

M A R C H 2 0 0 7

# NEWS

# ARTS

THE FINE ARTS CENTER  
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*“A building is an outward and visible sign of an inward and probable culture.”*

-- Sir Laurence Olivier



Photograph by visual arts student Kevin Bost

**B**uildings talk, have personalities, mean something, carry on conversations, embrace, repel, offer, refuse, breathe, and we are affected, consciously or unconsciously, when in spaces. Colors, textures, light, the weight of objects in the space, speak volumes, and we listen with our eyes. Qualities imaginatively combined, balanced, harmonically proportioned, whether we are aware or not, can spell the difference between whether we feel good or feel bad, whether we feel productive or unproductive. Architecture is an aesthetic which sculpts light and space to make a philosophical statement about what it is to be human.

At our Open House on Thursday, February 8, when there were over 400 people marveling at what Neal Prince had designed, one parent was heard to say, “It doesn’t look like

a school, it looks like a museum.” Another said, “The colors are so warm, it doesn’t feel like an institution.” The new Fine Arts Center was speaking volumes, was breathing life into what the concept of “school” means, into the predictable, sometimes banal, expectations we have of such common spaces. How often do we settle for—or are we saddled with—spaces, that though rising from the ground shackle our spirits. We walk into a building and, more often than not, we are not touched; we do not notice; we pass through: architectural Muzak.

How can you not be affected when entering the school? There, before you, rising from the clear polished and honed concrete floor of the lobby, stands the warm sculpted Honduran mahogany of John Acorn, lovingly restored by Robert Brown, who worked with John some thirty years ago when “The Seasons”



Robert Brown reassembles John Acorn's "The Seasons" with a little help from his friends. (sculpture photo, Kevin Bost)

was begun. You know you are in the presence of something unusual. You are in a place that values something uncommon, something spiritual.



The grand stair leads up to the second floor, where, with each step, the wall of glass to the left reveals the moving sculptural grace of the dancers. There are carefully chosen colors everywhere accented by the rich deep tones of the mahogany doors with their porthole windows—not like any school we've ever seen. All has been painstakingly, meticulously thought through, down to the colors of chairs, their fabrics, wastebaskets, clocks, the finish of tables, the carpet and stain on the floors.

The building is an outward sign of the excellence within. But, the old building produced excellence, and it never succeeded in being anything more than a renovated elementary school. The constant in both buildings is the faculty: It is always the people, those passionate

teachers in the classroom, interacting with committed students who discover in themselves possibilities that were only dreams.

This new building is a better tool, a larger palette, another instrument, for highly creative artists to explore their craft as artist/teachers and to enrich the imaginations of already immensely talented and creative students, making the inward and probable culture a living and breathing reality.

It's good to be here.

## Alumni



### Voice

Every year Hong Kong Disneyland holds auditions all over the world to fill the 12 positions available in its Entertainment department. For its upcoming contract, Disneyland has chosen FAC voice graduate, **Heather Clardy**. Heather started at Walt Disney World in Florida and is currently working in Entertainment for the Disney Cruise Line. She will begin her contract in Hong Kong on May 7.

### Strings

Violinist **Chloe Robinson** (class of 2004) performed Gian Carlo Menotti's *Violin Concerto* with the Foothills Philharmonic at the Peace Center's Dorothy Gunter Theater on February 17. Chloe is currently a junior at the Oberlin (OH) Conservatory where she is pursuing a degree in violin performance. Chloe has served as the concertmaster of the Oberlin Conservatory Symphony and has toured with that orchestra in the People's Republic of China. As a member of the conservatory's Contemporary Music Ensemble, Chloe performed a concert dedicated to the music of Georg Ligiti in Columbia University's Miller Auditorium. Recently, her string quartet was chosen to perform a concert for Oberlin donors in Manhattan.

