Don and Kay Cash
Graduate Research Grants in Visual & Performing Arts
Dear Don and Kay:

For the past several years, it has been my honor to submit thank you letters and accomplishments of our graduate students supported by the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grants in Visual and Performing Arts. Each year, we see the impact in ways not imaginable at first. Your generous support is provided at a crucial point in our graduate students’ creative research; they are able to fully realize the completion of their dissertation/thesis that may not have been possible without your support. One of your graduate recipients, Troy Lescher Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Theatre and Dance, clearly makes this point in his thank you letter, “your contribution has certainly allowed me to gather the crucial data for my upcoming dissertation. My dissertation and, subsequently, my scholarship aspirations may not have been otherwise possible.”

TTU’s motto, “From Here, It’s Possible” has never been more obviously than in the creative research of the graduate students highlighted in this year’s report. Our graduates are global in their creative endeavors and they understand the impact that your financial support has provided to their future. Uzziel Guzman, DMA Piano Performance major shares his feelings on this award, “I feel prepared to teach at the college level and perform to very high standards. The result of these performances gave me an unforgettable experience that without a doubt has enhanced my life as a performer, teacher, and ultimately, human being.”

Shari Ellsworth, Ph.D. candidate in Fine Arts, completed her dissertation research by directing and producing a production of The Children’s Hour at the Lubbock Community Theatre. Shari states, “I would like to thank you so much for your support of the arts and for giving me the opportunity to accomplish my goals and degree. Thank you for your financial assistance; it has given me a life changing opportunity.”

Don and Kay, each semester I have the pleasure to talk with the recipients of your research grants. Each student has willingly shared that your support has impacted their academic goals but, most importantly, it provides a philanthropic role model that causes them to reflect on and plan for their own philanthropic efforts in helping others achieve goals. The legacy of your support has created the next generation of philanthropic thinkers and doers. Thank you very much for believing in the talents and research of our graduate students in the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

With Heart Felt Gratitude,

Carol D. Edwards, Ph.D.
Dean
“The reason for this letter is to state my gratitude for the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant which allowed me in great part to travel to Italy and perform in four cities. I was invited to perform in and around Rome, Italy, including performances in Rome, Ladispoli, Cerveteri and Sorrento. My repertoire included: Mozart’s last piano sonata, 3 movements from op. 116 by J. Brahms, and 3 preludes by Sergei Rachmaninov. As a musician, such a unique opportunity can hardly be duplicated and the experiences from this trip are indelible in my mind.

Now that I am at the very end of my doctoral studies, I can say without a doubt that I feel prepared to teach at the college level and perform to very high standards. I’ve been lucky enough throughout the course of this degree to give recitals at several different venues in Texas as well as in my home country of Mexico, and to top it all off with four concerts in Europe was simply a blessing. The result of these performances gave me an unforgettable experience that without a doubt has enhanced my life as a performer, teacher, and ultimately, human being.

I should also mention that the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant was the main vehicle to get additional funding from the School of Music through Professor Bill Ballenger. A million thanks once again to Mr. and Mrs. Cash for your continued support of the students at Texas Tech University.”
Not only is this a very worthy project and an impressive and unusual opportunity…but there is no student I can think of more deserving of support. Mr. Guzman, in his three years at Texas Tech, has not only won distinction as a musician, but has been the most diligent, enthusiastic, kind, generous, selfless, responsible team player one can imagine.

William Westney, D.M.A.
Paul Whitfield Horn Professor
Browning Artist-in-Residence
School of Music
This grant award of a Cash Graduate Research Grant will make possible the MFA group exhibition and student travel to Texas A&M International University. I am confident that our MFA students will become effective ambassadors for Texas Tech School of Art, motivating underrepresented students at the Texas A&M International University to actively pursue the arts...

