

ARTS NEWS

FINE ARTS CENTER - DECEMBER 2004

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NEW BUILDING UPDATE

Fall of 2006! Write it down. Even if your student has graduated, gone on to medical school, or to MIT, write it down. That's the date we've been given when we will move into the new Fine Arts Center on the campus of the new Wade Hampton High School! We want all of friends there for a week of christening events. You have lived with us through the years of expansion, through the growing pains, the floods, the students spread around the campus because there's no room in the "inn." For over two years we have had regular meetings with our architects, NealPrince, and with our representatives from Institutional Resources and the new building will be something very, very special. Careful planning of each studio, within the budgetary guidelines, has resulted in a space that will meet the needs of our high school students and our gifted after school arts program. All studios will, for the first time, be under one roof! No portables, just wonderfully imaginative and practical spaces for artists and students to create outstanding work.

Most of the music classrooms will be on the second floor and clustered together so that the many sound-proof rehearsal rooms may be used by students without wondering if they can be heard in another classroom just a few feet away. The guitar studio will have a recording studio and practice rooms that will allow the teacher to record what's happening in that room, copy it to a disk and give it to a student so that he or she can work on problems.

The drawing and painting, ceramics and metals studios all face north and have windows nearly seven feet high, providing just the kind of light that artists find best for their needs. The photography studio will have a traditional dark room but, on the other side of the classroom, a digital dark-room. Ceramics will have a glaze room and an outdoor kiln yard where the gas-fired kiln will be located; the metals studio will have individual work stations; graphics students will have a room with high-powered computers that will permit them to do commercial design, even animation.

The dance studio, 2400 square feet with a state-of-the-art Harlequin floor will also be a performance space with its own lighting system and draperies. One whole wall will be glass so that standing on the first floor you can look up and see the dancers dancing!

The Black Box for our theatre students will have 200 seats, on moveable platforms, permitting any kind of seating configuration, and, of course, the latest lighting and sound equipment, and a fully equipped shop.

There is a Recital Hall so that our resident orchestra, The Greenville County Youth Orchestra, will have its own space and not have to share it with the theatre program! The Recital Hall will seat 125 for chamber music, for voice recitals, readings of creative writing students, and small Reader's Theatre pieces.

There isn't enough room to describe all the wonderful things contained in the new building! But, we need your help. The building is paid for, but the amount given to us to outfit the building—furniture, fixtures and equipment—will fall far short of the amount that is budgeted. (For example, the computers for the Graphics lab—20 of them—will cost over \$3,000 each or over \$60,000! Those dollars just aren't in the budget!) There are all kinds of opportunities for our friends and families to contribute. So, think of us over these next couple of years, and whatever you aren't using to send your students to school or to feed them, send our way so we can continue the fine work we do with Greenville County students! Remember the date: Fall of 2006!



From the Director

To be playful and serious at the same time defines the ideal mental condition

—John Dewey

I suppose we could change the name of our school to the Ideal Mental Condition, but it doesn't "sing" well, does it? Dewey's quote does describe, at a very real level, what may be found in our classrooms nearly every day and, probably, what should be found in every classroom—not just arts classrooms. Students are exploring materials, movements, words, and music with a playfulness reminiscent of their elementary days, before they were taught that education was serious business and the light went out of their eyes. I'm generalizing, of course, but it is troubling to see students reluctant to experiment, to test the edges of what has become comfortable in order to rediscover the joy of learning, of growing, of being in a larger world.



So, when they struggle with the photographic print, or the Suzuki stomping, or the diminished 7th, that struggle accomplished, builds the sense of confidence of being able to understand complex matters and so the next struggle, though not necessarily easier, is not necessarily as daunting either. That's what it is to learn. It was Mark Twain who said, "I never let my schooling interfere with my education." Often—too often—education driven only by tests does stand in the way of education.

