

West Texas A&M University  
Alumni Association eNewsletter  
**MAY 2017**



WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION eNEWSLETTER



*let's catch up.*  
**BUFFALUM.COM**

## Alumnus Receives Fellowship to NYC

It's going to be a busy June for recent West Texas A&M University graduate, Misael Tambuwun '17. He's headed to New York City for an Emerging Composers Fellowship and then off to Boston for the world premiere of his own work.

Tambuwun, who just graduated with honors a few weeks ago with a bachelor's degree in music/music composition, will spend June 2-11 in New York City at the Imani Winds Chamber Music Festival as the recipient of a coveted Emerging Composers Fellowship. He is one of seven applicants from around the world to be chosen for the program. The festival will give Tambuwun the opportunity to write and learn in a collaborative environment with esteemed guest artists and composers, including members of the New York Philharmonic and Metropolitan Opera as well as the Grammy winning Imani Wind Ensemble. His days will be filled with masterclasses, workshops, concerts and performances.

"The Emerging Composer Fellowship Program is a very prestigious one and an honor for Misael to be selected," Dr. Robert Hansen, director of the WTAMU School of Music, said. "It is a very positive reflection on the School of Music that one of our grads should succeed at this high level."

Applying for one of the seven open fellowships is very competitive. Tambuwun learned about the opportunity through a fellow WTAMU alumna last summer. He tracked the festival's website for months, waiting for the application process to begin. To apply, Tambuwun submitted a



biography, résumé and recordings of two of his original compositions. One submission was his composition, “Turbulence,” which was performed in Italy in 2015. His second submission was “Cowboy’s Dilemma,” a piece Tambuwun composed while studying abroad in Russia and later performed by students at WTAMU.

Part of Tambuwun’s preparation for the festival is submitting a composition a week before the event begins. The piece will be premiered at the festival and performed by the Imani Wind Ensemble. The piece is in the works now and currently titled “Sodom and Gomorra.”

The festival closes on June 11, and Tambuwun will be on a midnight flight to Boston for the Divergent Composition Workshop at the Longy School of Music of Bard College. Here, Tambuwun will work with some of the best faculty composers and collaborate with two ensembles—Neave Trio and loadbang. The Neave Trio will perform the world premiere of Tambuwun’s composition, “Behind Closed Doors.” Tambuwun wrote the piece while studying at WTAMU in just two days.

“Misael’s unique music is engaging and dynamic,” Dr. BJ Brooks, associate professor of music, said. “The music he composes often challenges the performer to go beyond the typical technique of their instrument yet the work still manages to speak to its audience without feeling exclusive. His rhythmically driven works are evocative of his Indonesian roots. Misael’s music bridges the gap of two cultures with energy, tenderness and joy.”

Music has always been a passion for Tambuwun. He is a talented pianist, who began studying at the Yamaha Music School at the young age of three. He made his orchestral debut at the age of nine with the Yamaha Youth Orchestra. He was a composer-in-residence at the Lucca International Music Festival in Tuscany, Italy in the summer of 2015 and a visiting scholar at the Tbilisi State Conservatoire. His works have been performed and commissioned across the United States, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Macedonia and the former Soviet Union Georgia Republic. His awards include first-place prizes at the Gracia Music Competition, Yamaha Music Competition and Ensemble Music Competition-Jakarta Region.

Tambuwun plans to pursue a master’s degree in composition in the fall at the Peabody Conservatory of Music at Johns Hopkins University. He wants to be a professor of composition, and his plans include WTAMU.

“I really do want to teach here,” Tambuwun said. “I started at WT, and I want to pay back to WT for all my achievements, career and contributions.”

## **People, Mannequins, Toys - WT Alumna Knows How to Dress It All**

**By Brittany Castillo '14**

She sported knee high boots and unique trends in her small town of Stinnett, Texas.

Known for making a fashion statement, WT alumna Madison Heston '16, grew up developing a sense of style that caught attention. She stood out and that flair earned Heston a spot in one of the most prestigious fashion institutes in the world.

Located in New York City, Parsons School of Design is known for launching the careers of the industry's most successful fashion designers. Graduates have contributed to Chanel, Calvin Klein and Ralph Lauren, while others have successfully launched their own lines. Parsons is the only American art and design school with a comprehensive university, the New School, and it is the first home to the television series, Project Runway.



Heston joined the ranks of the industry's future designers at Parsons right after earning a B.A. in theater for design and technology at WT in 2016. While earning her undergraduate degree, she worked in the costume shop of the WT theater department and Front of House at the TEXAS outdoor musical drama. Before her junior year, Heston spent a summer studying fashion design at the University of Westminster in London, which gave momentum to her budding career. She returned to Texas driven to pursue fashion design wholeheartedly.

"I came back from that experience ready to push myself knowing what I really wanted to do. I applied to Parsons, the Fashion Institute of Technology, and another school in San Francisco, and by graduation, I knew I was moving to New York," Heston said.

During her first year at Parsons, Heston strengthened her skills in pattern making, draping, sewing, design and construction. She collaborated with other artists to build a strong portfolio and even did some modeling. With one semester left, her sights are set on a major design label like Alexander Wang or Alexander McQueen before one day creating her own line. A line that her family might say has been in the works since she was old enough to clothe her toys in handmade creations.

"My dad was really the one who encouraged me to pursue fashion. I told him I didn't know what to study, and he reminded me that at three years old, my Mimi showed me how to make clothes for my dinosaur toys," Heston said. "I thought I wouldn't be good enough to pursue it, but the more I designed the more I realized I had to do it."

