

SFA COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & SCHOOL OF THEATRE PRESENT

When You Wish....



2011—2012 Mainstage Series

2012 Festival of New American Plays

BRILLIANTS

by Jamie Petty and Lee Curtis

HATE MAIL

by Jack Heifner

LOVE/SICK

by John Cariani

TAKE ME TO THE RIVER

by Constance Congdon

April 24-28, 2012

Downstage Theatre

*SFA
Theatre*

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Welcome to the Eighth Biennial Festival of New American Plays. This week we are proud to present exciting new works by our guest playwrights Constance Congdon and John Cariani. The plays you are about to see performed are presented as "staged readings." Professional theatres and producers use such readings in order to involve audiences and actors in the process of new play development. Plays are meant to be performed, and the best way to see whether a new play works is to present it in front of a live audience. This is where you come in—and we thank you for being here!

Each play in the festival has had only ten rehearsals. The actors will be performing with the script in their hands, relying on their talent and training to interpret the text without the advantage of a long rehearsal process. These readings have been designed to concentrate on the words of the playwrights and the talents of our young performers and designers. We have included a minimal amount of scenery, costumes and lights to give the writers what they envisioned in their scripts. We are attempting to present the world of the play as closely as possible to what the author has written. The results may be a different type of theatre from what you are accustomed to seeing. Our hope is that you will find this event both adventurous and exciting.

One of my goals when we started the Festival in 1998 was to bring established writers to our campus to work with our students. We have always asked our invited playwrights to send us any script they wished to hear and, in return, we have promised to give them our best interpretation of the text. Another goal has been to give audiences in Nacogdoches the unique opportunity to see new plays while they are being created. Our first seven festivals were great successes. Now with this eighth festival, I hope the community will once again enjoy this celebration of "new theatre in the making."

I wish to thank the faculty and staff of the School of Theatre. My special thanks to Professor Scott Shattuck for his guidance, to Juanita Finkenberg for her help with the movement and her involvement in all the festivals we have done so far and to Benn May, my assistant director, for his creative contribution. I commend the cast, designers, stage managers and crew for the work they have done. Watching these young theatre artists learn and grow is the primary reason we are here. Finally, to Constance and John—thank you for trusting us with your plays and for coming to visit our campus. You inspire us with your words and astound us with your generosity.

We dedicate this festival to our friend James McLure, who passed away in 2011. Over the years, Jim gave us five exciting new plays to present at this festival. We miss his wit, his words and his love for our students and this event.

Jack Heifner
Playwright-In-Residence

SFA SCHOOL OF THEATRE
and the
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
present

The 2012 Festival of New American Plays

Director: Jack Heifner

Assistant Director: Benn May*

Choreography by Juanita Finkenberg

Scenery by Angela Bacarisse and CC Conn

Lighting Design by CC Conn

Sound Design by Stephanie Thompson

Production Manager: Jennifer Sims*

April 24-28, 2012

Downstage Theatre

SPECIAL THANKS:

TIPTON FORD
RHONDA WILLIAMS
MARK PORTER
LIZ BARKOWSKY

EVENING ONE

April 24 and 27, 7:30 p.m.

BRILLIANTS

by Jamie Petty and Lee Curtis

JAMIE KURT BILANOSKI

LEE NICK PINELLI

ACTRESS VANESSA HENDRICKS

TIME AND PLACE: This room, this night, this minute

STAGE MANAGER: AUSTIN HOLT

COSTUME DESIGNER: MEGAN THOMAS

◆◆◆◆ There will be one intermission. ◆◆◆◆

HATE MAIL

by Jack Heifner

With homage to A.R. Gurney

DANIEL JONATHAN GARCIA*

PENNY AMELIA FULTZ*

TIME: A lifetime

MUSIC: PINO DONAGGIO

STAGE MANAGER: AUSTIN HOLT

COSTUME DESIGNER: VALARIE McLECKIE

EVENING TWO

April 25, 7:30 p.m. / April 28, 2 p.m.

