

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™

Music, Theatre and Dance



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News and updates from Music, Theatre and Dance

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Chronicles of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival





by Professor Karen Sheridan

In mid-January, 64 theatre majors and several faculty attended the Region III Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Indianapolis. The goal of the festival is to encourage, recognize and celebrate the finest and most diverse work produced in university and college theatre programs around the country. It provides opportunities for participants to develop their skills and insights through workshops, scholarship opportunities, feedback sessions and productions. Region III includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin. This year's festival was co-hosted by the University of Indianapolis and Butler University.

The Oakland Posse

The evening before the festival starts students going to ACTF, their parents, friends and anyone else who is interested can come to the Varner Lab Theatre to see the presentations of students entering the acting and design competitions. The presenters have been preparing for the evening intensely, and it is our practice round for the festival.

[Read more](#)

Music, Theatre and Dance News, January 2017





In late October 2016, voice major **Tim Brown** (second from the right above) was recognized with an Encouragement Award by the Metropolitan Opera National Council at the Michigan District Auditions. Tim said, "I'm truly honored and can't wait to finish my degree in April and continue doing what I love to do."

Several students were successful at the November National Association of Teachers of Singing Michigan chapter audition, held at the University of Michigan. **Jacob Surzyn** placed first in his category, Senior Men. "Thank you **Dr. (Drake) Dantzler** for all of the support and training," he wrote on social media, "and thank you **Lois J. Kaarre** for being a fantastic accompanist." **Shannon Watts** took third place in the Senior Women category and **Gillian Tackett** placed third in the First Year College Women's division.

[Read more](#)

What Do Our Professor Do When They're Not Teaching?





Some of our faculty members are academics who spend their time pursuing research in their fields and publishing their results. They present at conferences, and review journal articles written by their peers. Others are professionals in the performing arts fields. They have diverse skills, and when time permits they pursue work in a wide arena. They perform, design, choreograph, direct, record, conduct and more. All of this work, whatever its nature, helps build the reputation of our programs and raise the profile of the university.

Last semester, an image of dance professors **Ali Woerner** and **Thayer Jonutz** and the members of their company **Take Root** was included in the new photography book *Dance / Box / Lens, Portraits in Motion* by **John Sobczak**, published by Lorien Books. It's available on [the publisher's website](#).

[Read more](#)

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Oakland University
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