

Students

Our theatre students have left for their study abroad, Classical Theatre in Greece. Watch out for their travel photos which we are posting to **Facebook**, and when the fall semester starts, join us in Varner Studio Theatre to see *Iphigenia*, based on Euripides' *Iphigenia at Aulis*, in a new version by **Karen Sheridan**. Performances will be from September 11 to September 13.

Meanwhile, our dance students are recently returned from their study abroad trip to Berlin. We hope you saw some of their photos on our Facebook page. If not, you can catch them in our **Dancers in Berlin Album**. The climax of their trip was a performance at the Uferstudios for Contemporary Dance, which was covered by TV.Berlin for the program *Berlin Tanzt*. Polish off your German and see interviews with our students and faculty, as well as glimpses of the performance, **in this YouTube clip**. (Starting at 7:50.) And you can see some of those dances at the OU dance program's annual fall concert from December 3 to December 5.



No matter where you see our students or alumni dancing, you will be impressed, so we were not really surprised to see OU listed one of the best dance colleges in the country, but we certainly are very pleased. The OU dance program received an "honorable mention" in the Connecticut-based **OnStage blog's listing of "The 10 Best Dance Schools in the Country,"** which had heavy hitters like Juilliard heading the list.

Theatre student **Sarah McEneaney**, who will be a senior in the fall, appeared in the children's show *If You Give A Mouse A Cookie* at the City Theatre in Detroit in June. McEneaney **talked to the Oakland Press** about her education in theatre. "The [OU] BFA program allows students to make the most of their education," she said. "I'm going to be in a student-written, directed and produced play in the fall that's going to be fun. And I'm going to be in *Equus* too."

Two of our musical theatre majors, **Lily Talevski**, who will be a sophomore in the fall, and **Mitch Aiello**, soon to be a junior, are headed to New York City in August. They are finalists in the 2015 Carner and Gregor Barely Legal Showtune Extravaganza and perform on stage with Broadway guests and an amazing Broadway band. Lily said, "I'm incredibly proud and excited about this particular project. Thank you to all who made this possible." You can read more about the Carner and Gregor Extravaganza **on dedicated website**. And you can see Lily's audition video **on this YouTube link** and **Mitch's here**.



The **OU Brass Band** students made their long-awaited trip to the Great American Brass Band Festival in June, under the direction of **Dr. Kenneth Kroesche**. They played twice, including with soloist **Rex Richardson** at Saturday night Great American Picnic main stage event. **Kevin Corcoran**, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, was there. "I had the good fortune with pride watching our Brass Band at the Great American Brass Band Festival in Danville," he said. "Their skill and enthusiasm echoed long after their music was silent. I can't count how many people--from across the eastern US--came up to me to compliment their good work, and to thank for coming. Only one more word to add: 'Bravo!'"

After returning from the festival, Dr. Kroesche made a trip to John F. Kennedy High School in Taylor, Michigan to present incoming freshman **Brandon Thibault** with his Oakland University music scholarship at his school's award ceremony. Brandon played tuba in both this year's Michigan All-State Band and the Michigan Youth Arts Festival Band, and he graduated sixth in his

class.

On May 4, **William Dunn**, another soon-to-be freshman, signed his OU scholarship letter at a ceremony at his school, Divine Child High School in Dearborn, with **Associate Professor Kerro Knox** in attendance. William will enter the musical theatre program the fall. We look forward to meeting both William and Brandon and know they will be outstanding OU students!



He's been cast as Bernardo in *West Side Story*, Brick in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and Lyle in *Footloose*. He's also working in a rotation of the different areas needed to mount each show. Currently, he's head of social media, working on ads and publicity. Ian is enjoying the workshops the Playhouse offers in things like stage combat and voice. Last month former Miss America Jackie Mayer was there sharing audition advice. You can [find ticket information here](#).



Emma Griffith is spending her summer at Thunder Bay Theatre in Alpena, Michigan. In June she played a gangster posing as a pastry chef in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Diane Speer of *The Alpena News* said, "Courtney Marshall and Emma Griffith make a winning combo as two in-sync gangsters bent on stopping the wedding." Emma will also appear in TB's *School House Rock Live!* (7/15-8/2) and *Urinetown* (8/12-8/23). [Find ticket information here](#).

40 minutes long. Each set has different music, so she had to learn about 40 songs in just two weeks! For a while Olivia was both performing and rehearsing for her new show, "Beach Blast," which was set to open on July 3. Stop by and see the band when you're at the park!



We're happy to announce that the **Oakland University Jazz Band** has been selected to perform at the 2015 Detroit Jazz Festival. In his email to **Miles Brown**, OU jazz coordinator, **Chuck Newsome**, educational coordinator of the festival, called our band, "one of the premier university jazz ensembles in the state of Michigan." They will be featured on the main stage on Saturday, September 12, from 12:45 to 1:30 pm. That's the Waterfront Stage.