If we are to meet the challenges of this century we will need men and women who can see relationships between and among those things that seemingly have no relationship; we'll need those who, when presented with the unusual, seek to understand rather than judge; we'll need those who will question the catechism of mediocrity and transcend the conventional. That's when what we do here becomes serious, when the arts are the ideal mental condition fostering what is innovative, authentic, and imaginative. I'll let Thomas Huxley, the scientist, weigh in now: "[Students] work to pass, not to know, and outraged science takes her revenge. *They do pass and they don't know*" (Emphasis mine) In the kind of school we have, they work to pass, too, but they have to know not only something about their discipline, but know about themselves and their world: the ideal mental condition.

Ray

Student News

22 Strings Chamber Music students began the audition process for the SC All-State Orchestra and all passed the first round and were accepted the Regional Orchestra Festival. Results for the final round are due in December. The 22 participating FAC

strings students are the greatest number of students from any school in the 4 county region. The winning FAC students are: **Trisha Berquist** (Wade Hampton), **Meredith Bowden** (Easley), **Erin Byrnes** (Greenville), **Savannah Guest** (Greenville), **Mary Ashton Inglis** (Travelers Rest), **Ariana Macmillan** (Southside Christian), **Mary Elaine Mahaffey** (Hillcrest), **Meredith Miller** (Mauldin), **Kaitlin Moose** (Eastside), **Julio Orihuela** (Greenville), **Haley Owens** (Greenville), **Lindsey Owens** (Greenville), **Anna Owensby** (Greenville), **Spencer Player** (Greenville Tech Charter), **Elizabeth Robinson** (Greenville), **Fields Roop** (Greenville), **Seth Russell** (Home Schooled), **Nick Sloan** (Greenville), **Caroline Spears** (Greenville), **Gregory Tompkins** (Greenville), **Jamie Trembley** (Wade Hampton), and **Julie Anne Wilson** (Greenville).



Josh Caprell

Ceruti Quartet

The Ceruti String Quartet, artists in residence and faculty members at the University of Memphis, gave a master class for the strings chamber music students and performed concerts for the morning and afternoon students at the FAC. **Lenny Schranze**, violist of the Ceruti Quartet, is the former FAC strings chamber music instructor. Barnabas Keleman, winner of the Indianapolis International Violin Competition, gave a violin and chamber master class for the strings chamber music students. Later that same week, he performed as soloist with the Greenville Symphony before returning to his native Budapest, Hungary.

David Hooker

On Monday, October 18th, Fine Arts Center clay students worked with artist David Hooker in an all day workshop. The day began with a trip to the Reedy River where Mr. Hooker showed the students where to find ball clay and earthenware clay deposits. After studying the “mud,” they picked up seed pods, sticks and other natural objects, and worked on drawings of the area. After returning to the FAC, Mr. Hooker, who is the head of the 3-D area of the Greenville Museum of Art, showed students slides of his work and then taught them how to create clay stamps. Each student then formed 10 clay stamps from the items that were collected along the river. These stamps and their drawings, will later be used to create “Reedy River Clay Works.” The future clay pieces will be exhibited in the spring.

Dance

Wanda Ebright, Assistant Professor of Dance at Coker College, taught a master class to the Fine Arts Center dancers. Ms. Ebright taught a modern dance technique class which emphasized the teaching principles of the legendary Martha Graham to both the morning and afternoon classes.

