

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN—LA CROSSE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND COMMUNICATION PRESENTS



creative
imperatives



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27 thru WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

With Festival Guests:

KIRSTIN
CRONN-MILLS

CECE
MCDONALD

KAREN
OLIVO

BRANDON
RIDENOUR

WORKSHOPS
PERFORMANCES
EXHIBITS
PRESENTATIONS
OPEN STUDIOS

Welcome



from the Festival Director, Joseph Anderson

Welcome to Creative Imperatives 2017! This year's theme is *Identity Matters*, which explores both meanings of that phrase—how identity matters to us individually and collectively, and how identity is defined by us and by those around us. Over the course of the festival, we are planning sessions that address ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, professional identity and career, sports fandom as part of identity, ability, Native American culture, how music and theatrical techniques change our perception of identity, and identity as captured in works of art. The definition is intentionally broad so that there is room for all of the important conversations that take place on this subject. Creative Imperatives provides a lens to see how the creative arts give rise to new definitions of identity and also how they offer a new way into existing conversations. We are thrilled to welcome back many participants in Art, Communication Studies, Music, and Theatre Arts, and to welcome participants this year from Ethnic & Racial Studies; Economics; Psychology; English; and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

We are also delighted to welcome musician Brandon Ridenour, actress Karen Olivo, author Kirstin Cronn-Mills, and activist Cece McDonald as the 2017 Festival Guests.

Please join us on February 27, 28, and March 1 for an exciting series of presentations, performances, workshops, lectures, and discussions with faculty, staff and students.

THANK YOU!

The Creative Imperatives Steering Committee extends a special thank you to the faculty, staff, and students of the departments of Art, Communication Studies, Music, and Theatre Arts.

We would also like to especially thank the following Individuals:

Dr. Julia Johnson
Robert Hetzel
Dr. Betsy Morgan
Misha Bolstad
Tara Reiter-Marolf
Nicole Novak
Victoria Rahn

Sharon Shugrue
Krista Shulka
Michael Slevin
Stacey Strittmater
Jacob Speer
Terry Wirkus

Welcome

from the Dean of the College of Liberal Studies, Dr. Julia Johnson

Welcome to Creative Imperatives 2017! This arts and communication festival exemplifies the generative nature of creativity and collaboration. Our students, staff, faculty, and guests provide compelling examples of the ways creative work can capture the human experience, advance knowledge in and of the world, and bring people into community with one another.

The theme of this year's festival—*Identity Matters*—provides a context for exploring the interconnected relationship between art, creativity, and a sense of who we are as individuals and collectives. I encourage you to explore the interrelated worlds we present to you in this year's festival so that we might all learn something new and marvel at the possibilities of the imperatives that drive our creative work.



Creative Imperatives Personnel

Festival Director

Joe Anderson, Theatre Arts

Festival Coordinator

Laurie Kinckman, Theatre Arts

Steering Committee

Joe Anderson, Theatre Arts

Jonathan Borja, Music

Kathleen Hawkes, Art

Dena Huisman, Communication Studies

Laurie Kinckman, Theatre Arts

Marc Manke, Murphy Library

Student Coordinators

Kendra Andreska

Sofia Kozidis

Carley Ney

John Peckham

Makenzie Wells

Elizabeth West

2017 Festival

Graphic Design

Makenzie Ericson and Cassie Laabs
with the students of ART 408:

Advanced Graphic Design

Original Creative

Imperatives Logo Design

Susan Schuyler

*For more information about the Creative Imperatives festival,
event information and updates, guest bios, lesson ideas, videos, and more:*

Visit the Creative Imperatives website at:

 www.uwlax.edu/creative-imperatives

Follow us on Instagram:

 www.instagram.com/uwl_creative_imperatives

Follow us on Facebook:

 www.facebook.com/UWLCreativeImperatives

Find us across social media with:

 [#UWLCreativeImperatives](https://twitter.com/UWLCreativeImperatives)

Creative Imperatives events are free and open to the public. The Creative Imperatives festival is possible through the support of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse College of Liberal Studies.



To request disability accommodations, please contact the College of Liberal Studies Dean's Office at:

- 608.785.8113
- 235 Morris Hall
- CLSDeansOffice@uwlax.edu

The Creative Imperatives Steering Committee is especially grateful to our colleagues from across campus for the time and expertise they contributed to the planning and execution of this year's festival as our Advisory Board.

