

FIRST FRIDAY NEWS

A Letter from the Director

With the conclusion of the 2018-2019 academic year, I wish to express my appreciation to you, as a member of the Bower School of Music & the Arts community, for your support throughout my time as Interim Director. Each and every day was rich with enjoyments and challenges as together, our vision of the BSM&A moved forward. I am especially grateful to our staff for their administrative knowledge and skills in keeping our day-to-day operations on track, as well as grateful to our faculty for maintaining a central focus on students, curricula and disciplinary expertise. Personally, I also wish to extend expressions of gratitude to my wife, Suzanne Rohrbacher, who agreed to serve as Visiting Assistant Professor in Music Therapy. Growth in this newly established program continued without pause.

And what was accomplished across 2018-2019? We need not to look any further than our mission-oriented statement on our new website: "Host to more than 150 local and visiting arts events each year, the Bower School serves as the hub of campus cultural life while preparing students to excel as professionals in the arts and related fields." Practice rooms, rehearsal spaces and art studios were in constant use. Students, faculty and guest artists emerged to offer the finest of artistic expression for our many constituents throughout SW Florida. Students, especially, excelled in their areas of study with outreach to schools, performance venues, communities and healthcare agencies. The Bower School of Music & the Arts has continued with excellence at local, regional, and international levels.

On behalf of the Bower School of Music & the Arts, we welcome Dr. Krzysztof Biernacki as our new Director. A new era now begins, building upon the richness of our past with exciting opportunities before us!

Dr. Michael Rohrbacher
Interim Director, Bower School of Music & the Arts

Sent on behalf of Provost James L. Llorens

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Krzysztof Biernacki will be joining FGCU as Director of the Bower School of Music & the Arts, effective August 7. He will be coming to FGCU from the University of North Florida, where he is currently Professor in the UNF School of Music and Stage Director for the UNF Opera Ensemble.

Dr. Biernacki holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Musical Arts – Opera Performance from the University of British Columbia. For the past 14 years, he has been on the Music faculty at University of North Florida, where he has served the UNF School of Music as Assistant Director, Director of Graduate Studies, Head of Applied Voice, and Coordinator of Music Scholarships. He founded the UNF Opera Ensemble in 2007 and has been its Stage Director ever since. He has a lengthy and distinguished list of opera productions, performances, and recitals across the U.S. and Europe, and a very successful record of building community partnerships and support in the Jacksonville area. His connections to Europe have resulted in his leading numerous study abroad programs for students. Dr. Biernacki will lead the Bower School of Music and the Arts through the next phase of its evolution, building on the extraordinary growth and success of the arts programs already achieved at FGCU.



Dr. Krzysztof Biernacki

While we welcome Krzysztof, we also want to extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Michael Rohrbacher, who has done an outstanding job serving as interim Director for the past year. Mike has provided steady guidance through a transitional year, and enabled the School to maintain its forward momentum.

James L. Llorens, Ph.D.
Interim Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs