



Houston Arts Partners Conference – “Arts Work” September 13 and 14, 2013

Biographies

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Sydney Skybetter, Artistic Director and Choreographer, **skybetter & associates**



Sydney Skybetter, artistic director of the dance company **skybetter & associates**, is a technologist, choreographer, curator, and consultant for performing arts organizations. After studying at the Interlochen Arts Academy, Columbia, and New York University, Skybetter performed with Christopher Williams and the Anna Sokolow Foundation. Skybetter is a founding partner at The Edwards & Skybetter | Change Agency, which provides change management and technology consulting for such institutions as the Mark Morris Dance Group and New York University, and has written about performance history and technology for the Ballet Review and The Huffington Post. He is a Producer with the Dance [NOW] NYC Festival, and has been brought in to speak at New York University, Juilliard, Skidmore College, The New School, St. Mary's College, The Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Dance/USA, and Opera America, among others. Skybetter serves as the President of the Board of Directors of the Gotham Arts Exchange / Zia Artists, and as the Founding Chairman of the Technology Committee for the National Performing Arts Convention and for the Board of Trustees of Dance/USA. He is the co-host of #SKYNOVA, an Internet TV show that features culture warriors in their native habitats.

Kathleen Fletcher, Director of Turnaround Arts



Kathleen Fletcher is Director of Turnaround Arts, a new education initiative of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

With a background in elementary education, Kathleen Fletcher has worked in many aspects of social justice and civil rights in the private, non-profit, and government sectors. From 1995–2005, Kathleen served as Director of Communications at the National Fair Housing Alliance, where she also managed HUD's fair housing grants and established eleven successful fair housing organizations across the country. From 2003–2006, Kathleen was Senior Vice President of Campaigns at Public Interest, where she directed the Washington, DC office and managed such major accounts as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Allstate Foundation, American Civil Liberties Union, Girl Scouts of the USA, the Wounded Warrior Project, Google, and more.

Kathleen was most recently President of Fletcher Group Inc., a firm whose recent clients included True2o, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and The Atlantic Council of the United States.

Tania Kelley, Principal, Roosevelt School



Tania Kelley, an educator with thirty years' experience, has been Principal of Roosevelt School since 2010. Her previous position as Director of Fine Arts for the Bridgeport Area School district was eliminated along with other content area directorships, and she took on the job of principal with a mandate from the District to turn the school around. She chose to do this through the arts. She applied for and received the US Department of Education School Improvement Grant to change and turn around chronically low-performing schools through the arts, and Roosevelt School was recognized by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities as a Turnaround school – one that is using the arts to transform teaching and learning. Roosevelt School's student population is 59% Hispanic, 38% African-American, 2% white, with 100% of students receiving free or reduced lunch. The school's current indicators of success include all grade levels making progress in reading from bottom quartile to proficiency, a 44% reduction in in-school suspensions, a 61% reduction in out-of-school suspensions, and increased daily attendance.

Ms. Kelley received a BA in Music Education from the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore; an MA in Education, Curriculum, and Technology from the University of Phoenix, and her administrative certificate from Sacred Heart University. She started and managed an after school and summer music club for students in the District (S.O.A.R) and founded an elementary charter school in 2002, New Beginnings Family Academy.

John H. Lienhard, author and voice of *The Engines of Our Ingenuity*,
Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering and History at the University of Houston.

John H. Lienhard, founding author and voice of *The Engines of Our Ingenuity*, heard on Houston Public Media's NPR Affiliate, KUHF News 88.7 FM, is Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering and of History at the University of Houston. He received BS and MS degrees from Oregon State College and the University of Washington, and his PhD from the University of California at Berkeley. He is known for his research in many aspects of the thermal sciences as well as in cultural history. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

Anthony Brandt, Associate Professor of Composition and Theory,
The Shepherd School of Music, Rice University



Composer **Anthony Brandt** earned his degrees from California Institute of the Arts and Harvard University. His honors include a Koussevitzky Commission from the Library of Congress and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Meet-the-Composer, the Houston Arts Alliance, the New England Foundation for the Arts and the Margaret Fairbank Jory Copying Assistance Program. He has been a fellow at the Wellesley Composers Conference, the Tanglewood Institute, the MacDowell Colony and the Djerassi Resident Artists Colony. He has been a Visiting Composer at the Bowdoin International Festival, the Bremen Musikfest, Baltimore's New Chamber Arts Festival, Southwestern University, SUNY- Buffalo and Cleveland State University and Composer-in-Residence of Houston's OrchestraX and the International Festival of Music in Morelia, Mexico. A recording of his vocal music, including his chamber opera *The Birth of Something* with a libretto by playwright Will Eno, has been released by Albany Records (Troy 1144). His recent works include *Maternity* for soprano and chamber orchestra, with a libretto by neuroscientist and author David Eagleman and *Sphinx*, a drama with music in collaboration with Blackburn Prize winner Jennifer Haley. He also recently collaborated with composer Chapman Welch on *C O'Clock*, an innovative computer-generated musical installation that will be performed in

Houston's Market Square for six months in partnership with artist Jo Fleishhauer's reimagining of the Square's clock tower.

Dr. Brandt is co-founder and Artistic Director of the Houston-based contemporary music ensemble Musiqa (www.musiqahouston.org). Winner of a 2013 Chamber Music America/ASCAP Adventurous Programming Award, Musiqa presents an annual Downtown series along with free loft concerts at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston. Musiqa also has one of the largest outreach programs of any contemporary music ensemble in the United States: the ensemble has performed for close to 35,000 public school students in the past eight years and won six consecutive awards from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Dr. Brandt has organized two international conferences on "Exploring the Mind through Music," most recently in June 2011. He has co-authored a paper on music and early language acquisition published in the journal *Frontiers in Auditory Cognitive Neuroscience*. He is currently pursuing several research projects in music and cognition and serves on the Advisory Board for Methodist Hospital's Center for Performing Arts Medicine. Dr. Brandt is also the author of an innovative, free web-based music appreciation course called "Sound Reasoning," created for Rice University's Connexions Project. "Sound Reasoning" was awarded an Access to Artistic Excellence Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Dr. Brandt is an Associate Professor of Composition at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music. He was awarded the University's George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching in 2007 and the Phi Beta Kappa Teaching Prize in 2001.

PANELISTS AND MODERATORS

Ashok Balasubramanyam



Elaine J. Barber is vice president of education and workforce in the Greater Houston Partnership's Public Policy Division.

The Greater Houston Partnership is Houston's leading business organization. Through its Economic Development and World Trade departments and Public Policy Division, the Partnership develops and implements integrated programs to enhance the business climate, business activity, job creation, economic development and quality of life throughout the Houston region.

Barber previously served as COO of Prevent Blindness America in Schaumburg, Illinois. She served as the organization's chief spokesperson and advocate for the organization. She also led the strategic planning activities of the organization and worked closely with the board to establish priorities and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of existing and new initiatives.

She also served as president and CEO of Prevent Blindness America in Houston, where she was responsible for 10 site locations and a staff of 30, throughout the state of Texas. She was responsible for business development and expansion, managed the human resources area and directed the activities of the accounting and financial planning departments.

Barber is a member of the American Society of Association Executives. She is a past member of Toastmasters International and the National Association of Fund Raising Executives. She has served as secretary, vice president, human resources chair, strategic planning chair and program development chair of Women Opting for More Empowerment. She is a past treasurer of Combined Healthcare of Texas and a former board member of the Texas Association of Nonprofit Organizations.

She was named the 1998 Executive of the Year by the Leadership Institute of Greater Houston and received the Missouri City (TX) Women of Distinction Award of Excellence in Public Service that same year. Barber is a recipient of the Prevent Blindness America Leadership Development Award of Excellence, the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce Leadership Award and the Richmond/Rosenberg Chamber of Commerce Leadership Award.

Barber received her bachelor's degree in occupational education from Southern Illinois University.

