

LIPSCOMB *now*: GEORGE SHINN COLLEGE OF ENTERTAINMENT & THE ARTS

Season

MAGAZINE | SPRING 2018



New name, new energy, pg. 2

New leader for music, pg. 6

Triple threat joins CEA, pg. 8



Season

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On the cover: Animation is one of the CEA's newest programs, graduating its inaugural graduates in March 2017.

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There has never been a better time to be involved in the arts and entertainment industries.

As we look around at our tumultuous world, one where the church does not quite enjoy the status it once had to influence the culture, there is no doubt that artists, or storytellers, as I like to refer to them, stand as gatekeepers of social consciousness. Culture, no doubt, still yearns for meaning; people yearn for beauty; we ache to be reminded of some kind of bigger purpose, but today people seek answers in new sources of authority.

Instead of looking to presidents, politicians and pulpit ministers, more and more culture goes to the movie theater, the theater, art exhibits, symphonies and yes, mobile devices for meaning. There are times when this act is simply escapism or mere entertainment, but at the center of each and every visit or download is an opportunity to change a life.

I believe we look to story, in its myriad forms, now more than ever to provide meaning, comfort, strength and guidance to our lives. This is why I call the storyteller a gatekeeper, because we can influence culture with the stories we choose to tell. The question then becomes: how do we tell the most creative and compelling stories that will entertain, challenge and inspire the culture? That question is one we try to answer daily at the CEA. Whether it is through the classroom, on the stage, behind the camera on a film set, or in the gallery, the CEA is a premier 21st century Christian arts training ground and an arts hub for the community.

Our faculty and students tour the world with music shows, produce world-class musical premieres with the Nashville Symphony, partner with film and theater companies on professional productions and produce a robust season of our own work all in an effort to give our students the best education possible and hopefully edify our community. Join us in our mission to train the next generation of storytellers who will go out and in the most creative and compelling of ways influence the culture for God.



Mike Fernandez

Dean, George Shinn College of Entertainment & the Arts

When I think of the relatively new College of Entertainment & the Arts, I think about the many people it brings together for collaborative efforts that prepare students in exceptional ways. There is a rich pool of artists in Music City who thrive on the energy created through collaborative work and who are eager to share their honed talents, connections and experiences with the next generation at Lipscomb.

We are proud to have Brown Bannister, a successful and respected music producer, serving as the interim director at the School of Music. His leadership provides a unique learning opportunity for students who are training for careers in music. Bannister is working with industry giants and friends of Lipscomb Amy Grant, Tim Lauer, Gordon Kerry, Randy Goodman and Juanita Copeland to perpetuate the good work of the university's contemporary music program, which was founded by Grammy-nominated producer and performer Charlie Peacock.

CEA Artist-in-Residence Reed Arvin is well known for his success as a touring musician, author, and creativity consultant. His professional journey has equipped him with a unique perspective that he uses to encourage students to discover and nurture their full creative potential. You may read more about Bannister, Arvin and others who are making a difference in the lives of our students in the following pages.

It is an important advantage to have nationally recognized artists engaging, training and mentoring our students, as noted by the organization that recently ranked our School of Music as one of the top 25 programs in the nation. SuccessfulStudent.org ranking criteria put high value on the school's variety of programs with affiliate successful professors and alumni.

I encourage you to learn more about CEA through these pages and by visiting the Black River Stage at The Well across from campus, and the many other venues and galleries around town where Lipscomb students are sharing their talents, broadening their reach and bringing glory to God in the process.



L. Randolph Lowry

President, Lipscomb University



The Sound Emporium, an iconic Nashville music studio established in 1969, is now under Lipscomb's ownership and is operated by the George Shinn College of Entertainment & the Arts.

A community of creators

\$15 million gift to expand opportunities for next generation of artists

Artistic greatness is about a lot more than talent.

It's about innovation, entrepreneurship, and in many cases, drawing on a collaborative community.

Those are the qualities **George Shinn** recognized in Lipscomb's College of Entertainment & the Arts earlier this year when he pledged to provide the largest gift in Lipscomb's history to the college that seeks every day to train the next generation of believer artists through its unique community of collaborative doers.

"After visiting campus a few times and seeing what was going on, I had the feeling that Lipscomb has a great future ahead of it," said Shinn, former owner of the Charlotte/New Orleans Hornets, who has grown to know and respect Lipscomb in just the past six years. "I like what Lipscomb is doing, and I think it's important for us to invest in the future of our young people and particularly young people who love the Lord."