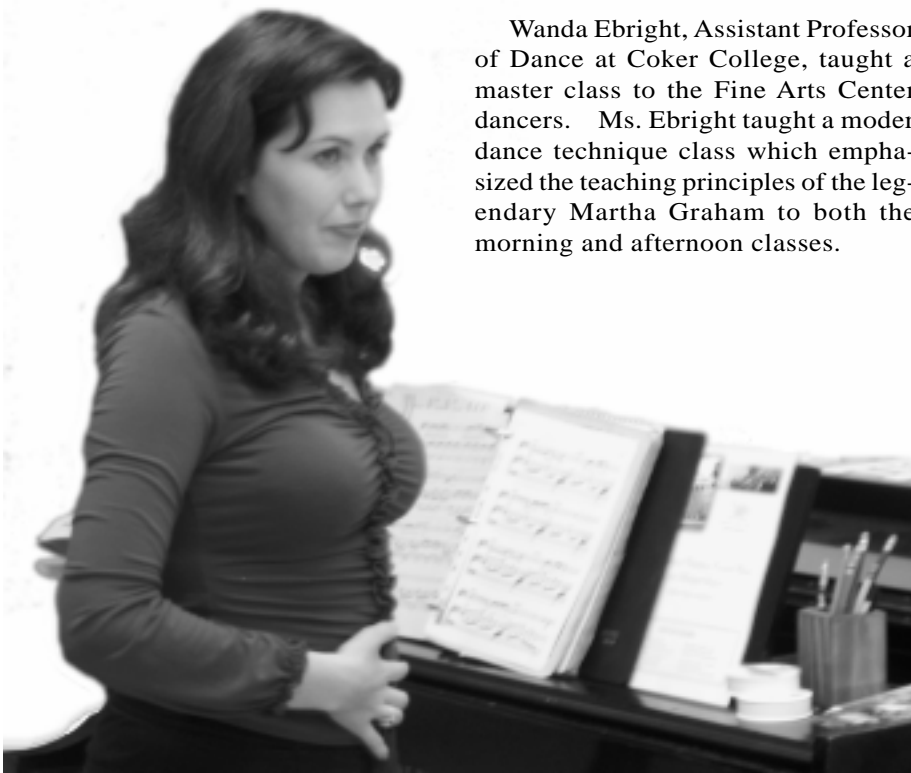
Faculty News

Strings Chamber Music instructor **John Ravnar** performed with the Lyra String Quartet in Atlanta opening their series at the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center. The concert included collaborations with guest artists Norman Carol (former concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and faculty member at the Curtis Institute of Music), and Christopher French (assistant principal ‘cellist of the Houston Symphony). John also performed in San Francisco, CA, at the College Music Society national conference as a member of Conversant, a new chamber music group made up of Converse College faculty members. The group performed String Quartet #2 “The Nautical” by FAC faculty member **Dr. Jon Grier**. Dr. Grier’s work was chosen to close the new music concert at the conference.

Composer in Residence **Jon Grier** travelled to San Francisco for a November 6th performance of his String Quartet # 2, the “Nautical, in the Composers’ Workshop of the Annual Conference of the College Music Society.

It was performed by members of Conversant, a faculty performing ensemble of the Converse College Music Department. The performers included Sarah Johnson, violin, 1991 FAC graduate **Angela Rex**, violin, Kenneth Law, ‘cello, and the FAC’s own **John Ravnar** on viola.

Soprano Kimilee Bryant demonstrating breathing techniques for FAC voice students. A former student of Michael Rice, she conducted master classes for afternoon students. A New York resident, she is active in both opera and musical theatre.



Alumni Spotlight

Mezzo-soprano Elizabeth “Betsy” Bishop attended the Fine Arts Center from 1983 to 1985. An outstanding singer and violinist, she soon began to focus on voice. She received a Bachelor’s degree in both music and political science from Furman University and earned a Master’s degree from the prestigious Juilliard School. As she was finishing her work as a member of the postgraduate Juilliard Opera Center, she won the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in 1993 and went on to make her Met debut the next fall.

As you will see from her statement below, her career has now taken her all over the world and into recording studios. She has often returned to the FAC to perform at graduation and at the FAC 20th Anniversary Gala, to conduct master classes, and to show off her beautiful daughter. Her husband, Ken Weiss, is a vocal coach/accompanist (how convenient) with the Washington Opera, and the family lives just outside the capital in Reston, Virginia. In a recent e-mail to Fine Arts Center voice teacher Michael Rice, Betsy commented that, looking back on all of her training, she has never had to change anything she learned while his student. The

“I never forget the boost that I got from the FAC. Everywhere I go, I tell anyone who will listen about the terrific opportunities that I received there and how I wish more young people had that kind of chance.”