Ariel Beaujot, History

Richard Breaux, Ethnic and Racial Studies

Matt Cashion, English

Mahruq Khan, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Ryan McKelley, Psychology

Bill Stobb, English

Ongoing Events

All Students Juried Show

Exhibition

UWL Art Gallery, Center for the Arts

UWL students working on any major are invited to submit art for an exhibition that is juried by off-campus art specialists.

The art in this year's exhibition was selected from many submissions by Heather Delisle, Associate Lecturer of Art at the University of Wisconsin River Falls and Jon Swanson, Curator at the Minnesota Marine Art Museum, Winona.

Student Research & Creative Work Display

Exhibition

Main Lobby, Center for the Arts

Throughout the festival, posters, art, and other work created by students in the School of Arts & Communication will be on display in the lobby of the Center for the Arts. The work includes both culminating class projects and undergraduate research.

Identity Matters Gallery

Exhibition

Third Floor Gallery, Center for the Arts

Enjoy this special exhibit showcasing the representation of identity through art, including the work of Advanced Graphic Design students as well as the art projects from the Educational Studies course "Choice in Advocacy Discourse."

We would like to recognize that the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse occupies the land of the Ho Chunk people.

Please take a moment to celebrate and honor this ancestral Ho Chunk land, and the sacred lands of all indigenous peoples.

Monday, February 27

8:50-11:20 am

Watch Them Work: ART

Demonstration

The Watch Them Work series is designed to showcase several of the studios in the Department of Art. The format encourages audiences to visit multiple studios during this time to learn more about each creative process and how it shapes an artist's identity. Participants are encouraged to get involved and make something of their own!

Printmaking

Room 334, Center for the Arts
Joel Elgin

You are invited to join the UWL printmakers, who, through the magical, mystifying acts of printmaking will assist you in unmasking your true identity. Please bring a shirt and have it freshly printed with a UWL "Printfool" original artwork that will reveal your true character.

Blacksmithing & Metalsmithing

Rooms 20 & 23, Center for the Arts
Brad Nichols

Art majors will demonstrate both non-ferrous metalworking skills and traditional blacksmithing techniques. Students will be available to answer technical questions, discuss creative influences, and guide visitors through the two studios.

Ceramics

Room 25, Center for the Arts
Karen Terpstra

Attend a demonstration of ceramic techniques and a tour of the studio. There will also be opportunities to work with clay and to see examples of ceramic work from around the world.

Watch Them Work: Continued

**Art History: 8 Swimming Lessons, or
"This Is Not an Art History Lecture!"**

Room 120, Center for the Arts
Deborah Eve Lombard

A discussion of Marcel Duchamp and his belief that "What art is, in reality, is this missing link, not the links which exist. It's not what you see that is art; art is the gap." This 30-minute session will be offered three times: 8:50 am, 9:50 am, and 10:50 am.

9:55-11:30 a m

From Performance on Paper to Performance Onstage

Presentation & Discussion

Frederick Theatre, Morris Hall
Beth Cherne and Teri Halford-Talpe

"How do playwrights create characters, complete with individual identities? What happens when 'characters' are based on real people from the past? How can the playwright/theatre company ethically and responsibly fill in the inevitable blanks in the stories of real, historical figures?" This session explores those issues through observation of a studio class in theatre, "Devising: Theatre From Scratch," in which students will create theatrical scenes based on personal letters between two La Crosse sisters, Henrietta and Katharine Martindale, and other ephemera found in the Murphy Library Area Research Center. Discussion of the session's central questions will follow the presentation.

9:55-10:50 a m

Music, Race and Gender -

Changing Professional Stereotypes in Music

Discussion

Hall of Nations, Centennial Hall
Jonathan Borja, Tammy Fisher, and Karyn Quinn

For many centuries, the classical music field was an "old boys club." While there are acclaimed women and non-European musicians in music history, this century has witnessed the most progress in breaking down some of these stereotypes. Dr. Borja, Dr. Fisher, and Ms. Quinn will host a panel discussion to share their experiences, offering perspective on the changes in these barriers as well as the stereotypes still in place within the music world.

9:55-10:50 a m

**More Than a Label: Preserving the Sounds & Songs
of the Greater Syrian Diaspora in WI 1896-1961**

Presentation

Room 333, Center for the Arts
Richard Breaux

This session looks at the central role of vintage music in shaping Syrian-Lebanese American's sense of identity, self-determination, and connection to home and New York's Mother Colony from 1891-1961. It explores the cultural and social history of Syrian-Lebanese immigrants and their children to Wisconsin with special focus on Syrian-Lebanese communities in La Crosse and Janesville, Wisconsin, through the 78 rpm record collections of two families: Siad and Shaheenie Addis and Joe and George Melan. From 1901 to 1961, the most common form of recorded sound and music appeared on 10" or 12" 78 rpm phonograph discs.