So on April 3, 2017, Lipscomb University announced a \$15 million gift from Shinn, resulting in the renaming of the college to the George Shinn College of Entertainment & the Arts; the transfer of ownership of the Sound Emporium, a long-time, iconic professional recording studio located about a mile from campus; and forthcoming construction of the new Shinn Events Center, providing Nashville with a brand new community arts venue as well as new facilities for the college's creative and collaborative ventures.

"Lipscomb's College of Entertainment & the Arts has emerged as a leader in arts and entertainment education and

production in the Nashville community," said **L. Randolph Lowry**, Lipscomb University president. "Shinn's gift will allow that leadership to expand and become recognized throughout the region and the nation."

The George Shinn College of Entertainment & the Arts is one of the fastest-growing in the university, with undergraduate degrees in cinematic arts, fashion and design, music, theater and dance, animation and visual arts and graduate programs in cinematic arts.

The college has pioneered a number of community partnerships with organizations such as Blackbird Theater, the Nashville Shakespeare Festival, Tennessee Repertory Theater and high school theater and choral programs throughout Middle Tennessee. The Artist Series brings nationally known classical artists such as Paul Barnes and Frederic Chui to the Lipscomb stage, and the Visiting Artist Program brings in nationally known visual artists such as Glexis Navoa and Nick Cave to open their expertise to students, faculty and local art educators.

An innovation lab designed to spur interdisciplinary creativity, a front-row seat to observe and learn how a professional music studio operates in

Nashville, additional performance spaces of varying sizes and a new film screening room are a few of the proposed facilities made possible by the Shinn gift that will allow us to achieve even higher national aspirations and nurture CEA students into change-makers in the artistic marketplace.

Shinn, a resident of Franklin, Tennessee, is founder of the George Shinn Foundation, which is dedicated to helping people in need. It is committed to building God's kingdom and reflecting its founder's deep Christian faith by furthering the work of churches, ministries, missionaries and nonprofit organizations.

"I think we all have to understand that God grants us gifts, and everything I have is a gift from God," Shinn said. "I feel that people who are given much should in turn give as much as they can. I think it's important. My whole life is based on the principle of the more I give, the more I get in return."

The George Shinn College of Entertainment & the Arts will certainly be creating givers every day—believer artists who give back by uplifting, challenging and entertaining culture through their art.



George Shinn at the announcement of The Sound Emporium gift in May 2017.

CEA Artist in the Spotlight



Artist-in-Residence Reed Arvin shares creativity engines born from a lifetime of twists and turns

Reed Arvin has made a lot of turns on his road to becoming an artist-in-residence at Lipscomb for the 2017-2018 school year.

He started his career in the 1980s as a musician and toured with Amy Grant, Nashville's own Christian music icon and friend of Lipscomb University. Then he teamed up with another icon of faith-filled music, the late Rich Mullins, to produce nine albums.

Then came a curve, and Arvin began writing novels. He wrote four in all before hitting the next curve in life's road and becoming a creativity consultant for corporations and organizations.

The entire twisting turning journey gave him a unique perspective on creativity and how it can be nurtured in young artists, a perspective he is now sharing with Lipscomb's students in the George Shinn College of Entertainment & the Arts.

"I believe in doing and making. I believe that nothing builds the creative muscle like making things," said Arvin, who describes his creativity class as extremely "hands-on. I think of it as getting a lot of parts on the table and

Alumni in the Spotlight:
Sarah Jane Wood

**An artist searching for
 a warm space to grow**

Sarah Jane Wood ('16) is a vocal music performance major and English minor who also plays various instruments and has an abiding interest in using vocal performance for worship and praise. She was the winner of the inaugural Amy Grant Endowed Scholarship in 2015.

It all began as a search for belonging, a yearning for some warm space to learn, to grow, and to really feel at home. Lipscomb was an answer to prayer.

I knew I belonged at Lipscomb immediately upon arrival. Coming from my hometown of Pueblo, Colorado, I began my first day of a new life chapter in choir class. I was sitting amongst a group of students completely unknown to me. As we began to sing, our voices joined in kinship to create a togetherness that suddenly made everything feel familiar.

