



# the PIPER

CMU'S NEWS SOURCE FOR FACULTY & STAFF 9/16 ISSUE

Carnegie Mellon University

## Forging a New Path Forward



Orientation Week set the stage for a new beginning at CMU, as freshmen got acquainted with campus and each other during Playfair (above) and speakers at Convocation encouraged students to be themselves and live with a purpose. Read the story on page three.

### We Need Your Input

In order to better provide you with relevant and timely Carnegie Mellon news, we would like to hear from you through a very brief online survey.

Please go to [bit.ly/CMUPiper](https://bit.ly/CMUPiper) and tell us what you think.

Thank you, and have a great year!

The Piper



## Hybrid Program Made the Perfect Match

■ Katelyn Howard

When Julie Sfanos and John Surma enrolled in the Tepper School's Part-Time Online Hybrid MBA Program three years ago, they hoped they'd be able to form bonds with their classmates despite the primarily online delivery mode.

And they did. Sfanos and Surma, who met during their class' first in-person Access Weekend on campus, were married on July 16 — two months after John graduated, and one month before Julie would.

"My expectation was that I wouldn't achieve that level of closeness with classmates simply because we were all located in different cities and doing much of class remotely, but I was wrong," Julie Surma explained. "There is so much interaction ... Everyone was eager to share knowledge and work together."

"Tepper also made an effort to make sure we didn't miss out on experiences that might typically be considered 'on-campus' activities," John Surma added.

The Part-Time Online Hybrid MBA through the Tepper School of Business provides working professionals with the

advantage of an education from a top-ranked program delivered through a flexible format that emphasizes rigorous curriculum, team-based projects, and exceptional leadership and career preparation. Students in the program

CONTINUED ON PAGE ELEVEN

# Blumstein Earns Lifetime Honor from Criminology Society

■ Bruce Gerson

Alfred Blumstein, the J. Erik Jons-son University Professor of Urban Systems and Operations Research, emeritus, at the Heinz College, is the 2016 recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Division of Developmental/Life-Course Criminology (DLC) of the American Society of Criminology.

The award recognizes an individual who has a record of sustained and outstanding contributions to scholarly knowledge on developmental and life-course criminology. Blumstein will receive the award at the DLC’s annual meeting, Nov. 17 in New Orleans.

“I am deeply honored to receive this award from such an important group,” Blumstein said. “I’ve dedicated the better part of my life to conducting research to deal with crime and to improve the criminal justice system, so this citation is very gratifying to me. It’s been especially satisfying because I’ve been an ‘immigrant’ to criminology, having come from a prior background in engineering and operations research.”

Blumstein is a renowned criminologist known for his analytical, data-driven research into violence, criminal careers and public policy. His work has investigated nearly every aspect of the criminal justice system, from modeling of criminal careers, sentencing and prison populations, to the impact of demographic trends and

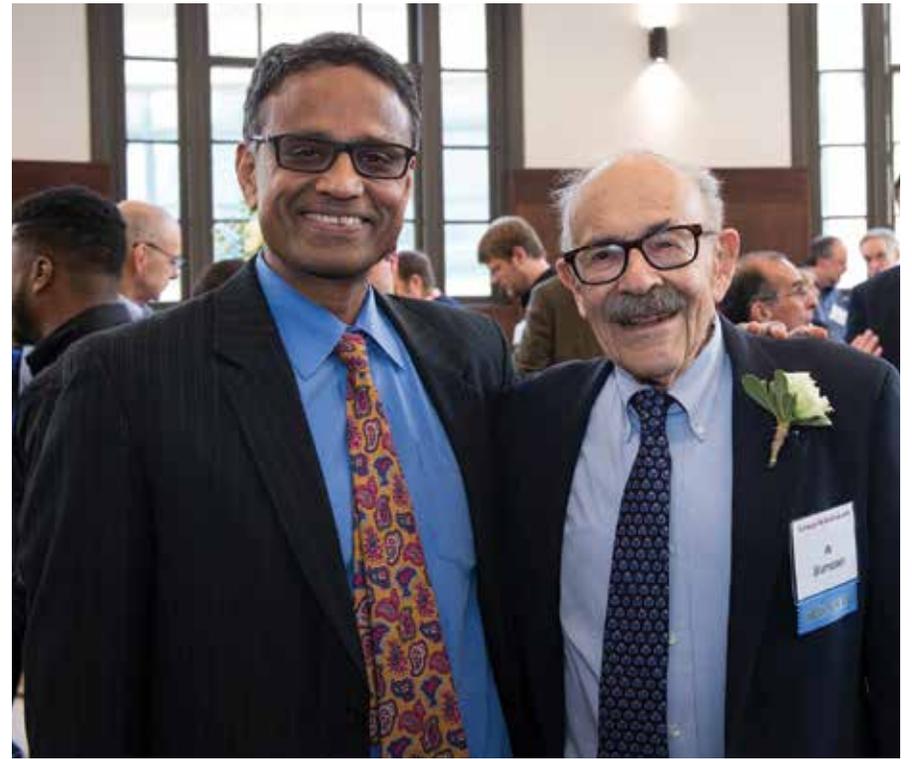
drug-enforcement policy analysis. His research and analytical approach has had great influence on criminal justice policies and practices in the United States.

“Professor Blumstein was selected because he is widely recognized as the scholar who has made the greatest advances in knowledge about criminal career research,” said David Farrington, chair of the DLC and chair of the Awards Committee.

Blumstein was nominated for the award by Lia Ahonen, a visiting research scholar in the Department of Psychiatry at UPMC and an assistant professor of criminology at Orebro University in Sweden. She cited his contributions as chair of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences’ panels on deterrence and incapacitation, and criminal careers, and his service as chair of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the state Commission on Sentencing, and as chair of the Department of Justice’s Science Advisory Board.

“Very few criminologists or researchers in any related discipline really, have accomplished so many things that have led to policy changes,” she wrote.

Prior to joining the university’s Heinz College as a founding faculty member in 1969, Blumstein served as director of the Office of Urban Research, and a member of the Research Council at the Institute for Defense Analysis. He was linked to criminology when he was asked to lead the Science and Technology Task Force for President Lyndon



Heinz College Dean Ramayya Krishnan (left) celebrates with Al Blumstein during a reception in Blumstein’s honor last April.

B. Johnson’s Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice.

A former dean of the Heinz College (1986-1993), Blumstein has earned numerous awards for his work, including being elected into the National Academy of Engineering, and winning the American Society of Criminology’s Sutherland Award for his contributions to research and the Wolfgang Award for Distinguished Achievement in Criminology.