humbled teacher will go to New York in early December to hear her sing the demanding role of Venus in Wagner’s *Tannhäuser* at the Metropolitan Opera. When asked to submit a short summary of her activities and to reflect on her time at the Center, Betsy provided the following words:

Elizabeth Bishop

“Things continue to go pretty well for me! I just finished singing in *Andrea Chénier* with Washington Opera, sang the Verdi *Requiem* in the National Cathedral, flew to British Columbia to fill in for a sick Adalgisa [in Bellini’s *Norma*], and have now landed in New York to sing Venus at the Metropolitan Opera. This past summer, I was lucky enough to sing in Berlin (Poulenc’s *Dialogues of the Carmelites*) and have just had a recording released of Beethoven’s 9th Symphony with the Atlanta Symphony. This is all just gravy on top of the fact that my daughter is well and happy, my husband is doing fine, and we paid the car off!

As I keep going down this delightful career path, I never forget the boost that I got from the FAC. Everywhere I go, I tell anyone who will listen about the terrific opportunities that I received there and how I wish more young people had that kind of chance. If I could tell the current FAC students anything, it would be to savor the chance to learn, to soak it all up, and never neglect your academics. You’ll be looking back on this experience fondly for the rest of your life!”

Greenville County Youth Orchestra

Greenville County Youth Orchestra, the orchestra-in-residence at the Fine Arts Center, hosted its 16th annual Middle School Orchestra Festival on October 15th and Saturday, October 16th at Mauldin Middle School. This year's MSOF saw participation from over ninety students representing most of the middle schools from Greenville County. GCYO Director Dr. Gary Auguste Robinson produced the festival and served as its primary clinician. Strings teacher Laura Burgess (Woodmont High School) and band director James Kilgus (Mauldin Middle School) also served as orchestral clinicians. The GCYO Association underwrote and lent vital support to the festival.

In the Middle School Orchestra Festival, members of the GCYO Chamber Orchestra serve as teachers and section coaches to their middle school counterparts. The Chamber Orchestra members also prepare for their own part of the festival's concluding concert, working both under the guidance of Dr. Robinson and, democratically, as a "conductor-less" ensemble. (They prepared the first movement of Beethoven's Symphony No.1 and the first movement of Mozart's Flute & Harp Concerto, featuring GCYO Principal Flute Lauren Watkins and Principal Harp Prentiss Kendall.)

The festival's concluding concert featured performances by the 2004 Middle School Festival Orchestra, the GCYO Chamber Orchestra, and the full Greenville County Youth Orchestra.

GCYO went on to perform its Fall Sampler Concert on Tuesday, October 26 at the Peace Center's Dorothy

Gunter Theater. The concert included performances by Greenville County Junior Youth Orchestra (directed by Kathleen Robinson), the GCYO Chamber Orchestra, and the full Greenville County Youth Orchestra. GCYO violinist **Emily True** (home school) and flutist **Lauren Watkins** (GSAH) were the featured soloists in the concert that included music by J.S. Bach, Walter Hartley, Ernest Bloch, Alexander Borodin, and Edvard Grieg.

Dance

Jan Woodward conducted a workshop for arts teachers at the All-Arts In-Service Day, October 25th. Fifteen Greenville County teachers studied and danced the Bushasche Repertory Etude and learned how they might use it with their students.

The South Carolina Dance Association, recently named **Jan Woodward**, the Dance Educator of the Year. Jan will receive her award at a special luncheon in November at the annual SCAHPERD convention in Myrtle Beach.