Sang-Mi Yoo
Associate Professor
MFA Coordinator
School of Art
“Thank you for your support of the School of Art MFA program that allowed Texas Tech graduate students to travel to the Texas A&M International University in Laredo where they were invited to put together a group exhibition of artwork in the Fine & Performing Arts Gallery in Laredo, Texas. In conjunction with delivering and installing the works of art, four graduates were selected to critique advanced undergraduate students and give researched artist talks at the opening reception of the exhibit.

This experience not only promoted the Texas Tech School of Art, but also gave students an opportunity to exhibit their work to an area outside of Lubbock. For the four graduates selected to give the studio tours and artist lectures, this experience in talking critically about their own work helped prepare them for their own lecture that each MFA candidate is required to give in their fifth semester in the program. The experience also helped the students to network future connections and relationships with galleries and gallery directors as well as see how the process of putting together a group exhibition is done from start to finish.

The Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant in Visual & Performing Arts was used to make the show possible, and we could not be more grateful for your support.

As the current MFA student coordinator, my goals for the upcoming year are vast, yet achievable. Once again we will be looking for a show for the current MFA candidates. Also, I will be working to bridge the gap between the 2D and 3D students to make for a more connected student body. Applying and getting shows like the one in Laredo help the MFA candidates get an idea of how they may approach their final show before exiting the program.

Thank you again for your help in funding our vision. We are able to do so much more with the help of individuals like you. Your donations are vital and are directly linked to the success of the University in helping us go beyond school and into the community. The Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant in Visual & Performing Arts enabled us achieve some goals that may not have been possible otherwise.”

~Jason Harshman
Troy Lescher
Ph.D. Candidate in Fine Arts
Department of Theatre & Dance

“As a recipient of a Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant in Visual & Performing Arts, I am writing to say thank you. I am a Ph.D. in Fine Arts candidate in the Department of Theatre & Dance at Texas Tech University and your contribution has certainly allowed me to gather the crucial data for my upcoming dissertation.

TTU and the CVPA have been a perfect fit for me. My experiences in the classroom, around campus, and on the TTU stage have proven invaluable to my growth as a scholar, educator, and artist. After graduating from TTU, I have plans to become a professor, continuing to teach the theater arts and researching the field of physical comedy. Being a member of the TTU community and a student within the CVPA have indeed prepared me to achieve these goals.

Currently, I remain at work on my dissertation titled, Greasepaint Pedagogy: Contemporary Clown Instruction in the United States. This dissertation, the final requirement for completing the Ph.D. in Fine Arts, is the study of some of the leading instructors of the art of clowning. More specifically, I am examining some of the theories and techniques that are shaping modern-day clown training – an area of scholarship that has not received very much attention. To gather this data, I have traveled to and enrolled in a series of workshops at destinations beyond West Texas. And, I am grateful to say that your financial support enabled me to do so. In February 2012, I traveled to New York City to attend a weekend workshop with Dick Monday – former director of Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Clown College. In April, I returned to New York to attend a two weekend-long workshop with Christopher Bayes, - a professor at Yale University. In August, I traveled to Maine in order to participate in a week-long workshop with Julie Goell and Avner Eisenberg. Mr. Eisenberg, in particular, is considered to be one of the pioneers of the New Vaudeville movement of the 1970’s.

Again, the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant made these research trips possible as well as gave me leverage for securing some additional funding through the Department of Theatre & Dance. Believe you me, my dissertation and, subsequently, my scholarship aspirations may not have been otherwise possible. Please accept my sincerest gratitude for your support of the research endeavors of TTU and the CVPA.”
Troy Lescher is uniquely qualified to undertake this study...His dissertation prospectus has proven so exciting that all the leading clown/teachers he targeted have agreed to cooperate with him by granting interviews...I’m confident he will find a publisher when his dissertation is completed.

Jonathan Marks, DFA
Dissertation Advisor
Department of Theatre & Dance
The International Conductors Guild Workshop within The Cabrillo Festival is one of the most sought-after, competitive events of its kind…Nathan has my highest recommendation for this worthwhile project. Participation in this workshop will significantly benefit his own career and bring further visibility to the School of Music at Texas Tech University.