In 2007, he received the Stockholm Prize in Criminology for significant contributions to criminological research or practices that combat crime and promote human rights. From 2011-2015, he served as chair of the Science Advisory Board for the Office of Justice Programs in the U.S. Department of Justice.

This past April, the Heinz College honored Blumstein’s career with a two-day symposium involving a number of his former students and colleagues.



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Obtain general information about Carnegie Mellon University by calling 412-268-2000.

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## The Art of Collaboration



Staff members from the Department of Mechanical Engineering practiced the art of collaboration by creating an 18-piece mural of the university’s iconic Hamerschlag Hall at their July retreat. Each panel is a wooden frame covered in canvas. The mural will soon hang in either Hamerschlag Hall or Scaife Hall.

# Freshman Convocation Sets Stage for New Beginning

■ Heidi Opdyke

Carnegie Mellon faculty, administrators and upperclassmen welcomed the Class of 2020 at Convocation, and speakers encouraged each one of the first-year students to be themselves and to live with a purpose.

Vaasavi Unnava, CMU's student body president, told students they have arrived at a playground of inspiration and were now part of the same institution that was home to Olympian Nada Arakji, the late Nobel Laureate John Nash and the late Kevlar inventor Stephanie Kwolek.

Unnava asked the Class of 2020 if they want to witness change or choose to create it.

"When you live intentionally you understand the depth and the capacity that those choices have to make the world a better place," she said. "I hope this year's incoming freshman class gets the opportunity to be advocates for the Pittsburgh community, as well as for each other," she said. "I'm really excited for them to have that privilege of a Carnegie Mellon education and also the possibilities of how they can change the world with it."

Scott Sandage, an associate professor of history, delivered the keynote address and discussed what he learned about failure and success in writing his book "Born Losers: A History of Failure in America."

"Being too ambitious can be as dangerous as not being ambitious enough. And as much as I fail or succeed, I'll never be a failure or a success. I'll be me," he said.

"Over the next four years every time you hear bagpipes on campus, no matter what song they may be playing, whether you hear them close up or far away, let them remind you to stop a moment and pull back from the 'savage strife and stresses of the moment,'" he said quoting words from CMU's Alma Mater. "You will succeed often, and you may fail sometimes.

"But you will never be a failure at Carnegie Mellon. You will be you," Sandage said.

Provost and Chief Academic Officer Farnam Jahanian advised students to venture outside their academic boundaries, focus on the present and treat themselves with care.

"The next four years will be some of the most transformative of your lives," he said.

President Subra Suresh introduced the classes and programs to their respective deans, at which point students offered raucous cheers, from the Mellon College of Science's spoof on "YMCA" to the School of Computer Science chanting in binary code.

"You will learn to adapt, experiment, innovate, create, explore, achieve, enjoy and influence your own destiny and that of fellow travelers," President Suresh said. "My best wishes to you as you begin your lifelong connection to Carnegie Mellon University and as you prepare now for journeys yet to come and yet unknown. I wish you all the best."



Orientation counselors stop for a selfie.



Fun and games break the ice among Class of 2020.



Orientation counselors show they are ready for action.



Students get familiar with local businesses during the Craig St. Crawl.

## The Class of 2020 at a Glance:\*

**Number of Applicants:** 21,189

**Number Admitted:** 4,601

**Number Enrolled:** 1,560

**Percentage of International Students Enrolled:** 17 percent

**Percentage of Underrepresented Minority Students Enrolled:** 14 percent

**Countries Represented:** 25, including the U.S. [top five countries excluding the U.S. are China (145), Korea (53), India (23), Canada (14) and Singapore (11)]

**American States Represented:** 44 and D.C., Guam and Puerto Rico [top five states are California (205), New Jersey (168), New York (160), Pennsylvania (158) and Florida (67)]

**American States Not Represented:** 6 (Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Rhode Island and Wyoming)

## Qatar Campus:\*

**Number Enrolled:** 100

**Countries Represented:** 23

**Average SAT Score:** 746-Math, 702-Critical Reading, 710-Writing

**Most Popular Men's Names:** Christopher and David

**Most Popular Women's Names:** Rachel and Sarah

\*Numbers are subject to change

# Alumnus Puts College Athletes' Mental Health Top of Mind

■ Bruce Gerson

At 45, Vince Sonson made his fortune in the software industry and walked away. Now, the Carnegie Mellon alumnus and former Tartan football player is paying it forward, focusing on the mental well-being of student-athletes everywhere.

Sonson is the founder of Balance Position, a startup that is developing a mobile app, mindfulness training programs and an educational outreach speaker series to help college athletes maintain a healthy balance.

"Our goal is our mission, which is to empower student-athletes to achieve and maintain optimal mental health so they can perform their best on the field, in the classroom and in life," Sonson said.

In an online article introducing the NCAA Sport Science Institute's mental health guide, "Mind, Body and Sport," NCAA Chief Medical Officer Dr. Brian Hainline says mental health and wellness are a top concern among the hundreds of college athletes he's spoken to since joining the NCAA in 2013.



Vince Sonson, who enjoyed a successful career in the software industry, is now focused on helping student-athletes.

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**"My ability to open up with folks at CMU really made it possible for me to excel. CMU was no walk in the park in terms of demands and stress, but it was my ability to manage my depression that made a difference."**

— Vince Sonson

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## A Personal Story

A star student-athlete at the prestigious Shady Side Academy near Pittsburgh, Sonson was recruited to play football and baseball by many schools before deciding to enroll at Yale University. During one practice in his freshman football season, Sonson was put in the lineup as a fullback and required to block an All-Ivy League linebacker during a goal-line drill. The play was run 10 times in a row.

"I remember feeling like my head was in a different place. It was about that time that I started to get into this depression," he recalled.

Sonson said he knew something was wrong, as did his teammates, coaches

and trainers, but he didn't want to admit it and those around him didn't know what to do.

"I internalized everything, and it quickly spiraled," he said.

Diagnosed with severe depression, Sonson left Yale in his sophomore year and returned home. Two years later he enrolled at CMU, where he played three years as a safety for the Tartans. He graduated in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in history and policy.

"My ability to open up with folks at CMU really made it possible for me to excel. CMU was no walk in the park in terms of demands and stress, but it was my ability to manage my depression that made a difference," he said.

## Seizing the Opportunity

Sonson is now working to make a difference for others.