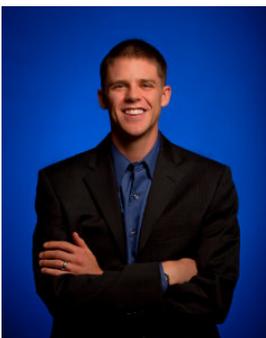


Juan (Tony) Castilleja Jr. is a Systems Engineer in the Commercial Crew Program supporting the Boeing CST-100 Commercial Spacecraft development, which is designed to provide transportation to the International Space Station. He provides technical design and program integration, leads upgrades for the full scale CST-100 mock-up, and supports multiple technical and business functions. Previously, Castilleja was a stress engineer on the P8A Navy Program and in the Space Shuttle Program for 16 missions as a Propulsion Engineer from 2009-2011. Castilleja joined Boeing as an intern in 2006 through INROADS, an organization whose mission is to develop and place talented minority youth in business and industry and prepare them for corporate and community leadership.

Castilleja's technical achievements are complemented by recognition for his efforts to inspire the next generation of engineers. In 2011, he was selected as a White House Fellows Regional Finalist and received the Boeing Exceptional Volunteer Service (BEVS) Award for his mentorship work in the DREAM: STEM outreach program he co founded at Rice University promoting engineering careers to high school students. In 2012, he received the "Most Promising Engineer Award" from the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), a national award recognizing significant technical accomplishments, outreach and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) advocacy.

Tony has also served on the Boeing STEM Education Strategy Team, has held leadership positions on the Boeing Hispanic Employees Network Houston Board, REACH Houston and participates on the enterprise SHPE and Great Minds in STEM (GMIS) External Affiliation committees.

Castilleja completed a Master's and Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering both from Rice University in Houston, Texas and has served as a panelist at the US Department of Education for STEM Best Practices for English Language Learners, selected in the inaugural Emerging Leaders Class of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, received the 2009 Houston Mayor's Volunteer Award, Hispanic Engineer & IT Magazine '40 under 40 Engineers' in STEM, board member of the Houston Hispanic Forum, and selected into the 2013 Class of the BN&SS Emerging Leaders Development Program.



Chase Cobb joined Houston Ballet in 2010. Through the Education Outreach department he has helped pioneer a science and math curriculum through music and dance that helps students master Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills or TEKS standards. Before joining the Ballet, he worked as the Executive Assistant/Office Manager at Society for the Performing Arts from 2009-2010, the Operations and Personnel Manager at the Immanuel and Helen Olshan Texas Music Festival in 2008 and Orchestra Management Assistant for the Florida State University orchestras from 2007-2008. Chase received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education from the University of Houston, and a Masters of Arts in Arts Administration from Florida State University. Chase currently teaches violin and viola lessons and is a proud member of the viola section in the Texas Medical Center Orchestra.



Dr. Billy Cohn is a cardiovascular surgeon and the Director of Minimally Invasive Surgical Technology at the Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital in Houston, Texas. He is the co-director of the Cullen Cardiovascular Research Laboratory and an Associate Professor of Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering at The University of Houston.

Dr. Cohn received his undergraduate degree from Oberlin College, and received his medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine, where he remained for general surgical and cardiothoracic surgical residency training and where he served as the last chief resident under the legendary Michael DeBakey. After graduation, he took a teaching position at Harvard Medical School where he rose to the rank of Associate

Professor of Surgery and served as an attending cardiothoracic surgeon and Director of Minimally Invasive Surgery at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center for eleven years.

Now at the Texas Heart Institute, Dr. Cohn has a busy surgical practice, and is part of the surgical heart failure team which specializes in implantation of mechanical pumps to support the failing heart and heart transplantation. With a passion for medical device development, Dr. Cohn has more than 40 U.S. patents awarded or pending for his medical innovations and has been honored as the Distinguished Inventor of the Year by the Intellectual Property Owners Association. When he is not operating or inventing new medical devices, he can be found playing at local Houston bars with blues legend Little Joe Washington, or practicing close-up magic.

Roger Daily is Director of Education and Outreach for the Houston Symphony. He previously served as Director of Education and Outreach for the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra in Rochester, New York. Programs Developed during his tenure have been recognized as best practices in books and magazines published by the Music Educators National Conference and the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA).



Tim DeSilva has a formal education in fine art and graphic design, and as founder of Culture Pilot, he has led a professional career in consulting, speaking and working on passions in design thinking, brand development, art direction, business growth strategy and the future of culture and technology. He is a proponent for the creative economy of Houston and, in collaboration with Culture Pilot and creative thought leaders, produces the TEDxHouston and VISUALIZED conferences.

Art and design has always played a pivotal role in Tim's life. His work at Culture Pilot is centered around design thinking and brand development. A primary focus has always been bridging the gap between the arts & culture and business worlds. Culture Pilot works with several arts organizations such as Spacetaker, FreshArts, Writers in the Schools, Houston Arts Alliance, Stages Repertory Theatre, Divergence Vocal Theater and various individual artists, musicians and performers.

As a core curator of the TEDxHouston conference, Tim was drawn to the TED community by its advocacy for artists, performers and creative activations within the spectrum of STEM based presenters. At the VISUALIZED conference, presenters are brought together to discuss a range of topics through the foundation of visual data. Both conferences are a wonderful cross-pollination of business and creativity.

When not at work, you'll find Tim practicing hand lettering. Or on a bicycle. Or on foot. Or in the garden. And most likely complaining about bad typography.



Joseph C. Dilg is a partner with Vinson & Elkins LLP. Joe's practice has focused on domestic and international business transactions, including acquisitions, divestitures, joint ventures, and financings. He is well-versed in all aspects of the domestic and international energy business, including oil and gas and electric power generation. Since 2002, Joe has been consistently recognized by *Chambers Global* as a leading lawyer in

energy law, and *Chambers USA* has recognized him since 2003 in corporate, energy, and natural resources law.

From 2002 through 2011, Joe served as Managing Partner of Vinson & Elkins, where he led V&E's multi-pronged growth strategy that includes talent management, global expansion, and continued U.S. growth. During his tenure, the firm has advanced its industry-leading women's initiative and significantly enhanced its diversity and associate development programs. In addition, V&E established offices in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Hong Kong, Palo Alto, Riyadh, Shanghai, and Tokyo to better serve clients and to stay ahead of increasing globalization, particularly in the energy industry where V&E has a preeminent reputation. Joe is active in supporting the arts and communities where V&E lawyers practice — currently 14 cities worldwide. He has served as Chair of the Executive Committee of the National Business Committee for the Arts, Inc. and as Director for the Houston Arts Alliance and the Greater Houston Partnership.

Education and Professional Background

- University of Texas School of Law, J.D. with high honors, 1976 (Editorial Board, *Texas Law Review*; Chancellors)
- Southern Methodist University, B.A. Economics, 1973
- Admitted to practice: Texas, 1976

Professional Recognition

- *Chambers Global: The World's Leading Lawyers for Business* in energy: oil & gas (senior statesman), 2012; in energy law, 2002 - 2007, 2009, and 2010; and in corporate/M&A law, 2002 - 2005
- *Chambers USA: America's Leading Business Lawyers* in energy: oil and gas (senior statesman), 2011; corporate, energy, and natural resources law, 2003 - 2009
- *The Best Lawyers in America®* in corporate, M&A, & securities law, 1993 - 2011; corporate law, 2006 - 2012; international trade & finance law, 2003 - 2012; energy law, 2007 - 2012
- Legal Media Group's (Euromoney's) *Expert Guide to the US Best of the Best* in energy and natural resources, 2008 and 2010
- Legal Media Group's (Euromoney's) *Expert Guide to the World's Leading Energy and Natural Resource Lawyers*, 2007, 2009, and 2011
- *The International Who's Who of Oil & Gas Lawyers*, 2004, 2007, 2009 - 2011
- *The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers*, 2004 - 2006, 2008 - 2009
- *Who's Who Legal: Texas* in oil and gas law, 2007 and 2008
- "Top 100 Texas Super Lawyer," *Texas Monthly*, 2003 - 2004
- Recognized in *Texas Super Lawyers*, 2003 - 2005, 2007 - 2011

Activities and Affiliations

- Business Committee for the Arts, Inc. Executive Committee; Houston Arts Alliance Advisory Council
- Trustee: The University of Texas Law School Foundation



Dr. Dean Dominy, an orthopedic surgeon, grew up in Katy, Texas, where he played trombone in the Katy High School band. He then attended Texas A&M University and spent 4 years in the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band. During his senior year, he served as the Head Drum Major. After completing undergraduate studies, Dr. Dominy earned his medical degree at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. He next completed orthopedic surgery residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. This was followed by a Hand and Upper Extremity Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Hamot Medical Center in Erie, Pennsylvania. Dr. Dominy currently resides in Katy with his wife and 4 children. He is the team physician for Clements High School and works for Houston Methodist Hospital in both Sugar Land and Katy.



