



UMS-WRIGHT 2021 ARTS HALL OF FAME

Thursday, February 11, 2021

INDUCTEES

Ashley Lang Terrell '73

Franklin A. Danley '93

Jeana Conner-Mason '96

Robert P. Miller '05

Ashley Lang Terrell

Like many other Julius T. Wright alumnae, Ashley Lang Terrell can point to specific events and activities during her school days which shaped her character and her view of the world. Her teachers helped her develop a love for “all things Art” as well as a desire to master the means of communication, both verbal and visual. As a result of these influential Wright teachers, Ashley has spent her adult life as an art teacher as well as a practicing artist, which she is today. Most importantly, her education has equipped her with the skills and values necessary to live a fuller, richer life.

After graduating from JTW, where she was active in numerous co-curricular and leadership organizations on campus, Ashley attended the University of South Alabama, where she earned a degree in Art Education. As an educator, she taught in both the public and parochial schools in Mobile before she married and started a family. Eventually, she left teaching and began working as a freelance artist. While keeping up her painting, her primary focus changed to graphic design projects for local businesses, and this entry into the business world would lead to Ashley starting a stationery line, The Original Creation, which now has sold its products nationwide! Her other professional venture was to open Ashley Terrell Art which has featured her original paintings in a mixed media format portraying all genres. Specifically, she has always loved pure abstracts that depend on color and composition and employs hazy, soft landscapes to draw the eye to her settings. Her works have enabled her to meet clients nationwide as well as sell her creations nationally.

Ashley’s works have been featured in publications such as *Birmingham Style*, have been on the cover of *Birmingham Home and Garden* twice, and have been featured in *House Beautiful*.

Ashley’s works hang in banks, hotels, and other businesses around the country, and have even been used on the sets of movies filmed on location in New Orleans. As a dedicated artist, she never ceases to grow and learn by collaborating with others to create art or select art for display. Her personal philosophy drives her to continue to experiment in order to improve.

Like others who share her curiosity and wonder about the world, Ashley enjoys life. She openly admits that while she loves living on the Gulf Coast, she still also enjoys travel. Her time in Mobile is often devoted to helping others and working to enrich the cultural life available to Mobilians. She is a member of the Junior League and serves on the boards of Mobile Ballet and the Senior Citizens Center in addition to volunteering with United Cerebral Palsy, Festival of Flowers, and St. Ignatius Catholic Church. Her works have been featured at events which benefit the American Cancer Society while she has been the featured artist at the Kirkland Cancer Center in Birmingham.

Today, Ashley keeps busy managing her two businesses, The Original Creation and Ashley Terrell Art. However, she also experiences the unmatched joy of spending time with her children and grandchildren, two of whom attend UMS-Wright, Matthew Garrard (2nd grade) and William Garrard (1st grade).

Franklin Aldridge Danley

A few special individuals have the ability to lift the spirits of others. Franklin Aldridge Danley has been blessed with this gift and has a positive impact on any group or any individual with whom he interacts. Franklin graduated in 1993 as a member of the 100th Class to have attended either UMS or UMS-Wright. Prior to his graduation, he was a positive influence on the student body, the athletic department, and, most of all, the Fine Arts Department.

As a 6th grader, two years prior to the merger of UMS and JTW, Franklin was recruited to join the UMS Chorus. At the time, the group consisted of fewer than 10 male students, yet some members of this happy few, along with their beloved director Kathy Hughes, would be part of a program that helped create unique momentum within the Fine Arts Department of UMS-Wright.

From the outset, Franklin was a key member and eventually a respected leader among the Arts students because of his exemplary example. He was a member of the select chorus, Adagio, as well as the larger chorus while both groups were extremely active and performed often at school as well as in the Mobile community. Not surprisingly, Franklin would be selected in the Alabama All State Chorus, and he would be part of the original recording of the vocal arrangement of the UMS-Wright Student Prayer which is still a standard part of any UMS-Wright formal assembly.

Franklin was also an active member of the UMS-Wright Theater Guild as well as a prominent student vocalist. As an actor and singer, he took part in six major stage productions. Among these were the classic musicals *West Side Story*, *Meet Me In St. Louis*, and *The Sound of Music*. No matter which part he sang or which role he played, Franklin always impressed audience members and earned the admiration of directors and fellow cast members. As the SGA Vice-President for Fine Arts, he organized and implemented the first Talent Show for UMS-Wright student performers and initiated an event which continues to enrich the experience of students in 2021. This active, engaged young man also was selected as the Theater Guild's Male Newcomer of the year but would earn more honor and be given more responsibilities. Having earned the respect and trust of fellow students, Franklin would be chosen to the most responsible office a student can hold, Honor Council member, and would be chosen by his teachers to receive the prestigious Benjamin Harte Harris Spirit and Leadership Award his senior year. Not surprisingly, the qualities and skills he honed as a UMS-Wright student continue to be visible in his life today.

