

## ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE

# COLLEGE OF VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Dr. Timothy V. Blair, Dean



*Highlights of the year included the following:*

- The E.O. Bull Center for the Arts opened in August of 2011 providing beautiful new space for the Department of Art and the Department of Theatre and Dance. With the completion of this \$16 million project, the College of Visual and Performing Arts now has two outstanding buildings to support art, theatre, dance and music for our fortunate students, faculty and staff.
- The College of Visual and Performing Arts hosted numerous international visiting artists throughout the past year, including visual artists from China and percussion faculty from the University of Costa Rica.
- The Department of Art had an outstanding year with numerous stellar exhibits. Art professor Dr. Ginger daCosta received a Fulbright, and Professor Richard Blake was also honored by the National Sculpture Society.
- The Department of Theatre and Dance production of Athol Fugard's *Sorrows and Rejoicings* was selected as a regional representation at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Several WCU students won individual recognition at the Festival including a Special Award in Performance. In addition, the Department of Theatre and Dance won first prize in the Fringe Performance Challenge, and at the American College Dance Festival, WCU was represented by 20 students who participated in workshops and performances.
- Department of Theatre and Dance faculty continue to serve in leadership positions for national organizations. Professor Juliet Wunsch completed her third year as regional chair for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and received the Gold Medallion for Excellence in Leadership. Professor Emily Rogge received a grant to study during this past summer in Reggio Emilia, Italy, at the International School of Commedia dell'Arte, and Professor Liz Staruch received a grant to continue work on her dance film project, *The Camera Betrays You*, winning an award for best editing from the Dance Films Association of New York.
- School of Music faculty member Dr. Jan C. Dobrzelewski received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts that made possible a new recording, *Shadowcatcher* featuring School of Music artist faculty together with the WCU Wind Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Andrew Yozviak.
- School of Music faculty member Dr. Robert Maggio was selected to receive the WCU 2010 Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award, and Dr. Mark Rimple was selected to receive the WCU 2010 Council of Trustees' Achievement Award.
- A new educational partnership was recently established between The Philadelphia Orchestra and the WCU School of Music for the purpose of master classes and concerts by members of The Philadelphia Orchestra to be presented for the benefit of our students and regional audiences. The partnership was launched with a master class by Concert Master David Kim followed by a performance of The Philadelphia Orchestra String Quartet in Philips Autograph Library.
- The Department of Music Education, under the leadership of Dr. Bryan Burton, established an educational partnership with Valley Forge Educational Services and The Vanguard School for Special Needs Pedagogy for WCU music student teacher seminars in special education. The Department also hosted the acclaimed Soundbeam Music Technology Workshop for WCU music students and regional public school music teachers.
- During winter term, 2011, Dr. Christopher Hanning led a group of WCU's School of Music Percussion Ensemble students to the University of Costa Rica, and Dr. Marc Jacoby together with Dr. Jan C. Dobrzelewski led another group of music students to the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music in San Juan.
- During May 2011, Dean Blair led WCU art and music students with CVPA artist faculty to Guizhou University in the city of Guiyang, China. Dean Blair was honored by the mayor of the Huaxi District with the key to the city and was granted honorary citizenship which Dr. Blair accepted on behalf of WCU. Dean Blair then traveled to the ancient city of Xi'an, China and met with officials of the Xi'an Conservatory to develop new student/faculty exchange possibilities in music and dance between the Xi'an Conservatory and the College of Visual and Performing Arts.