Artist's rendering courtesy of the Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts

The Fine Arts Expansion Initiative is extending the Griffith building along North Street and will include new and renovated state-of-the-art classrooms, laboratories, offices, studios and theatres.

SCHEDULE: Mainstage shows expanding to include weekend matinees

From Page 1C

dance and theatre productions do not overlap," he said. "We have scheduled them in such a way you can see a theatre production one week and a dance concert in the next. In collaboration with the Fine Arts publicity team we have created some outstanding brochures that represent how natural this partnership is. Dance and theatre coming together is quite common at many colleges and universities across the nation. With the addition of the new space/expansion in Griffith Fine Arts Building, the synergy between all artists in that space should be palpable."

Mainstage shows at SFA have an expanded schedule to offer audience options in weekend matinees for theatre-goers. Mainstage performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. All plays are in Kennedy Auditorium on the SFA campus.

This season's Mainstage shows include "The Moors" by Jen Silverman, Sept. 29 through Oct. 2; "Lord of the Flies" by Nigel Williams, Nov. 3 through 6; "Everybody" by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, Feb. 23 through 26; and "[title of show]" by Jeff Bowen and Hunter Bell, April 20 through 23. Student-directed one-act and full-length plays are also offered each semester. Descriptions of plays are available at theatre.sfasu.edu/onstage.

Danceworks Concerts are scheduled for Nov. 10 through 12 for the fall show, and April 13 through 15 for the spring show. The Repertory Dance Company Faculty Concert is Feb. 16 through 18. Dance concerts are at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday and at 3 p.m. Saturday. All dance performances are in HPE Complex, Room 201.

Estimated completion of the Griffith Fine Arts Building's renovation and expansion is sometime in mid 2023. House said the new and expanded facilities will be "a game changer" for fine arts students, faculty/staff and the community.

"When I toured the space, I toggled between tears of joy and goose bumps of excitement," House said. "The state-of-the-art studios and performance spaces, dedicated studios for the various areas of specialty in design, and professional level spaces will make the School of Theatre and Dance an aspirational place to be."

He said the building itself will be "a melting pot of artists" from all fine arts areas – sound recording technology, film, dance, theatre, musical theatre.

"The thought of these creative minds rubbing elbows, hanging out in the 'tree house' student hub and building relationships truly fills me with glee," House said "This is where lasting artistic friendships and partnerships will be made. A future Oscar, Tony or Grammy Award winner is going to come out of fine arts because this space is setting them up for that kind of success. The future of fine arts at SFA, but dance and theatre in particular, is truly bright."

For ticketing information or to purchase tickets for theatre and dance performances, call the Fine Arts Box Office at (936) 468-6407 or (888) 240-ARTS, or visit boxoffice.sfasu.edu. Ticket sales open Monday, Aug. 22.

SUCCESS: Peer Mentors program pairs new students with upperclassmen

From Page 1C

GenJacks family."

The Student Success Center serves as SFA's liaison to the Texas Success Initiative, a statewide program that promotes academic success by ensuring students are prepared for college-level work. SSC advisors oversee the completion of developmental classes by hundreds of SFA students each semester to ensure they are prepared for more advanced coursework. In addition, the center manages the Smith-Hutson Scholarship program, which benefits promising incoming students with proven financial need by covering the cost of tuition, books and other college expenses for up to four years.

Sometimes the biggest key to student success is the help of a supportive friend who is willing share their SFA knowledge and experience, Skidmore said. That's why the Student Success Center operates a Peer Mentors program that matches new students with upperclassmen who have a passion for supporting other Lumberjacks.

"Our peer mentors do a wonderful job of helping incoming students reach their academic and personal goals, and they become an important part of their mentees' support network as they work through the inevitable challenges of college life," she said. "Many of the students who take advantage of this program eventually go on to become peer mentors themselves."

For more info about the SSC, visit sfasu.edu/studentsuccess or email studentsuccess@sfasu.edu.

WURTZ: College named for donor

From Page 1C

Forum. He currently serves on the Campus Master Planning Committee, Compliance Coordinating Committee and University Training Curriculum Task Force.

Wurtz becomes the first dean of the recently renamed college following a gift last fall from the Bill Elliott family of Nacogdoches in support of SFA and to honor the late Micky Elliott's love of fine arts.

"When you consider the combination of Bill Elliott's life-changing gift to the college with the university's commitment to the fine arts through the building of a new facility," he said, "it is no stretch of the imagination to see that our best days are ahead us, and I am excited and grateful to get to serve in this role as we move forward."

As an established scholar and performing artist in his field, Wurtz has performed with numerous orchestras and bands, including the National Symphony of the Dominican Republic, Orquesta Filarmonica de Universidad Nacional'de Mexico, Shreveport Symphony, Orchestra of the Pines, Longview Symphony Orchestra, Lewisville Lake Symphony, Lexington (Kentucky) Philharmonic, Richardson Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Opera, Dallas Ballet, Dallas Black Dance Theater and the Dallas Wind Symphony, and many more. He has performed with the Bluebonnet Brass quintet of Fort Worth, Reunion Brass of Dallas, Amarillo Brass Quintet and continues to perform with the Piney Woods Brass Quintet.

Prior to his university experience, Wurtz taught trumpet in several Texas public schools in The Colony, Lake Highlands, Lewisville, Denton, Pampa, Amarillo and Canyon, as well as in the Dominican Republic. Wurtz earned a Bachelor of Music Education from West Texas State University and a Master of Music in Music Education and Doctor of Musical Arts, both from the University of North Texas and under the mentorship of Dr. Leonard Candelaria.

KNEPP: Dean has East Texas roots

From Page 1C

nonheritage Spanish speakers, and added five new language offerings. Knepp also secured over $422,000 in funding from internal and external sources.

"I am very excited about Dr. Knepp joining us as he brings a wealth of community engagement experience, in particular through his leadership role at the CSUB Center for Social Justice," said Dr. Lorenzo Smith, provost and executive vice president of academic affairs. "His fluency in Spanish and experience directing Spanish-language children's plays highlights multiple synergistic opportunities both within and across college boundaries."

With an academic focus on Latin American and Latino Studies, Knepp has written numerous peer-reviewed articles and is progressing on his book, "Unwrapping Tradition: Exploring the Cultural Significance of Tamales and Mexican Foodways in Texas." Knepp has also contributed and narrated a slew of short documentaries and directed student productions in Spanish.

Prior to his time at CSUB, Knepp was an assistant professor and program director of the Latin American and Latino Studies minor at the University of Central Arkansas, as well as adjunct professor in the St. Edward's University languages department.

Additionally, Knepp served as a visiting lecturer, teaching assistant and graduate assistant at the University of Albany, and teaching assistant at The University of Texas at San Antonio.

A native of West Texas, Knepp took undergraduate coursework at the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in Mexico before receiving an undergraduate degree from Angelo State University. He earned a master's degree from The University of Texas at San Antonio and a doctoral degree from the University of Albany. Before getting his doctorate, Knepp did graduate coursework in Guatemala, studying Kaqchikel (Maya) language and culture in 2007.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF KINESIOLOGY AND HEALTH SCIENCE
UNDERGRADUATE OFFERINGS:

Early childhood through 12th grade physical education
- Physical education teacher
- Athletic coach/director

Exercise Science
- Personal trainer/exercise specialist
- Exercise physiologist
- Strength and conditioning coach

Health Science
- Health/wellness coordinator
- Health care administrator
- Health educator

Career pathways also include physical/occupational therapy, medical doctor and physician assistant.

Learn more at sfasu.edu/kinesiology or email us at kinesiology@sfasu.edu.