After UMS-Wright Franklin Danley would graduate from Birmingham-Southern College where he would be elected President of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. Upon graduation, he entered the banking profession in the Regions Bank Management Associate Program, and he remains with Regions Bank as an executive nearly a quarter of a century later. Today he works as the Executive Vice President, Head of Payments Operations.

Selection into the Arts Hall of Fame is most appropriate for an individual who, along with his family members, has contributed so much to UMS, JTW, and UMS-Wright. His grandfather, Henri Aldridge, was the first Board Chairman of Julius T. Wright School for Girls, and his mother, Fran Aldridge Danley, remains one of our school's most universally loved graduates. Not surprisingly, he and his sister, Blair Danley Schoenvogel (UMS-Wright Class of 1997), continue to contribute greatly to our school in so many ways.

Franklin remains a leader to this day as he is active in organizations which serve both his home area of Birmingham and the State of Alabama. While living and working in Florida, he was also an active, loyal community servant. Franklin and his wife Leigh Ann have four children: Lauren, Kathryn, Anna, and Conner.

Jeana Conner- Mason

Jeana Conner-Mason was blessed with a very notable gift, her beautiful singing voice. While she has blessed audiences at UMS-Wright and elsewhere by using this gift, Jeana has used her passion and talent for singing as an impetus to develop her abilities in other significant areas of her life. Her contributions to the Arts Department and her achievements as a student-leader have made Jeana one of UMS-Wright's very memorable and beloved graduates. Now she has embarked on a life that enriches those around her as a wife and mother, friend, professional, and community servant.

As a student performer, Jeana was an omnipresent leader of the UMS-Wright Singers, Wright Images, and Adagio where her vocal skills helped raise the level of excellence of each group. Whenever her talents were also displayed in the Theatre Guild, she enhanced performances of classical musicals such as *Oklahoma*, *My Fair Lady*, and *The Sound of Music*. Without a doubt, her portrayal of the Reverend Mother and her stirring performance of "Climb Every Mountain" in *The Sound of Music* has remained a joyous memory of all fans of the UMS-Wright Theatre Guild. She inspired audiences with her talent.

Not surprisingly, Jeana was also an outstanding young scholar. She earned induction into the National Honor Society, and, as evidence of the wide range of abilities she possesses, she received the Physics Award for excellence in this challenging discipline. As a result of her positive influence and outstanding character, she also earned an Alumni Spirit Award. She also earned prestigious awards on the state level for her vocal talents. First, she was selected as a member of the Alabama All-State Chorus, and most impressively, she was also named the Outstanding Choral Student for the State of Alabama in 1996, her senior year. After she graduated from UMS-Wright, Rhodes College in Memphis offered this remarkable student-performer a music scholarship.

During her collegiate years, Jeana performed with the group, The Rhodes Singers, who sang throughout Tennessee and across the country. Her college education also included a semester in Vienna, Austria for intensive music and language study. In addition, she joined Kappa Delta Sorority and performed as a featured soloist at Germantown Presbyterian Church. Jeana graduated from Rhodes with a major in Science and a minor in Music. In 2006, she graduated from Louisiana State School of Dentistry and would enter practice with her father, Dr. David Conner, in her hometown of Lucedale, Mississippi.

Today Jeana and her husband Adam live in Lucedale with their two daughters Vivian, UMS-Wright 1st grade, and Jane Evelyn, UMS-Wright K3. As mentioned earlier, she and her dad, Dr. David Conner, are in practice together at Conner Family and Cosmetic Dentistry.

As a devout Christian and life-long member of Lucedale First Baptist Church, Jeana lives her life as a true servant-leader. In addition to sharing her vocal talents in service to her church and community, she has helped impoverished communities through dental mission trips to Belize, Brazil, and the Grand Cayman. She has lived a rich life dedicated to using her talents and abilities to help others.

Robert Paul Miller

Enjoying the arts enriches one's life while participating in the arts enriches the lives of others as well as transforming the participant. Robert Paul (Bobby) Miller has been active in theater as a performer and as a set designer/technician since his childhood, and he is now a testament to how active engagement in the arts molds a person. Fittingly, he now introduces middle schoolers to the joys of live theater as an inspiring teacher. UMS-Wright is blessed to have such a positive role model and capable alumnus on the faculty.

As a UMS-Wright student, Bobby was clearly enamored with the written and spoken word. His ability in this area was apparent early in his academic career when he earned the 6th Grade Reading Award, and throughout high school his teachers constantly praised his creativity and his writing ability. Frequently, they even shared his work with other faculty members to highlight what an outstanding young writer was in the student body.