LOVE/SICK

by John Cariani

OBSESSIVE IMPULSIVE ERIN WHITMIRE
LAMAR JEFFERSON*

THE SINGING TELEGRAM SAMANTHA WALKER
NICK PINELLI

THE ANSWER JENNIFER SUTER*
STEPHEN GRAHAM*

UH-OH SAMANTHA WALKER
LAMAR JEFFERSON*

LUNCH AND DINNER JENNIFER SUTER*
NICK PINELLI

CHICKEN ERIN WHITMIRE
STEPHEN GRAHAM*

FORGOT SAMANTHA WALKER
LAMAR JEFFERSON*

DESTINY JENNIFER SUTER*
NICK PINELLI

TIME: A Friday night, 7 p.m., in June; the present

PLACE: An alternate suburban reality

There will be one intermission.

MUSIC: DIANA KRALL

STAGE MANAGER: MEAGHAN CYBULSKI

COSTUME DESIGNER: ROSE DOWNING*

EVENING THREE

April 26, 7:30 p.m. / April 28, 5 p.m.

TAKE ME TO THE RIVER

by Constance Congdon

SHERM CAMPBELL

BRAD MAULE

HENRY FOX

JONATHAN GARCIA*

MAMIE STEINMETZ

FENELLA SPILLANE

BODIE CAMPBELL

KURT BILANOSKI

THERESA MONTOYA

CRYSTAL VILLARREAL

HANNAH JEFFERSON

KYLA WILLIAMS*

DALE LEONARD

STEPHEN GRAHAM*

CARL

LUKE NORTON

ROGER HASTINGS

GEORGE CRISPIN

SHERIFF

JAMES BOWLING

GEORGE VEGA

AUSTIN DAVIS

TIME: 2007

PLACE: Northeastern Colorado; exterior places on the Campbell farm and by the river; the interior of the local Nazarene Church; with occasional visits to the lobby and conference room of the local high-end motel; and a brief scene poolside in Scottsdale, Arizona.

There will be one intermission.

MUSIC: JOHN BARRY

STAGE MANAGER: VIRGINIA ARTEAGA

COSTUME DESIGNERS:

ANGELA BACARISSE AND BARBARA BLACKWELL

About the Cast

KURT BILANOSKI (Bodie—*TMR* / Jamie—*Brilliants*) graduated from Jersey Village High School in Houston and is a theatre major in his junior year at SFA. He appeared previously on the SFA Mainstage in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *She Stoops to Conquer* and *Almost, Maine*, and in the student-directed *Stop Kiss* and *Bad Boy Nietzsche*. Other credits include *Amadeus*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Tartuffe* and *Little Shop of Horrors*, and he has directed *Much Ado about Nothing* and co-directed *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

JAMES BOWLING (Sherriff—*TMR*) graduated from McNeil High School in Austin and is a freshman theatre major. He made his SFA Mainstage debut in *Three Sisters*, and last semester he was seen in multiple roles in the Downstage production of *The Saga of Cuchulain*.

GEORGE CRISPIN (Hastings—*TMR*) is a student at Rose Bruford College in London, England, visiting SFA as part of the ATA exchange program. He was seen earlier this year in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, in the student production of *The Furies* at SFA and is a member of the (New) Original Cast. He also served as set assistant for the student-directed *Medusa's Tale* and *Bright Ideas*. His stage credits in England include *What Didn't Happen*, *Machinal*, *Sweet Charity*, *Babes in Arms*, *Salad Days*, *Carousel* and *The Boyfriend*.

AUSTIN DAVIS (George Vega—*TMR*) is a freshman theatre major who attended Keller High School. He was recently seen in the (New) Original Cast production of *Purple Daze*, and also the student-directed *The Game*, *The Concorde Fallacy* and *The Goblin's Plot to Murder God*. His other credits include *Beauty and the Beast, Jr.* at Theatre Arlington and *13: The Musical* at Keller Central High School.