*Chloe Robinson*

## Touring FAC Drummer Tim Wadsworth Settles Down



*“After graduating from Southside Christian School and The Fine Arts Center, I was finally able to make my dream of becoming a traveling musician a reality. I always played local gigs in high school but never anywhere more than a few hours from home. I was fortunate enough to know two guys named Chris Sligh (Greenville) and Aaron Keyes (Atlanta), two independent song writers who were very eager to hit the road as well. Putting off college was no big deal for me. In fact, I actually loved*

*the idea. At this same time, I began going into local studios to lay down tracks for many friends as favors and also as paying jobs. I had the opportunity to record in places such as Los Angeles, Nashville and Dallas, Texas. Those were experiences I will never forget, but my main goal was to aid Chris and Aaron in making their dreams as singers/song-writers a reality.*

*We played everywhere imaginable. I was endorsed by drum head manufacturer Remo, Inc. and Pro-Mark Drumsticks, which helped us in our journeys. A year into our playing, our bands started working for a organization called “Student Life,” and the bands traveled with them for a year or so. We played out of Miami, Florida, Hilton Head, and Dallas, Texas, as our main headquarters. A little bit after that, I started working for a man named David Odom, also out of Atlanta. We signed to Super Summers Records, and once again I got to hit the road and do it all over again. This time I was able to choose my own drum set, paid for by the record company! Gigs went up in price and I was finally able to start saving money for college.*

*Shortly after I toured on the road,*

*in the summer of 2005, it all came to a halt. I now attend Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, and major in Biblical Studies and minor in Youth*



*Ministries. As I was on the road, my passion for music slowly changed to a passion for people. I am very thankful for everything the Fine Arts Center – especially the percussion and jazz guitar programs – did for me during my time there. It gave me the proper training that I needed to thoughtfully “equip” me on my instrument. I am forever grateful for that and will keep those things with me forever.”*

*Timothy Wadsworth, Class of 2003*

*Guest artist Art Werger demonstrates his signature mezzotint printing technique for Fine Arts Center students*





Mary Margaret Eisey works with eager young workshop participants in the Greenville County Museum of Art's Family Workshop Program

## Guest Artist

### Creative Writing

Author Grace Cavalieri was a guest artist at the Fine Arts Center Creative Writing classes on February 23. She is the author of *Quilting the Sun*, which was performed at Centre Stage. Ms. Cavalieri has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Pen-Fiction Award, the Allen Ginsberg Poetry Award, The Corporation for Public Broadcasting Silver Medal, and awards from the National Commission on Working Women, the WV Commission on Women, and the American Association of University Women.

### Visual Arts

Internationally collected printmaker Art Werger was the first guest artist to work in the new Fine Arts Center building. He gave a demonstration of his trademark mezzotint technique in the new printmaking studio. Visual arts student **Christina Van Pelt** volunteered to assist Mr. Werger during his demonstration. Mr. Werger's workshop was made possible by Hampton III Gallery where Art exhibited a collection of his

latest prints. Sandy Rupp of Hampton III Gallery was instrumental in arranging the workshop for the Fine Arts Center.

### Taylor 2 Works with Fine Arts Center Dancers

Taylor 2, the smaller company of the Paul Taylor Dance Company, taught master classes at the Fine Arts Center on February 14 in the morning and afternoon dance classes as well as two classes in the A.R.M.E.S. dance program after school.

The Fine Arts Center dancers went to the POP! Taylor 2 performance on Monday, February 12. Many of the students attended the evening performance in the Gunter Theatre on February 13 as well, rounding out their experience with the company and individual dancers.

Taylor 2 consists of six professional dancers who have a gift for Paul Taylor's style of movement and choreography. They perform his work throughout the world and the U.S.

The repertoire of the company spans a broad spectrum of Paul Taylor's choreography exhibiting athleticism, humor and a range of emotions that are found in his work.

