueqi has his Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) degree from Savannah School of Art and Design in Graphic Design. His Bachelor of Fine Arts degree is from Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts in Tianjin China. He has been teaching graphic design for more than 20 years. His extensive list of publication, exhibits, and awards includes book illustrations, graphic design, and exhibits at the Asian Culture Center in

New York, NY, and at Yale University. Mr. Zhang will teach graphic design classes and multimedia and motion graphics.

Music Department

Dr. Christian Bohnenstengel is the new staff accompanist for the Music Department. He has a Doctorate in Music, a Master of Music from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a B.S. in Music from Missouri Western State University. He has been teaching for the last 10 years in the United States and Germany. He has performed with the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra and has performed throughout the United States, Venezuela, the Czech Republic, and Germany.

Dr. Alec Mariani joins the faculty as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Music this year. He has his D.M.A. from the University of Iowa in Conducting, and an M.F.A. from Iowa in Double Bass Performance. He also holds a Master of Music from the University of Michigan, and a B.A. in Music Education from SUNY Potsdam. Alec has over 10 years experience teaching in university and high school music programs. He has performed with the Cedar Rapids Symphony, the Las Vegas Philharmonic and was a freelance principal bassist in the Las Vegas area performing with such notable singers as the late Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo, as well as performing on two regional tours with Andrea Bocelli.

Dr. Mark Stickney, Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Bands, is a native of Fairfax County, VA. Dr. Stickney teaches conducting, music education, applied low brass and he directs the Wind Symphony and Brass Ensembles. He holds a B.A. in Music and Religion from Gettysburg College, an M.A. in Tuba Performance from Montclair State University, and a D.M.A. in Wind Conducting from Rutgers University. As a soloist and chamber musician, Dr. Stickney

has performed throughout the United States, including a performance at the Newport Music Festival in 2002.

Dr. Lynn Vartan joins the faculty as an Assistant Professor of Percussion. Dr. Vartan has a D.M.A. and a Master of Music from the University of Southern California in percussion with an emphasis in Music Education, Music History, and Theatre Design. Her B.A. in percussion is from California State University, Northridge. She has been nominated for three Grammy Awards for recordings she has made and has garnered numerous awards over the last 10 years. She has more than 17 years teaching experience in both university and high school settings. Dr. Vartan has extensive recording and performance experience, several commissions and world premieres, and founder and performer of the Exacta Duo.

Theatre and Dance

Wendy Sanders joins the faculty as an Assistant Professor in Costume Design. She has a M.F.A. in Theatre Design and Technology from Brigham Young University, a B.F.A. in Theatre Education from Utah State University, and a B.F.A. in Technical Theatre and Design from the University of Utah. She also holds a certification in Secondary Education in Theatre and Psychology. Sanders has taught at universities and high schools since 1999, most recently at Louisiana State University. She has designed costumes, scenery, stage properties and makeup and hair at LSU, BYU, Utah State and the American Repertory Theatre in Boston, MA. Sanders will teach costume design and construction and will design for productions in the 2008-09 season.

Brian Swanson joins the faculty as an Assistant Professor in Technical Direction. He holds a M.F.A. from Yale University in Technical Design and Production and a B.A. in Performing Arts from Iowa State University. He has been the Technical Director for over 39 shows in the last 10 years including productions at the Yale Repertory Theatre, Aspen Opera Theatre, and Cedar Rapids Opera. Most recently, Swanson has been the Production Manager and Technical Director at the Aspen Opera Theatre Center since 2000.

Chien-Ying Wang is an Assistant Professor in Dance. Chien-Ying received her M.F.A. in Dance from The Ohio State University, B.F.A. from Northern Illinois University, and A.A. degree from National Taiwan Academy of Arts. She was a soloist with Utah Repertory Dance Theatre in Salt Lake City, UT from 2002-2007. Before coming to the United States, she danced professionally with Taipei Ballet Company. Chien-Ying was awarded University Fellowship at OSU and in 2006, she was a recipient of the Project Support Grant from Salt Lake City Arts Council to present a work entitled *Bridging Bridges*. She is a certified Labanotation teacher and she has taught both ballet and modern dance at OSU and the National Taiwan University of Arts. She will be teaching Modern Dance, Classical Ballet, American Character Ballet, and Dance Ensemble.

Shelley Beck is the new Administrative Assistant for the Theatre Arts and Dance Department. She received her B.A. degree in Liberal Arts and Science from Utah State University, graduating cum laude. She has worked in a variety of administrative positions including working at the Utah State University Graduate School. She and her husband recently relocated to Cedar City.

Ballroom Dance

Deborah Packard joins us this year as the assistant to Mark Baker, Director of the SUU Ballroom Dance Company. Deborah has her B.A. in Dance with an emphasis in Ballroom Dance from BYU. She was a member of the BYU Ballroom Company for three years has relocated here from Kent, Washington where she taught ballroom dance classes.