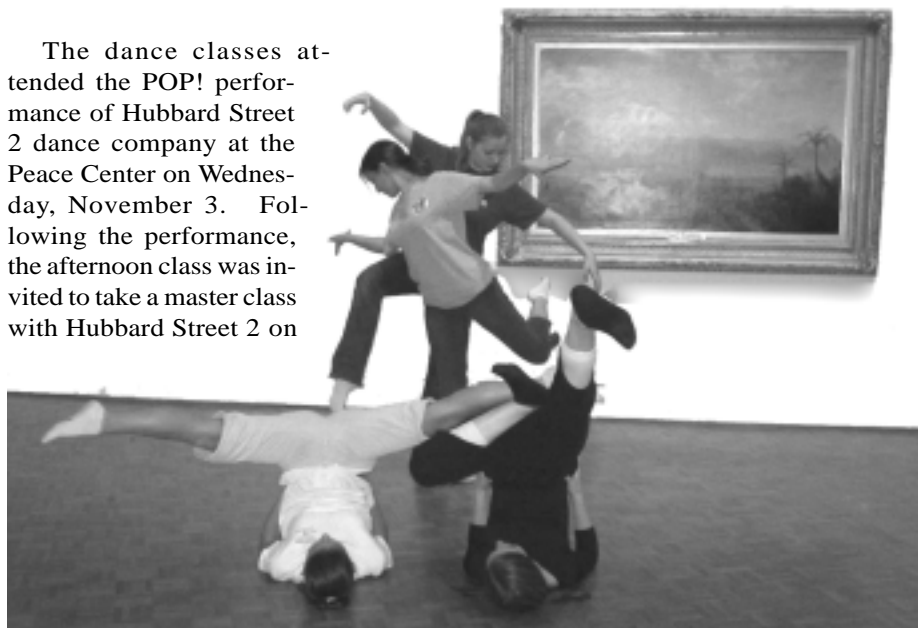
The dance classes attended the POP! performance of Hubbard Street 2 dance company at the Peace Center on Wednesday, November 3. Following the performance, the afternoon class was invited to take a master class with Hubbard Street 2 on

stage at the Gunter Theatre. Many of the students also attended the performance the following evening.

Dance/Visual Arts

The morning Visual Arts and Dance students combined classes to study the common concepts shared by both art forms. Students took two field trips to the Greenville County Museum of Art where curator Martha Severens gave a tour of the exhibits. Jim Campbell taught drawing and Jan Woodward taught creative movement in the gallery during the second field trip. Small groups of combined drawing and dance students then choreographed interpretations of paintings from the museum's collection. WYFF interviewed and filmed the students and faculty for the 6:00 news!

FAC visual arts and dance students interpret a painting from the Greenville County Museum of Art's permanent collection. From left to right: reclining, dancers Naomi Boemke, Nichole Mergele, standing, artists Katelyn Kirkpatrick and Rebekah Cockrell.



Students Collect Food For Southernside Community Kitchen & Coats For The Salvation Army in December

Students will collect food for the Southernside Community Center, our neighborhood community kitchen, starting December 1. This Fine Arts Center community service project is now in its eighth year. Last year the visual arts and film/video students challenged the performing arts students to a competition to see who could create the larger food tree. Student may bring any non-perishable foods during the month of December.

The Southernside Community Center has been providing meals to individual and families for many years. . Anyone wishing to make a direct donation to Southernside can call 864.232.5651. The Community Center is located at 864 W. Washington St. in Greenville.

The Savation Army needs new or used winter coats and jackets for all ages. Used coats should be in good shape and cleaned. There are coat racks at the FAC in the halls for the donated items.

Surdna

Dr. Jon Grier was awarded a 2004 Surdna Fellowship to compose a new work that incorporates elements of digital, electronic music with live performance. Dr. Grier, Dr. Roy Fluhrer and 2003 Surdna Fellow, Jim Campbell, attended the 2004 Surdna Convening in New York on October 23 -24 to discuss issues in arts education with the other 2004 Surdna Fellows from across the country.

Visiting artist Teri Goddard demonstrates weaving for visual arts student Kaitlin Kirkpatrick and woodwinds student Igram Dirton.