AMELIA FULTZ* (Penny—*Hatemail*) is a junior theatre major and a graduate of Elkins High School in Missouri City. Her previous credits at SFA include *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and the 2011 Summer Rep productions of *The Uninvited* and *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* She also performed with the Original Cast 2010-11 and was seen in *Seduction* in the 2010 New Plays Festival.

About the Cast

JONATHAN GARCIA* (Daniel—*Hatemail* / Henry Fox—*TMR*) is a senior theatre major at SFA who graduated from Weslaco East High School. He has been a member of the Original Cast since 2009, and his SFA Mainstage credits include *A Midsusummer Night's Dream*; *Woyzeck*; *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*; *The Breasts of Tiresias*; *The Adventures of Homer McGundy, Revised*; and *Almost, Maine*. He was also seen in the student-directed production *Bad Boy Nietzsche*, and directed *The Philadelphia*, *Quiet Please*, *The Interrogation*, *Tom and Jerry*, and this season's Downstage production *The Saga of Cuchalain*. He also directed the combat choreography for *Medusa's Tale*.

STEPHEN GRAHAM* (Man—*Love/Sick* / Dale Leonard—*TMR*) is a senior theatre major at SFA who graduated from Mount Pleasant High School and also attended Northeast Texas Community College. He appeared in the Mainstage production *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and in the student-directed plays *Women and Wallace*, *The Saga of Cuchulain*, *One for the Road*, *The Sure Thing* and *The Man Who Couldn't Dance*.

VANESSA HENDRICKS (Actress—*Brilliants*) is a junior theatre major who graduated from Rains High School in Emory. She appeared in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and in the student-directed *Women and Wallace* and *Gray Matter*. This semester she also directed *The Tarantino Version* and assistant directed *Medusa's Tale*.

LAMAR JEFFERSON* (Man—*Love/Sick*) is in his final year as an SFA theatre major and graduated from Lancaster High School. His SFA credits include: *Rabbit Hole*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and *The Breasts of Tiresias* on the Mainstage; *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* for Summer Rep; and the student-directed *Bright Ideas*, *Defacing Michael Jackson*, *Wine in the Wilderness*, *The Other Son* and *Trying*. He has also performed for three years with the Original Cast.

BRAD MAULE (Sherm Campbell-*TMR*) is a member of the faculty at SFA as well as a recipient of the SFA Distinguished Alumni Award. For 22 years, he was seen as Dr. Tony Jones on ABC Television's *General Hospital*, for which he received two Daytime Emmy nominations. He also was seen on the WB network's *Seventh Heaven* for three seasons.

About the Cast

LUKE NORTON (Carl—*TMR*) is a junior theatre major who graduated from Blue Ridge High School and also attended Grayson County College. He was seen earlier this year in the Mainstage productions *Three Sisters* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. His previous roles include the GCC productions *Said and Meant* (for which he also served as student director), *Our Town*, *The Jungle Book*, and *All Shook Up*.

NICK PINELLI (Lee—*Brilliant*s / Man—*Love/Sick*) graduated from The Woodlands College Park High School in 2011 and is in his freshman year as an SFA theatre major. His high school credits include *Eurydice*, *Dearly Departed*, *Starmites*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Jerry Finnegans Sister*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *The Not-So-True Tale of Robin Hood* and *The Music Man*. He was seen earlier this year in the Mainstage productions *Rabbit Hole* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

FENELLA SPILLANE (Mamie Steinmetz—*TMR*) is an exchange student from the Rose Bruford College in London, England, originally from Witney, Oxford. At SFA, she was seen in the student-directed play *The Love Talker* and also performed in the radio production of *The Gift of the Magi*. Her credits in the UK include the plays *Machinal* and *Caucasian Chalk Circle*.

JENNIFER SUTER* (Woman—*Love/Sick*) is a senior theatre major at SFA who graduated from Bishop Dunne High School in Dallas. Her previous credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *The Saga of Cuchulain*, *The Catechism of Patty Reed* and *The Hardy Boys and the Mystery of Where Babies Come From*. Jennifer is a member of the (New) Original Cast and served as dramaturg for *Three Sisters*.