Robert Floyd currently serves as Executive Director of the Texas Music Educators Association and resides in Austin, Texas with his wife and two children. Prior to moving to Austin in June of 1993, Floyd taught instrumental music in the Richardson Independent School District for 25 years.

Floyd has received the Ross Perot Award for Teaching Excellence in the Richardson ISD. He has served as the high school representative on the National Band Association Board on two different occasions and in 1986 was one of eight band directors in the United States elected to membership in the American Bandmasters Association. In 1992 Floyd was one of ten band directors in the United States named to the Legion of Honor by the Sousa Foundation. In 1997 he was elected to the Board of Directors of the Texas Society of Association Executives. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Dallas Wind Symphony and served as resident conductor of that organization prior to his move to Austin. Floyd serves as Chair of the Texas Coalition for Quality Arts Education and recently was awarded the A. A. Harding Award by the American School Band Directors Association for outstanding contributions to the band movement in the United States.

In Floyd's position as Executive Director of TMEA he is responsible for management of the association, production of the annual clinic/convention which has over 26,000 people in attendance, editing the monthly journal, *The Southwestern Musician*, and working with the Legislature and State Board of Education to promote and preserve fine arts in the public schools of Texas.



St. John Flynn is the Program Director at Houston Public Media's Classical 91.7 and host of *The Front Row*. Born and raised in Coventry, England, St. John received his B.A. (with honors) in French from the University of Liverpool. He lived and worked in France for two years before coming to the U.S. in 1986 to attend graduate school at the University of Georgia (UGA) in Athens. He worked as a teaching assistant while pursuing his master's degree in French and taught introductory level French classes. After completing his M.A. he was accepted into the Ph.D. program in comparative literature at UGA where he taught world literature survey classes.

St. John started in public radio at WUGA-FM, the Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) affiliate on the UGA campus, as a part-time weekend classical announcer. In the spring of 1995, he was asked to host *Night Music*, WUGA's weeknight classical program that aired on all 15 GPB stations around Georgia. As a result of this exposure he was offered a part-time job at GPB headquarters in Atlanta and moved away from Athens leaving behind an unfinished Ph.D. dissertation.

He was hired full-time at GPB as a cultural affairs producer in 1997; he continued to host classical music on the network but also began to produce arts pieces for GPB's weekly news magazine. He also developed *Cover to Cover*, a monthly call-in book show focusing on Georgia authors.

He was the GPB network host for NPR's *All Things Considered* for a number of years before moving to *Morning Edition* which he hosted for eight years. In 2001 he was promoted to Radio Program Manager, supervising all GPB network programming, and in 2005 he was asked to become Radio Manager, reporting to the Executive Director, with responsibility for GPB radio operations around the state.

Welcoming the chance to work at a major market station, St. John joined KUHF as Program Director for KUHF-Classical in March 2008, and now acts as Program Director for Classical 91.7FM. In addition to his role as host and executive producer of *The Front Row* (Classical 91.7's daily arts magazine), he supervises the classical announcing staff and the audio engineers responsible for the station's concert recordings around town, including the Houston Symphony.



Charles C. Foster is Co-Chairman of FosterQuan, LLP, and has thirty plus years of experience representing and advising multinational companies on U.S. immigration law.

Mr. Foster currently leads the Greater Houston Partnership Task Force on Immigration Reform, a nationwide effort to secure sensible immigration reform legislation that meets the needs of the business community, families, and our nation's economy. He is the founding Chair of the State Bar of Texas Immigration & Nationality Law Section. He also serves as Honorary Consul General for the Kingdom of Thailand, and has received several high Royal Decorations from His Majesty, King Bhumibol. Additional service activities include: Board of Trustees of The Asia Society and Chairman of its Texas Center; Board Member of the Greater Houston Partnership and its Executive Committee; Member of the Executive Committee of the Houston International Festival; Member of the Board of Directors of the American Immigration Lawyers Association

(AILA), the International Institute of Education – Southern Region, Neighborhood Centers, Inc., InterFaith Ministries, and the Houston Ballet.

Long recognized as a national expert in U.S. immigration law, Mr. Foster has served as senior policy advisor to both Presidents Bush and Obama during their Presidential campaigns and has testified before both the U.S. House and Senate Subcommittees on Immigration on a variety of occasions. Mr. Foster previously served as Chairman of the Governor's Task Force on Immigration, Chairman of the Greater Houston Partnership's Economic Development Advisory Committee and World Trade Division, President of the American Immigration Lawyer's Association (AILA), Chairman of the American Bar Association's Coordinating Committee on Immigration Law, Chairman of the State Bar of Texas Committee on Laws Relating to Immigration and Nationality, and President of the Houston Forum and the Houston Club.

Mr. Foster received his undergraduate and law degrees from The University of Texas, and is Board Certified in Immigration and Nationality Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. He lectures frequently before legal, academic, and professional organizations in Texas and throughout the United States, and has authored numerous articles on U.S. immigration law. Mr. Foster served for five years as an Adjunct Professor of Immigration Law at the University of Houston Law Center. He is fluent in Spanish and has received numerous awards, including the 1997 Houston International Service Award by the Houston Jaycees and Consular Corps, the 2000 Friend of China Award, the ADL's 2006 Milton H. Popkin Award for Distinguished Community Service and the 2013 Houston Bar Association Leon Jaworski Award for community service, annual recognition since 2003 as a Texas Super Lawyer by *Texas Monthly Magazine*, 1998 American Immigration Law Foundation Honorary Fellow, Texas Lawyer has selected Mr. Foster as the top "Go To Immigration Lawyer" for the State of Texas since 2003 and he was listed as one of the nation's "20 Most Powerful Employment Attorneys" in immigration by *Human Resource Executive*, June 2011. His role as an immigration lawyer was featured in the 2010 film *Mao's Last Dancer*.



James E. Furr, FAIA, has been a practicing architect in Houston for over 40 years. He is a Managing Principal at Gensler, a global architecture, design, planning and consulting firm, with offices in Houston and 44 cities worldwide. His current focus is on client service, community service and mentoring Gensler's next generation of leaders.

Jim holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Louisiana State University and is a Registered Architect in 24 states. He has been an active member in the American Institute of Architects for many years and in 1987 he was elected to the prestigious College of Fellows for his contributions to architecture through his management of the creative process. He served as President of the AIA Houston Chapter in 1994, and was awarded the Chapter Citation.

In his community service role Jim devotes his time to community organizations benefiting the arts and local charities. He serves on the Boards of the Heritage Society, the Contemporary Arts Museum and Central Houston Inc. Jim is a Senior Lecturer of Architecture at Rice University and is past President of the Rice Design Alliance.

On a personal note, Jim and his wife Jo Furr recently celebrated their 46th wedding anniversary and have two children. His daughter, Dr. Erin Stimming, is an MD and Assistant Professor of Neurology at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. Erin and her husband Chris have three boys, Hopson, Eason and Wells. His son, O'Neal Furr, is an architect and Senior Associate at Gensler. He holds a degree in Architecture from Washington University in St. Louis and a Master's in Urban Planning from UCLA. He and his wife Grace have a daughter, Josephine.



Jeff Fuller is Director of Student Recruitment, University of Houston, and Director, National Association of College Admission Counseling Board of Directors. Jeff Fuller has served as Director of Student Recruitment at the University of Houston since February 2007. Jeff began his work at the University of Houston in 1995 as an Admission Counselor then moved into the positions of Coordinator for Freshman Admissions, Assistant Director and then Associate Director. Jeff is responsible for all aspects of undergraduate recruitment, territory management, admission counseling, and application review and institutional reporting. He leads a team of 25 dynamic individuals consisting of freshman, transfer and international admission counselors. Originally from Corpus Christi, Texas, Jeff received two bachelor's degrees from the University of Houston along with a master's degree in Higher Education Administration.

Jeff has held numerous leadership positions in the National and Texas Associations for College Admission Counseling. Jeff currently serves on the National Association for College Admission Counseling Board of Directors. He is a past president of TACAC, past TACAC Treasurer and former College Information Hotline.