It was in choir that I met **Lincoln Mick** ('14) and **Isaac Horn** (senior). Lincoln majored in theology, and Isaac is currently working on a degree in music composition. The music brought us together to create, exploring the vulnerability and purity of experience that is brought about like magic during musical collaboration. We formed a folk trio called The Arcadian Wild featuring three-part harmony over arrangements of guitar, mandolin and banjo.

In just a little over three years we have come to know a lot of blessings. In 2016 we signed with Vohnic Music, an independent record label in town owned by brothers Vian Izak and Hein Zaayman. We have toured in 19 states, have accumulated over 10 million plays on the music streaming platform, Spotify, and are now in the beginning

stages of releasing a sophomore record. But a triumph even greater than all of these accomplishments is this: we have truly become a family.

Lipscomb taught us what it looks like, feels like, and means to experience life in community and communion with others. The faculty and students, our mentors and friends, have encouraged us in our story and have helped us to hone and sharpen our skills in a safe space. Being a part of the George Shinn College of Entertainment & Arts has provided us with the tools and the disposition to dream almost impossible dreams, knowing that they are not as far out of reach as they might seem.

Under the care of incredible professors we have been taught the trade of the innovator, the creator, the risk-taker, the entrepreneur, the technical musician, and the caregiver. We have recognized our calling as gatekeepers of reconciliation and our invitation into a story of great grace and redemption that only a good God can give.

Lipscomb's campus feels different than any other place on earth. It is a true sanctuary space, warm and welcoming, and truly holy. I believe this is simply a sweet consequence of the presence of God that exists within the people who walk the campus grounds.

All of the development we have experienced, both in spirit and in career, has been founded upon the truth of who we are in Christ. Lipscomb is a powerful, God filled place, and is a tangible example of what it is to venture into life fully alive.

See more of Sarah Jane Wood's story and hear her music at:
thearcadianwild.com
facebook.com/thearcadianwild/



Visual Arts

Alumni in the Spotlight: **Elena Stewart**

Recent graduate helped new animation program remain true to its customer

Elena Stewart ('17), of Lake Orion, Michigan, is Lipscomb's first animation graduate. Even before receiving her diploma, she worked with Lipscomb faculty to help develop a top-notch program for future students.

Much like the creative process, it took some false starts in my college career to figure out exactly what I wanted to create. I have been involved in art since a very young age, but in college, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do with it.

I started at Lipscomb majoring in studio art and minoring in business, but it wasn't long before I realized that wasn't for me. It was a trio of courses the next semester—creative writing, graphic design and stage makeup—that showed me what I really wanted to accomplish with my art: create characters and tell stories.

With that goal in mind, I had planned to transfer from Lipscomb. An unknown observer happened to overhear my excited chatter about this to a friend in my stage makeup course. That observer, I learned, was the college's dean, **Mike Fernandez**. He came right up to me after class and told me about Lipscomb's plans for an animation program and that I didn't need to go anywhere to accomplish what I wanted.

The program did not officially launch until my junior year, but I was part of the planning for the program beginning my sophomore year. The dean and faculty worked personally with me to select currently available courses that would serve as my foundation for upper-level animation courses when the program was launched in 2015. During my semester abroad in London, England, I took a Lipscomb independent study course that was a pilot for a future animation course.

I became connected with the program coordinator, **Tom Bancroft**, a former Disney and Veggie Tales animator and Lipscomb artist-in-residence, at one of his professional development seminars even before the program began, and his professional experience and connections really helped open up the world of animation for me.

While in the program, I went with Tom Bancroft to the CTN Expo, a national animation conference and utilized his connections to meet many prestigious artists and professionals. I participated in three portfolio reviews, including one by Pixar that really opened my eyes to what studios are looking for in animation. Animators don't want to just see finished pieces like galleries; they want to see your process and how you came to that finished project.



Because Lipscomb's animation program is so new, my opinion and perspective as a student was really validated by the program coordinators. The people in charge actually wanted to hear from me, and that was really valuable to help me find my voice.

Now that I have graduated, my short-term goal is to find a job to help me get started. Within a year or two I would love to move to Toronto, the second biggest hub for animation in North America (and close to home), and someday I would love to create characters for feature films.

While I am working on those goals, it feels good to know I was part of creating an amazing program that will nurture future animation students. To see the talent of the professors Lipscomb hired and to see them create art right in front of us was incredible every single day. I am so excited that many other students will have that same experience at Lipscomb.