CRYSTAL VILLARREAL (Theresa Montoya—*TMR*) is a junior theatre major at SFA who graduated from La Joya High School. Her acting credits at SFA include roles in the student-directed *Women and Wallace*, *Philip Glass Buys a Loaf of Bread* and *The Other Son*. She also served as assistant stage manager for *The Saga of Cuchulain* and the Original Cast.

About the Cast

SAMANTHA WALKER (Woman—*Love/Sick*) is a senior theatre major at SFA who graduated from Cypress Ridge High School in Houston. Her acting credits at SFA include *Picnic*, *The Elephant Man*, *Twelfth Night*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and *Bright Ideas*.

ERIN WHITMIRE (Woman—*Love/Sick*) is a senior theatre major from Wink. She was seen in the SFA Mainstage productions *Rabbit Hole*, *The Breasts of Tiresias* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and also appeared in the Downstage productions of *The Other Son* and *Jump for Joy*. She was also the stage manager for the student-directed *The Bathroom Door*.

KYLA WILLIAMS* (Hannah Jefferson—*TMR*) is a senior theatre major who graduated from Marcus High School in Flower Mound and also attended Collin College in Plano. At SFA, she has been seen in the Mainstage production *She Stoops to Conquer*; the Summer Rep productions *The Uninvited* and *Schoolhouse Rock Live!*; and in the student-directed *Bright Ideas* and *Contribution*.

COMING IN SUMMER

FROM THE SFA SCHOOL OF THEATRE SUMMER REPERTORY:

How I Became a Pirate

A Musical for the Whole Family

and

❁ *Steel Magnolias* ❁

by Robert Harling

<http://www.theatre.sfasu.edu/>

About the Production Team

VIRGINIA ARTEAGA (Stage Manager—*TMR*) is a junior at SFA majoring in theatre and marketing. She graduated from Hastings High School in Houston. Her credits at SFA include crew assignments on *Three Sisters*, *Woyzeck*, *The 2010 Festival of New American Plays* and *The Other Son*. She was also seen performing in the student-directed *A Young Lady of Propriety* and *Fiddlers in the Forest*.

ANGELA BACARISSE (Co-Scenic Design / Costume Design—*TMR*) is an associate professor of theatre at SFA who has designed over 200 productions in academic and professional theatres across the country. Her recent costume designs at SFA include *Three Sisters*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Breasts of Tiresias*, *The Heidi Chronicles*, *Big River*, *The Elephant Man*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *Almost, Maine*.

COURTNEY COLE (Assistant Stage Manager—*Brilliant*s and *Hate Mail*) is a sophomore theatre major who graduated from Kennard High School and also attended Angelina College. She previously served on the wardrobe crew for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

CC CONN (Co-Scenic Design / Lighting Design) holds an MFA from Indiana University. Her most recent credits at SFA include *Three Sisters*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Breasts of Tiresias*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Twelfth Night*, *Woyzeck*, "Master Harold"...and the boys, *Picnic*, *Schoolhouse Rock Live! Too*, *The Heidi Chronicles*, *The Elephant Man* and *Almost, Maine*.

MEAGHAN CYBULSKI (Stage Manager—*Love/Sick*) is a junior at SFA majoring in theatre education and a graduate of Katy High School. Earlier this year she directed the play *That Midnight Rodeo* and served as sound board operator for *Rabbit Hole*. Last summer, she performed in *The Uninvited*.

ROSE DOWNING* (Costume Design—*Love/Sick*) is a senior theatre major who graduated from Vista Ridge High School in Cedar Park. She previously served as costume designer for the student-directed *Medusa's Tale*, *The Saga of Cuchulain*, *Tom and Jerry* and *The Other Son*; assistant costume designer on *She Stoops to Conquer*; and scenic designer on *Bright Ideas*.

