

BLINN COLLEGE FINE ARTS EXPRESS

The Blinn College Fine Arts Program is committed to fostering artistic, musical, and verbal expression on our campuses and within our communities.

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The Blinn College Music Program marches forward with approval of the Associates of Arts Degree - Music Field of Study (a 66 hour/4 semester curriculum which includes 31 hours of core courses as well as 35 hours of music courses). This field of study will enable students to transfer to senior institutions easily, as well as focus their study toward earning an Associates Degree at Blinn College.

Blinn Students Honored at the Texas Music Educators' Annual Clinic and Convention

Twenty-three members of the Blinn College Band Program were honored at the Texas Music Educators' Association annual clinic & convention in San Antonio in February. The students participated as members of the Texas Community College Band Directors' Association All-State Symphonic Band. They each submitted a taped audition in the fall along with approximately 150 other students from across the state.

Notably, Blinn College has consistently placed more students in the All-State Band than any other community college for the last decade.

Another student was further honored by being selected as the Concerto Competition winner for the All-State Band. **Doug Lomax**, a freshman tuba player from Cuero, was selected out of seven exceptional competitors to perform "Concertino

for Tuba and Band" by Ben- criscutto with the All-State Band at the TMEA convention. Any community college band member is eligible to audition, as long as they perform a piece that is available with band accompaniment and they qualify as a member of the All-State Band. This is the fifth time in thirty years that Blinn College has had a student win the competition.

Student Recitals

On May 4th & 5th, Blinn music students were featured at the annual Student Recitals held at the W.W. O'Donnell Performing Arts Center. The recital featured all aspects of the music department including vocal, wind, percussion and guitar majors and non-majors. There were approximately 40 soloists and 15 ensembles featured.

Symphonic Band Tour Facilitates Development of Music CD

The Blinn College Symphonic Band has just completed their annual Spring Tour. The group performed nine concerts in four days (in April) at high schools in the central Texas area. Schools included on the tour were Kreuger Middle School and Southwest High School in San Antonio, Giddings HS, New Braunfels HS, Lockhart HS, Gatesville HS, Burnet HS, Hays HS and Marble Falls HS. The band will use recordings from the tour to compile their annual CD which may be purchased by contacting Larry Campbell (830-4260 for the purchase price of \$10.00 (while supply lasts).



Blinn Music Faculty Perform with the Brazos Valley Symphony

Blinn College faculty maintain the ongoing tradition of performing with the Brazos Valley Symphony under the direction of fellow Blinn College faculty member Dr. Marcelo Bussiki. Notably, *“for his pioneer work in music cultural expansion, Bussiki was awarded the knighthood of the “Ordem do Merito de Mato Grosso”. He received the title of Oficial, the highest honor that the executive power can bestow upon an artist in Brazil!”* (BVS website). These awards are illustrative of Bussiki’s passion and committed service to the world of music.

Faculty members performing with the symphony have the following comments about the experience (including why they choose to participate in this musical venue).

Jill Stewart: “I have greatly enjoyed working with the BVSO for the last seven years. It allows me the opportunity to perform with an orchestra of professional caliber close to home. The Symphony has become a type of family. I believe we all participate because we love performing and we want our community to be able to enjoy quality performances that involve their friends and neighbors.”

Larry Campbell: “BVSO is a worthwhile musical experience performing with friends and other exceptional players. This is an outlet to perform and great diversion from conducting a student group where I can enjoy performing with a group of more mature people performing some major orchestral works.”

Stephen Kujawa Sanders to Lead Blinn College’s “Brenham Chorale”

We are happy to announce the appointment of Stephen Kujawa as the director of the Brenham Chorale. Mr. Kujawa is a professional vocal and choral music director, performer, and teacher. He holds a Master of Music performance degree from Loyola University, College of Music in New Orleans, a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Florida State University School of Music in Tallahassee, Florida and a Minor in Psychology from FSU. A native of Savannah, Georgia, he has performed, directed, and taught vocal and choral music for over 24 years, working in opera, oratorio, lieder, folk-song, musical theater, and church music throughout the Southeastern United States. The Brenham Chorale is a community chorus that enjoys a rich history of tradition and excellence, having recently performed the world famous *Mozart Requiem* to critical acclaim at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The W.W. O’Donnell Performing Arts



Center Home to Spring Concert

The Annual Spring Concerts of the Blinn College Symphonic and Concert Bands were featured at the W.W. O’Donnell Performing Arts Center on May 2nd. The Concert Band started the program performing a variety of selections they have prepared throughout the semester. The Symphonic Band performed the program that was featured during their Spring Tour.