Gaudette



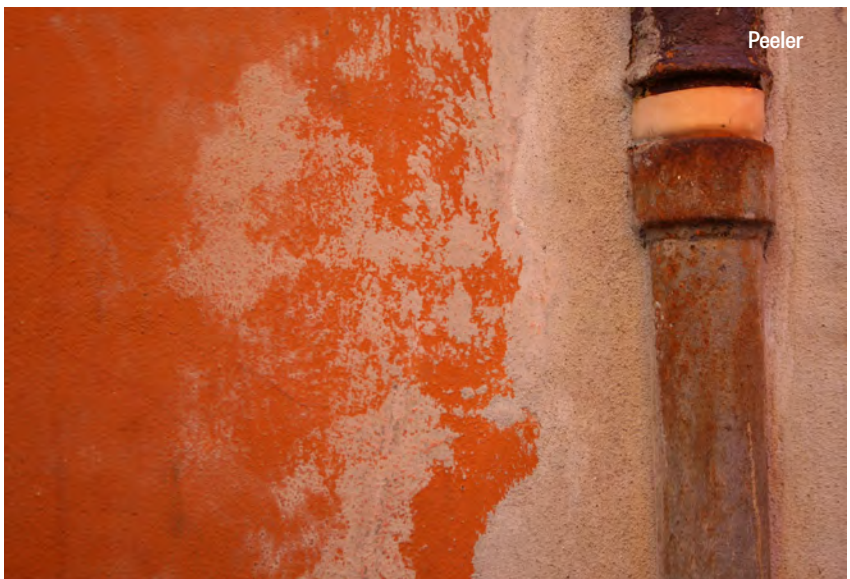
Gaudette



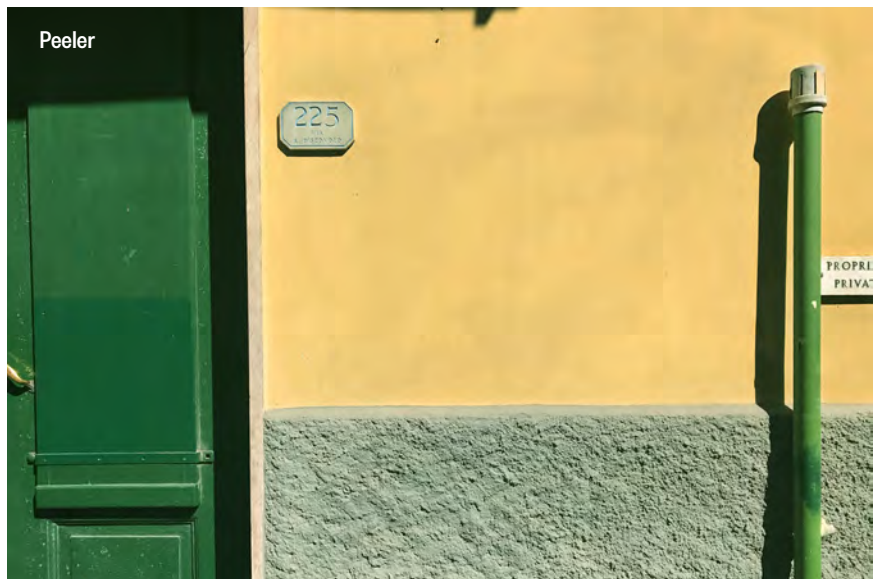
Peeler



Peeler



Peeler



Peeler

Visual Arts

First art-sponsored summer trip to Italy proves successful

This past summer, 12 students in various art majors enjoyed the Department of Visual Arts' first two-month study abroad opportunity based in Florence, Italy. The group visited around 40 museums and galleries, took four arts courses and enjoyed living in the Lipscomb Villa, a facility that can house up to 32 students and a full-time faculty host.

Students were able to experience "the birthplace of the Renaissance," said **Cliff Tierney**, chair of the department, but also enjoyed gems of contemporary art, such as an exhibit of works by Jean-Michel Basquiat they happened upon in Rome.