### Lisa Wheeler Dance Residency

Lisa Wheeler was in residence at the Fine Arts Center for a week in early January. She set two dance works which will be performed in the School District Dance Showcase on April 15. Lisa is also working with Columbia College, the Power Company in Columbia and Florida State University in helping to preserve the choreographic works of Dan Wagoner who performed with Martha Graham, Paul Taylor and Merce Cunningham and had his own company, Dan Wagoner and Dancers, for twenty-five years. Lisa Wheeler was a member of Dan Wagoner and Dancers for five years and was appointed Artistic Coordinator for the Wagoner Reconstruction Project, a pilot project of the National Center for Choreography.

## Current Students

### Creative Writing

**Ben Wright** won \$250 for Honorable Mention in Short Fiction and \$100 for Merit in Poetry in the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts Competition.



Charlie Tatum and instructor Glenda Guion work on the *Lend A Hand* ceramic art work

## Dance

Six Fine Arts Center dancers performed in the Greenville County Museum of Art during its Family Workshop titled “Color and Motion: the Paintings of Marylyn Dintenfass.” The dancers improvised to several paintings by Dintenfass and to music by Jeff Holland, a multi-ethnic percussionist. The students helped guide movements in audience participation so that the young members in the audience could understand several of the elements of dance. The dancers who performed are: **Mary Margaret Elsey, Mahalia Mays, Lauren Miller, Amanda Porter, Rosa Rimer and Emily Rostampour.**

## South Carolina Scholastic Art Awards

Fine Arts Center Visual Arts and Film/Video students had work selected for exhibition in the 2007 South Carolina Scholastic Art and Writing Awards competition held at Lander University in Greenwood, South Carolina. Gold Key award recipients’ art work will travel to New York to the national Scholastic Art Awards competition.

Visual Arts student **Abby Allen** won a Gold Key in printmaking for her monotype *Beauté Bleve*. **Erica Stine** won a Silver Key for her painting *Quilt*; Caroline Walker won a Silver Key for her photograph *Inexperienced Sky*.

Also included in the exhibition in

the Photography category were: **Maggie Allen’s** *Colors of Africa*; **Melody Hill’s** *Obscure Spectacle*; and **Lauren Jordal’s** *Paper Woman*.

Film/Video student **Ronnie Nelson** showed *El Banditos* in the Video & Animation category.

## Students Lend a Hand

On January 18, Fine Art Center students from across the school came by the ceramics studio to press their hands into a 3” x 5” slab of wet clay. The slab is the senior project of visual arts student **Charlie Tatum**. Charlie is working to increase awareness about the conditions in the Darfur region of the Sudan. The slab has been cut into tiles that will be sold to raise funds to be sent to Darfur. We would also like to congratulate Charlie for being the valedictorian of Greenville High.

## Music

Freshman A.P. music theory student **Caroline Robinson** (Wade Hampton HS) recently signed on as Assistant Organist of Greenville’s Saint Mary’s Catholic Church. The start of her position coincided with her first broadcasted performance on National

Public Media’s *Pipedreams*. The February 28 program, entitled “Rooting for the Youngsters,” was hosted by Michael Barone and featured performances by and interviews with noteworthy young organists from across the United States. The following weekend Caroline traveled to the Interlochen Arts Academy to perform Bach’s Fantasy & Fugue BWV 537 for a taping of *Pipedreams Live*, which will be broadcast on National Public Radio later this year. The program will feature current and former Interlochen organ students of Tom Bara, with whom Caroline studied in the summers of 2005 and 2006.

*Pictured here with Bara, Caroline is a student of Greenville organist Adam Pajan.*



Fine Arts Center band students scored well at the All-County Band auditions, held at Mauldin High School on January 25. Freshman clarinetist **Luke Delello** (Wade Hampton HS), who began his formal stud-

ies of the clarinet last year, earned a chair in the Senior Band. (Luke also holds down the solo clarinet chair in his school band, conducted by Jeremy Ladd.) Bassoonist **Carmichael Caldwell** (JL Mann HS) also earned a chair in the Senior

Band. Freshman alto saxophonist **Jake Webb** (Wade Hampton HS) won the second chair position in his section. Percussionist **Josh Caprell** (South Side Christian School) acquired, for the second year in a row, the timpanist chair in the upper-level Wind Ensemble, scoring 198.5 out of a possible 200 points in his audition. **David Katilius** (Riverside HS) earned second chair snare drum in that ensemble.