"Twenty-three years later I'm still reading stories about student-athletes struggling with depression, manifested by drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and self-harm. It's bothered me for a long time. I often felt that if and when I get the opportunity to do something, I ought to," he said.

The timing seemed right last summer. Sonson felt ready for a career change.

"It was a confluence of things that put me in a position to say, 'it's time to really make a run at this thing,'" he recalled.

Sonson formed Balance Position in October 2015. He and his partner — childhood friend and Cornell University alumnus Michael Bolanis — are working with their team to develop a free mobile app that tracks behaviors, such as sleep

and diet, identifies behavioral trends, provides mindfulness training exercises, and connects users with family, friends and colleagues in their support network.

"We want to be able to identify symptoms early on and intercept them before they become big problems," Sonson said.

Balance Position is working with a focus group of about 40 student-athletes from NCAA Division I schools to design and test the app along with former University of Michigan football star Will Heining. They recently added two key team members: Kara Stroup, a two-time captain of the Temple University women's lacrosse team and prominent advocate for student-athlete mental health, and Kat Longshore, a mental performance coach who has worked with England's national teams in lacrosse and softball, and Temple's women's lacrosse squad.

"We're extremely fortunate to have such bright and passionate people in the huddle with us," Sonson said.

The feedback from Sonson's focus group has been positive and some CMU student-athletes are optimistic.

"This app could potentially provide a way for struggling student-athletes to seek help for their concerns without feeling judged or overwhelmed," said Marissa Dominick, a junior defender on the women's soccer team and a member of "The Plaidvocates," a health and wellness committee of CMU student-athletes who provide support to their peers on health-related topics.

"It's never easy to seek help for mental health concerns since there is



Sonson played three years as a safety for the Tartans.

often a negative stigma attached to these issues. Hopefully, this app will create a private avenue for student-athletes to be alerted of symptoms that could be caused by depression, concussion or other mental issues, and encourage them to seek professional help if needed,” said Dominick, a neuroscience major and pre-med student.

Dominick is no stranger to innovative sports technology. Over the past two summers she has worked with a startup in developing a “smart” mouth guard that would track blows to the head and identify early concussion symptoms.

“As a Plaidvocate, we have discussed that optimal performance on the field and in the classroom begins with a healthy lifestyle achieved through proper diet, sleep, relaxation techniques and social and mental health. If this app addresses those topics and offers tips for minimizing stress, especially at a rigorous university such as CMU, I think this app would be incredibly helpful for my peers, teammates, and even me,” Dominick said.

Jonathan Dyer, a senior defensive back on the Tartans’ football team and president of The Plaidvocates, said the app has great potential. He said he could

see using the app as a communications tool with teammates and other athletes.

“We’ve found that the best tools we have for preventing or helping with mental health issues in the athletic community are communication and education,” Dyer said.

Alex Pomerantz is a senior golfer and a Plaidvocate member. He said the app could be a valuable resource during an athlete’s season when student-athletes feel the most pressure.

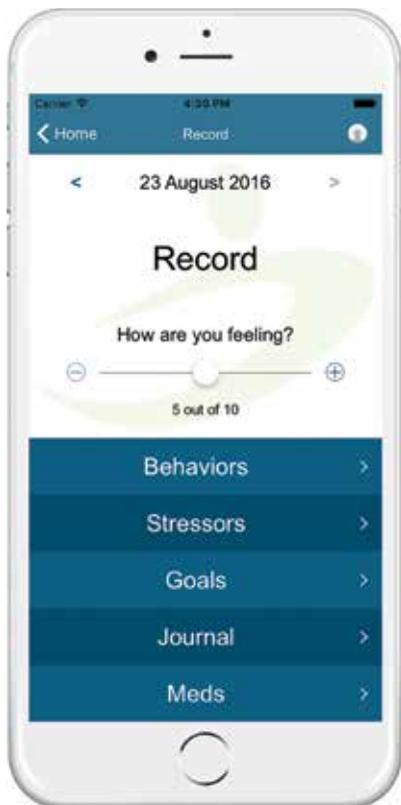
“When we are balancing team practices, traveling that affects class attendance, heavy class loads and extra-

curricular activities, it is easy to lose sight of our own well-being,” said Pomerantz, who is applying to medical schools.

Sonson hopes to have the app available by early fall. He credits CMU for helping him in his career and his latest pursuit.

“There’s so much energy around innovation and entrepreneurship that it’s as if there’s a responsibility among the students to innovate, build and create things that have value in the community. That

feeling permeates me. It certainly is a big reason why I made this decision to create Balance Position,” he said.



## In Case of Emergency

### Be Prepared, Stay Informed

The beginning of the fall semester is a good time to review safety procedures and plans regardless of how long you’ve been employed at Carnegie Mellon. The Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) at CMU is prepared for campus emergencies of all kinds, but you, too, must do your part to be prepared and stay informed.

### Register for CMU-Alert

CMU-Alert is Carnegie Mellon’s emergency notification service, which sends voice or text messages to your registered phone in the event of a campus emergency. Faculty and staff are encouraged to register for the service (login is required) if you have not already done so. (All students are preregistered for CMU-Alert.)

Visit the Environmental Health and Safety website to register. Your contact information will be treated confidentially. You will be contacted by the CMU-Alert service only if there is an incident/event that threatens public safety, or during tests of the system in the spring and fall semesters.

Questions or concerns about the service can be emailed to [cmu-alert@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:cmu-alert@andrew.cmu.edu).

### Download the CMU Alert App

The CMU Mobile Alert App is a free iPhone and Android mobile app for students, faculty, staff and parents. It was developed to provide:

- Emergency procedures and guidance for 21 different emergencies;
- Information regarding crimes and crime prevention;
- Links to important Carnegie Mellon websites;
- Interactive maps that provide information about locations of Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs); and
- Automatic dialing for University Police, Safety Escorts and 911.

### In Severe Weather

When tornado warnings and severe weather alerts are issued for lightning, high winds or hail, take action immediately:

- Move indoors and go to the lowest floor;
- Stay away from windows and doors; and
- Stay there until the warning/alert has been lifted.

For up-to-date warnings and alerts, tune in to local television and radio reports and go to the National Weather Service in Pittsburgh.