Jeff also served as a NACAC Assembly Delegate representing Texas ACAC. Jeff served two years as Chair of NACAC's Fiscal Oversight Committee. Additionally, Jeff received the first ever Rising Star Award from both TACAC and NACAC. This award recognizes young promising individuals in the profession. He is a frequent contributor to the NACAC Imagine Fund. Jeff serves his community in various ways. He has previously served as Chair of the Houston Area Operation School Supplies Committee, a project aimed at raising money for school supplies for deserving students. For his commitment, Jeff was recognized as an Outstanding Volunteer by the University of Houston Alumni Organization. Jeff also serves as an allocations team volunteer with the United Way Texas Gulf Coast. Jeff is also a lifetime committeeman on two Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo committees.



Bob Hargrave is a Materials Engineer for Chevron in Houston, with 28 years experience as a metallurgical engineer. His expertise is in the application of metals and non-metals for Drilling, Subsea and Completions wells in global deepwater projects. He is proud to be part of the oil and gas industry's efforts to provide reliable and affordable energy for our country. Bob is a registered Professional Engineer in Texas.

Bob is also an active musician in the Houston area and currently plays French horn in two orchestras. He has been a member of Symphony North of Houston since 1989, and is Principal Horn. Bob also plays horn in the Lake Charles Symphony. Previously he played with the Woodlands Symphony for 10 years and several years with the Conroe Symphony.

Bob earned a Bachelors of Science in Metallurgical Engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso, graduating in 1985, and earned a Bachelor in Music Education from Baylor University, graduating in 1978. Bob graduated from Coronado High School in El Paso in 1973 where he studied French horn with Rick Lambrecht and was selected for the Texas All State band 2 years.

Bob has lived in the Conroe area since 1985. He is married to Dorothy and they have two sons, Sam (15 yrs old) and Alex (11 yrs old). Sam is entering the 10th grade and Alex is going into the 6th grade in Conroe ISD. Both are in the school band program and study French horn privately.



Michael Lunceford was elected to the HISD Board of Education in November 2009, served as president in 2012 and currently serves as assistant secretary. He is a long-time volunteer with HISD, having held leadership positions within the district for the past 17 years. He served on the HISD Bond Oversight Committee, the HISD District V Leadership Team and the HISD Parent Visionaries. He also served on the school building committees for Henry Longfellow Elementary, Pin Oak Middle and John Pershing Middle, and he chaired the Master Plan Building Committee for Paul Horn Elementary School.

Mr. Lunceford received a Bachelor of Science degree in petroleum engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 1981 and is currently the vice president of engineering for Pedernales Energy. He built a career in the field of energy with Mobil Oil, Montex Exploration, Metfuel, and Penwell Energy prior to accepting his current position.

Mr. Lunceford's two children attended Horn Elementary and Pershing Middle Schools and are graduates of Bellaire High School. Both children are currently attending college. As a parent volunteer, Mr. Lunceford served as the Horn Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) treasurer and auction co chair. He was also a member of the PTO Auction Committee and the sports Booster Clubs at Pershing Middle School and the football and volleyball Booster Clubs at Bellaire High School.

A native Texan, Mr. Lunceford is a product of HISD schools, having attended Ila McNamara and Horace Elrod Elementary Schools, Walter Fondren Middle School, and Westbury High School. He and his wife, Erin, reside in Bellaire and are members of Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church.



Carlton Schwab has been President/CEO of the Texas Economic Development Council (TEDC) since February 1st, 1999. During that time, the 850-member TEDC has developed into a recognized leader in the professional development of its members and a powerful voice for economic development policy in the state of Texas.

Prior to his tenure at the TEDC, Mr. Schwab was Director of Development at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin (1996-1999). From 1989 to 1996, Schwab was a Director with Deloitte Touche offices in Austin and Chicago, specializing in corporate site location analysis and economic development strategic planning. Mr. Schwab has also spent time working in economic development at the local level, having served as Vice President of the Lubbock Board of City Development from 1986 to 1989. He began his career in Austin in legislative analyst positions at the Texas State Treasury, the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and the Texas Senate.

Mr. Schwab holds a Master's degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin (1983), and a Bachelor's degree from Austin College in Sherman, Texas (1981).



Tamara L. Siler is Senior Associate Director of Admission and Coordinator of Minority Recruitment at Rice University This is Tamara's 20th year in the Office of Admission at Rice. In addition to coordinating Rice's minority recruitment efforts, she directs the transfer admission process and administers several scholarships and programs, including the Barbara Jordan Scholars program and QuestBridge. She graduated from Rice University with a B.A. in History. A native Houstonian, she grew up in the Fifth Ward and graduated from the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

Tamara is a past president of the Texas Association for College Admission Counseling (TACAC), an affiliate of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), and currently serves on the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas (ICUT) E-Committee. She has served on the advisory board for the Linda Lorelle

Scholars Foundation, on the Program Planning Committee for the College Board National Forum and the selection committee for the Coca Cola Scholars. She has appeared in over 60 productions with professional and community theatre companies throughout the Houston area.



S. Shawn Stephens leads the appellate practice of the Houston office of BakerHostetler LLP. She has been Board Certified in Civil Appellate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 1995 and has handled hundreds of appeals, amicus briefs, post-trial matters, dispositive motions, mandamus actions and charge conferences. She has helped clients overturn significant monetary judgments and has established new legal principles. Ms. Stephens has been named a “Texas Super Lawyer” in the area of appellate law by *Texas Monthly* magazine every year since 2003. In 2012, she was one of the first four attorneys to be nationally certified in appellate law by the American Institute of Appellate Practice's (AIAP) national certification committee. Ms. Stephens was the first woman and only Texan to earn this distinction.

Known as an outstanding appellate advocate, Ms. Stephens argued three appeals on the same day for a major automobile manufacturer—resulting in three wins.

Ms. Stephens has handled high-profile, unusual and interesting cases during her career. For example, she represented an amicus in the Texas congressional redistricting cases in the United States Supreme Court. In another amicus filing, she represented a group whose members included two former governors, numerous retired chief justices/associate justices from supreme courts of various states and a former ABA president in a significant First Amendment case in the United States Supreme Court.

Ms. Stephens also successfully represented an amicus in the “Kennewick Man” appeal in the Ninth Circuit. This case involved an archeologically significant 9,000-year-old skeleton and presented the court with an issue of first impression as to whether the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act applied to the remains. The dispute involved a disagreement over ownership of and entitlement to study the skeletal remains of “Kennewick Man,” the oldest and most intact skeleton ever found in the northwest part of the United States. Study of this skeleton may dispel the “Bering Strait Ice Bridge” theory of how the Americas were populated. This case was the subject of much media attention, including a PBS special, several books and several law review articles.

Ms. Stephens’ practice includes both state and federal appeals. Her practice involves jury charge preparation and argument, preparing and arguing post-trial and dispositive motions, trial-level error preservation, interlocutory appeals and mandamus actions, as well as traditional appeals. The substantive areas addressed are broad and include: employment matters; gas pipeline issues; toxic tort matters; class certification issues; procedural issues; discovery disputes; evidentiary sufficiency matters; First Amendment and other constitutional issues; punitive damages; oil, gas and energy issues; bankruptcy matters; arbitration; automotive dealer litigation; and general commercial matters. Ms. Stephens also has substantial commercial trial experience.

Ms. Stephens serves on the Executive Committee of the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society, is a past President of the Texas Association of Trial and Appellate Specialists, is a former member of the Council of the Houston Bar Association’s Appellate Section and is a member of numerous other professional associations. She served a term on the Executive Committee of the ABA Council of Appellate Lawyers and on the Houston Bar Association’s appellate section. Ms. Stephens is also a former Board member of the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program. Ms. Stephens is a frequent and highly rated speaker on trial and appellate topics.

Ms. Stephens was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to be a Commissioner of the Texas Commission on the Arts and currently serves as Vice Chair of the Commission. She was named a 2011 “Woman of Distinction” by CCFA and one of Houston’s 50 Most Influential Women by *Houston Woman Magazine*. Ms. Stephens is presently serving on or has served on the boards of numerous civic, educational and charitable institutions. These include the Board of Trustees of the Houston Ballet Foundation and Houston Ballet Guild (former president); the Boards of Directors of the Houston Symphony League, Houston Zoo, Inc., Zoo Friends, Inc.