As an actor, Bobby possessed the full repertoire of skills and the confident attitude that a true thespian needs. Without a doubt, he was a talented actor, but his classical view of how to prepare for a show provided him with an understanding of the essential components such as set design, lighting quality, and sound quality which contributed to the success of live performances. His dedication and selflessness were invaluable in every production that took place at UMS-Wright while he was here. As a rare asset to the Theatre Guild, Bobby moved seamlessly from center stage to backstage and performed equally as well in either venue.

Among Bobby's most memorable stage performances was his portrayal of King Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. While he would perform in numerous other productions, one has to expect that the fanciful setting of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was especially significant in the development of the creativity of this future teacher and writer. His natural curiosity about life has augmented his imagination and resulted in a diverse set of interests which include sports, such as soccer and fishing, as well as a love of Alabama's outdoors. These unique interests and talents resulted in his receiving both The Fine Arts Spirit Award and The Most Valuable Male Soccer Player Award his senior year at UMS-Wright. Few educators have the skill set to be the Middle School Drama Director/Teacher as well as the Middle School Soccer Coach as Bobby is today.

His enthusiasm for any task that he undertakes is infectious, and his energy, both physical and intellectual, remains limitless. This enthusiasm continues to motivate his students while his unflagging energy has enabled him to complete a Master's of Education after having already earned a law degree. Additionally, Bobby is a published author. His fantasy novel, *Revelation*, is the first book in a trilogy that began as a creative writing project. Only a person with unique ability as well as an intense drive could accomplish all that Bobby Miller has at such a young age. Not surprisingly since COVID challenges and copyright limitations made streaming live theater a complicated process, this remarkable young man simply wrote his own play for middle school theater students to perform. This is a clear example of the type of educator and man Bobby Miller has become.

Bobby and his wife Kylie live in Theodore with their two sons, UMS-Wright students Ryder (K-5) and Tristan (K-3). Today, Bobby remains active in his diverse hobbies while he carries out his responsibilities as an educator and family man in exemplary fashion.

ARTS HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

2008	- <i>Howard M. Fortney</i>	Honorary
2009	- <i>H. Ainsley McNeely</i>	'78
2009	- <i>Fred D. Baldwin</i>	'66
2010	- <i>Nicholas H. Holmes, III</i>	'70
2011	- <i>Eugenia Cameron Foster</i>	'62
2011	- <i>Howard M. Schramm, Jr.</i>	'60
2012	- <i>Cammie East Cowan</i>	'63
2012	- <i>M. Richard Hirsch</i>	'64
2012	- <i>Julie Hall Friedman</i>	'77
2012	- <i>Ellen Goldberg Fishpaw</i>	'97
2013	- <i>Bradley S. Handwerker</i>	'99
2013	- <i>W. Frye Gaillard, Jr.</i>	'64
2013	- <i>Eugenia Barney Lanaux</i>	'73
2013	- <i>Jacqueline Alford Ward</i>	'96
2013	- <i>Linda D. Pereira</i>	Honorary
2014	- <i>Walter B. Edgar</i>	'61
2014	- <i>M. Gay Outlaw</i>	'77
2014	- <i>H. Jody Powell</i>	'77
2014	- <i>Demetri N. Ravanos</i>	'99
2015	- <i>Joy Ogburn Gardner</i>	'78
2015	- <i>C. Matthew Vinson</i>	'98
2015	- <i>J. Douglas Waterman</i>	'98
2015	- <i>Liz Stokes Terry</i>	'75
2015	- <i>Kathy W. Thompson</i>	Honorary

ARTS HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

2016	~	<i>E. Russell "Barney" March</i>	'85
2016	~	<i>Pier Peterson Hardin</i>	'70
2016	~	<i>Roy Bernard Hoffman</i>	'71
2016	~	<i>Peyton Sumerlyn Trueblood</i>	'12
2017	~	<i>Mary-Lacey Rogers Zeiders</i>	'05
2017	~	<i>J. Russell Goodloe, Jr.</i>	'55
2017	~	<i>F. Randy deCelle</i>	'85
2017	~	<i>Janey Miller</i>	Honorary
2018	~	<i>Kim Bancroft Wood</i>	'68
2018	~	<i>Margaret Thurber Delaney</i>	'98
2018	~	<i>Eden Walker Flora</i>	'02
2018	~	<i>John William Hayes, Jr.</i>	'05
2019	~	<i>Michael Dent Boykin</i>	'82
2019	~	<i>John Gregory Saad</i>	'00
2019	~	<i>Bronwyn Coffeen-Mercer</i>	'01
2019	~	<i>Clayton Carter Omainsky</i>	'06
2019	~	<i>Laura Wilson Roberts</i>	Honorary
2020	~	<i>Leslie McDuffie Johnson</i>	'96
2020	~	<i>Lauren Koffler Denton</i>	'97
2020	~	<i>Catherine Fogarty Leatherbury</i>	'07
2020	~	<i>Kathy Albritton Hughes</i>	Honorary



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