### What To Do ...

An emergency can happen anywhere at any time. Are you prepared? Visit the EHS website at [www.cmu.edu/ehs/emergency-response/index.html](http://www.cmu.edu/ehs/emergency-response/index.html) and review safety tips and advice for what to do in the following situations:

- Active Shooter (watch the self-protection video)
- Alcohol and Drug Overdose
- Assembly Area
- Bomb Threat
- Cardiac Arrest
- Civil Disturbance/Protest
- Criminal Activity
- Earthquake
- Evacuation of a Campus Building
- Fire or Explosion
- Flooding
- Hazardous Materials Incident
- Natural Gas Leak
- Power Outage
- Serious Injury
- Sexual Assault
- Shelter-In-Place
- Suicide Prevention
- Suspicious Packages
- Weather Emergencies

### Register for CMU-Alert today!

Help ensure the safety and well-being of the CMU community.  
University Police: 412-268-2323  
Ethics Hotline: 1-877-700-7050

## “Plaidvocating” for Health and Wellness

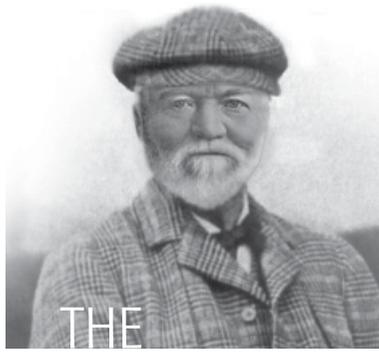
The Plaidvocates is a volunteer, peer-to-peer health and wellness committee that works to support the physical and mental well-being of Carnegie Mellon’s student-athletes.

Members mentor and provide support for their fellow student-athletes. They are educated and trained throughout the year by representatives from CMU’s University Health Services, Counseling and Psychological Services (CaPS) and Ph.D. candidates in psychology.

“This kind of support program within athletics is not common,” said Kurt Kumler, director of CaPS. “The SMART team is leading the industry with this program and I think it’s a great thing.”

“Plaidvocates” are trained to listen to their colleagues and to provide support and information on stress and time management, nutrition, alcohol, drug use and other health-related topics.

The organization, now in its second year, is part of Carnegie Mellon’s SMART (Sports Medicine Assessment of Risk Tendencies) Program, which provides student-athletes with the services they need to remain healthy, such as sports medicine and training, physical health services and counseling and psychological services.



# THE ANDY AWARDS

“My heart is in the work.”

## Celebrating Staff

Thirty-five Carnegie Mellon staff members and five teams have been nominated this year by their co-workers for an Andy Award, a special honor that recognizes superior performance and commitment to the university community.

Awards are given in five categories: Commitment to Excellence, Commitment to Students, Innovative and Creative Contributions, Spirit, and Teamwork and Collaboration.

The Andy Awards ceremony takes place at noon, Sept. 29, in McConomy Auditorium. A light reception in Rangos Hall will follow the ceremony. The campus community is invited to attend.

And the nominees are:

### Commitment to Excellence



**Anne Marie Bosnyak**  
Sponsored Projects  
Accounting and Cost  
Analysis



**Kelly Campbell**  
Human Resources



**Matt Coley**  
College of Engineering



**Anita Connelly**  
College of Engineering  
Research Administration  
and Compliance



**Christina Cowan**  
Electrical and  
Computer Engineering



**Matthew D'Emilio**  
Office of the General  
Counsel



**Beth Depalma**  
CMUWorks Service  
Center



**Cornella Ellis**  
University Copy  
Center



**Catharine Fichtner**  
School of Computer  
Science



**Janice French**  
Tepper School of  
Business



**Rebecca Gray**  
Engineering  
Research Accelerator



**Holly Hippensteel**  
Office of the Dean  
of Student Affairs



**Janice Metz**  
Entertainment Technology  
Center



**Mary Moore**  
Cyert Center for Early  
Education



**Mary Beth Shaw**  
Office of the General  
Counsel



**M. Shernell Smith**  
Office of the Dean of  
Student Affairs



**Mike Steidel**  
Undergraduate  
Admission and  
Student Aid

## Teamwork and Collaboration



**Qatar Bi-Weekly Payroll Team**

Human Resources, International Finance and Qatar Dean's Office:

Pictured above left are: front row, left to right: Sara Bailey and Rita Motor; back row, left to right: Carrie Nelson, Katie Price, Kelli Friend and Russell Yount; above are left to right: Lisa Ciletti, Richard Mundy and Jennifer Gray

Not pictured: David Burzese, Siva Vijaykumar Doddi, Karen Whistler Eck, Irina Fudrow, Kim Graziano, Timothy Helzlsouer, Christine Lacher, Michele Ley, Tami Long, Nimit Mehrotra, Amy Maegle, Jan Provenzano, Andrew Pujol, Robert Riddle, Walter Rosado, Linda Schmidt and Pequin Xia