11:00-11:55 a m

Sports Fandom, Rivalry and Identity

Presentation

Room 1404, Centennial Hall
Greg Ormes and Kate Lavelle

Intense sports fandom offers a window into how individuals adopt largely arbitrary social identities that can have a profound impact on their behavior. Examples abound of sports fans behaving in otherwise unconventional ways as a demonstration of their identity as a fan of a particular team. This can range from humorous and innocuous examples such as fans celebrating shirtless in sub-freezing temperatures all the way to the profound and tragic examples of fans behaving violently toward fans of opposing/rival teams. With this session, we will use a series of salient examples to inform a dialogue about sports fandom and team rivalries that will enlighten us about the source of fandom identity and its sometimes profound ramifications.

12:00-1:00 p m

Music Theatre Showcase

Performance

Annett Recital Hall, Center for the Arts
Kathryn Skemp Moran

Who We Are, a musical revue featuring songs of identity and self discovery. Singers from the musical theater vocal studio of Kathryn Skemp Moran perform songs that take on questions of who we are and why.

12:00-1:00 p m

**The Over-Consumption of Native American Imagery
and the Ongoing Results**

Presentation

Hall of Nations, Centennial Hall
Daniel Green

An extensive collection of slides of contemporary Native American images and discussion of the patterns to be found in the collection, which have included primitivism, savagery, sex objectification, buffoons, anachronisms, and stereotypes. Dan Green's research explores the misinformation, lies, stereotypes and myths about Native Americans which have resulted in an image, held by both Native and non-Native, that is archaic at best and psychologically harmful at worst.

1:10-2:05 p m

**Conversations About Native American Identity:
We Are Still Here**

Discussion

Hall of Nations, Centennial Hall
Native American Student Organization with Tracy Littlejohn

Members of the Native American Student Association (NASA), featuring Tracy Littlejohn, will screen a short film and lead a discussion about past and current Native American imagery. Join NASA to discuss why it is so imperative to move Native American images from the past to the present.

1:10-2:05 pm

Disability, Access, and Identity on a College Campus

Discussion

Room 1403, Centennial Hall

Students Advocating Potential Ability

with Festival Guest Steve Anderson

Members of the organization of Students Advocating Potential Ability will lead a discussion about awareness and disability issues in a university setting. Guest Steve Anderson is the Director of Disability Services at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

1:10-3:40 pm

Watch Them Work: ART

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Photography and the Camera-less Image

Room 26, WING Technology Center

Linda Levinson

Think you need a camera or at least your phone to take a photo? Come discover the world of Photograms, a photography technique that requires only light to capture an image. Participants will learn the tips and tricks, and leave with a creation or two of their own.

2:15-3:10 pm

Social Support for First Generation Students at UWL

Presentation

Room 1404, Centennial Hall

Authrene Ashton, Jasmin Barnhill, Sonia Garcia,
and Marquel Thelen

In this panel, students enrolled in CST 430: Advanced Topics in Interpersonal Communication will display their work, discuss the importance of understanding first-generation student identity on campus, and answer questions about this population of students. These participants are first-generation college students themselves, and this identity has played a role in their time as students here.

2:15-3:10 pm

Makeup: Changing Your Identity to Suit the Scene

Demonstration

Makeup Room (Room SB 11), Center for the Arts

Joe Anderson

Actors have used stage makeup for generations to alter their appearance and create a new identity on stage. Although the actor's true self is never completely hidden, it is the point of much stage makeup design to create an identity appropriate to any given production. Come watch actors change their physical identity and get a peek at some "behind the scenes" work and techniques. How do you tear flesh for example, become an animal, become an alien...

2:15-3:45 pm

Burial Practices and Identity

Presentation

Room 1400, Centennial Hall

Erica Srinivasan and Ellen Rozek

How do burial practices inform our cultural and personal identities (including attitudes and beliefs) around death? Do they help us to embrace death as a part of life or avoid it? How do burial practices in an institutional setting and a home setting differ in the way they inform how we grieve and our identity around loss? These questions will be explored after viewing the film *A Family Undertaking* which takes a look at the cultural movement of home funerals and how that influences our cultural and individual identities around death and grief. Our overarching cultural identity towards death and our personal identity towards death inform the way we grieve and the way we identify our place in the greater world.