Music Meets



Hosted at Blinn

The Blinn Music Department hosted five days of music meets this semester at the Brenham Campus. Area high school and junior high bands and choirs were given the opportunity to perform for panels of judges in a UIL format competition. Each group was given a rating and comments from each judge, plus a recording of their performance. The judges also presented awards for outstanding groups in each class. These contests continue to be a wonderful opportunity to bring a large number of students to the Blinn campus for an enriching musical experience.

Assistant Director of Bands Named

Blinn College is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Brett Jones to the music faculty beginning Fall 2004. Dr. Jones will assume the assistant director of bands position and direct all aspects of percussion. A native of South Dakota with undergraduate studies at the University of Colorado and Masters & Doctorate from Texas Tech University, Dr. Jones is an exceptional percussionist with expertise in symphonic and marching percussion areas. Most recently on the faculty of Texas Tech, he directed the drum line of the "Goin' Band from Raiderland", taught in the percussion studio and, in addition, taught theory and aural music classes. With the addition of Dr. Jones, we look forward to continued growth in the music department.

This position is in addition to the current faculty allowing us to expand, restructure and upgrade the level of instruction. The music faculty includes:

Larry Campbell – Fine Arts Chair, Director of Bands and Horn, Euphonium, Tuba; Faculty member since 1973

Jill Stewart – Aural Music, clarinet, sax, double reeds; Faculty member since 1997.

John Dujka – Music Theory, Piano & Group Piano; Faculty member since 1990

Dr. Craig Garrett – Jazz Ensemble, Trumpet, Class Guitar; Faculty member since 1994

Jennifer Wise – Vocal Studies, Private Voice; Faculty member since 2003

Dr. Wendy Bergin – Flute (part-time); Faculty member since 1999

John McCroskey – Trombone (part-time); Faculty member since 2001.

Stewart Named as Texas Community College Band Directors' Chair

The Texas Community College Band Directors' Association named Jill Stewart, Assistant Band Director and Woodwind Instructor at Blinn, as their Chair for 2005-2006. Mrs. Stewart has served as Student Selection Chair in the All-State process for the last three years and Chair-elect for the past year.

Blinn College Choral Studies

Jennifer Wise (Director of Choral Studies) holds a B.A. in Music and Communication Arts from Austin College in Sherman, TX and a Master of Music from The Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. As well as soloing for the Brenham Chorale, she has performed on stage at the Unity Theatre, A.D. Players, Stages Repertory Theatre, Austin Summer Musicals at Zilker Park, Live Oak Theatre and in several productions with the Alley Theatre where she also acted as music consultant. Mrs. Wise headed the Department for Music and Drama at St Anne' School in Houston for four years and is currently chair of the Music Department at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Copperfield.

Under the direction of Jennifer Wise, the **Choral Studies Program** looks forward to a new season of growth and performances. The Camerata Choir is an audition only mixed choir that specializes in singing classical repertoire. This group will perform several times this fall both on and off campus. The Musical Theatre Ensemble will also enjoy several performance opportunities throughout the semester. The MTE concentrates on repertoire from the musical theatre genre. All Camerata and MTE concerts are free of charge.

The **Blinn Choir Club**, sponsored by Mrs. Wise, also anticipates a busy year. The BCC has several outreach events planned for the year including visits to area nursing homes. After a very successful fundraiser dinner last year, the BCC will host its Second Annual Madrigal Dinner. The Madrigal Dinner is a wonderful way to ring in the Christmas season. The ticket price includes a fully catered dinner and an enchanting choral concert along with much theatricality, mirth and merriment. All profits benefit the choral program.