About the Production Team

JUANITA FINKENBERG (Choreography) earned her MA from California State University in Los Angeles. Her most recent credits at SFA include *Beauty and the Beast*, *Seduction*, *Jump for Joy*, *Susannah*, *Woyzeck*, "Master Harold"...and the boys, *Picnic*, *The Elephant Man* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.

APRIL GORE (Properties Master) is a freshman theatre major who graduated from Cinco Ranch High School in Katy. This year she served as assistant stage manager on *Three Sisters*, wardrobe crew for *Rabbit Hole*, and stage manager for the student-directed *The Concorde Fallacy*. She is also a member of Chi Omega sorority.

AUSTIN HOLT (Stage Manager—*Brilliants* and *Hate Mail*) is a freshman theatre major at SFA who graduated from Weatherford High School. Her credits this year include properties crew for *Rabbit Hole*, second assistant stage manager for the (New) Original Cast and assistant stage manager for *Rabbit Hole*. She also served as stage manager for the student directed *Medusa's Tale* and properties crew for *Bright Ideas*.

ANDREW JOHNSON (Assistant Choreographer) is a sophomore theatre major who graduated from Clear Creek High School in League City. He has performed with the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Houston International Ballet Academy and the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre. At SFA, he previously assisted in creating choreography for the annual summer high school workshop.

BENN MAY* (Assistant Director) graduated from Commerce High School and is a junior theatre major at SFA. This semester he directed the Upstage production *The Concorde Fallacy*. He previously served as assistant director for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and the student-directed *Bright Ideas* and *Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mama's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feelin' So Sad*. He was also a director and costume supervisor for the SFA High School Summer Theatre and assistant costume designer for *Almost, Maine*. Benn is the historian for Alpha Psi Omega and a member of Student Productions Advisory Committee.

Credits marked with an asterisk () indicate that the student is a member of the Beta Phi cast of Alpha Psi Omega, the national dramatics honors society.*

About the Production Team

VALARIE McLECKIE (Costume Designer—*Hate Mail*) is a sophomore theatre major who graduated from Longview High School. Her SFA credits include performing in *Three Sisters*, designing costumes for the (New) Original Cast Christmas Show and working on wardrobe crew for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

JENNIFER SIMS (Production Manager) is a sophomore majoring in stage management and a graduate of Naaman Forest High School in Garland. Her previous credits as stage manager include the (New) Original Cast and the student-directed *Bright Ideas* and *The Saga of Cuchulain*. She was the assistant stage manager for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *She Stoops to Conquer* and the student-directed *Stop Kiss*. She also served as light board operator for *Three Sisters*, performed in *Old Saybrook*, and was on the floor run crew for *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.

CHELSAE SLIGER (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a junior theatre major specializing in design and technology. She graduated from Yorktown High School and also attended Kilgore College. Her credits include plays such as *Three Sisters*, *A Few Good Men*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Trifles*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Dracula*, *The Bald Soprano*, *Equus*, *Charley's Aunt* and *The Diviners*; musical events such as the Afiara String Quartet, the 2010 and 2011 Kilgore College Dance Concert and the Rangerette Christmas Extravaganza. She also served as master electrician for the SFA opera *La Traviata*.

STEPHANIE THOMPSON (Sound Design) is a senior theatre major who graduated from John Tyler High School in Tyler. Her previous credits include serving as sound designer and engineer for the Original Cast from 2010-2012; set design for the student-directed *One for the Road* and *Tom and Jerry*; assistant sound designer for *The Breasts of Tiresias*; and sound designer for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Old Saybrook*, *Tone Clusters*, *Coffee and John* and *Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mama's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feelin' So Sad*.

MEGAN THOMAS (Costume Designer—*Brilliants*) is a sophomore theatre major who graduated from North Shore High School in Houston. She was wardrobe master on *Three Sisters* and on the wardrobe crew for *She Stoops to Conquer* and the operas *Zuzanna* and *La Traviata*.