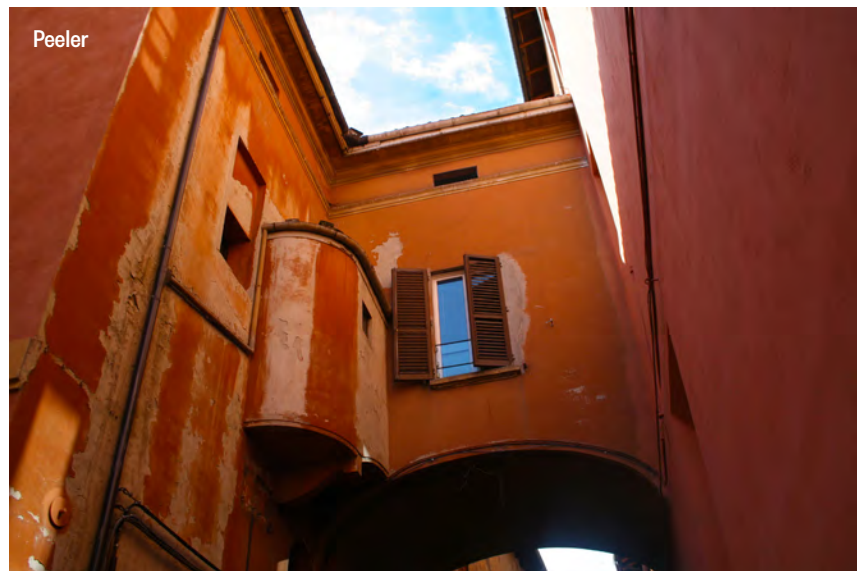
They visited Bologna, Venice and Padua as well as sites in Florence, attended an opera and visited a book-binding and paper-making company that has been run by the same family for multiple generations, he said.

Classes were offered in documentary photography, Christianity in the visual arts, the book as art and an interdisciplinary course that used Dante's "Inferno" as a text to roam the city of Florence and make historical and cultural connections.

These are just a few of the photos taken during the trip, by art students **Amy Gaudette** and **Madeline Peeler**.



Peeler



Peeler



Peeler

CEA Alumni Notes

Flowers



Theatre

Chelsea Flowers ('14) recently completed her latest show, *Freaky Friday: The Musical*, as stage crew at The Alley Theatre in Houston, Texas. She has worked there for the past year as a carpenter and stage hand. Before The Alley, she was carpenter for a year and half at Virginia Repertory Theatre in Richmond, Virginia. We are excited to have her back at Lipscomb this year, where she is filling in as technical director while **Andy Bleiler** finishes his MFA in Memphis.

Jackson



Theatre

Jonah Jackson ('16) has been a busy performer here in Nashville. He has performed in *Macbeth*, *Comedy of Errors* and *Romeo & Juliet* with the Nashville Shakespeare Festival and was on stage with them again this summer in *Antony & Cleopatra* and *The Winter's Tale*. He has also performed in *Failure: A Love Story* with Actors' Bridge Theatre and was most recently seen next in *The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe* with Studio Tenn. But his greatest performance is as husband to fellow 2016 theatre graduate **Sarah Zanotti** as of November. We couldn't be happier for them!

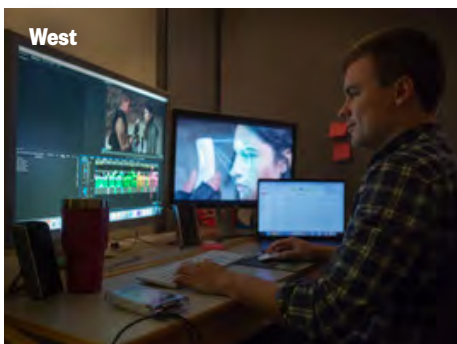
Espenant



Cinematic Arts

Karen Espenant (MFA/MBA '17) began working with Hummingbird Productions full-time after interning with them in the spring of 2014. Hummingbird Productions is an award winning company that produces commercials, sound design and original music and recently added filmmaking to its services. Hummingbird is in pre-production for the film *It's a Wonderful Life: The Rest of the Story*, as well as a series of films and documentaries. Other projects in which Karen is currently involved are a short film, *Blue Baby Shower*, which she produced with director (and Lipscomb alumna) **Michele Tillman** (MFA '17); a feature film *The Little Woman*, the story of Gladys Aylward, which is a Chinese co-production in development; a feature film *Second to Nun*, and a French co-production she wrote which is in development.

West



James Ed West ('16) graduated with an MFA in film and creative media. He is now the creative producer with LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville. Outside of his day job, West is starting to work with brands around Nashville on short pieces. He is also working to exercise his writing skills with a goal to have a completed feature length screenplay by the end of this year.

