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

It is a pleasure for me to thank you for your generous and ongoing support of the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Your support goes directly to our students and it has an immediate impact on their academic endeavors and abilities to complete their academic careers.

This year’s report highlights the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grants in Visual and Performing Art accomplishments of another group of highly talented students who have had opportunities to pursue their creative research. Your support has provided opportunities for our students that they would not have otherwise experienced. One such student is David Barrientos whose research is having an international impact on the College. David is an international student from Chile pursuing a doctorate in musical performance (clarinet) studies and he has performed all over the world, but most recently at the International Contemporary Music Festival in Santiago, Chile. David has been working with the College to establish our first Master’s degree in Musical Performance at the University of Chile. Our first cohort of international graduate students from Chile will enter TTU in the spring semester 2013 and twelve months later will hold a Master’s in Musical Performance degree from TTU. Tech will have an international impact on the education of artists in South America!

Other students highlighted in this report have conducted independent research with playwrights and scholars in Rathdrum, Ireland; presented original research at national conferences on Women and Theatre; and, conducted a musical premier with the National Symphony Orchestra of Honduras. All of these graduate researchers have benefited from your financial support; they have broadened their research beyond the walls of Texas Tech to the nation and, indeed, the world.

I want to thank you for your generous support of the students and programs of the College of Visual & Performing Arts. Additionally, I am pleased to report that with your funding we will be awarding competitive scholarships of $1000 each to 15 graduate students allowing for study through summer sessions, a particularly important time for graduate students to be able to complete their studies.

Don and Kay, mere words cannot adequately express our gratitude. Each semester, I see the difference that you are making to our students. Thank you very much for believing in the importance of the arts at Texas Tech.

With sincere appreciation,

Carol D. Edwards, Ph.D.
Dean
Mr. Barrientos has my highest recommendation for this worthwhile project. Travelling to this event will not only significantly impact his own career, but will also greatly benefit the School of Music at Texas Tech University...

His efforts will likely lead to successful recruitment of highly talented music professionals from Chile to pursue doctoral degrees in music from Texas Tech.

David Shea, D. M.
Associate Professor of Clarinet
School of Music
David Barrientos, an international student from Chile, is currently pursuing his doctorate in the musical arts in performance (clarinet) program.

“Last fall 2011, I was awarded the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant in Visual and Performing Arts while I was a student of the Doctoral of Musical Arts in Performance (clarinet) program at Texas Tech University.

Graduate studies in performance do not exist in my country and I was always dreaming of pursuing studies abroad, and someday to return to my country to share my knowledge with the artistic community of Chile.

Attracted by the multidisciplinary DMA degree program offered at Texas Tech, my goals were to improve my skills in the performance area, to get an education in innovative pedagogy to educate young musicians, and to learn about the system of the higher education in the USA in general and arts in particular.

The Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant enabled me to perform for the first time in my country at the XII Edition of the International Contemporary Music Festival organized by the University of Chile in Santiago. This contemporary music festival is a prestigious musical event in Chile; being invited as a guest artist is a great honor. In addition to the Festival performance, I conducted a master class and a recital at the School of Music held at The University of La Serena in the north of Chile. I was also given an opportunity to join Dr. Carol Edwards, the Dean of the CVPA, when she visited Chile for a week of meetings and interviews with the faculty members and authorities of the University of Chile. I participated in daily academic meetings with Dr. Edwards in addition to performing two nights at the Festival. The Festival was widely covered by the press putting the name of Texas Tech in posters and newspapers.

This award created an immediate impact for my career and a precedent to other students to whom my example has motivated to create their own projects. As an international student, to be financed with a project abroad of this magnitude is almost impossible. I feel so grateful to both of you, primarily for supporting students who you do not necessarily know. This means that you put your trust in the students, and that you are convinced that the arts taught at Texas Tech are worth the support.”
Lee has very quickly become a valued contributing member of our musicology program and has forged solid professional relationships with both faculty and fellow students... The value and originality of Lee’s scholarship has been widely recognized – as this request makes clear, he is already presenting at regional, national, and international conferences – and he brings a fresh and imaginative perspective to the work.