**Network Convergence Team, Computing Services:**  
Josh Emerson, Steve Snodgrass, Matt Nickerson, Ronald Zack



**Engineering Research & Accelerator Team:** Lynn M. Banaszak and Charlotte Emig



**PCI Core Team, Computing Services and Treasurer's Office:**  
Judy Cvejkus, Amy Faber, Laura Raderman



**HUB Team, Enrollment Services:** Lynn Javor and Melissa Skasik

## Spirit



**Ashley Grice**  
Residential Education



**Heather Johnson**  
Machine Learning



**Amanda Perkins**  
Finance Training and  
Communications



**G. Ronald Ripper**  
Civil and Environmental  
Engineering



**Sari Smith**  
Silicon Valley  
Administration



**Patti Steranchak**  
Engineering and  
Public Policy

## Commitment to Students



**Katie Cassarly**  
Career and Professional  
Development Center



**Kevin Collins**  
Career and Professional  
Development Center



**Andrea Francioni Rooney**  
Civil and Environmental  
Engineering



**David Holcomb**  
School of Drama



**Suzie Laurich-McIntyre**  
Office of the Vice  
Provost for Education



**Tara Moe**  
Electrical and Computer  
Engineering



**Cindy Vicker**  
Chemical Engineering

## Innovative and Creative Contributions



**Bridget Decker**  
College of Engineering  
Dean's Office



**Daniel Giammatteo**  
College of Engineering  
Dean's Office



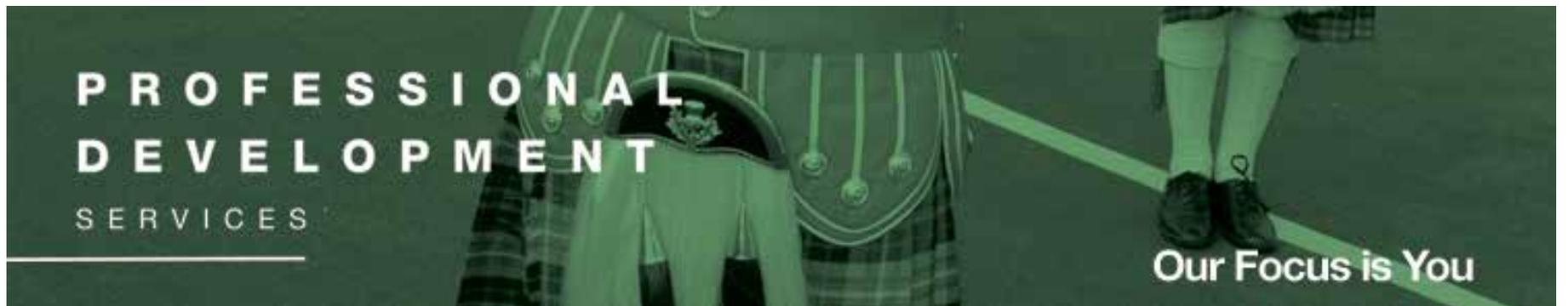
**Meighan Harding**  
Electrical and Computer  
Engineering



**Mireille Mobley**  
Civil and Environmental  
Engineering



**Pam Wigley**  
College of Fine Arts



This fall's program offered by Professional Development Services is responding to the needs and interests of CMU staff.

"The survey taught us a great deal," said Professional Development's Information Specialist Heather Wainer about the recent 2016 Interest Survey. "Over 95 percent of the 1,100 respondents want to participate in professional development activities. In addition, staff members want to have the opportunity to build upon their skills and experiences.

As a result, we have planned sessions to meet the different skill levels."

Wainer said this year's program includes sessions that will help support the university's Strategic Plan by providing staff with the skills they need to meet strategic objectives.

For information on the workshops and to register online, go to [www.cmu.edu/hr/professional-development/](http://www.cmu.edu/hr/professional-development/). Here are some of this month's offerings.

### Sept. 14

#### **S.A.F.E.: Self-Defense Awareness & Familiarization Exchange**

9-11 a.m., McKenna/Peter/Wright Room, Cohon Center

*Offered by the University Police Department, S.A.F.E. encompasses strategies, techniques, options and prevention that provide women with information*

*that may reduce their risk of exposure to violence and introduces them to the physical aspects of self-defense.*

#### **The Parameters of Decision-Making**

1:30-3:30 p.m., Connan Room, Cohon University Center

*Examine parameters of a decision, explore a process to generate options and implement a strategy to evaluate viable options.*

#### **SafeZone Training**

3-5 p.m., Class of 1987 Room, Cohon Center

*SafeZone is a network of allies (faculty, staff and students) committed to providing a safe and affirming environment for all at Carnegie Mellon, including those in the LGBTQ community.*

### Sept. 15

#### **Moving Forward: Establishing Shared Goals Within a Group**

9-11 a.m., Connan Room, Cohon Center

*In this workshop, you will examine your group's dynamics, identify shared goals of the group and develop a plan to work toward the group's shared goals.*

#### **Speaking with Confidence**

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., McKenna/Peter/Wright Room, Cohon Center

*This workshop will help you practice strategies to improve clarity when sharing information and will introduce strategies to help you be a more persuasive and engaging speaker.*

### Sept. 19

#### **Mental Health First-Aid Training**

8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Danforth Lounge, Cohon Center

*This 8-hour course uses role-playing and simulations to demonstrate how to offer initial help in a mental health crisis and connect persons to the appropriate professional, peer, social and self-help care.*

### Sept. 23

#### **Managing Your Emotions in the Workplace**

9-10 a.m., McKenna/Peter/Wright Room, Cohon Center

*In this workshop, we will share strategies for taking control of your emotions so you can do your job effectively, no matter what comes your way.*

### Sept. 27

#### **Success Starts with Me: Strategies for Success in Your First Year of Employment**

9-11 a.m., Connan Room, Cohon Center

*This session will provide participants with strategies to navigate a new role, department and institution.*

### Sept. 28

#### **Driving Collaboration**

1:30-3:30 p.m., McKenna/Peter/Wright Room, Cohon Center

*Explore strategies for working with others, identify individuals with whom you can collaborate, and develop a collaboration plan in order to leverage your working relationships to achieve your goals.*

Continued on page nine.

# Not Your Average Trip to School

## Incoming Freshman, Father Bond Over Cross-Country Bus Journey

■ Julianne Mattera

Many students hop a bus to school, but few can say they rode across the United States in one they helped convert into a home.

But Darian Cohen can.

In the months leading up to the start of his freshman year at Carnegie Mellon, Darian worked with his father, Graeme Cohen, to turn a school bus from Tennessee into a functional home, complete with composting toilet, refrigerator, kitchenette, bed and other amenities.

Then they took it on a drive from Los Angeles to Pittsburgh, where Darian, a Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences student and new middle linebacker on CMU's football team, dropped off his belongings and met up with teammates.

"Before this bus was even a reality, I knew that Carnegie Mellon was the place where I wanted to be," Darian said, adding that riding in the bus to college enhanced that experience. "Carnegie Mellon — you can't top this university."

Graeme said the bus started with a vision of "micro-sizing" his lifestyle.

"I really jumped at the chance to get a school bus from Tennessee," Graeme said. "I drove it from Tennessee to Los Angeles in December, tore it down, converted it, and the goal was to get it completed by the time I had to bring him to college."

Darian helped promote the bus on social media. Graeme is working to market the same kind of lifestyle and home to others through his business, School Bus Homes. The bus that they arrived in has already been sold.



Darian Cohen (right) and his father Graeme are giving new life to old school buses.

**"This is kind of a launching pad for School Bus Homes as a business to take decommissioned school buses that are essentially sitting and rotting in the earth to repurpose them and give them new life."**

— Graeme Cohen

"This is kind of a launching pad for School Bus Homes as a business to take decommissioned school buses that are essentially sitting and rotting in the earth

to repurpose them and give them new life," Graeme said. "It's a totally viable option because the engines in these buses and the chassis are very, very solid and sound."

For the father and son, the journey helped cement their bond. Darian said he learned some life lessons he will carry through his college years.

Darian said his father's motto, "never say can't," which Graeme has tattooed on his upper arm, is a mantra he's tried to live by.

"The one thing I can really take away from this is don't let anyone tell you what you can and cannot do," Darian said, in reference to naysayers they ran into during the trip. "If it's possible, you can do it."

Continued from page eight.

