

# WOW FACTOR

Celebrating the success of students, faculty and alumni from the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts.



## Harold Mortimer Selected as Fulbright Specialist

Dr. Harold R. Mortimer is a Fulbright Scholar, South Africa, and is the Weitzenhoffer Professor of Musical Theatre in the College of Fine Arts. He has been selected as a Fulbright Specialist. This program is a unique opportunity for U.S. academics and established professionals to engage in two- to six-week, project-based exchanges at host institutions across the globe. Specialists, who represent a wide range of professional and academic disciplines, are competitively selected to join the Fulbright Specialist Roster based on their knowledge, skill sets, and ability to make a significant contribution to projects overseas.

## OU music professor Richard Zielinski wins International Choral Competition

by Devin Hiett, OU Daily Arts and Entertainment reporter

The Zielinski Singers won the 2018 Grand Prix Award for the overall best choir at the International Choral Music Festival in Międzyzdroje, Poland. On June 22, the 40-person semi-professional choir comprised mostly of OU students and alumni took the top prize with Richard Zielinski as the choir's conductor. Approximately 18 choirs from across the globe were competing in the competition.

The Zielinski Singers was founded in 2005. Zielinski invites some of his former students to join the group and sing at different venues. This was the group's first time competing in a choral competition.



Hunter Birkhead, Nicole Van Every, Richard Zielinski, Kayley Williamson and David Howard after a cathedral performance in Szczecin, Poland on June 20.

"While the thrill of winning their first competition was an amazing moment, the choir's true mission is to get people, especially young people, excited about music and the prospect of expressing themselves through singing," said Nicole Van Every, OU professor of voice and a soprano soloist in the Zielinski Singers. The complete article may be found at [oudaily.com](http://oudaily.com).



## OU School of Dance & OKC Ballet Announce Collaboration

School of Dance and Oklahoma City Ballet are pleased to announce a new cooperative venture with the opportunity for OU dance majors to work with Oklahoma City Ballet as trainees. Two ballet majors from OU, juniors Micah Bullard and Caroline Young, have been named as trainees with Oklahoma City Ballet. They will continue their education at OU while concurrently dancing with OKC Ballet as trainees.

"Since both OU's dance program and OKC Ballet trace their roots back to Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo dancers Miguel Terekhov and Yvonne Chouteau, it is only natural that the two entities collaborate and work together. I am happy to begin this joint training program with the OU School of Dance and look forward to working with their students in the coming years," said Robert Mills, artistic director of OKC Ballet.

Michael Bearden, director of the OU School of Dance, remarked, "Mr. Mills and I both desire to strengthen the bond between our sister organizations for the benefit of our students and community, so this joint trainee program seems like a wonderful step in that direction."