3:00-3:55 pm

Ridiculously Small Pockets, or The Challenges Women Face in a Stereotypically Male Work Environment

Discussion

Hall of Nations, Centennial Hall

Megan Morey, Nabamita Dutta, and Adrienne Loh

Join us for a panel discussion on perceived and real identities of women working in male-dominated careers, exploring how and why society as a whole does not have a place for women who choose to do these jobs while still embracing other female attributes.

4:00-5:30 pm

Are Male and Female Faculty Perceived Differently as Teachers?

Discussion

Room 1400, Centennial Hall

Nabamita Dutta, Grace Deason, TJ Brooks, Terry Lilley

A discussion exploring the perceived differences between male and female faculty addressing the following questions: (1) To what extent are student perceptions influenced by cultural and gender norms? (2) Do students address male and female faculty differently? (3) Why do SEI scores differ based on gender? (4) Do students perceive faculty differently as a result of their department/college?

Monday, February 27 - Continued

4:00-5:30 pm

Identity After Memory Loss

Presentation

Room 1404, Centennial Hall

Amber Jannusch, Erica Srinivasan, and Ellen Rozek

This panel will feature researchers and people with first-hand experience dealing with loved ones whose identities change (or do they?) with the loss of language and memory due to dementia. How do we communicate our identities when we lose our ability to speak and remember? What is our identity as a caretaker and family member of a person who no longer remembers us? This panel will be based on the panelists' research and personal stories.

5:00-6:30 pm

Open House & Presentation of Student Work

Lobby, Art Gallery, and Room 116, Center for the Arts

Students from Art, Communication Studies, Music, and Theatre Arts will answer questions and share the inspirations behind the work that has been on display throughout the festival. The presentation will also include additional student music presentations.

Tuesday, February 28

8:50-9:45 am

Choice in Advocacy Discourse: Art Project I

Discussion

3rd Floor Art Gallery, Center for the Arts

J. Scott Baker

Undergraduate teacher education students in EDS 206, Multicultural Education, are asked to address lived experiences of race, gender, economic status, sexual orientation, religion, and citizenship to prepare for their future roles as teachers in PK-12 classrooms. Through the Choice in Advocacy Discourse (ChAD) project, students explore social justice and diversity through individual assignments, projects, and presentations to enhance their future PK12 students' learning. The goal of this project is to better understand the role of social justice in teacher preparation. The participating students will discuss their work and answer questions.

9:55-10:50 am

Career Goals and Music

Artist Talk

Hall of Nations, Centennial Hall

Jonathan Borja and Festival Guest Brandon Ridenour

A conversation between Jonathan Borja and Festival Guest Brandon Ridenour about what it means to be a musician in the 21st century and what a musician needs to do to find his or her own voice in a field that is already too populated.



7:30 pm

Festival Guest: Karen Olivo

Artist Talk & Discussion

Toland Theatre, Center for the Arts

A versatile actress of stage and screen, Karen Olivo can currently be seen in Chicago as Angelica Schuyler in Lin-Manuel Miranda's smash hit *Hamilton*. Olivo will share details of her journey from college musical theatre student to a leading role in *In the Heights* and a Tony-Award-winning performance as Anita in the 2009 Broadway revival of *West Side Story* to a move from New York to Madison, Wisconsin where she traded the unflinching glare of Broadway life for a more balanced career teaching, writing, performing, and building a family. She explores the question of what defines your identity as a performer, and how stardom and stability can coexist.

9:55-11:55 am

Identities in Transition

Workshop

Room 333, Center for the Arts

Dawn Norris

Using Professor Norris's own research on job loss, identity and mental health as an illustrative case, the first part of this session will explore basic sociological perspectives on identity, identity threats, and successful identity-based strategies that promote mental health. The second part of the session is a guided hands-on workshop where participants can use these concepts to explore their own identity transitions, with a focus on creating the most positive transitional identity experience possible.

11:00-11:55 am

It's Me Mohannad - A Professor's Foray into Making an Episodic Web Series

Presentation

Room 102, Wing Technology Center

Heidi Morrison

A popular trend in documentary filmmaking right now is the production of episodic web series. These are scripted or non-scripted videos periodically released on the internet. Morrison will screen a short "webisode" from her project, which deals with the matter of transgender identities in a non-Western context. She will discuss both the content of the video and the process of making the series while on a Fulbright research fellowship in Palestine. The session will also include time for questions and comments from the audience.