(former president), Theatre Under The Stars, Stages Repertory Theatre, Girls Inc. of Greater Houston (former president) and South Texas College of Law; South Texas College of Law Alumni Association (President) and South Texas College of Law Board of Visitors.

Ms. Stephens is an alum and a former member of the Executive Committee of the Texas Lyceum, a select group of 96 Texas leaders, and a member of the American Leadership Forum Class XXIII. Ms. Stephens is also active in her church, Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral, where she previously served as a member of the Vestry.



John Stoner, President/CEO, joined Conn-Selmer on November 11, 2002. He brought more than 24 years of experience in consumer hard goods. Upon joining Conn-Selmer, John built a high-powered team from inside and outside of the Industry that:

- Implemented lean manufacturing
- Reduced the company's manufacturing footprint by 50%
- Improved service levels from years and months to weeks and days
- Acquired LeBlanc
- Established distribution joint ventures in China and Australia
- Maintained the largest wind instrument manufacturing presence in the U.S.
- Established the Conn-Selmer Division of Education as a resource for Music

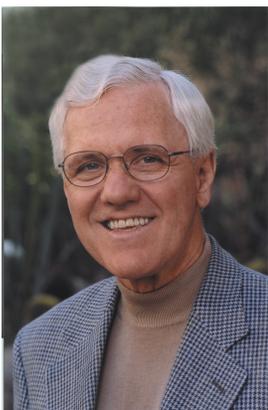
Educators

Prior to joining Conn-Selmer, Inc. John was the President/CEO of Ames True Temper, a position he earned after more than 20 years with the company. John joined Ames True Temper and was quickly promoted to positions of increasing responsibility including Product Manager, Marketing Manager, Director, Marketing, VP Marketing, and VP Sales & Marketing. John has a B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing from Clarion State University.



Fred Welch is Vice President of Regional Economic Development at the Greater Houston Partnership. Fred joined GHP in May 2010. He is well respected both nationally and locally in various Economic Development circles, having served most recently as Vice President, Marketing and Recruitment for the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce. For seven years, Fred served as the Executive Director, Pearland Economic Development Corporation. He formerly was Executive Director of the Brazoria County Partnership and the La Marque EDC. Fred is a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) through the International Economic Development Council and a Certified Economic Development Finance Professional through the National Development Council.

Fred is a Midwest native who has lived and worked in the Houston region since 1980. He earned a B.B.A. from Monmouth College in Monmouth, IL and an M.B.A. from Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas. Fred served in the U.S. Army Reserves, was on active duty for three years, and retired with the rank of Colonel from the Reserves.



John E. Wolf, Jr., M.D., M.A., is Professor and Chair of the Department of Dermatology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. He is a graduate of Rice University (Distinguished Alumnus Award, 2003) and the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston (M.A. 1963; M.D. with High Honors 1965). He completed a medical internship at Cornell University/Bellevue Hospital in New York City before serving two years as a Peace Corps physician in the Micronesian Islands.

Dr. Wolf was subsequently a dermatology resident at the University of California in San Francisco, a fellow in tropical dermatology in Guadalajara, and senior registrar at St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin in London, England. Dr. Wolf was a history major at Rice University and has served as historian of several scientific societies (including The American Academy of Dermatology, The Association of Professors of Dermatology, and The American Dermatologic Association) and has made numerous

presentations on the history of dermatology (including The T. Cook Smith Orator in Louisville, Kentucky and The Chauncy Leake Society Lecture in Galveston, Texas). He has authored more than 170 publications and delivered more than 1,000 professional lectures, including presentations in 27 foreign countries. He has delivered several named lectures, including The Ruch Lecture at The University of Rochester, The Sulzberger Lecture to The San Francisco Dermatology Society, and The Calvin J. Dilatta Lecture to The Arkansas Dermatology Society. Dr. Wolf has participated in many radio, television and print media interviews, including The Wall Street Journal and NBC's Today Show. Dr. Wolf has served on several Editorial Boards, including Dialogues in Dermatology, Clinics in Dermatology, and The Psoriasis Forum. He is on the Board of Directors of The Houston Health Museum (Advisory Board), The Friends of Fondren Library (Rice University) (Emeritus), the Advisory Board of The Shepherd Music Society (also at Rice University), and is President of The Friends of the Texas Medical Center Library. Dr. Wolf is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society and has had numerous listings in Best Doctors in Houston, Texas, and America.

SESSION PRESENTERS

Estevan Azcona joined MECA as Music Director, having previously served on its Board of Directors. He has directed the mariachi ensemble of the University of Texas at Austin, Mariachi Paredes de Tejastitlán, and is himself a guitarronero. He is also a member of the Austin-based Mexican *son* group Mitote. Azcona studied ethnomusicology and Mexican-American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, where he completed his Ph.D. in 2008. He has taught courses on Chicano cultural and musical history and ethnomusicology at Indiana University, DePauw University, UT Austin, and University of Houston. In 2005, he co-produced the Smithsonian Folkways Recordings CD compilation, *Rolas de Aztlán: Songs of the Chicano Movement*. Dr. Azcona is also currently Lecturer of Mexican American Studies at the University of Houston.

Glenn Bailey, FotoFest's Literacy Through Photography Program Manager, joined the FotoFest staff in 2012 after working for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C. and the Center's respected educational outreach program in D.C. schools. Having received a Masters of Arts Management from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Mr. Bailey spent five years working in non-profit arts and education organizations. In addition to his years as an education coordinator at the Kennedy Center (2009-2012), he has worked as a coordinator between arts and education organizations for the Arts Education Collaborative (2008-2009) in Pittsburgh, as a marketing consultant for the Andy Warhol Museum (2007-2008) and as associate director for Future Tenant, a graduate-run multi-disciplinary arts space in downtown Pittsburgh (2007-2008). Following his strong interest in photography, he worked as an education outreach associate for the Light Factory, a non-collecting museum dedicated to film and photography, in Charlotte, North Carolina. He has had experience in project management, program evaluation, research and analysis and database management. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Digital Arts and Photography from Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

Emanuelee "Outspoken" Bean is a poet, compassionate mentor and dedicated educator. Bean travels the country performing his original works and inspiring young creative minds. From Trinidad to St. Louis and back to Houston he inspires others to find their voice. He is a Texas Poet Laureate nominee and Ranked 25th in the Individual World Poetry Slam 2012. He started performing spoken-word in 2003. In 2006, he made the poetry slam teams for both San Antonio and Houston. In his senior year at Prairie View A&M, Bean founded and coached the University's first poetry slam team. In their first year, they won the number one title in their region and an eighth place ranking in the country. Bean has also worked with the Harris County Department of Education, Writers in the Schools, Houston's Young Audiences: Arts for Learning and Texas Commission for the Arts, and Houston Grand Opera. He serves as the Program Director, Lead Coach and mentor for Meta-Four Houston, a non-profit organization that uses reading, creative writing, poetry and performance techniques to increase literacy, instill critical thinking, intersect cultures and inspire leadership in today's youth.

Sandra Bernhard is currently Director of HGOco, Houston Grand Opera's award winning unique initiative that explores ways of making opera relevant to its changing audiences through new works and innovative community projects, reaching more than 1 million since 2007. HGOco, has commissioned 16 new works including the world's first Mariachi Opera entitled *Cruzar la Cara de la Luna*, was awarded the Leading Lights Diversity Award in Arts and Culture from the National MultiCultural Institute (NCMI) for HGOco's Song of Houston series in 2009, and was the only Texas recipient of an ArtPlace grant for Home and Place program to build communities through art in 2011. Bernhard began her career as an opera director and has directed main stage productions at major companies throughout the U.S. including San Francisco Opera, where she was resident for nearly 20 years, Washington National Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Portland Opera, and Florida Grand Opera. Bernhard held the J. Ralph Corbett Distinguished Chair of Opera at the College-Conservatory

of Music (CCM) from 2003 to 2007. She has written librettos and opera education materials for productions at San Francisco Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Virginia Opera, Utah Opera and Florida Grand Opera, and has taught for the Merola Opera Program, the Adler Fellowship Program, the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Louisiana State University, Utah Opera Young Artist Program, Florida Grand Opera Young Artist Program, Co-OPERA-tive Program, and Chautauqua Opera among others. At CCM, Ms. Bernhard received the 2007 Harmony Fund for projects exploring diversity in a theatrical event and four National Opera Association Awards for her directing work. Ms Bernhard serves on the Defiant Requiem Foundation, headquartered in Washington D.C. For more information about HGOco, visit Houston Grand Opera at PBS Newshour.