Harper



Music

A group of four choral studies alumni are now pursuing master's and doctorate degrees in choral conducting. **Joshua Harper** ('11) and **John McMeen** (LA '07, '12) are the first two alumni in more than 12 years to pursue doctorate degrees in choral conducting.

Harper is at Indiana University, long regarded as one of the best music schools in the nation, studying with Dominick DiOrio, a composer of contemporary music known worldwide. McMeen is with Bruce Chamberlain at the Tuscan Symphony Orchestra.

McMeen



Both Harper and McMeen plan to teach and conduct at the collegiate level, and Harper hopes to also write and publish choral music. Both taught at the high school level before starting doctoral work.

At the master's level, **Ethan Bennett** ('17) is studying at the University of Mississippi and **Justin Bowen** ('16) is studying at the University of Georgia, two highly exclusive master's programs. Bennett

CEA Events Day by Day



Bennett

and Bowen are both planning to pursue teaching at the high school level.

Visual Arts

Tyler Johnson ('07) graduated with a degree in graphic design and then worked with DVL Seigenthaler in Nashville and served as an adjunct professor of interactive web development and design at Lipscomb. Upon leaving Nashville, Tyler co-founded L2D (L2D.co) in Chattanooga, acting as the partner responsible for design and development production. Most recently, at L2D, Johnson has directed both the development of an expansive digital curriculum for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and an interactive 3D web and print campaign in conjunction with Microsoft and The Atlantic Magazine. He also recently contributed to the design strategy and production of a virtual reality application for Google Jigsaw, oversaw the development of an interactive exhibit for EPB in Chattanooga, and helped to develop a close relationship with The Buntin Group, to design and develop a variety of interactive projects. During their time in college, both Tyler, and his wife Laurie, played for Lipscomb's NCAA Division I soccer program.



Johnson

Barely a week goes by that the George Shinn College of Entertainment & the Arts doesn't offer a chance to enjoy the arts and popular culture on campus. Check out the 2018 events list below for details about upcoming events that you may be interested in attending.

For more information, contact the college at 615.966.5230 or visit lipscomb.edu/CEA. All events are free except where indicated.

- Jan. 11** *music* —————
The Seven Last Words of the Unarmed, A Cappella Singers men with Fisk University and Tennessee State University vocal students, 7 p.m., Fisk University Memorial Chapel
- Jan. 20** *theatre* —————
Elevate, performance by the Foundation Dance Theatre, 7:30 p.m., Collins Alumni Auditorium, \$15 adults, \$5 students
- Jan. 22-March 8** *art* —————
The Weight of Play Exhibition, opening reception on Jan. 22, 6 p.m., John C. Hutcheson Gallery, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Feb. 8** *art* —————
Aaron Blaise, former Disney animator, lecture, 5 p.m. Ward Hall
- Feb. 15** *music* —————
10th Anniversary Great American Songbook Concert, featuring vocal students and the works of George Gershwin, 7:30 p.m., Ward Hall
- Feb. 16-25** *theatre* —————
On the Verge, 2:30 and 7:30 p.m., Shamblin Theatre, \$15 adults, \$5 students
- March 5** *music* —————
Artist Series: Imani Winds, Grammy-nominated wind quintet, 7:30 p.m., Ward Hall, \$20 adults, \$10 students
- March 19** *art* —————
Animators After Dark Exhibition, opening reception on March 19, 6 p.m., John C. Hutcheson Gallery, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- March 23-25** *music* —————
Beethoven Festival, piano faculty and alumna and the A Cappella Singers with the West End United Methodist Church Chancel Choir, various times, Ward Hall, Steinway Gallery, West End United Methodist Church
- March 24-April 21** *theatre* —————
Inherit the Wind, produced in collaboration with the Nashville Repertory Theatre, Tennessee Performing Arts Center, nashvillerep.org to purchase tickets
- April 13** *music* —————
Artist Series: Antonio Pompa-Baldi, pianist, 7:30 p.m., Collins Alumni Auditorium, \$20 Adults, \$10 Students
- April 19** *music* —————
Down in the Valley, Opera Workshop students with the A Cappella Singers performing the folk opera in one act, 7:30 p.m., Ward Hall
- April 23** *music* —————
University Wind Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra, 7:30 p.m., Collins Alumni Auditorium



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To receive our weekly e-blast with news about events and happenings in the George Shinn College of Entertainment & the Arts, email Scott Baker at scott.baker@lipscomb.edu.

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