11:00 am-12:20 pm

Changing Character through Improvisation

Workshop

Frederick Theatre, Morris Hall
Mary Leonard

Participants will observe a variety of exercises using improvised scenarios. Improvisation by its very nature exercises the act of discovering new identities to change character, personalities and perceptions.

12:00-1:00 pm

Festival Guest: Kirstin Cronn-Mills

Reading and Discussion

Hall of Nations, Centennial Hall

Festival Guest Kirstin Cronn-Mills will read from her award-winning young adult book *Beautiful Music for Ugly Children*. "Seventeen-year-old Gabe knows he's a boy—he's known that for a long time. And while his new job as a DJ for a local radio station allows him to be himself as he is, at home his parents struggle to come to terms with losing their daughter Elizabeth. It's not long before the issue of Gabe's identity comes to a head as he faces the challenges of the average American teenager—falling in love, hating your parents, and embracing self-acceptance—as well as the painstaking struggles of coming out as trans in a suburban high school environment." (Lambda Literary Review)



1:10-2:05 pm

The Opportunities and Limits of Allyship

Discussion

Hall of Nations, Centennial Hall
AJ Clauss, Terry Lilley, Will Van Rosenbeek, and Festival Guest Kirstin Cronn-Mills

A conversation about what it means to be an ally and about people who are in marginalized positions who deal with allies. When does an ally "go too far" and co-opt the rights and identities of those in marginalized identity groups?

1:10-2:05 pm

Insects vs. Humans:

The Boundaries of Creativity and Industry

Presentation

Room 333, Center for the Arts
Barrett Klein and Robin Richardson

Picture an engaging discussion and mini-presentation that draws into question the exclusivity of human identity in the realm of creativity. How are we different in this respect to... the "lowly" insect? If human identity depends on our ability to think and behave creatively, is it appropriate for us to draw a line (quantitatively or qualitatively) when it comes to nonhuman animals, and insects in particular? The presentation will include stunning examples of architecture, dance, etc., as performed by insects and their closer relatives

1:10-2:05 pm

Trumpet Master Class

Discussion

Annett Recital Hall, Center for the Arts
Festival Guest Brandon Ridenour

Observers are welcome to join this session where virtuoso trumpet player Brandon Ridenour conducts a master class with UWL Music Students. An award-winning soloist and chamber musician, Ridenour will share the techniques that have led him to performances with groups including the iconic Canadian Brass, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and to a recital debut last year at Carnegie Hall.

2:15-3:10 pm

Reading and Performing Identity Through Social Media

Presentation

Room 333, Center for the Arts
Beth Boser

Communication scholars know that identity is a performance. However, the "stage" for the performance is incredibly complex in our heavily-mediated lives! Social media profiles and communication provide endless opportunities for us to cultivate, curate, and communicate our selves. This session invites the audience to reflect upon their mediated identities and consider questions such as: How do I construct and present myself through social media? Who is the audience (real or imagined) for this performance? How do I read and interpret the identities of others? Participants should be prepared to access and discuss at least one of their own social media accounts/profiles with others.

2:15-3:10 pm

Revealing Identity with Light

Presentation

Toland Theatre, Center for the Arts
Ben Golden and Amanda Kolbe

Depending on intensity, focus, or color of light, our perceptions about identity of someone on stage can change. This session will explore how theatrical lighting can reveal different identities on stage during a production and why they change.

3:00-3:55 pm

Inclusive Negligence

Film Screening & Panel Discussion

Hall of Nations, Centennial Hall
Jamie Capetillo, Karter Etchin, Isabella Kilbarda, Pilar Olvera, Bedston Burrell, moderated by Laurie Cooper Stoll

Following a screening of this powerful student film, audience members will have the chance to engage in conversation with some of the film's creators about the topics raised.

Tuesday, February 28 - Continued

3:00-4:30 pm

Professional Identity and Building a Personal Brand

Workshop

Room 335, Center for the Arts
Lindsay Steiner

The development of a clear professional identity—or ethos—is a foundational starting point to success on the job market. Typically, job searches require a resume and a cover letter. While these documents are standard in the current job market, there are other important ways for applicants to communicate their professional identity to potential employers. This workshop will guide student attendees through the development of a personal brand for professional purposes. Student participants will discuss the idea and ethics of personal branding, and then work through the process of developing a personal brand statement that meets their needs. Students will leave the workshop with a carefully crafted set of their own professional values and expertise, as well as a preliminary personal brand statement.