Dr. Andrew George
Director of Orchestras
School of Music
“I was recently awarded a grant by the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant, and I wanted to write a brief note to thank you for your generosity as well as to tell you a little about the experience you were able to facilitate on my behalf.

I am in the Doctoral of Musical Arts program at TTU. My major is orchestral conducting, and I am Dr. Andrew George’s teaching assistant with the TTU orchestras. I regularly appear with the University Symphony Orchestra as well as lead the String Orchestra, which is designed for non-majors. In addition to my work at the university, I am also the assistant conductor of the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, and have led that ensemble in their Education and Pops concerts. Finally, I was recently appointed Music Director of the Woodstock Chamber Orchestra in New York’s Hudson River Valley, and return there four times a year to lead performances of that group.

All in all, I consider myself very fortunate to have these opportunities to lead musicians in a variety of contexts, both professional and academic. One thing that was missing was the chance to interact with other young conductors in a nationally recognized workshop environment. The Conductor’s Guild workshop at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music in Santa Cruz, California, provided just such an opportunity. The two teachers at this workshop – Grammy and MacArthur-award winning conductor Marin Alsop, and legendary professor of conducting Gustav Meier – provided me with deeper insights into the conducting profession. I was able to take lessons learned on programming, fundraising, vision statements, rehearsal techniques, as well as the physical act of conducting and communicating music with your body, and apply them to my work here in Lubbock.

One thing that stood out during the week’s discussions was the reminder that the conducting profession is a lonely one. There aren’t that many of us, we tend to live one of a city and two of a family, so to speak. Here in Lubbock, I am mostly involved in the orchestral music that goes on, which gives me little opportunity to observe and learn from others. Being able to travel to Santa Cruz and observe other conductors working with a top-notch orchestra reconnected me to my profession and will certainly help me with my future plans. I once again thank you for your generosity and I hope to see you at an LSO or TTU concert some day!”
Denissa Rivas de Munguia
DMA, Performance Flute

“I would like to express my extreme gratitude for awarding me the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant in Visual & Performing Arts. It was thanks to your generous support that I was able to be part of the VI Festival de Flauta Traversa in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

I am originally from Honduras and upon the completion of my doctorate studies at Texas Tech University I shall be the first flutist in my country to obtain a Doctorate in Musical Arts. Because of this, I was invited to be part of the festival faculty. I shared this honor with such international renowned flutists as Susan Berdhal from Texas A&M International University, Manuel Guerrero from Spain, Lucy Cartledge ARCM from Scotland, Debra Harris from Concordia College in Minnesota, Geza Farkas from Canada, Eduardo Gomez from Venezuela, Jessie Godoy from Honduras, and Yvan Bertet from France.

In the festival I performed a solo recital followed by master classes; I taught a workshop on flute technique following the method used at the Texas Tech Flute Studio; and I played as soloist in the Gala Concert. Besides my scheduled activities I had the added bonuses of being asked to translate to Spanish for Professor Debra Harris during her master class, and to join my former flute teacher Lucy Cartledge in a flute duet for her recital of Scottish music. Also as a Texas Tech graduate student I was asked to share my experiences as an international student in a doctorate program, and I am glad to say that many students are now interested in Texas Tech’s music program.

It was such a great honor for me to have represented Texas Tech in an international festival. This would not have been possible without your financial support. I am deeply thankful to have been a recipient of the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant.”
Denissa is currently the first flutist from Honduras to seek completion of the DMA. Part of her participating in the Flute Festival in Honduras will be sharing her experiences as a graduate student at Texas Tech University. This will bring positive visibility to our graduate programs in the School of Music and has the potential to positively impact international recruiting.

Lisa Garner Santa
Professor of Flute
School of Music
I strongly recommend Elizabeth Parks for a Don and Kay Cash Research Grant. She is a very deserving student with a very promising project, and I know that we would both be very grateful if she could receive support from this wonderful fund.