Theatre Arts Season 2004-2005

October: Frankenstein

November: A Charlie Brown Christmas

February: Once Upon a Mattress

April: An Evening of One-Act Plays

November: Musical Theatre Ensemble Performances

June: Working (Summer Musical)

Dallas Symphony Orchestra Selection

Campbell, oldest son of Fine Arts Chair Larry Campbell has been selected as the Associate Principal Trumpet of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. He won the position through an international audition on January 20th. Previous positions include: Palm Beach Opera Orchestra, Tacoma Symphony, St. Louis Symphony and Colorado Symphony. Currently he is an active free-lance musician in Seattle performing frequently with the Seattle Opera and Symphony Orchestra. Russell and his wife Ami, a violinist in the Seattle Symphony and one year old son Jasper will relocate to Dallas this summer. His new position will begin with the 2004-05 season. Russell is a 1985 graduate of Brenham High School. He received a Bachelor of Music Education Degree from the University of Houston and the Master of Trumpet Performance from Juilliard in New York.

For scholarship information and audition dates, contact:

Band: [Mr. Larry Campbell](#) (979) 830-4260
 Jazz Band: [Dr. Craig Garrett](#) (979) 830-4261
 Chorus and Voice Study: [Mrs. Jennifer Wise](#) (979) 830-4239
 Piano Study: [Mr. John Dujka](#) (979) 830-4249
 Drama: [Mr. Bradley A. Nies](#) (979) 830-4269

Next Issue Highlights:

The next issue of "The Fine Arts Express" will feature the Blinn College Art Program. Art work of faculty will be featured along with news of program expansion. Art courses offered at Blinn College are as follows:

ARTS 1301 (ART APPRECIATION): A course that is a general introduction to the visual arts, media, technique and history designed to create a deeper appreciation of the creative process.

ARTS 1303 (ART HISTORY SURVEY I): An examination of painting, sculpture, architecture, and other arts from prehistoric time to the age of the Renaissance.

ARTS 1304 (ART HISTORY SURVEY II): An examination of painting, sculpture, architecture, and other arts from the time of the Renaissance to present day.

ARTS 1311 (DESIGN I): This course is an introduction to the elements and principles of design through the use of a variety of two-dimensional medias and techniques. Focus is on the development and application of critical thinking skills.

ARTS 1312 (DESIGN II): Continued theory and practice of the fundamentals of art with emphasis on three-dimensional design. This course is an introduction to the elements and principles of design through the use of a variety of three-dimensional medias and techniques. Focus is on the development and application of critical thinking skills.

ARTS 1316 (DRAWING I): An introduction to a variety of media, techniques and aesthetics for exploring descriptive and expressive possibilities in drawing, with consideration of an understanding of natural shape and mass.

ARTS 1317 (DRAWING II): Experimentation with techniques and materials to develop perceptual and conceptual skills leading to individual expressive in drawing. This course stresses the expressive and conceptual aspects of drawing including advanced compositional arrangements, a wide range of wet and dry media, and the development of an individual approach to theme and content.

ARTS 2366 (WATERCOLOR I): This class is an introduction to the fundamentals of transparent watercolor painting as a medium for creative expression.

ARTS 2367 (WATERCOLOR II): This class continues the development of creative and technical skills in water base media.

ARTS 2346 (CERAMICS I): The purpose of Ceramics I is to provide each student with a basic ceramic experience extended from his/her own knowledge of design and drawing on which to build the visual thinking skills, knowledge of historical and contemporary art forms, technical approach to materials and the methods for channeling creative energies that enable a life-time of personal artistic expression.

ARTS 2347 (CERAMICS II): The purpose of Ceramics II is to provide each student with a specific ceramic experience extended from his/her own knowledge of design and drawing on which to build the visual thinking skills, knowledge of historical and contemporary art forms, technical approach to materials and the methods for channeling creative energies that enable a life-time of personal artistic expression.

Editors: Jill Stewart, Brad Nies, and Jane Haggard.