**Sept. 29**

### Focus Your Writing

9-11 a.m., McKenna/Peter/Wright Room, Cohon Center

Learn techniques to reduce miscommunication and help you feel more confident that your message will be read as intended. You will review strategies for writing and revising that will help your message be more clear and concise.

**Oct. 13**

### Assert Yourself

9-11 a.m., Danforth Lounge, Cohon Center

This active workshop will provide participants with key strategies for communicating assertively while demonstrating respect for others.

**Oct. 18**

### Thinking Collaboratively: Exploring the Six Thinking Hats Approach

9-11 a.m., Danforth Lounge, Cohon Center

Using techniques to increase open-mindedness and consideration of alternate ideas and viewpoints can enable you to more creatively approach problems. This session will introduce Edward de Bono's Six Thinking Hats approach to creative collaborative problem-solving.

**Oct. 20**

### Getting Free from Bias in Your Decision Making

9-11 a.m., Danforth Lounge, Cohon Center

Explore how biases impact your decision making process and consider how to adjust and compensate for them in your future decision making.

**SafeZone Training**

11 a.m.-1 p.m., Peter Room, Cohon Center

SafeZone is a network of allies (faculty, staff and students) committed to providing a safe and affirming environment for all at Carnegie Mellon, including those in the LGBTQ community. Membership in SafeZone is open to the entire campus community. To become a member of the network, you will be asked to participate in this two-hour training session, which is geared to help you become a better ally.

**Oct. 21**

### Mental Health First Aid Training

8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Connan Room, Cohon Center

This 8-hour course uses role-playing and simulations to demonstrate how to offer initial help in a mental health crisis and connect persons to the appropriate professional, peer, social, and self-help care. The program also teaches the common risk factors and warning signs of specific types of illnesses, like anxiety, depression, substance use, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia.

**Oct. 25**

### Let's Explore Your Culture and Intercultural Awareness

9-11 a.m., Connan Room, Cohon Center

In this introductory course, you will focus on understanding your culture by exploring your values, behaviors, assumptions and worldview. These insights will allow you to examine how your culture influences intercultural experiences in your workplace.

# Shakespeare, Austen and the Cult of Celebrity

■ Shilo Rea

In today's narcissistic, celebrity-obsessed world, it's hard to imagine we don't actually know what two of the most famous literary figures — William Shakespeare and Jane Austen — actually looked like.

"Will & Jane: Shakespeare, Austen and the Cult of Celebrity" gives us a good look. The exhibition at the Folger Shakespeare Library examines their literary afterlives and how milestone events and artifacts, like the shirt Colin Firth wore as Mr. Darcy in the 1995 BBC miniseries "Pride and Prejudice," have affected their legacies and popularity.

Curated by Carnegie Mellon's Kristina Straub and the University of Texas' Janine Barchas, "Will & Jane" reveals that, despite a two-century age difference, they experienced similar post-humous arcs. They also share a celebrity status beyond their literary expertise that was created through repetition and reproduction. The exhibition provides a glimpse of this by displaying more than 150 pieces, from the obscure pile of sticks from a chair Shakespeare may have once sat in to a copy of a ring once owned by Austen that the Jane Austen House Museum won't let leave England — ask Kelly Clarkson, who bought it, tried to bring it to the U.S. and had to sell it back.

"We were surprised by the tight parallels between Will and Jane at their respective 200-year markers. As a result, our show compares the first wave of

so-called Bardolatry in the 18th century with today's Cult of Jane," said Barchas, professor of English and Austen expert who teaches an "Austen in Austin" course at the University of Texas.

"Modern celebrity culture — with its merchandizing, souvenir trade and passion for relics — still looks very much like it did in the Georgian era. Celebrity pinups of David Garrick and Edmund Kean were the Justin Bieber posters of yesteryear," she said.

The Shakespeare-Austen combination is resonating for Folger visitors.

"Will & Jane" is, at its core, about love, but not just in and for the stories of Shakespeare and Austen. Remarkably, the exhibition also celebrates the love readers and audiences have for each other when bound by the passion of shared experience, longing and desire," said Racheline Maltese, a romance author.

For Straub, a professor of English in CMU's Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences, working on "Will & Jane" for nearly four years was a lot of fun.

"As Janine and I worked on the exhibition, it became clear to us that serious scholarship and fun are not mutually exclusive," Straub said. "We hope that 'Will & Jane' helps people think more critically about how we as a culture create meaning in our lives through everyday trivial objects like cookie cutters or rolling pins. But we also hope



Co-curators Kristina Straub (center) and Janine Barchas (right) swoon over the shirt Colin Firth wore in "Pride and Prejudice."

PHOTO COURTESY OF BEN LAUER AT THE FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY.

that people will embrace the playfulness of plastic action figures and bobbleheads that express and perpetuate celebrity."

So far, the reaction from visitors has been overwhelmingly positive.

Afton Lorraine Woodward, a writer at virtuosoblog.com, said, it "tells a fascinating story of pop culture and literature through the centuries."

Holly Dugan, associate professor of English at the George Washington University, agreed.

"As a teacher of Shakespeare, I'm thrilled to see an exhibition that provides

a compelling overview of how we've marketed these two literary 'greats.' And as a fan of Austen, I'm happy to indulge my love of her works. It's entertaining and educational," Dugan said.

In true celebrity cult-like fashion, "Will & Jane" has created a buzz. The New York Times and Washington Post have covered it. And, The New Yorker parodied the aforementioned Colin Firth/Mr. Darcy shirt's celebrity appearance in the U.S.

"Will & Jane" runs through Nov. 6.

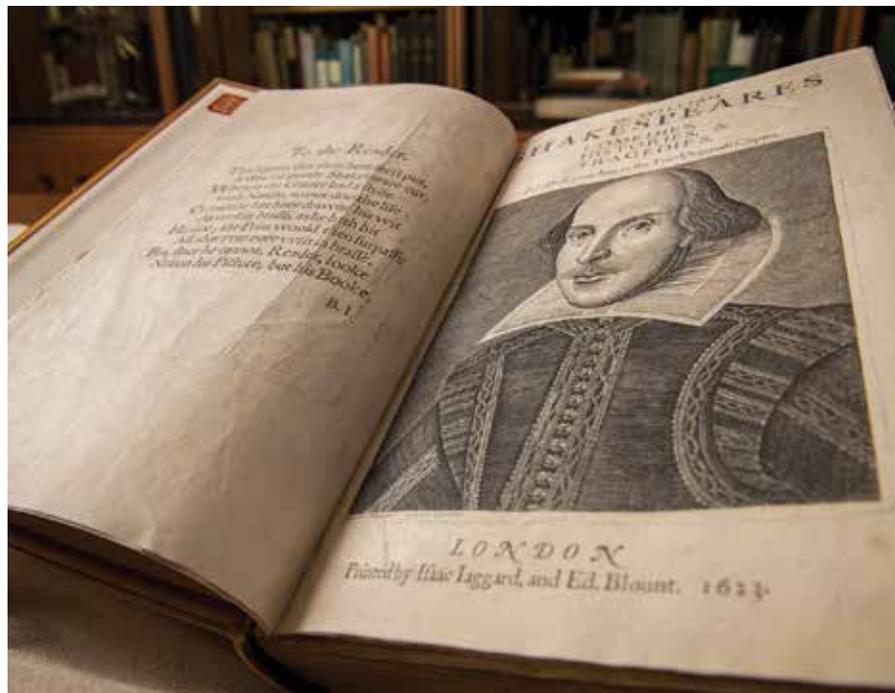
## Wherefore Art Thou, Folio?