Jonathan Marks
Professor of Theatre
Department of Theatre & Dance
ELIZABETH C. PARKS

MFA, Theatre Performance and Pedagogy
Department of Theatre & Dance

“As a recipient of the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant in Visual & Performing Arts, I am writing to thank you for your generosity and benevolence in furthering my education and research at Texas Tech University. I am currently a graduate student in the MFA performance and pedagogy program in the Department of Theatre & Dance. As a theatre artist and educator, I am particularly interested in the research field of theatre anthropology and the creation of devised theatre performances... Only through the help of your grant was I able to perform this much need research by participating, this past summer, in the Rhodopi International Theatre Laboratory.

The laboratory was a six-week residency that included anthropological work and travel in Turkey followed by four weeks of workshops, seminars, lectures and intensive work spent creating devised theatre performances. To showcase the work created over the course of the residency, the laboratory culminated in a series of performances at the Rhodopi Dramatichen Theater in Smolyan, Bulgaria. Specifically, I was able to study and train with theatre anthropologists and scholars from Bulgaria, Macedonia, Japan and the United States. This work was foundational to my thesis and directing project because it allowed me to experience what I had only formerly encountered through reading. Ultimately, this research has positioned me to achieve not only my immediate goals here at Texas Tech, but has set me on the path to developing my future, career-long body of research.

This work has also served as the impetus for several other academic accomplishments. My experience has fueled further research and as a result, I presented a workshop on Eurasian Theatre at the South Eastern Theatre Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Furthermore, I was appointed by the chair of the Theatre & Dance Department to direct a devised performance piece, on behalf of Texas Tech University, which was presented at the Region Six Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Shreveport, Louisiana. These accomplishments would not have been possible were it not for your substantial support for my work.

I am infinitely grateful for the substantial and charitable support of the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant in Visual & Performing Arts because it is more than a grant; it is truly a life-changing gift.”
Page Petrucka
Ph.D. Candidate in Fine Arts
Department of Theatre & Dance

“I would like to begin by thanking you both for the generous gift I received this past summer. I am a doctoral student in the College of Visual & Performing Arts at Texas Tech, and I am currently studying playwriting and acting/directing. Because of the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant in Visual & Performing Arts, I was able to perform a play I wrote, *Blood is Thicker than Roswell*, in the Prague Fringe Festival this past June in the Czech Republic.

The Prague Fringe Festival is a prestigious international venue that is highly sought after for the production of new works. My play is a gentle comedy that investigates sisterhood, religion, and science. It is such an honor to have been invited to this festival.

I am in the process of attaining my doctorate in order to teach at the college level; a dream I have had for several years now. I have acted for many years, but only recently discovered a love for playwriting. I have chosen to complete a playwriting dissertation, and one of the requirements is to produce a play I have written. Imagine my delight that this was able to occur internationally. So in essence, this grant allowed me to fulfill a major aspect of my dissertation.

Our play was very well received by many attending the Prague Fringe Festival. I think the highlight, though, was having one of the festival producers (Carole Wears) tell me “that was one of the most lovely plays I’ve seen at the Fringe.” I was honored and moved. I hope this is only the first of many future experiences with this amazing festival.

To enter the job market with international recognition and performance on my resume is more than I could have ever hoped to achieve here at Tech. I am grateful this grant is in place, and is able to help people like me who have no financial support otherwise. I am so thankful to have been a recipient, and I want to thank you both again for awarding me this grant.”
Ms. Petrucka’s proposal is highly meritorious, the venue is exceptional, and the project is crucial to her degree requirements. I believe it is precisely the kind of project for which the Cash Grant is intended.

Norman A. Bert, Ph.D
Professor and Head
of Playwriting
Department of Theatre and Dance
Zach is a person who uses every bit of knowledge he absorbs. Going to this event will spawn new ideas for his artworks... Attending this event will not only benefit Zach in his future artistic career, but the relationships built will benefit the ceramics program at Texas Tech as well.