Christopher Smith, Ph.D.
Director, Vernacular Music Center
Chair of Musicology
School of Music
Lee Chambers is a musicology student in the Fine Arts Doctoral Program who will continue a career in teaching and research, while simultaneously seeking opportunities for creative consulting with community or evangelism organizations.

“I write today to thank you for providing the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant in Visual and Performing Arts. I am a musicology student beginning my second year in the Fine Arts Doctoral Program at Texas Tech University, and I recently benefitted greatly from your generosity.

After receiving bachelor’s and master’s degrees with an emphasis in voice performance, I spent eight years singing, teaching lessons in my private studio, and teaching courses at a community college in Indianapolis. When I decided to seek further growth under the guidance of experienced scholars, I chose TTU for both the multidisciplinary nature of the fine arts program and the eclectic interests and personable approach of the musicology faculty.

Upon completing my studies at TTU, I hope to continue a career in teaching and research – whether within or beyond academia – while simultaneously seeking opportunities for creative consulting with community or evangelism organizations. In preparing for my goals, and building from my background as a performer, I have engaged in research projects and performance activities that combine historical work with the analysis of cultural symbols. I plan to complete a dissertation on opera creation and performance in East Africa, which combines aspects of and allows flexible possibilities for the realization of each of these goals.

Toward this end, the Cash Grant allowed me to present papers at two conferences in the United Kingdom this past July: the International Conference of the African Theatre Association and the Seventh Biennial International Conference on Music since 1900/Lancaster Music Analysis Conference, held at Swansea Metropolitan University and Lancaster University, respectively. While at these conferences, I began to develop relationships with knowledgeable figures in both musicology and African drama, received valuable feedback on my work, learned challenging concepts, and received an invitation from a journal editor to submit a paper for publication consideration.

As you know, a trip such as this carries a great expense; consequently, I was only able to pursue these opportunities with the financial assistance made available by the Don and Kay Cash Research Grant in Visual & Performing Arts. I earnestly thank you for your generous support.”
Mr. Flood is already invaluable, as he has begun teaching the acting for the camera course for majors and has provided invaluable assistance to me in my teaching of acting course for graduate students. This was a wonderful opportunity for Mr. Flood to delve deeply into his dissertation topic and to get, in some cases, a first-hand account of playwriting practices by the Irish.

Bill Gelber
Head of Acting/Directing Department of Theatre & Dance
Michael Flood is a Fine Arts Doctoral Program student in theatre who is currently working on his dissertation in the area of playwriting.

“I am writing to thank you for the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant in Visual and Performing Arts for the purpose of dissertation research. Words cannot adequately express my gratitude in receiving this grant. Without it, the work necessary for my culminating project toward a Ph.D. in fine arts, with emphasis in playwriting and theatre theory/history/criticism, would not be possible.

My decision to return to school to pursue my doctorate was not arrived at easily. It meant uprooting my young family and relocating them halfway across the country, separating them from friends and family. The promise of the brighter, much happier future working in the field for which I have great passion has helped with this displacement; however, I was at a loss as to how I would complete my desired dissertation topic properly until now.

The endowment of the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant in Visual & Performing Arts made my pursuit of a career in theatre education much more feasible, as I was able to visit Ireland to conduct research in local archives, as well as personally interview playwrights for the purpose of illuminating their work’s as yet undefined traits. There are aspects of plays written by authors of Irish descent that reach deeper than the outward trappings of politics, language and place which have not been formally addressed, and it is my desire to define these properties.

This grant allowed me to attend the Synge Summer School in Rathdrum, Ireland, where I took part in workshops, the presentation of paper, and experienced productions accompanied by local scholars and playwrights. In addition, this grant afforded me the opportunity to pursue independent research and interviews with scholars, playwrights and practitioners in Dublin following my attendance at the school.

The opportunity afforded me through the receipt of this grant is profoundly appreciated. Thank you very much for this unparalleled opportunity.”
Raul has my full support for this project. This will positively impact his own career, enhance the education of the seventy students who will perform this work in the TTU orchestra, raise the visibility of Texas Tech in Honduras, as well as in the US from the premiere of this new musical work.

Andrew George, Ph.D.
Director of Orchestras
School of Music
RAUL ANTONIO MUNGUIA is a Doctor of Musical Arts student in Orchestral Conducting at the School of Music.