■ Kelly Saavedra

William Shakespeare fans will have a rare opportunity this year to view the first collected edition of his plays, known as the First Folio.

The Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., has sent copies of

the First Folio on the road to a number of U.S. cities in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the playwright's death. But as a member of the Carnegie Mellon community, you only have to travel as far as Posner Center to see the First Folio. The university has its own



Shakespeare's First Folio is one of the most valuable books in the world.

**Posner Center presents "Carnegie Mellon's Shakespeare" through Nov. 30.**

**Hours are 1-7 p.m. Monday through Friday.**

copy, and it is on exhibit in the Posner Center through November.

At roughly 900 pages, the First Folio — one of the most valuable books in the world — was quite a large printing project. Seven years after Shakespeare's death, a five-man syndicate of publisher/printers and actors gathered 36 of his plays into a collection they titled "Mr. William Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories & Tragedies." About 750 copies were printed. The book sold so well that a second folio was printed in 1632 and a third in 1663. The fourth and final folio was published in 1685.

"If you lived in the 19th century and were middle class, you might not have had any other books in the house, but on your parlor table you had the Bible, and you had Shakespeare," said Mary Catharine Johnsen, the special collections librarian in the Hunt Library at Carnegie Mellon.

The First Folio came to the university from Charles J. Rosenbloom in 1974. Rosenbloom was a Pittsburgh connoisseur, collector and art patron. When he died, his rare book collection was divided among four beneficiaries including Yale University (his alma mater) and Carnegie Mellon, where he was a Life Trustee Emeritus. The deal was that if Yale had a book, then the book would go to Carnegie Mellon. Yale already had Shakespeare, so Rosenbloom's four folios came to Pittsburgh.

The Posner Center's exhibit, "Carnegie Mellon's Shakespeare," showcases the role that Shakespeare has played in Carnegie Mellon's history, as well as the role that Carnegie Mellon has played in the promotion of Shakespeare as a cultural icon, world-renowned poet and enduring source for theatrical performance.

# Hybrid Program Made a Perfect Match

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

have the same opportunities as full-time students and part-time on-campus students: the same coursework, the same professors, the same degree.

One of the prime benefits of the program is that it allows students to get to know their classmates through immersive, in-person Access Weekends, which occur in different cities every other month. This blend of online and on-site learning makes the program unique and sets it apart from standard online-only programs.

“When we started the program, John was living in Akron, Ohio, and I was living in Pittsburgh. We met at the very first Access Weekend in August 2013,” she said. “He asked me out to lunch on the Sunday of that first Access Weekend when class had concluded.”

The two studied together over the next few months, and went on their first date later that fall.

“It was the best decision I ever made!” she added.

One thing the pair had in common right off the bat was a motivation to expand upon their education, combined with dedication to their full-time jobs: Julie at Johnson & Johnson, John at Lockheed Martin. The hybrid program was the perfect fit that allowed them to combine work and school.

“The benefit to me is all in the flexibility. I really wanted a top-tier MBA, but other part-time programs were nowhere near as flexible,” John said. “I could do all my schoolwork at once if I knew I had a busy week coming, or

space it out if my job was light.”

“I travel quite a bit for my job at Johnson & Johnson, and my hours can be unpredictable. But I didn’t want that to restrict me from pursuing an MBA,” Julie added. “I was drawn to Tepper’s online program because I found it was the exact same curriculum as the part-time on-campus and full-time programs, but offered the flexibility that I could be anywhere in the country, and essentially the world, and complete my coursework and attend classes.”

The newlyweds were married this summer before jetting off to Italy for their honeymoon. From here, the pair is eager to see how their recent MBA degrees will help to advance their careers.



Julie and John Surma on their wedding day.

PHOTOS BY TEPPER SCHOOL GRADUATE EVA LIN

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**“Nowadays, there are a million and one places to get an MBA. As far as I know, there is only one legitimate, top-tier hybrid MBA that will challenge, engage and teach students the same way as if they were full time. And that’s Tepper.”**

—John Surma

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“At Johnson & Johnson, I’ve been able to apply much of my MBA learning to internal projects and different aspects of the business that I hadn’t been exposed to prior,” she said. “I pursued my MBA for career advancement ... I hope to advance within the organization and take on a challenging new role.”

And the new groom, who is continuing to work with Lockheed Martin as a manufacturing program manager, hopes that his education will aid him in starting his own venture.

“In all of my spare time I am exploring my entrepreneurial side, with my eyes on owning my own

business in the near future,” he said.

Their advice for those mulling over the prospect of an MBA degree: consider things such as your “fit” within a program, your financial situation and your future goals. The new bride advises potential students to think carefully when choosing between various delivery modes and select one that makes them feel challenged by the work, yet comfortable with the program and people.

“Nowadays, there are a million and one places to get an MBA. As far as I know, there is only one legitimate, top-tier hybrid MBA that will challenge, engage and teach students the same way as if they were full time,” John said. “And that’s Tepper.”



Mary Catharine Johnsen, the special collections librarian in CMU’s Hunt Library, browses Shakespeare’s First Folio.

“At first, many of our conservatory actors are reticent to commit to the complex and poetic texts in Shakespeare’s plays,” said Don Wadsworth, professor of voice and speech in the School of Drama. “But when they can access the personal meaning of the extravagant language, they seem to adore the idea of speaking the world’s greatest English-speaking dialogue, painting word-pictures with unique and startling imagery and developing vibrant, larger-than-life characters from the most well-known and well-revered classical playwrights ever known.”