Von Venhuizen
Associate Professor of Art- Ceramics
School of Art
Zachary N. Tate
MFA, Ceramics
School of Art

“I am writing this letter to thank you both for the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant in Visual & Performing Arts that I was awarded. It was an honor to be chosen as a recipient of this prestigious award. Your support has helped to expand my research to a very prestigious international level.

With your support, I was able to travel to Goteborg, Sweden last summer as the co-organizer for the 2012 International Ceramic Wood-fire Landscape Symposium. Since this event, I have had four international articles published about this event. My work has been exhibited in three international exhibitions form the symposium; as we as having a piece purchased and placed in the public collection at the Rohsska Museum (Sweden’s National Craft Museum). None of this would have been possible without your generous help.

As I complete my last year of my graduate career here at Texas Tech, the experiences that I was able to partake in this past summer have been invaluable. My work and my research have taken a drastic, yet extremely positive, turn. The input from such well-known international artists was a great catalyst in furthering my ideals that I had previously began here at Texas Tech before my travels.

After presenting my thesis defense, I can’t help but think about how my work has been impacted by the opportunities that I had this summer, thanks to your help. I am anxious to see where this leads me in the future, and how it will continue to shape my research.”
Leslie S. Gulden
Ph.D. in Fine Arts
Department of Theatre and Dance

“I am a Ph.D. student studying theatre. While searching to find a topic for my dissertation, I got in touch with Broadway scenic designer Donyale Werle and became fascinated with her work with the Broadway Green Alliance. Ms. Werle is dedicated to making eco-friendly designs and helping smaller theatre groups by sharing the resources after a Broadway production closes. Ms. Werle agreed to be part of my research on the topic of sustainable design practices, but I needed to find other people working in this field in order to broaden my study. I therefore requested a grant from the CVPA when I found out about the Earth Matters on Stage conference in Pittsburgh. Due to your generous grant, I was able to attend this conference and meet several people who were interested in bringing sustainable practices to theatre of various sizes…Two designers from York University who I met at the conference also expressed a willingness to work with me on my research, so I deem the trip extremely successful. One last point of interest is that Donyale Werle recently won her first Tony Award for her scenic design for Peter and the Starcatcher. So, even though she may not be very well known now, it could be that my dissertation will record theatre history in the making. Thank you for allowing me to continue on this path of research.”

Leslie is one of our most diligent, thorough, and meticulous doctoral candidates. She has availed herself of not just the requisite two, but close to three, tracks in Theatre, in addition to which she will be certified with a track in English at the time she receives her Ph.D.

Dorothy Chansky, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Theatre and Dance
Lora Uebelhart
Ph.D. Fine Arts
Department of Theatre and Dance

“Thank you so very much for honoring me with a Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant. I used your generous support to attend two international arts management conferences. I am currently a Fine Arts Doctoral student studying theatre and my area of specialization is arts administration.

With your generous support, I traveled to the United Kingdom to co-present two papers with Dr. Linda Donahue. Our first conference, at London’s Victoria and Albert Museum, was hosted by the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies. Our paper was titled, Navigating the Development Director’s Role in Volatile Economic Times: Contemporary Issues in the US with the Four-Prong Approach to Fundraising. The second conference was in Liverpool at the Seventh International Conference on the Arts in Society. Our paper was titled, Theatre Audiences in the US: Issues and Challenges for the Professional Nonprofit Theatre.

I am incredibly grateful that my academic goals align so well with the vision of the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant. As you are well aware, international travel expenses are terribly high. I cannot thank you enough for alleviating some of the costs. I thank you for your incredible generosity and support.”

Lora is one of my most serious and dedicated doctoral students. Her grades have always been at the top of the class, and her writing is superior. She possesses an inquisitive mind, showing exceptional abilities in her chosen theatre tracks of arts administrations and history/theory/criticism…These two international conferences are an excellent way for Lora to begin her scholastic and research career.