Faculty

Two OU theatre faculty were recognized in this year's Wilde Awards nominations, which honor the excellent work of Michigan's professional theatres. Acting instructor **Tom Mahard** was nominated in the Best Performance by an Actor in a Drama category for his work in *On Golden Pond*; and Assistant Professor **Jeremy Barnett** was nominated for Best Set Design, for his work on *Once On Island* at Meadow Brook Theatre. Jeremy is committed to his own artistic work and he believes a teacher's passion inspires students to more freely commit to their own work. Although they cannot be recognized by the Wilde Awards, Jeremy acknowledged the work of OU students **Jason Maracani**, who assisted him and was, he said, "an integral part of the creative process," as well as **Lucy Price**, **Chelsea Criger**, **Ashley Gaal**, **Craig Horning**, **Krystal Smoger**, **Chris O'Meara**, **Britney Spindler**, **Allie Reynolds**, **Billy Robinson** and **Josh Williams**, who all made contributions to the set as model builders, over-hire painters and volunteer set dressers.



of the Choreographer Showcase on July 31. They were chosen from more than submissions from across the country and Ontario. The Festival will select a few works from the Choreography Showcases for artist exchange initiatives with Du Dance Festival (NYC), Dance New Asia (South Korea), and ARTLAB J (Detroit). **Thayer Jonutz** and **Ali Woerner**, co-directors of Take Root, will also teach a class in partnering on July 30. Read more about **DDCF on their website**.

Of course, not all the work our faculty does is in performance. Associate Professor of Music **Melissa Hoag** is serving her second term as secretary of Music Theory Midwest (MTMW) and she was the local arrangements chair when MTMW held its 2015 conference at OU on May 8-9. During the event, music theorists from 16 states and two Canadian provinces heard presentations on a broad range of musical subjects from the foreshadowing of crisis in the music of Schubert, to video games and spatial listening. Professor Hoag also presented her paper "Sweet Ribbons, Fearsome Fetters: Motive and Register in Brahms's *Liebe kam aus fernem Landen*, op. 33 no. 4." Her research encompasses voice leading and rhythmic-metric issues in the music of 19th-century composer Johannes Brahms. The conference featured a keynote address by **Professor Richard Cohn** of Yale University and the University of Sydney. He spoke on "Why We Don't Teach Meter, and Why We Should." You can read more



about the society on **their website**.

The month of June saw the world premiere of two different compositions by faculty member **Terry Herald**. One saw the **nOU music ensemble**: **Jeffrey Heisler, Alex Sellers, Garret Klauss, Rhys Burgess, Zollie Schut, Renee Kuczeski, Brendan Walter** and Terry himself, performing *Moe Bi Us*, a contemporary piece based on the Fibonacci series, showcasing two new instruments of Terry's own invention: the Monochord of Doom and the Great Bass Monochord of Doom! The second, *Canonic Variations for Carillon*, was played by **Dennis Curry** at the inaugural concert of the new Summer Carillon Concert Series. You can read more about the upcoming concerts here, **on the Elliott Tower website**.

Mark Stone, our world music coordinator, is, of course, accustomed to world travel, but in May he made a trip to Durban, South Africa that gave him not only a chance to perform on the world stage, but also to reconnect with a former student, **Daniel Walshaw**. As part of the **Bernard Woma Ensemble**, Mark was a guest performer with the **KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic**. Daniel serves as artistic administrator of KZN. The concert, "Celebrate Africa," was part of the World Symphony Series, and it offered traditional African music alongside ethnic-themed classical music from Europe and America, including works by Dvorák and Leonard Bernstein.

Finally, we want to note the death of two members of the extended OU family. Many of you will have heard of the passing of distinguished and much-loved trumpeter **Marcus Belgrave**, who once taught at OU. He touched the lives of many musicians in the Detroit area and beyond. Former OU student **Walt Symanski**, who now lives in Ecuador wrote, "Marcus was a great mentor to as well as hundreds of others." You can read more about Mr Belgrave in this **obituary in the Detroit Free Press**.

And our retired office assistant **Virginia Ganesky** contacted us to let us know about the death of **Gertrude "Trudy" Kraiza**, our former administrative secretary, who left OU in 1995. She was 85 and living in Windsor Locks, Connecticut at the time of her passing.

Photos - from the top

Classical Theatre in Greece students on the island of Hydra, photo by Karen Sheridan

The OU Brass Band at the Great Brass Band Festival, photo by Kevin Corcoran

Kevin Kroesche and Brandon Thibault

William Dunn and Kerro Knox 3

(l-r) Ian Turnwald, Emma Griffith and Olivia Griffin

Jeremy Barnett

Melissa Hoag