“Since arriving to Texas Tech my goal has been to acquire a better conducting technique as well as leadership qualities in order to be prepared to teach at college level. But after one year in the program these goals quickly expanded to include the developing of young orchestras, teaching violin in TTU String Program, and collaboration with TTU Opera productions, as well as observing the close collaboration between conductor and composer in music premieres.

As part of my DMA program I have chosen to write a dissertation on Danza, Magia y Ritual, a symphonic piece by Maestro Jorge Mejía, a Honduran composer who is also the conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra of Honduras. Thanks to the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant I was able to travel to Honduras where I was given the opportunity to conduct the National Symphony Orchestra, to perform in the symphony in the first violin section in educational programs, and also to do research for my DMA dissertation. My research included interviews with the composer in which he described the cultural and historical elements from Honduras’ history that inspired the composer to write this piece, a discussion on the formal structure of the work and the use of a characteristic harmonic and rhythmic language.

As a result of this visit, the Texas Tech Symphony Orchestra performed the USA premiere of Danza, Magia y Ritual in a February 19th concert. Maestro Jorge Mejía was invited by the School of Music to attend a week of rehearsals and, of course, be present in the concert. This event is a direct outcome of my visit to Honduras last November which would have not been possible without your generosity.

This collaboration between Texas Tech Symphony Orchestra and the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Honduras strengthens the music relationships previously established by the Texas Tech String faculty.

I would like to thank you for the financial support that you and the College of Performing Visual and Performing Arts have given me through awarding me the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant.”
Kristen, who is easily the best scholar in her theatre class cohort of graduate students, had a paper selected for presentation at the debut panel of the Women and Theatre ... The paper is lucid, accessible, and very responsibly researched. It was the first thing Kristen wrote at TTU and it was clear to me after reading the first draft that she has a bright future both in our department and in the field.

Dorothy Chansky, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Department of Theatre & Dance
Kristen Rogers is currently pursuing her doctorate degree in the Fine Arts Doctoral Program at Texas Tech. She has lived and worked in theatre in both New York and Los Angeles as an actor, director, and teacher.

“I am an honored recipient of a Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant in Visual & Performing Arts. A mere thank you is not enough.

Briefly, my background includes a BA in theatre from Winona State University in Minnesota, an MFA in Acting from the Actors Studio at New School University in New York City, and an apprenticeship in directing with New York Stage and Film…I love theatre. It is my passion, and I enjoy being a part of it in any capacity.

When I decided to further pursue my education, I began looking for a place that would both support and expand upon my previous experience. When I found Texas Tech University’s unique, interdisciplinary doctorate degree in fine arts, it just seemed to fit.

During my first year, I really began to develop a research interest in American theatre, especially regarding key figures overlooked in typical historical studies. In this pursuit, I wrote a paper entitled Cheryl Crawford: Broadway’s Unsung Hero or Method’s Martyr?. Cheryl Crawford was an independent producer of over 100 plays and musicals, a co-founder of the Group Theatre, and a co-founder of the Actors Studio. She was a major player in the development of American theatre as we know it, and yet her contributions are often ignored.

The paper itself was chosen to be presented as a part of the Women and Theatre Debut Scholar Panel at the national ATHE (Association for Theatre in Higher Education) conference. This is a major, annual conference which is attended by hundreds of theatre professors and scholars from across the country. To be chosen to present my research at a conference of this scale at this point in my academic career was a tremendous honor. There is no doubt in my mind that is will prove to be the turning point for my future.

Not only am I a student, I am also a wife and mother of two young children. Choosing to pursue a doctorate degree at this time is not without a considerable sacrifice. Support – both financial and moral – is absolutely vital. Without the assistance of the Don and Kay Cash Grant…I would not have been able to afford to attend the ATHE conference…I am honored, humbled and incredibly grateful.”
Mr. St. Peter will be an excellent representative both for the Department of Theatre and Dance and the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Bill Gelber
Head of Acting/Directing
Department of Theatre & Dance
Rick St. Peter is a theatre student pursuing a Ph.D. in history, theory and criticism.

