Awards and Honors

Matt Omasta, PhD, Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts, received a $100,000 research grant from the Educational Theatre Association to conduct a study assessing the field of theatre arts education in U.S. high schools. He, along with colleagues at Arizona State University and the University of Arizona, won the American Alliance for Theatre & Education’s 2011 Research Award for their research project “Lifelong Impact: Adult Perceptions of their High School Theatre and/or Speech Participation.”

Deborah Banerjee, Curator of Exhibitions and Programs at the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art, was selected to be the juror for the Idaho Falls Arts Council’s 3rd Annual Juried Exhibition.

Thomas Rohrer, Professor of Music, was inducted into the Ravenna High School Hall of Fame on Oct. 22, 2011.

Creative Activity

Leslie Brott, Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts, worked as a featured actress at the Utah Shakespeare Festival appearing as Queen Margaret in Richard III and Eulalie Shinn in The Music Man. For USF’s Fall season extension, she vocal/text/dialect coached The Winter’s Tale and Dial M for Murder. USF also asked her to host their second annual Broadway Baby Concert, a major fundraising event for the USF Artistic Initiative Fund. She is currently directing the USU Department of Theatre production of Twentieth Century.

Thomas Rohrer, Professor of Music, conducted the premiere of his brass ensemble work, Golden Jubilee, at Hillcrest Elementary School [Logan] on Oct. 7, 2011. The work was specially written by Rohrer for the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the school and was performed by the Utah State University Brass Ensemble. Rohrer also received performances of his wind ensemble work, Rapid Eye Movement at Florida State University and the University of Alabama between June and October, 2011.

Camille Litalien, Assistant Professor of Dance co-produced and directed two performances: The Patience Stone, which was performed in Salt Lake City in May 2011, and Lost Post that will premiere in London, UK in March 2012 and will tour internationally after that. She also performed in New York City in Noemie Lafrance’s newest work, The White Box Project, and in The Neta Company’s 2288 buckest/in Salt Lake City. Camille was also invited to perform at the Royal Opera House in London. She did movement consultancy for ImproTheatre Company in Los Angeles throughout the academic year 2010-11, as well as for the Old Lyric Repertory Theatre Company in the summer 2011.
Todd Fallis, Professor of Music, performed on bass trombone with the American Festival Chorus in Mendelssohn's Elijah (April), performed with Citrus and Sage Jazz Quintet and Way Way East Bay 10 piece funk band during Summerfest 2011 (June), and performed bass trombone with Utah Festival Opera Company in Don Giovanni, Boris Gudonov, Mozart’s Requiem, Gershwin!, South Pacific, Oliver, Opera Festa Carnivale, and Musica Magnifica (June-August). He also performed bass trombone in the Celebrate America Show (September) and in Annie the Musical with Music Theatre West (September). He gave a presentation/lecture on Low Brass at the annual Trade Secrets Workshop for Band/Orchestra/Choir (June), and was a Guest Artist/Soloist/Teacher for the trombone program at Ohio University, performing a solo with the OU Trombone Choir, teaching lessons and conducting master classes (October).

Presentations and Conference Papers

Sylvia Munsen, Professor of Music and BTS Chair of Arts Education, conducted a workshop (Cultural Celebration: Multi-Cultural Music for Orff-Schulwerk Process) for the Utah Chapter of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association in Salt Lake City on September 17. She conducted two workshops for the newly-created Arts Experience @ USU on October 8 (Exploring Literature Through Music) and October 29 (Early Childhood Music).

Stefan Bruce, Assistant Professor of Interior Design, is working on a conference paper for a Canadian conference entitled Atmosphere 2012, sponsored by the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. She is also in the process of creating and organizing a research investigation with Stuggart Academy of Art and Design and the TU Delft.