Kevin Bicol is an undergraduate student at the University of Houston. He is pursuing a Bachelors of Science in Electrical Engineering, and he will be graduating in May 2014. His interests are in power, controls, and electronics. In the summer of 2013, he instructed an electronics course for middle school students at the Multicultural Education and Counseling through the Arts (MECA). The mission of the program was to introduce students to electrical engineering through artistic projects. After graduation, he plans to work in industry and seek higher education.

Long Chu is the Associate Director of Writers in the Schools. Long plans and implements WITS' creative writing programs. A writer originally from Vietnam, Long earned an MFA in poetry from the University of Houston Creative Writing Program. His poems are anthologized in several books, including *Watermark* and *Both Sides Now*. His libretto, *Bound*, for Houston Grand Opera's East + West initiative will premiere during the 2014 Vietnamese Lunar New Year.

Khrystian Cunningham is a highly qualified educator certified as a 4-8 Generalist. She has spent nine years teaching fifth-grade science and six years working on the EXEMPLARY campus of Dunbar Middle School. A proud panther graduate of Prairie View A&M University, where productive people are produced, she obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications, specializing in radio and television, and minored in Dance. She has found a passion to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards among students in elementary and secondary education and is a member of the Junior National Young Leaders Conference Nominating Committee and the National Association of Science Teachers.

Rozie Curtis is the manager of Community Outreach at Theatre Under The Stars. She has helped create outreach programs for all areas of the Houston and Greater Houston Community. TUTS outreach programs reach thousands of students and teachers every year. She is an actress, director, choreographer, writer, teacher, and arts administrator. In addition to reaching out to schools, she also teaches acting at Theatre Under The Stars in The Academy. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from St. Edward's Univ. with a degree in Theatre Arts. After college, she went on to do professional stage work. Stage credits include numerous productions in children, youth, and adult theatre across the country. At TUTS she has directed Disney's "Camp Rock, The Final Jam", Disney's "My Son Pinocchio Jr.", "School House Rock Live Jr.", Disney's "When You Wish", Disney's "Dual Language Aladdin". She has directed, choreographed and acted in over 50 theatrical productions from musicals to straight plays. She is also an award-winning filmmaker and constantly sought after writer, choreographer, director and acting coach and teaches workshops in all of the previous mentioned areas.

Matthew Cushing currently serves as an Assistant Director for the Rice Elementary Model Science Lab (REMSL) for the School Science and Technology (SST) program at Rice University in Houston, TX. He holds a Master's degree in Instructional Technology from the University of Houston – Clear Lake and a Bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Houston. He began his professional career in education teaching for Spring Branch Independent School District and moved on to work for both the educational technology department and as a district science specialist. After leaving Spring Branch ISD he joined Region 10 Education Service Center and worked on the Texas Virtual School Network project in the course review department. He has presented at various local and state conferences in both science education and instructional technology. Matthew enjoys traveling, biking, and helping his wife with her business.

Jennifer Day, M.Ed., is principal of Wharton K-8 Dual Language School in HISD.

Kiana Day is originally from Jackson, MS, where she received a Bachelor of Music Education degree with Emphasis in Piano (2005) as well as a Master of Music Education degree with Emphasis in Voice (2008) from Jackson State University. After graduating with a Bachelor degree, she served as Director of Musical Activities at Forest Hill High School in Jackson, MS from 2005-2008, where she directed all choral ensembles including concert, madrigal, and show choirs; taught all choral classes, general music, and drama courses, and; oversaw major musical productions that were put on twice a year. Since graduating with her Masters degree in 2008, she moved to Houston, TX, to enter the Doctorate in Musical Arts in Music Education program at the University of Houston.

Jackie deMontmollin serves as the Associate Director of Theatre Education at The University of Houston School of Theatre & Dance where she developed and heads the Summer MA for Theatre Educators and The BFA in Theatre

Education. She also teaches Acting I for the School of Theatre & Dance. Jackie joined the faculty of The School of Theatre & Dance in 2007 after teaching theatre in public schools across Texas for 15 years. Additionally Jackie teaches "Essentials of Fine Arts" to Elementary Education Majors at The University of St. Thomas. As a public school educator Jackie directed over sixty productions, earned several teaching awards and her students earned State and National accolades. Jackie has served on the Board of Directors of The Texas Educational Theatre Association, works on the Education & Outreach Committee for The Society of Performing Arts Houston, is a member of The Center for Educational Development of Fine Arts (CEDFA) Training Cadre. She is also an active adjudicator and clinician for University Interscholastic League One Act Play. Jackie was awarded the Ross M. Lence Award for Excellence in Teaching by The University of Houston College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences. She holds her M.Ed. from Concordia University, Austin.

Eileen Edmonds, Manager of The River Performing and Visual Arts Center, an Education Program of Theatre Under The Stars, has over 21 years' experience providing arts engagement for underserved populations in the non-profit sector. Eileen has been with The River for 6 years overseeing their Saturday Morning Program, Classes in the Community, and Summer Camp for individuals with disabilities. Before her work at The River she worked for 15 years as The Cultural Arts Director for The Boys' Club of New York overseeing their Art Studio, Media Lab, Cultural Center, and Leadership Development Program for at-risk boys in Queens. Prior to her work at The Boys' Club Eileen studied Visual Arts with a minor in Art History at The University of Houston and Queens College.

Lisa Felske, Science Specialist: Ms. Felske's career in education spans over twenty years and includes curriculum writing and teaching science in grades 6-8 and secondary science courses in IPC, Biology, AP Biology, and Chemistry. She also helped launch Houston ISD's Virtual School. She holds an undergraduate degree in Biology from Rice University as well as a Master of Arts in Teaching, also from Rice University. She has designed and delivered science professional development to K-12 teachers via local, state, and national conferences. These experiences have enabled her to work closely with children, parents, teachers, administrators and community members to improve science literacy.

Jill Giles, a graduate of St. Edward's University in Austin, TX, is an Equity Actress and a film actress. She is currently a faculty member at Theatre Under The Stars in Houston, Texas and The River Visual and Performing Arts Center, an affiliate of TUTS. She teaches in the outreach programs for the underserved and special needs community. She is also a certified instructor of Nia Moves. She ran the outreach programs in Chesapeake Shakespeare Company.

Jonathan Gonzalez is the Director of Education at Main Street Theater. He is a New Mexico native who lived for 15 years in the San Francisco Bay Area, serving as Education Director, actor, and educator for the Marin Shakespeare Company. He was a Teaching Artist-in-Residence at the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Marin Theatre Company, Peninsula Youth Theatre in Palo Alto, and Youth-In-Arts in San Rafael. Jonathan has taught theatre in over two dozen schools, and directed and acted in more than 200 productions. Since arriving in Houston, he has worked at Katy Visual and Performing Arts Center, The Alley (H.Y.P.E), Country Playhouse, The Tulane Shakespeare Festival in New Orleans, Prague Shakespeare Festival, Houston Revels, Puppet Pizazz, The Curt Miller Magic and Comedy Show at Moody Gardens, Rice University, Texas A&M and The University of Houston, where he received his MFA in directing. Jonathan came to Main Street in 2009 where he directed a student production of *Scapino*. Since then he has directed and performed in Main Street's MainStage and Theater for Youth productions. Jonathan is the co-creator of MST's Peer-To-Peer Shakespeare program, which includes a two-person touring show, classes in the public schools, a Summer Shakespeare show for teens, and projects geared towards incarcerated youth. Jonathan is the Founding Director of Shakespeare in The Shade Trees, and a proud member of The Shakespeare Theatre Association, TCG, and Houston Arts Partners.

Zachary Gresham is currently the Education Programs Director at Art League Houston where he oversees the Art League School, *Healing Art*, *ArtBound!* artist residencies, and numerous education and outreach endeavors. Prior to his work at Art League Houston, he has worked in the Education Department at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, was Workshop Coordinator at Houston Center for Photography, and was Education and Volunteer Coordinator at Lawndale Art Center. He is an active member of the Americans for the Arts, National Art Education Association (NAEA), and the Texas Association of Museums (TAM).