4:00-5:15 pm

Disability and Diversity

Hands-On Discussion

Hall of Nations, Centennial Hall
Festival Guest Steve Anderson,
Director of Disability Resources at Hamline University

This session will explore definitions, myths, and truths about persons with disabilities, and how diversity enters into the picture. Participants will join an active conversation and have a chance to gain some hands-on perspective. The discussion will also explore approaches to accommodations and support for students with disabilities on a college campus. The session will be led by Steve Anderson, Director of Disability Resources at Hamline University.



4:00-5:30 pm

Public Speaking Competition

Presentation

Room 1309 & 1400, Centennial Hall
Kate Lavelle

The Public Speaking Competition promotes and showcases student excellence in public speaking. Six finalists, narrowed down from a pool of more than 2,000 students enrolled in CST 110 during Spring and Fall 2016, will present their persuasive speeches to an audience of community members and UWL students, instructors, and staff. This event is organized and supported by the Department of Communication Studies.

7:30 pm

Festival Guest: Brandon Ridenour

Performance

Annett Recital Hall, Center for the Arts

Festival Guest Brandon Ridenour will treat audiences to a recital where he will be joined by Rich Ridenour on piano. The program will showcase Brandon's versatility as a performer, including classics, his own arrangements, and some popular tunes.



Wednesday, March 1

7:30 pm

Festival Guest: Cece McDonald

Presentation and Discussion

Toland Theatre, Center for the Arts

Festival Guest CeCe McDonald shares the story of her journey to activism following her personal experience with bias, violence, and the criminal justice system. In August 2014 McDonald was awarded the Bayard Rustin Civil Rights Award by the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club.



2017 Festival Guests

STEVE ANDERSON

As Director of Disability Resources at Hamline University in St. Paul, MN, Steve Anderson works to provide reasonable accommodations and support to students with disabilities. He came to Hamline University in September 2014 from Minneapolis Community & Technical College, where he worked as a Disability Specialist. Prior to his work at MCTC, he worked for over 13 years for a non-profit agency that provided vocational and life skills training to adults with a wide range of disabilities. Steve received his Bachelors of Science from Mankato State University in 1988 with a degree in Mass Communications and a minor in Theatre Arts. After graduation from MSU, he worked for an educational theatre company in St. Paul as an Actor/Educator for five years. Steve is a current member of the Board of Directors for *Access Press*.



KIRSTIN CRONN-MILLS

According to geographers, the American West begins at the 100th longitudinal meridian. Thanks to the fact that this meridian is the main street of her hometown in Nebraska, Kirstin Cronn-Mills grew up six blocks east of the West. According to her mother, she learned to read when she was three—and she hasn't stopped since.

Kirstin is a self-proclaimed word nerd. Her grandmother and her father passed on their love of language to her, and that love became a love affair when she started writing poems in sixth grade. She still writes poems, but now she focuses on young adult novels.

In 1992 Kirstin moved from Nebraska to southern Minnesota, where she lives now. She writes a lot, reads as much as she can, teaches at a two-year college (she won the Minnesota State College Student Association 2009 Instructor of the Year award), and goofs around with her son, Shae, and her husband, Dan. Her first young adult novel, *The Sky Always Hears Me and the Hills Don't Mind* (Flux, 2009), was a 2010 finalist for the Minnesota Book Award for Young People's Literature. Her second novel, *Beautiful Music For Ugly Children* (Flux/Llewellyn, 2012), won ALA's Stonewall Award in 2014 as well as an IPPY (Independent Publishing) silver medal for Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Trans Fiction. *BMUC* was also placed on ALA's 2013 Rainbow List (as a Top Ten Pick) as well as their 2013 Best Fiction for Young Adults list. Her third novel, *Original Fake* (G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Random House 2016), was a Junior Library Guild selection and received a starred review from *Publisher's Weekly*.

She has also published nonfiction books for middle and high school libraries: *Collapse! The Science of Structural Engineering Failures* (Compass Point Books, 2009) and *Transgender Lives: Complex Stories, Complex Voices* (Twenty-First Century Books/Lerner, 2014) and *LGBTQ+ Athletes Claim the Field: Striving for Equality* (Twenty-First Century Books/Lerner, 2016). *Transgender Lives* was placed on the 2015 Best Children's Books of the Year from Bank Street College, and *LGBTQ+ Athletes Claim the Field* was a Junior Library Guild selection.