Though she describes her own style as ever changing, her need to create pieces that move people is constant.

"In school, no one takes a concept the same way you do. No matter what, you're going to make something that people are either going to love or hate," Heston said. "But the ones who love it are the ones you can connect with, and I like making something that those people can either feel great in or admire."

## Department Seeks Nominations for 2017 Communication Hall of Fame

The WT Department of Communication at WT seeks nominations for its Communication Hall of Fame to recognize outstanding alumni who graduated in 2012 or earlier from the WTAMU communication studies, speech communication or mass communication programs.

Nominees will be recognized at the Communication Hall of Fame Banquet at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 29 in the Jack B. Kelley Student Center, Legacy Hall.

The Communication Hall of Fame was an idea first proposed by the late Dr. Leigh Browning as a way to honor the outstanding contributions of graduates from the Department of Communication. Since its 2013 inauguration, 16 communication alumni have been inducted.

Nomination criteria and forms can be found on the Communication Hall of Fame website. Deadline for submitting nominations is July 15. All nomination forms should be emailed to Dr. Trudy Hanson.

## Heard from the Herd

The Wellington West Texas Skyrockets Alumni Chapter awarded scholarships to four incoming students this week. Attending the awards dinner were the Wellington Alumni Chapter Board, representatives from the Alumni Association, dozens of WT alumni from the community, parents and last year's scholarship recipients. Congratulations to our newest Buffs - Carmen, Anslemo, Jose and Dylan.



Second row (standing) - Sandie Cantu Killian\*, Tiffany Williams Tarver\*, Megan Huntress Wischkaemper\*, Anselmo Silva (2017 Scholarship Recipient), Carmen Maria Perez (2017 Scholarship Recipient), Jose Tellez (2017 Scholarship Recipient), Dylan Valles (2017 Scholarship Recipient), Matt Needham\*, and Jermaine Cantu\*.

1st row (seated) - Forrest Field (2016 Scholarship Recipient), Lauren Folk (2016 Scholarship Recipient), Dakota Lockhart (2016 Scholarship Recipient), Tracey Ouellette\*, Claudia Jantes (2016 Scholarship Recipient), and Destine Nation (2016 Scholarship Recipient).

\*Wellington Chapter Board Member

**WEST TEXAS A&M BUFFALO SOCCER**

**2017 BOYS SUMMER SOCCER CAMPS**

**WT**

College ID Camp  
Mini-Kick Camp  
Day Camp

Contact: [jcrowder@wtamu.edu](mailto:jcrowder@wtamu.edu) • 512-809-6207  
To Register Online - <https://mercury.wtamu.edu/camps>

Michael Garcia, Sean Dublin, Pat Satorie, Ivan Ulloa III

The WT Soccer Camp is one of the premier soccer camps in West Texas. Coach Butch Lauffer and his experienced staff of coaches direct the camp.

<b>COLLEGE ID CAMP</b> The Pitch, WT Campus	<b>JUNE 17-18</b>	Boys ages 14-18
<b>MINI-KICK (9 – 11 A.M.)</b> Puckett Elementary, Amarillo	<b>JUNE 19-22</b> <b>JULY 17-20</b>	Boys ages 5-10 Boys ages 5-10
<b>DAY CAMP (9 – 11:30 A.M.)</b> Puckett Elementary, Amarillo	<b>JUNE 19-22</b> <b>JULY 17-20</b>	Boys ages 11-14 Boys ages 11-14

For more information and registration: [jcrowder@wtamu.edu](mailto:jcrowder@wtamu.edu),  
<https://mercury.wtamu.edu/camps>, or contact us at 512-809-6207.

Per NCAA rules, all sport camps and clinics conducted by West Texas A&M University are open to any and all entrants and enrollment is only limited based on age, grade level, gender, or number restrictions as specified by each camp.

## Upcoming Events

### June 3

Wellington West Texas Skyrockets Alumni Chapter Old Timers Basketball Game  
Join us at Wellington High School to cheer on WT Alumni and Friends!  
Games begin at 9am with a brisket wrap dinner later in the day for \$8.

### June 17

WT Family Day at the Amarillo Air & Space Museum  
10 a.m. - noon  
FREE More information and registration at [buffalum.com/airandspace](http://buffalum.com/airandspace).

**New Student Send-Offs: Alumni, join us as we welcome the newest Buffs from your community** (more information at [buffalum.com](http://buffalum.com))

### July 10

Fort Worth  
6:30 p.m., Landmark Bar & Grill

### July 11

Dallas  
6:30 p.m., The Lot

### July 13

San Antonio  
6:30 p.m., BJ's Brewhouse

### July 12-16

Music Department Alumni Reunion  
Thursday - Imperial Taproom, 6:30 p.m.  
Friday - meet at Best Western Canyon or get tickets to see TEXAS  
Saturday - band camp concerts, tour of Sybil B. Harrington Fine Arts Complex  
Saturday evening - buffet dinner in the Alumni Banquet Hall, 6:30 p.m.  
Contact **Alice Flanagan** to attend or for more information.

### Oct. 14

Homecoming 2017

## JOIN US IN THE PARADE!

If you'd like to be a part of WT's float in the Canyon 4th of July Parade, contact **Kyle Moore**. We'll have a great time sharing our Canyon pride and Buff spirit!

Alumni and students are welcome to participate.



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**BuffAlum.com** - for details on upcoming events

**University calendar** - for a complete schedule of campus events

**gobuffsgo** - for complete schedule of WT athletic events

WTAMU Alumni Association 102 N 25th Street, Canyon TX 79016  
If you wish to be removed from this group's mailing list, [click here](#)