Jason H. Hafner is Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy and Chemistry at Rice University. Dr. Hafner earned his Ph.D. from Rice University in 1998 under Richard Smalley for work on carbon nanotubes, and pursued postdoctoral studies at Harvard University with Charles Lieber. He returned to Rice in 2001 to join the faculty where his lab studies nanophotonics and interfacial biology. Hafner is currently an Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy and of Chemistry at Rice, as well as an Associate Editor of ACS Nano. He has taught freshman and sophomore physics at Rice for the past seven years, and is a member of Rice's Center for Teaching Excellence. He is on a quest to find a lecture demonstration that will get him fired.

Craig Hauschildt is a dynamic percussionist and educator who has been part of the Houston community since 2001. He delights in performing music from a number of world traditions, including European classical music, Afro-Cuban folkloric

music, Brazilian samba batucada, Ewe drumming from Ghana, Japanese Taiko drumming, and Indonesian gamelan, and enjoys exploring the historical and cultural elements of each of these musical genres. He has the honor of performing orchestral music with the Houston Grand Opera, the Houston Ballet, the Houston Symphony, the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, and Mercury: The Orchestra Redefined. Additionally he performs chamber music in the intimate settings of Da Camera of Houston, Musiqa, and Aperio: Music of the Americas. During the summer, he performs in the Grand Teton Music Festival in Wyoming, where he collaborates with some of the finest conductors and orchestral musicians from around the world. Whether Mr. Hauschildt is performing music that is old or new, mainstream or obscure, he loves sharing it with audiences wherever they are. Mr. Hauschildt is currently the Director of Education and Community Initiatives at Da Camera, where he enjoys working with Houston students through the Music Encounters program. This program utilizes classical music to assist the instruction of the core foundation subjects and fosters creativity by engaging the students through the variety of learning styles outlined in the Theory of Multiple Intelligences. He also manages the Da Camera Young Artist Program which helps to train musicians who are transitioning from college into their professional careers. This program is designed to give these emerging professionals practical training through work in the schools, community concerts, and professional development workshops. Mr. Hauschildt works with student musicians through the Houston Youth Symphony and his private percussion studio. He prides himself on sharing his love for music with all of his students regardless of their interest in pursuing a career in music, but many have gone on to study music at The Juilliard School, the University of Texas, the University of North Texas, the University of Colorado at Boulder, and the University of Arizona.

This year Mr. Hauschildt and his wife welcomed their first son into the world. They take pleasure in watching him change each day before their eyes.

Timothy Johnson has been teaching for thirty years, the past 28 years at S.F. Austin High School in Houston ISD. He currently teaches Physics and Chemistry. A graduate of Texas A&M University with a BS and MS in Chemistry, Timothy was employed as a chemist in the oil field production chemical industry for eight years. He is also employed as a facilitator in an Inquiry Based Physics program with the Rice University School of Science and Technology training physics teachers in HISD in inquiry based teaching practices.

Mary Kay Kinnett, Senior Manager with Houston Independent School District's Office of Special Education Services (OSES), is trained in *Universal Design for Learning* from Harvard University. Mary Kay has previously held positions as an Evaluation Specialist and School Principal. OSES supports students with disabilities in gaining college, career readiness, and independent living skills through active engagement in grade level curriculum. There are over 16,000 students in Special Education or roughly a little over 8% of the student population. OSES's Elementary Field Office is responsible for 178 elementary, early childhood and K-8 schools.

Eastman Landry earned his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Rice University and went directly into teaching high school science. He is currently teaching physics at the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston ISD where he has enjoyed combining his interest in physics with the artistic interests of his students. In addition to instruction, he also participates in curriculum design for HISD and the Rice University RESST program.

Ericka Lawton currently serves as Assistant Science Director of Science Education for the Rice Elementary Model Science Lab (REMSL) for Rice University. She received her bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from Prairie View A&M University, and is currently pursuing her master's degree from Sam Houston State University. She began her teaching career in Aldine ISD as a 5th-grade science teacher at Eckert Intermediate School. After serving in that capacity for seven years, she then went on to serve as one of twelve district science specialists for eight years. Ericka's love of science has led her to present at several state and local conferences. She currently resides in Spring, Texas, and enjoys traveling and spending time with her family.

Jamie Lish is a Main Street Theater educator. She has a BS in Elementary Education from Towson University, a MFA in Theatre from Virginia Commonwealth University in Theatre Pedagogy, and a MFA from Ohio University in Theatre Directing. She now teaches first grade in HISD where she teaches theatre to students in both after school and in school programs. She loves teaching and theatre and is excited to find an outlet to combine both of them.

Monse Lozano is a NASA Engineer working in the robotics department at Johnson Space Center. He received his degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Houston and is currently working on the design of a humanoid robot called Robonaut 2. In addition Monse is also a musician who has been playing in the Houston area for several years. Recently he began an electronics program at MECA which brings together his interests in electronics and music in a way that will engage kids and expose them to engineering in a fun and creative way.

Gigi Nevils-Noe is Assistant Director for Secondary Science Education of the School Science and Technology program at Rice University and leads the Rice Excellence in Secondary Science Teaching (RESST) physics program in conjunction with Dr. Jason Hafner. The program uses innovative pedagogical tools and university instruction to deliver to Houston area high school physics teachers a set of research-driven teaching tools and physics content. As a high school teacher with Spring Branch and Houston ISD, she taught AP Physics C, Pre-AP, and regular Physics courses at Stratford and Bellaire High Schools for five years. Gigi holds a B.S. in Physics from Sam Houston State University and a Post-Baccalaureate teacher certification from Texas Tech.

Cynthia Maye grew up in Laurel, MS, where her motto was “hard work and thriftiness is the only thing in life that is free”. After 20 of service in the Army, Ms. Maye retired as Sergeant First Class. During her tenure she held various posts and job functions. She was a Pharmacy Technician Manager, Equal Opportunity Leader, President of the Noncommissioned Officer Council and Advisor for the Junior Enlisted Council. She also held the position of Army Medical Department Pharmacy Technician Senior Advisor, which was a nationwide leadership role. She is also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Ms. Maye attributes her success to her village, because it does take a village to raise a kid. She is a parent to a daughter, who attends Lamar University in Beaumont, TX., where she is a member of track and field. Ms. Maye earned her Bachelor of Science in Business degree from William Carey College; her Masters in Information Systems from the University of Phoenix, and currently is ABD for her Doctorate in Management of Information Systems also from the University of Phoenix. Ms. Maye will be pursuing a second Masters from the University of Texas at Arlington in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Science. Ms. Maye was an adjunct instructor at Elizabethtown Community and Technical College in Elizabethtown KY where she taught Computer Information Systems for three years. Ms. Maye followed her passion in teaching and obtained her certification to teach middle school. Currently, Ms. Maye is a 6th and 7th grade teacher at Holland Middle School in Houston Independent School District (HISD). Ms. Maye was selected to represent HISD at the National Institute for Standards and Technology where she had the opportunity the work with scientists and engineers to find new ways to teach science to middle school students. Ms. Maye received the American Legion Honorable Mention award for teachers. She is also a member of the National Science Teachers Association. Ms. Maye is currently a mentor for University of Phoenix.

Susan Pansmith, Senior Manager with Houston Independent School District’s Office of Special Education Services (OSES), is trained in *Universal Design for Learning* from Harvard University. Susan started with HISD in 1986 after 9 years in another state and has been a senior manager or equivalent for 14 years. OSES supports students with disabilities in gaining college, career readiness, and independent living skills through active engagement in grade level curriculum. There are over 16,000 students in Special Education or roughly a little over 8% of the student population. OSES’s Elementary Field Office is responsible for 178 elementary, early childhood and K-8 schools.

Dinorah Pérez-Rementería received a BA in Theater from the Higher Institute of Arts in Havana, Cuba, and an MA in Latin American Studies from the University of Miami. She writes about art and is very interested in exploring how concepts related to the fields of Ethics and Aesthetics can have a positive impact on the education of young kids. Her articles have appeared in different art magazines such as *Art Nexus*, *Arte al Día International*, *ArtPulse*, among others. This will be her third year as a Creative Writing teacher with WITS.