Linda Donahue, PhD
Associate Professor, Graduate Advisor
Department of Theatre and Dance
SHARI ELLSWORTH
Ph.D. candidate in Fine Arts
Department of Theatre and Dance

“I would like to take this opportunity to extend my greatest appreciation and thanks for the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant in Visual & Performing Arts. I am currently working on my dissertation in order to complete my Ph.D. in Fine Arts. I am a mother of two young girls and without the financial support it would have been incredibly difficult for me to achieve my goal of a terminal degree.

My dissertation is focused on the contemporary relevance of *The Children’s Hour* by Lillian Hellman, and I was able to achieve my goals of analysis, directing, and acting coaching because of your grant. I was able to direct and produce a production of *The Children’s Hour* at Lubbock Community Theatre during this past summer.

Not only has the production helped in my research but it has helped further improve my skills as a director. Working in a community theatre environment is a bit different than in an educational setting, but through this experience I have increased my education and skills in teaching, in order to be a more proficient professor in the world of academia.

Again, I would like to thank you so much for your support of the arts and for giving me the opportunity to accomplish my goals and degree. Thank you for your financial assistance; it has given me a life changing opportunity.”

…I have worked closely with Shari from the inception of this production…, and I have every confidence that Shari will do an outstanding job with both the production itself and in creating a dissertation that both conforms to all Graduate School requirements and of which the CVPA will be able to point to with pride.

James B. Bush, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of Theatre and Dance
Don and Kay Cash
Graduate Research Grants in Visual & Performing Arts

Program:
The CVPA has a significant but finite sum of funding to support and stimulate graduate student research, made available through the generosity of Don and Kay Cash. As support for research, activities that are to be funded will relate to final projects required for the applicant’s degree program since these constitute original creative/research. We envision applications from all graduate degree programs for such support as:

» Student travel to professional meetings at which they present their own research results.

» Expenses involved with shipping MFA art/design projects to peer-reviewed exhibitions.

» Participant travel to peer-reviewed exhibitions if attendance at the event’s opening is required.

» Student travel (DMA students, for example) to professional performance venues essential to establishing creative/research reputations.

» Student travel to competitive creative/research performance venues.

» Student travel to archives, etc., to consult resources essential to final projects.

» Student travel to consult persons whose expertise is important to final projects (e.g. interviewing).

In order to realize completely the gift’s potential, students whose projects are funded by the college must seek matching funds, if eligible, via the Graduate School’s Travel Funding program: depts.ttu.edu/gradschool/current/travel.php The Graduate School requires materials at least 30 days in advance, so allow substantial lead time for the decision-making process.

Should Graduate School funding be denied, applications can be re-submitted to the CVPA with [1] clear indication of re-submission status, [2] documentation of denial, and [3] reasons for denial, if known.

Students whose projects are funded must file a letter of thanks for the Don and Kay Cash Research Grant with the CVPA dean’s office for subsequent delivery to the donors.

Application Procedure:

Complete application form using 12-point font (two-page maximum), and obtain departmental signature.

Attach: copy of verification from sponsoring agency, acceptance of submission, or other evidence of peer review, as is appropriate for the discipline and project.

Attach: letter of support from principal advisor or graduate coordinator. The letter of support [1] should be concise (not more than one page single-spaced), [2] should explain scope and significance of venue in relation to profession, [3] should provide qualitative assessment of project, and [4] should verify/explain relationship of project to degree requirements. The letter can also provide additional information that should be considered in the decision-making process.

Send to: Associate Dean Brian Steele, 103 Holden Hall, CVPA, MS 5060, with a copy to Business Manager Mike Smith, 103 Holden Hall, CVPA, MS 5060.

Review: Applications are reviewed by the dean’s office as received, on case-by-case basis. Criteria used in decision-making include: total and unfunded costs of project; scope (international / national / regional); scope of degree program (terminal or leading to other); significance of proposed project in relation to degree requirements; GPA; etc.