CECE McDONALD

CeCe McDonald is an activist, speaker and icon in the LGBTQ community. Rising to international recognition after surviving a white supremacist & transphobic attack, CeCe has graced stages across the country where she uses storytelling to articulate the personal and political implications of being both black & trans. She fosters important conversations around mass incarceration, sexuality & violence and is the star of the recently released feature length documentary about her life & story, *Free CeCe!*



KAREN OLIVO

Karen can currently be found in Chicago, starring as Angelica Schuyler in Lin-Manuel Miranda's Tony-Award-winning hit musical *Hamilton*. She starred as Anita in the acclaimed Broadway revival of *West Side Story*, directed by Arthur Laurents, a role which garnered her the 2009 Tony Award for "Best Performance by a Featured Actress in a Musical." Karen also earned Drama Desk, Drama League, and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations for her portrayal of the iconic character. Olivo originated the role of Vanessa in both the Off-Broadway and Broadway productions of the Tony Award-winning musical, *In the Heights*. Exploring three days in the lives of a group of Dominican-American characters living in Washington Heights, *In the Heights* was also the recipient of the 2007 Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Off-Broadway Musical, the 2007 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Musical, and the 2007 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Ensemble. Olivo was also featured in *In the Heights: Chasing Broadway Dreams*, a televised documentary highlighting their road to the New York stage.

Born in New York City and raised in Florida, Karen made her Broadway debut as Mimi in Jonathan Larson's Pulitzer- and Tony Award-winning musical, *Rent*, a role she also performed in the first touring production of the show. Additionally, she also originated the role of Faith in the Broadway production of *Brooklyn The Musical*, directed by Jeff Calhoun. Additional theatre credits include the Off-Broadway production of *The Miracle Brothers*, directed by Tina Landau, at the Vineyard Theatre, the Public Theatre's 40th Anniversary concert production of *Hair*, directed by Diane Paulus, and The Ford Theatre's production of *Children of Eden*.

Olivo's film credits include roles in *Adrift in Manhattan*, opposite Heather Graham, which was nominated for Best Narrative Feature at the Sundance Film Festival in 2007, and *The New Twenty*, following five best friends in their late 20's who discover new truths about themselves and the friendships they thought would last forever. Additionally, Olivo was also featured in *Generation Um* starring Keanu Reeves. Olivo's television credits include a series regular role on *Harry's Law* opposite Kathy Bates, a recurring role on *The Good Wife*, and guest starring roles on *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, *Conviction*, *Law & Order*, *All My Children*, *Chase*, and *Criminal Minds: Suspect Behavior*.



BRANDON RIDENOUR

Brandon Ridenour is a winner of the 2014 CAG Victor Elmaleh Competition. His wide-ranging activities as a soloist and chamber musician, paired with his passion for composing and arranging, are evident in his versatile performances and unique repertoire.