“I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude to you both for the support I received through the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant in Visual and Performing Arts which allowed me to present my first scholarly paper at an academic conference. I was invited to present my paper, entitled Harley Granville Barker, New Media and the Modern Stage at the 6th Biennial Blackfriars Conference at the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, Virginia. This international conference features a veritable ‘Who's Who’ of international Shakespeare scholars and the opportunity to present and discuss my research on early 20th century British director Harley Granville Barker and his impact on the modern staging of plays by Shakespeare was an invaluable experience.

My paper detailed my experience updating the turn of the 20th century staging ideas of Harley Granville Barker to our modern world through the use of multimedia design elements to direct an award-winning, nationally recognized production of Hamlet in 2007. Multimedia elements include but are not limited to the use of live video, pre-recorded video, computer animation and traditional projections as a means of presenting seamless, fast-paced, and thoroughly modern productions of the plays of William Shakespeare, thereby reinventing and reimagining his plays (and other Elizabethan and Jacobean playwrights as well) for 21st century audiences (without changing any of the language I might add). Every era reinvents Shakespeare, this has been my contribution to the conversation and at the Blackfriars Conference I was able to share my theoretical and practical ideas with some of the finest Shakespearean scholars in the world. That mix of practice and theory is what made Texas Tech such an appealing place for me to pursue my PhD and I have not been disappointed.

I am so fortunate to be attending Texas Tech at this time, not only because of the invaluable experience I am gaining in the classroom but also because of field opportunities encouraged by the faculty and generously supported by wonderful philanthropists such as yourself.

Please accept this letter as a small token of my appreciation and gratitude to you both personally and to the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant in general. I am truly honored and humbled to have received this grant.”
JeongShim Baik was a piano pedagogy doctoral student at Texas Tech University. Since receiving the Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant, she has returned to Korea.

“I was honored to have the opportunity to present my research at the annual convention of the Texas Music Teachers Association (TMTA). TMTA is the largest state organization affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association and the largest association of piano teachers in Texas. More than 2000 teachers and students attend TMTA so that participation not only enhances my professional standing, but also that of Texas Tech University. My paper was entitled, Forgotten Albums for the Young: A Source of Repertoire for the Intermediate Student. My lecture-recital introduced untapped sources of repertoire for intermediate level students by examining Albums for the Young written by composers from the 19th and 20th centuries. This presentation introduced teachers to a greater selection of repertoire from the character-piece genre that they can use to develop their students’ ability levels and interests.

I am indeed so honored to be a recipient of a Don and Kay Cash Graduate Research Grant in the Visual & Performing Arts. Please accept my sincere appreciation for your support.”

Ms. Baik is a pianist of immense technical gifts and interpretive confidence. Her repertoire is vast...In her lecture-recitals and academic work, she has also shown that she is a meticulous and curious scholar with a scientific bent, an unusual and welcome combination in a performing artist.

Lora Deahl, D.M.A.
Professor of Piano and Keyboard Literature
School of Music
John Wayman received his Ph.D. in music education from Texas Tech University. Currently, he is a faculty member at the Hugh Hodgson School of Music, University of Georgia.

“The Don and Kay Cash Grant afforded me the opportunity to present my research at the international level by participating in the RIME Conference (Research in Music Education) in Exeter, UK. This was a wonderfully unique experience allowing me to represent a perspective of not just American music teaching, but more specifically teaching techniques using music as an educational tool that were honed as a graduate teaching assistant at Texas Tech University. As a result of this wonderful happening, Oxford University Press has approached a colleague and myself to co-author a university textbook on this topic. Additionally, I was able to meet up with renowned British researcher Martin Ashley and discuss his use of information from my master thesis, Identification of the Adolescent Male Voice: Unchanged vs. Falsetto, on his current project of identification of five hundred cathedral boys choir singers. This connection is priceless.

Your contribution to the educational system, more specifically Texas Tech performing arts, has truly allowed me the opportunity to grow as researcher, musician, and colleague in higher education. More importantly, it has provided me with one of the most memorable experiences of my career. Thank you!”

Janice Killian, Ph.D.
Chair of Music Education
School of Music
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, 218 Administration Building, CVPA, MS 5060, with a copy to Business Manager Mike Smith, 224 Administration Building, 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.
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