In the Gallery

The 2004 Blue Ridge Handweavers Show in the Sheffield Wood Gallery of the Fine Arts Center presented a rare opportunity to see, in one room, some of the best hand-woven fiber art currently being produced in the US. The show featured beautiful hand-woven objects that range from hand crafted coats and jackets to sculpture and pillow cases. These one-of-a kind works of fiber art also cover a wide range of weaving techniques.

Artist Teri Goddard demonstrated weaving on an AVL 60”16 harness dobby loom that was purchased with a grant from the Metropolitan Arts Council in the Sheffield Wood Gallery Wednesday, November 17 & Thursday, November 18. Teri answered questions about weaving techniques found in the 2004 Blue Ridge Handweavers Show. Teri is a member of the Western Carolina Guild and has been a professional weaver since 1982. She

designs and constructs garments that can be found in 2 On Crescent in the Biltmore Village in Asheville, NC and Niche in Hendersonville, NC.

The Fine Arts Center Winter Student Exhibit will be the next show in our gallery December 6- January 7.

Fine Arts Center alumna Cybele Dreskin will exhibit new photography in the gallery January 7 - February 4.

The Sheffield Wood Gallery of the Fine Arts Center is open from 8:15 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday and 8:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. on Friday.



THE FRIENDS OF THE FINE ARTS CENTER FOUNDATION NEWS



FAC students & college representatives discuss life after high school.

College Day a Big Success

Our October 7 College Day was a big success. FAC counselor Gloria Collins organized this biennial event that included representatives from colleges, universities, conservatories and arts schools. The daunting job of organizing this event was made easier thanks to our many parent and student volunteers who helped make the day go smoothly.

As we move into December and students begin to complete college applications, senior FAC students and their parents are encouraged to schedule time to talk with FAC counselor Gloria Collins.

Print Collection in Memory of Artist Judy Voss Jones

A print collection by contemporary artists to remember Judy Voss Jones will be a part of the permanent collection for the Fine Arts Center here in Greenville. Judy was an incredible artist, educator, and friend of arts education in our region. She was the Chair of the Art Department at Converse College and Professor of Art at the University of Georgia.

A group of us wanted to do something here in Greenville to honor her and at the same time to give a gift to the Fine Arts Center for the new building. The collection will provide both the students of Greenville County Fine Arts Center and the community with the opportunity to view a fantastic print collection. (works in the collection are listed below) This collection is currently available for \$10,000.00. Any donation can be

made directly to the Fine Arts Center Foundation. Please indicate on the check that is for the Judy Jones Memorial print collection. No donation is too small and we would love for everyone to be a part of this project.

List of artists in the print collection: John Baldessari, Elizabeth Murray, Susan Rothenberg, Ed Ruscha, Cecily Brown, Richard Serra, Frank Gehry, Robert Rauschenberg, Ellsworth Kelly, and Jasper Johns.

For more information about this memorial gift, contact:

Mary Praytor Gallery
26 South Main Street
Greenville SC 29601
864-235-1800

In Memoriam

*Leslie Mazzara, Dance 1996.
BA in Philosophy from
University of Georgia.*



FAC voice alumna Whitney Deal Rexford has been student teaching with Michael Rice since late October. A senior at Converse College, she is shown here working with Hannah Miller (Southside Christian).

The School District of Greenville County does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, color, handicap, educational programs, activities, or access to its facilities.

<p>Sheffield Wood Gallery Schedule</p> <p>Fine Arts Center Visual Arts Student Exhibit - December 6 - January 7 Cybele Dreskin - Photography - January 10 - February 4 Wood & More - sculpture, furniture & more - February 7 - February 25</p>
<p>Calendar of Events - In Theatre</p> <p>Quentin Baxter - Steve Watson, Jon Grier, FAC Jazz Students & Special Guest Free Concert 1 - December 1, 7:30 p.m. ARMES Chamber Concert - December 12, 2 - 4:30 p.m. FAC Showcase Performances - December 17, 9:15 a.m. & 1:15 p.m. FAC Strings Chamber Concert - December 20, 7:30 p.m. Visitation Day for prospective new FAC students - January 20</p>



The School District of Greenville County
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