Vicki Pillow has served in public education for the past 27 years. Her education experiences include serving as a 7th grade teacher for 12 years as well as a 5th grade science teacher for 15 years. She has served as a Science Department Chair and District Science Skills Specialist in Aldine ISD for over 15 years with two of those years as Science Skills Specialist in elementary grades K-4. Vicki is a seasoned presenter and has presented staff development at the local, regional and national levels. Her presentation experience includes CAST, NSTA, Magnet Schools of Texas, Sally Ride, Thinking Maps, Space Center Houston, Mickelson Institute, TRC and more. She has a degree in Earth/Space Science from Sam Houston State University. Vicki feels that her service as a mentor/coach for new and experienced teachers throughout her career has been her greatest reward. She has continually maintained her skills and content through her participation in various workshops, conferences and classes throughout her career.

Che Rickman received her MFA in Sculpture from the University of Houston in 2005; and is an accomplished and recognized professional artist working in Houston, Texas. For the past 8 years Che has taught Sculpture & 3D Art, Documentary & Mocumentary Film-Making, Light Painting Photography and CASE Ambassadors, through CASE, Cooperative for After School Enrichment & Harris County Department of Education. Che is also co-founder/creator of Thin Line Film Fest in Denton, Texas; and is currently working on her second Documentary. She is also excited to have recently joined the team of Stop-Motion and Film Instructors with Aurora Picture Show.

Matthew Schlieff is an Assistant Professor of Scenic Design at Texas Tech University. He was previously the Production Manager for the Rice Theatre Program as well as Lecturer in Theatrical Design (Scenic & Lighting). Before Rice, Matt was an Assistant Professor of Communications and served as the Scenic, Lighting, and Sound Designer at Augusta State

University in Augusta, GA. He has also been an instructor at St. John's School, Mt. Pleasant High School, Klein High School, and the University of Houston. Matt received his BFA in Theatre from Southwestern University, and his MFA in Scenic and Lighting Design from the University of Houston. Outside of academia, Matt is a Company Member of Horsehead Theatre Co., Resident Designer for Generations A Theatre Co. and Classical Theatre Co., and has designed for Main Street Theatre, Houston Shakespeare Festival, City Dance Company, West Virginia Public Theatre, Virginia Musical Theatre, and Brave Dog Theatre. In 2012 Matt received the Houston Press Theatre Award for Best Lighting Design for *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*.

Dr. Linda Scott is dedicated to being of service to science educators and students. She has been active in the Texas Regional Collaborative for over a decade and continues to serve Texas science educators as the Co-director of the Rice Science Collaborative. Dr. Scott currently serves as the Executive Director of the Rice University School Science and Technology (SST) program. The SST program enriches teacher understanding of content and pedagogy while developing teacher leadership capacity. SST serves teachers of elementary science in the ConocoPhillips Rice Elementary Model Science Lab (REMSL), serves teachers of high school physics, chemistry, and biology through the Rice Excellence in Secondary Science (RESST) program, and offers a variety of summer programs for science students and teachers. Dr. Scott directed the early childhood, elementary and intermediate science programs and was a leader in elementary engineering, innovative thinking, and collaborative practices in Aldine ISD prior to joining the Rice SST Team.

Jennifer Clagett Sommers holds an MFA in Dance, Performance and Choreography from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. She has performed with Laura Dean Musicians and Dancers, Street Signs Center for Literature and Performance, and the Albany Berkshire Ballet, where she also served as Ballet Mistress. Her dance honors include a scholarship to Jacob's Pillow Choreography Workshop, a Durham Arts Council Emerging Artist Grant, and a Lake Region Arts Council grant in support of new work. From 2000-2005, she served as the Associate Director of Raleigh Dance Theatre (a Southeastern Regional Ballet Association Honor Company) and on the faculty of Meredith College. From 2005-2008, she served on the faculty of the University of Minnesota Morris and taught both dance and interdisciplinary courses. She relocated to Houston in 2008 and launched a dance program at KIPP Sharpstown College Prep. She joined the Houston Ballet Education Outreach department in 2010 and is currently Outreach Coordinator and Curriculum Specialist. She also teaches for Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy, and has served on the faculty of and choreographed for the University of Houston.

Liz Conces Spencer draws from abstracted human, natural and cityscape forms, speaking to the realization that all life is interconnected and mutually interdependent. She studied painting at the University of St. Thomas in the 1970's. Intrigued by the visual tangle of urban/suburban life, she began to visually interpret what would become a lifetime study of figures and patterned landscapes. This reflection has crossed media lines from traditional painting to printmaking, sculpture and glass. She has taught for St. Thomas High School and Incarnate Word Academy, City ArtWorks, Project Row Houses, the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft. She has conducted education programming for the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and developed art programs for underprivileged youth. She conducts residencies year-round for Young Audiences of Houston, and serves on the boards of City ArtWorks and Archway Gallery. Freelance design work for a startup company in the infant industry led to her internationally marketed line of infant soft goods in the 1980's. Until 1995, she was Art Director for Little Feet Industries, which manufactured licensed products for Gerber Childrenswear, Binky, Crayola and the World Wildlife Fund. Conces created, licensed and owns copyrights to over one hundred published designs. She has also illustrated several projects, including a text published by Oxford University Press. She currently shows in Houston with Archway Gallery and in The Woodlands, Texas, with Mossrock Studios. Liz Conces Spencer has completed commissions for the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Camp Aranzazu in Rockport, Texas, the City of Houston, Silver Eagle Distributors, Cool Globes, the Houston Arts Alliance, the Houston Area Women's Center, Talento Bilingue of Houston, the Morgan Welch Inflammatory Breast Cancer Center, and Habitat for Humanity. Current commissioned work includes a playground project executed with the children of Sylvan Rodriguez Elementary School in Houston.

Mary Sutton, Director of Education at the Alley Theatre, has been in theatre education for 21 years with a specialty of working in diverse communities, as well as public/private schools and colleges. She has performed and taught throughout the United States and Europe since she began her career in NYC. She has originated award-winning programs from the popular elementary tour "Oskar and the Big Bully Battle"; to the exemplary arts integration and core curriculum program, "Concepts at Play" in Silicon Valley; to the "Arts Integration Network" in California—a mentorship arts integration teacher training highlighted by the Partners-in-Education program at the Kennedy Center. She has designed arts curriculum from pre-K through college. Additionally she worked in the Rural Arts initiative in the Southeast for the NEA where she pioneered Applied Theatre Techniques from 1990-1998. Ms. Sutton is a graduate of NYU's Tisch School for the Arts in acting and The American Repertory Theatre's Institute for Advanced Theatre Studies at Harvard in directing.

Patrick Thornton is certified to teach in Mathematics Grades 8-12. This fall, he is teaching 10th Grade Geometry at South Houston High School in Pasadena ISD. Patrick has taught children of all ages in after school programs and the

federally funded educational support program Upward Bound for Fort Bend, Houston, and San Marcos school districts, where he was tasked to teach and tutor a variety of subjects, including Theater, English, Reading, Physical Education, and (of course) Math.

After graduating from the Honors Program at Texas State University in San Marcos with a degree in Exercise and Sports Science, he spent 5 years as a personal trainer in high profile locations such as 24 Hour Fitness and Life Time Fitness. He hopes to use his fitness experience (push-ups for wrong answers?) to teach students to keep pushing themselves further. Patrick has a love and appreciation for the arts. Though his background is mathematics/science, he has been an arts aficionado for a long time. He is a working actor, playwright and director. Patrick has found that incorporating the Arts into teaching difficult lessons has helped the children grasp more ambiguous concepts.

LuAnn Turley has worked as an educator, curriculum writer, and author for the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston since 1995. As part of the team that developed the award-winning Learning Through Art curriculum, she develops and leads instructional workshops for educators throughout Texas. She is co-author of two books: *A Wreath, A Tree, and Me* and *A View, A Clue, and You*. She is a former elementary classroom educator and has taught adult ESL courses at various universities.

Marcos Velasquez is a writer, poet and teacher working in the Houston metropolitan area. He attended the University of Houston and as been teaching in the Houston area for seven years. His favorite authors are Junot Diaz, Shakespeare, Edgar Allen Poe, Aldous Huxley, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Immortal Technique and Harlan Ellison.

Rita Whiteman is a former elementary classroom teacher with Clear Creek ISD. She was part of a team of teachers who wrote the Learning Through Art curriculum for the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Rita leads instructional workshops for educators who are implementing the curriculum in their classrooms. She is the co-author of two books *A Wreath, a Tree, and Me* and *A View, a Clue, and You*.