About the Playwrights

JOHN CARIANI (*Love/Sick*) is an actor and playwright. He has appeared on and off-Broadway and in several films and television shows. His first play, *Almost, Maine*, opened off-Broadway in 2006 and has since become one of the most frequently produced plays in the United States. Recently, it has been translated into Spanish, Dutch, French, Korean, Romanian and Turkish. Cariani has two other plays in development: *Last Gas* and *Cul-de-Sac*. *Love/Sick* is his newest play, and he wishes to thank Jack Heifner and this very brave cast for tackling a brand new work! Originally from Presque Isle, Maine, Cariani now lives in New York City.



CONSTANCE CONGDON (*Take Me to the River*) has been called "one of the best playwrights our country and our language has ever produced" by playwright Tony Kushner, in his introduction to her collection *Tales of the Lost Formicans and Other Plays*. In addition to *Tales of the Lost Formicans*, which has had more than 200 productions worldwide, Congdon's plays include *Casanova*, *Dog Opera*, *Losing Father's Body*, *Lips* and *Native American*. Her latest play, *Paradise Street*, is being developed at New York Theatre Workshop. *A Mother*, starring Olympia Dukakis, and a new verse version of *The Misanthrope* were both commissioned and produced by the American Conservatory Theatre. *Moontel Six*, a commission by the ACT Young Conservatory, was subsequently performed at London's National Theatre. *The Automata Pieta*, a Young Conservatory commission, received its world premiere at San Francisco's Magic Theatre in 2002. Congdon's *No Mercy* and its companion piece *One Day Earlier* were part of the 2000 season devoted to her work at the Profile Theatre. She has also written a number of opera libretti and seven plays for the Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis. Congdon's plays have been produced throughout the world, including Cairo and Berlin. Congdon has been teaching playwriting at Amherst College for sixteen years.

About the Playwrights

JACK HEIFNER (*Hate Mail*) is best known for his play *Vanities*, which ran for five years in New York and become one of the longest-running plays in off-Broadway history. He is also the author of *Patio/Porch*, *Natural Disasters*, *Running on Empty*, *Bargains*, *Boys' Play*, *Home Fires*, *Heartbreak*, *Comfort and Joy*, *The Lemon Cookie*, *Dwarf Tossing* and over thirty other plays produced in New York, Los Angeles, and theatres around the world. Mr. Heifner has written the book to six musicals, including *Leader of the Pack* on Broadway and *Vanities—A New Musical*, which opened in New York in 2009. He has also written for television and film. Mr. Heifner was born in Corsicana, Texas, and lives in New York City. Since 1997, he has been playwright-in-residence at SFA, where he teaches play, screen and television writing one semester each academic year. At SFA, he has also directed *Home Fires*, *The Seagull*, *The Member of the Wedding* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.



Technical Staff

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Assistant Technical Director.....	Steve Bacarisse
Properties Master.....	April Gore
Assistant Lighting Designer.....	Chelsae Sliger
Assistant Stage Manager (Evening One).....	Courtney Cole
Assistant Choreographer.....	Andrew Johnson
Light Board Operator.....	Amanda Warren
Sound Board Operator.....	Sarah Chavez
Floor Run Crew.....	Daniel Miller, Sarah Wisterman
House Managers.....	Laura McFeeters, Chloe Westfall*
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Dean, College of Fine Arts
- Mr. Scott Shattuck
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- Dr. Richard Jones
Professor
- Ms. Angela Bacarisse
Associate Professor
- Ms. Carolyn Conn
Assistant Professor
- Dr. Jason Davids Scott
Assistant Professor
- Mr. Jack Heifner
Playwright-in-Residence
- Ms. Toni Smith
Visiting Assistant Professor
- Mr. David Studwell
Visiting Assistant Professor
- Ms. Jackie Rosenfeld
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- Mr. Brad Maule
Lecturer
- Ms. Shari Ellsworth
Adjunct Faculty
- Ms. Juanita Finkenburg
Adjunct Faculty
- Mr. David Raine
Adjunct Faculty
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Katrina Tarson

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Katrina Tarson

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