The All-County Band Festival was held at Woodmont High School on February 12-13.

FAC percussionist **Ben Tomlinson** (Riverside HS) earned the first-chair position on mallets (marimba, xylophone, etc.) at the All-County Band auditions, but is enjoying other successes as well. Tomlinson won the First Chair position on snare drum in the Region Band auditions.

*(Ben is pictured here with FAC's recently acquired snare drum, custom designed and built by Artie Liebermann of Charlotte, NC.)*



Finally, as timpanist of the School District's Philharmonic orchestra, Ben goes with a well-rounded palette of percussion skills to Furman University this fall. Ben took the "early decision" audition at Furman in December and was offered, among others, a \$10,000 scholarship for the musical skills he will bring to that university.

## GCYO Students Win Competition

Students of the Greenville County Youth Orchestra swept all the awards at the recent Orchestral Instrument Scholarship Competition sponsored by the Crescent Music Club. First place and a \$900 scholarship went to Aubrey Elliott (harp); second place and a \$450 scholarship went to Seth Russell (cello); third place and a \$150 scholarship went to Andrew Jacobi (clarinet). Additionally, three students were recognized with an Honorable Mention. They were Sara Rogers (violin), Josh Caprell (percussion) and Lydia Minnick (viola).

The Greenville County Youth Orchestra and The Philharmonic are now accepting applications from students who wish to audition for the 2007-2008 season. To complete the application form on-line, go to [www.gcyo.net](http://www.gcyo.net) and click on the Audition link. For more information or to make an appointment, contact Mr. Jeff Purtle, GCYO Operations and Personnel manager at 292-3532 or [jeff@purtle.com](mailto:jeff@purtle.com). The first general auditions will be held March 30th and 31 at the Fine Arts Center. The second general audition will be May 5.

## Faculty

Since the last newsletter FAC music faculty member and Greenville County Youth Orchestra conductor **Dr. Gary A. Robinson** has conducted three concerts with Greenville's Foothills Philharmonic. On December 31, he conducted FP's *Prelude to Midnight* concert, which featured pops and light classical music, and showcased soprano and FAC alumna **Candace Hunter Dickinson** (1995). The January 20 Chamber I concert, entitled *Twice As Good*, featured music of Mozart, Stölzel and Bach, as well as solos by FP principal players. On February 17 Robinson conducted a concert entitled *Connections* in a performance of music by Menotti, Verdi and Tchaikovsky.

Creative Writing instructor **Claire Bateman** is judging the North Carolina Poetry Society's Joan Scott Smith Memorial Award Competition and the

Caldwell Nixon, Jr. Award Competition this year. Claire read for the "Evenings with Carolina Writers" series at the Hughes Main Library in November. She is giving readings in March at Converse College and with Hub City Books at the Showroom at Hub-Bub in Spartanburg.

## GCYO

Greenville County Youth Orchestra performed its annual *Shoulder-to-Shoulder* concert at the Peace Center's Dorothy Gunter Theater on Thursday, January 4. *Shoulder-to-Shoulder* is a project undertaken with the Greenville Symphony Orchestra in which GSO musicians serve as mentors and teachers of GCYO members. Ultimately, they shared the stage together in performance, of Serge Prokofiev's *Lieutenant Kijé Suite*, George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, Dmitri Shostakovich's *Cello Concerto No.1* and Steven Balakrishnan's *Sky-life*. Cellist **Seth Russell** was featured in the Shostakovich. Furman University graduate Carolyn Carrier (currently pur-



Soloist Seth Russell

suing a Masters of Piano Performance at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro) was the featured Guest Artist on *Rhapsody in Blue*.

The *Shoulder-to-Shoulder* performance also featured a special tribute to



*Making the transition from the old building to the new*

the career of veteran cellist and cello teacher Martha Brons who was recently nominated for the Elizabeth Verner Award (South Carolina's highest honor given in the arts.)