The exhibit also features a collection of prints from the Boydell Shakespeare Gallery, artifacts of Shakespearean performances from the School of Drama’s archives (1914-1970), and photographs and costumes on loan from the School of Drama from its recent productions of “Macbeth,” “King Lear,” “As You Like It,” “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” and “Richard III.”

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Posner Center will host a series of social and educational events to celebrate Shakespeare and his works.

On Nov. 4 at the Posner Center, the Department of English will host “Teaching Shakespeare at Carnegie Mellon,” a conversation between Professor Michael Witmore, former CMU faculty member who is director of the Folger Shakespeare Library, and Professor Peggy Knapp of the English Department. These scholars will reflect on their experiences teaching Shakespeare at Carnegie Mellon. They’ll discuss how students reacted to the privilege of seeing and touching a First Folio, what impact the School of Drama has on students of Shakespeare, and how Carnegie Mellon has shaped the ways in which scholars think about Shakespeare. The dialogue will include a Q&A session.

On Nov. 5, there will be a calligraphy workshop on Shakespeare’s handwriting style, called “secretary hand,” by renowned Shakespearean handwriting expert Myrna Rosen of the School of Design.

On Nov. 13, Wadsworth will be directing his students in a performance of “The Seven Ages of Man” at the School of Drama. Location and time to be announced.

# New Drama Season Proves Laughter Is Best Medicine



■ Erin Keane Scott

The School of Drama kicks off its 2016-2017 season with a mixture of old and new plays that reflect on gender politics and social systems through several distinct lenses.

“This year’s productions will use humor as a primary device to shed light on the human condition,” said Peter Cooke, head of the School of Drama. “From Irish politics to a feminist 17th century classic, these plays prove the adage that ‘laughter is the best medicine.’”

“The Playboy of the Western World” by Irish playwright laureate John Millington Synge will be the first production of the season, running from Oct. 6-15 in the Philip Chosky Theater. The play is notorious for causing riots after it opened in 1907 because it revealed a much less idyllic Ireland than Dubliners wanted to see.

“We can always use a beautiful romance,” said director Don Wadsworth, “but at its heart this play explores the idea that we may not really know the true nature of those we love. There is a universal mystery to the show.”

Theatergoers will delve into the complicated territory of gender and sexuality with an adaptation of the 2015 book, “I’m Very Into You: Correspondence 1995-1996” by Kathy Acker and Mackenzie Wark. Director and adaptor Sara Lyons seeks to explore how intimacy and relationships are redefined online — underscored by these writers’ radicalism, lust and desire to be together. “I’m Very

Into You” will run from Nov. 9-11 in the Helen Wayne Rauh Studio Theater.

The exploration of gender politics continues with “The Rover” by Aphra Behn, adapted by John Barton. The first known female playwright penned this 17th century restoration comedy and guest director David Bond of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama has chosen to put her point of view center stage.

“‘The Rover’ is not typical of plays of this period,” Bond said. “The characters are not recognizable from other plays of the time — they are not the familiar parade of fops, cuckolds, naive country maidens and predatory men. The politics are complex.”

This spirit of bringing a period piece into the contemporary zeitgeist has been pervasive in the creative team’s discussions.

“It’s been liberating. The designers are very much aware of the gender politics and how bold we might be with set and costume, sound and light,” Bond said. “We all think we can go for the big picture — and there IS a big picture — and still preserve the complex psychology and social relationships.”

“The Rover” will run from Nov. 17-19 and Nov. 29–Dec. 3 in the Philip Chosky Theater.

The fall season wraps up with magical realist playwright Noah Haidle’s “Mr. Marmalade,” which runs Nov. 30–Dec. 3 in the Rauh Studio Theater.

The play is about a 4-year-old girl named Lucy and her imaginary friend, Mr. Marmalade. Mr. Marmalade represents Lucy’s very dismal ideas about adulthood in a darkly comic fashion.

“This play comes at a time when we are questioning the social systems at the bedrock of our country’s founding and prosperity,” said director Terrence I. Mosley.

“There are a lot of people seeking change but there are more people who don’t understand the systems they are a part of because they are too young. Mr. Marmalade is fecund ground for the exploration of these social systems.”

In addition to these plays, the School of Drama will host the New Works Series from Oct. 26-29, and the Playground Festival from Dec. 8-10. The New Works Series is a presentation of three new plays, each by a graduate student playwright in their final year at CMU.

The Playground Festival is an independent, student-run event featuring work from traditional plays to installation pieces to performance art. Playground is a time when students test the limits of their creativity, often to fantastic result.

Tickets can be purchased online at [drama.cmu.edu/box-office](http://drama.cmu.edu/box-office) or by calling the box office at 412-268-2407. Discounted tickets are available for faculty and staff.

## Your TV Guide to CMU’s Alumni Network

Want to see the School of Drama in the comfort of your own living room? Set your DVR — this season’s TV lineup is full of alumni performances.

- Donna Lynn Champlin (1993): Crazy Ex-Girlfriend (The CW)
- Gaius Charles (2005): Taken (NBC)
- Casey Cott (2016): Riverdale (CW)
- Corey Cott (2012): Z: The Beginning of Everything (Amazon)
- James Cromwell (1964): The Young Pope (HBO)
- Ted Danson (1972): The Good Place (NBC)
- Jordan Dean (2007): Z: The Beginning of Everything (Amazon)
- Adam Hagenbuch (2013): Switched at Birth (Freeform)
- Ian Harding (2009): Pretty Little Liars (Freeform)
- Megan Hilty (2004): The First Wives Club (TV Land), Braintead (CBS)
- Cherry Jones (1978): Mercy Street (PBS)
- Rachel Keller (2014): Legion (FX)
- Laurie Klatscher (1979): Outsiders (WGN America)
- Randy Kovitz (1977): Z: The Beginning of Everything (Amazon)
- Judith Light (1970): Transparent (Amazon)
- Gabriel Macht (1994): Suits (USA)
- Patina Miller (2006): Madam Secretary (CBS), Mercy Street (PBS)
- Katy Mixon (2003): American Housewife (ABC)
- Billy Porter (1991): The Get Down (Netflix)
- Kali Rocha (1993): Liv and Maddie (Disney)
- Pablo Schrieber (2000): American Gods (Starz)
- McKenna Sloane (2017): Outsiders (WGN America)
- Ming-Na Wen (1986): Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D (ABC)
- Krista Marie Yu (2011): Dr. Ken (ABC)

*All are graduates of the College of Fine Arts. Graduation years are in parentheses.*