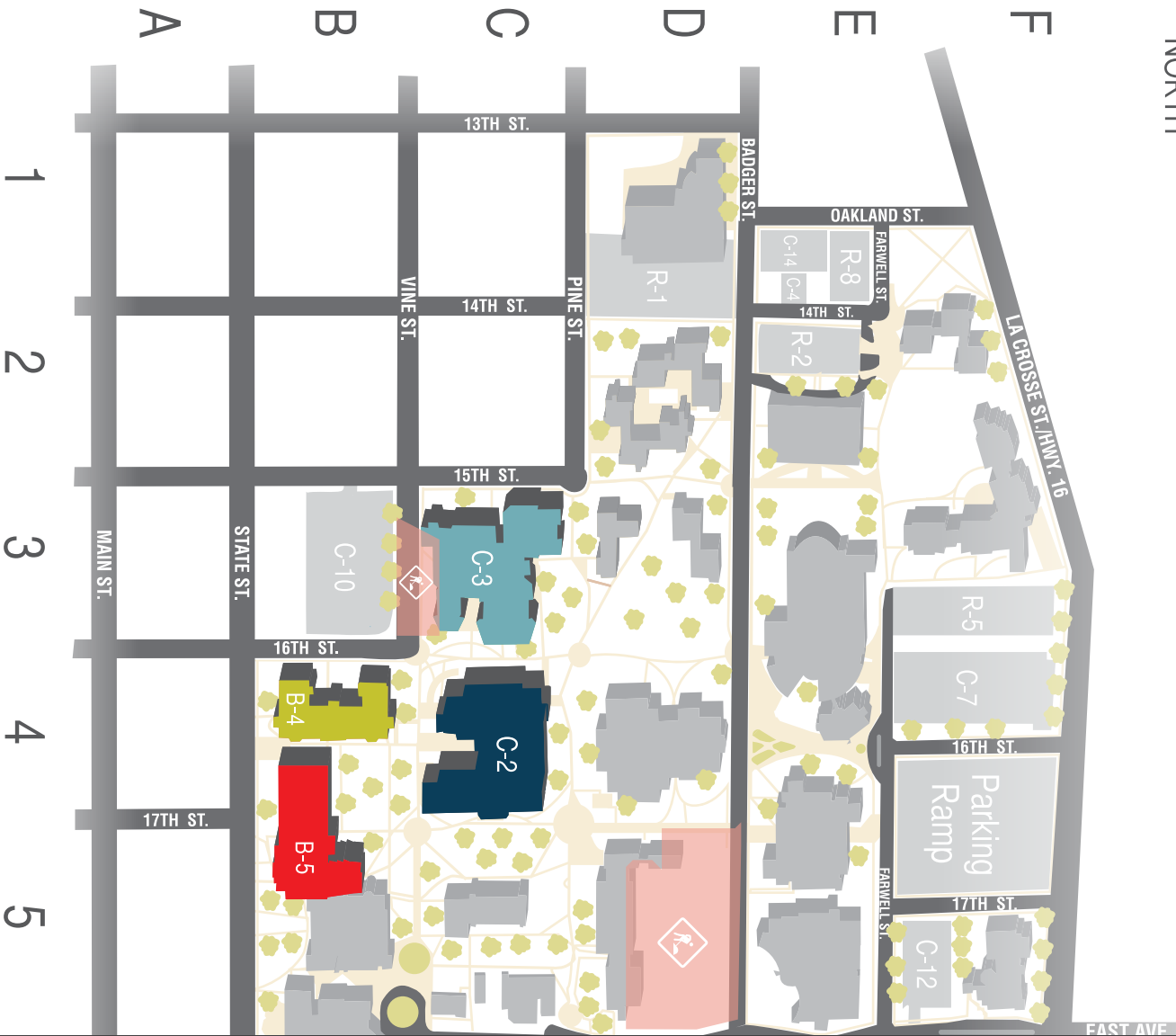
In the 2015-16 season, Brandon makes his Carnegie Hall recital debut at Weill Recital Hall (CAG Winners series) and other featured recitals include: Northeastern Illinois University's Jewel Box Series in Chicago; Chamber Music Society of Little Rock; The Regina Quick Center for the Arts at St. Bonaventure University (NY); and St. Vincent College Concert Series, near Pittsburgh. As a concerto soloist, Brandon appears in 2015-16 with the South Bend Symphony and Modesto Symphony, and is also featured with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center for its annual performances of Bach's complete Brandenburg Concertos.

At the age of twenty, Brandon became the youngest member ever to join the iconic Canadian Brass, a position he held for seven years. While with the group, he played in distinguished venues around the world, performed on television, recorded ten albums, and received three Juno Award nominations.

Brandon has appeared as a concerto soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the Indianapolis, Jacksonville, and Edmonton Symphony Orchestras. He has played with leading ensembles including the New York Philharmonic, International Contemporary Ensemble, the Knights, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, and the Mahler Chamber Orchestra. Other solo performances include the Kennedy Center, Walt Disney Hall, and Carnegie Hall, where he most recently appeared in a performance of Penny Lane alongside Sting and James Taylor.

A graduate of The Juilliard School and an alumnus of Carnegie Hall's Ensemble ACJW, Brandon began playing piano at the age of 5 under the tutelage of his father, Rich Ridenour, with whom he still performs frequently in recital and with Pops Orchestras. Brandon is also a part of chamber groups Decoda, Founders, and USEFUL chamber.





IDENTITY MATTERS

UWL Campus Map

Centennial Hall – C-4
Hall of Nations

Center for the Arts - C-3
Annett Recital Hall
Toland Theater
Campus Art Gallery
Identity Matters Gallery

Morris Hall - B-4
Frederick Theater

Wing Technology Center - B-5

All festival buildings and locations are handicapped accessible.
Two-hour street parking is available 8 am - 6 pm.
UWL parking lots are available after 7 pm at no charge.



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