GCYO repeated performances of *Lieutenant Kijé Suite* and *Rhapsody in Blue* in its annual Winter Orchestras Concert, staged for the first time in the Wade Hampton High School Auditorium on January 30. The concert also featured performances by two of the three other ensembles in the School District's orchestral program: Sinfonia (Anne Matthews) and The Philharmonic (Kathleen Robinson). Music Director and Conductor Gary A. Robinson directed GCYO in its performances.

### **Strings Chamber Music**

Meredith Bowden, senior cellist, was chosen by the South Carolina Music Educators Association as the outstanding high school musician in the state. She was awarded the SCMEA Memorial Scholarship of \$1000. Meredith is also the winner of the SC All-State Orchestra Concerto Competition. She will perform the *Cello Concerto No. 1* by Édouard Lalo as soloist with the All-State Orchestra on February 25 at Furman University.

Junior cellist Seth Russell was the runner-up in the competition.

Seventeen Strings Chamber Music students won places in the SC All-State Orchestras. This is the largest number of string players from any school in the state. FAC strings students performing in the orchestras are: Anna Catherine Bowden (Easley), Meredith Bowden (Easley), Marjy Buschur (J. L. Mann), Pratik Desai (Riverside), Missy Gaddy (Greenville Tech Charter), Samuel Johnson (Wade Hampton), Adam Maalouf (Mauldin), Evelyn Maris (Wade Hampton), Sergio Montes (Christ Church Episcopal School), Laura Neubauer (Eastside), Anna Owensby (Greenville), Sarah Rogers (Greenville), Seth Russell (home school), Caroline Spears (Greenville), Audrey Sutton (Eastside), Kevin Tompkins (Greenville), and Beth Uhimchuk (Wade Hampton).

### **Equipment for New Studios**

In January the Fine Arts Center became the proud owner of two new timpani. Purchase was made possible by a significant donation by the Music Club of Greenville. The drums are manufactured by the Majestic company of Holland, which, according to its web

site, "successfully combines traditional craftsmanship and modern technology to emerge as a leader in timpani manufacture. As the oldest manufacturer in the Netherlands, Majestic has maintained the classic design and quality of the great German timpani makers of the early twentieth century while benefiting from the latest in computer-driven engineering and production. The result is the availability of superior quality timpani that are the preferred instruments of symphonies throughout Europe." The drums, which made their premier in GCYO's concert at Wade Hampton High School on January 30, will be augmented in the future to a full set of four.



*Members of Percussion I & II with new timpani*

The School District of Greenville County does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, color, handicap, religion, or national origin in its dealings with employees, students, the general public, applicants for employment, educational programs, activities, or access to its facilities.

April 13-15	District Dance Showcase		May 25
April 19	Generation to Generation Reception	5:00	May 23
April 20	Greenville Tech High School & Concert		May 21
May 3	Art Awards at Greenville Tech		May 20
May 3 - 5	Career Development Facilitators in Recital Hall		May 18
May 9	Theatre Performance <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	7:00	May 18
May 11	Percussion Recital	7:30	May 17
May 11	Showcase Performances	9:15 & 1:15	May 16
May 11	Student Exhibit in the Gallery		May 15
May 11	Visual art AP Portfolios due		May 14 - 25
May 14	AP Music Theory Testing		May 14
May 14	Jazz Concert (AM Classes)	7:30	May 14
May 15	ARMES Auditions		May 13
May 15	Voice Recital	6:30	May 12
May 16	Jazz Concert (PM Classes)	7:30	May 11
May 17	Strings Chamber Music Concert	7:30	May 10
May 18	Dance Concert	7:00	May 9
May 18	Last Day for FAC Seniors		May 8
May 20	Awards Day	2:00	May 7
May 21	Graduation Rehearsal	4:00	May 6
May 23	Graduation	7:30	May 5
May 25	Last Day for FAC Underclassmen		May 4

## Calendar of Events



The School District of Greenville County  
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