

NEW BUILDING

The boxes are beginning to pile up in the hallways, in the offices and the studios. There is a very large dumpster in back and it won't be long before it's filled with the detritus of thirty-two years in the same place! With each passing day it becomes clearer: we'll be moving soon! After nearly four years of planning we are told that the Smith Dray Line trucks will arrive the morning of Monday, December 18.

There is a sense of urgency: Have we forgotten anything? Is there enough time? How do we sort through everything we've gathered? Everyone is making list after list, asking questions, plotting where the furniture will go and, through it all, rising on Pine Knoll Drive, is a beautiful building, a building as beautiful at night as it is during

the day, a building worthy of our students, of our teachers. The lobby, painted and polished, the hundreds of panes of glass gleaming, even without the John Acorn sculpture, is a stunning sight, and you realize how space may be sculpted into art: the colors, the rhythms of line, from the grand stair, all the way up to the clerestory windows, you realize that you have walked into something special and, oddly, you feel special, you feel the possibilities promised in each of the studios.

There is nothing institutional about the new building, not the paint, nor the

deep mahogany doors with the port-hole windows, not the soffits over the entrances to the studios, not the lights, not even the doorknobs. Great care has been taken by the architects, NealPrince and Partners, and by the faculty to assure that all the details have been thought through, down to the wastebaskets, to the waste containers in the halls. All the parts must fit, must make a larger statement than the whole.

This building is a work of art and we want you to come and see it. We want all of Greenville to take pride in what the school board has provided the young artists of Greenville. The students will return to the new school in January. There should be a celebration of some sort, a ritual goodbye to the old building,

a welcoming to the new, an acknowledgment of what we have accomplished and what will be accomplished.

The faculty won't change, only the building. The Fine Arts Center still exists. It will be just as embracing, just as open to student imagination, just as exciting a place to learn as the old building.

Above center: Dr. Jon Grier, Michael Rice and Steve Watson inspect one of the music studios. Left: Jan Woodward labels boxes for the movers. Right: Susan Willis and Kathy Wood check the new visual arts studios



From the Director

“It is an outward and visible sign of an inward and probable culture.” These are the words of Sir Laurence Olivier the night the National Theatre opened in London. He was proud of the new theatre; proud of the impact it would make for British theatre, for British actors.



We have a new building and our new building is an outward sign of this community's commitment to the arts, but, even more, of its commitment to Greenville County students who wish to pursue the study of the arts at the highest level. Of course we could do that on West Washington Street. The new building isn't going to change the faculty's dedication, but with more room, with better equipment, better technology, the students and faculty will have laboratories in which to test the edges of their imaginations.

How long have we waited for this? Well, I have a notebook on my shelf that details what a new building might look like: 65,000 square feet and on the campus of Wade Hampton High School. The notebook is dated 1992. Dr. Chuck Welch, now Director of Continuing Education, can also attest to a series of possible locations when he served as Principal of The Fine Arts Center years ago. Oddly, the new building IS on the campus of Wade Hampton High School and is 65,000 square feet!

We have many to thank for our

upcoming move to the new space. In these past few years, the School Board has been unflagging in their belief in what we do. Now, this district has a building that will match the national attention that our arts programs already do. Neal Prince and Partners for listening to us, listening to the faculty, and then transforming those ideas into spaces, into volumes that embrace and inspire. But, I would be remiss if I did not thank Ann Sutherlin, Board Member who, over the years, was a powerful and constant voice for the Center, and for its current location. You could call her the Mother of the New Fine Arts Center!

Ann is going off the Board and, because she is, a brief dedication was held on November 8 to recognize her and to assure that her name would appear on the bronze plaque that will be placed in the entrance to the building, a sign that this county recognizes the unique and powerful role the arts must play in the education of the whole child. So, to all who believed in us, to all who spoke up when speaking up may not have been the

easiest thing to do in those tight budget years, to all who recognized that if this were to be done it needed to be done right and, mostly, to Ann, a resounding THANK YOU from all of us at the Center: students, parents, faculty, staff and administration. You have built something that will be the CENTERpiece of your building program.

ALUMNI

Visual Arts

Andrew Davis (visual arts) is currently teaching four courses at Central Michigan University, is serving on the BFA thesis committee, and is overseeing independent studies. His clay work will be featured in *500 Animals in Clay* being published by Lark Books. His work can be viewed at: <http://www.andrewpdavis.blogspot.com/>

Dance

Isaac Owens (Dance 2006) was selected to dance in the North Carolina School of the Arts Fall Dance Concert where he is majoring in dance. The concert featured contemporary works



Dr. Phinnize Fisher, Superintendent and Board Member Ann Sutherlin at the dedication for the new Fine Arts Center building.

by guest artists Helen Simoneau and Niki Jurelewicz and contemporary dance faculty members Brenda Daniels, Sean Sullivan and Dianne Markham. The performances were November 14-18 in the Agnes de Mille Theatre in Winston-Salem, NC. **Isaac Owens** and **Monica Williams** (Dance 2006) have both been cast in two dances each in the Emerging Choreographers Concert at North Carolina School of the Arts. The performances will be January 9-13, 2007 in the Agnes de Mille Theatre. Isaac and Monica have also been cast to perform in *West*



Side Story at North Carolina School of the Arts in May.

Jennifer Becker (Dance 2006) has been selected as an apprentice in The Power Company, a professional dance company in Columbia, SC and directed by Martha Brim, professor of dance.

Voice

Bass-baritone **Phillip Boykin** has returned from Australia and New Zealand where he sang the role of Crown in *Porgy and Bess* from July through September.

He most recently performed at the North Shore Music Theater near Boston playing Caiaphas in *Jesus Christ Superstar* from September 8 through October 8. (Check it out at www.nsmt.org) *The Beverly Citizen* reviewer wrote of his performance:

“The villains in *Jesus Christ Superstar* have always been a hoot, and this production is no exception. Playing head priest Caiaphas is Phillip Lamar

Boykin, with an unforgettable voice. He toured America as Joe in *Show Boat* and Europe, Japan and Australia as Crown in *Porgy and Bess*. His voice alone is worth the price of admission to this show.”

In December, Phillip will be performing with The New York Harlem Singers in Japan and South Korea with the great Linda Twine as conductor. He will be a featured soloist and company manager.

Theatre

The theatre students had a perfor-



mance on October 16. The morning class presented a forty-five minute piece of original material. The students pieced together several classroom compositions, involving everything from death scenes to killer butlers to talk show hosts to cat impersonations. Dr. Fluhrer, himself, made a special appearance (unplanned by him and set up by the students) as the owner of a top modeling agency. The show also incorporated segments of movement material which the students have been teaching each



another since the beginning of school, including martial arts, marching band lines, fencing moves, and stretches. The show was designed through the use of all the props the theatre department must get rid of before the big move to the new school. The presentation was lit by **Dirk Holleman**, our new technical theatre teacher, as well as by the students themselves.

The afternoon class presented audition monologue pairs. They had been working on these monologues since the



first week of classes in preparation for college auditions, and they presented both a contemporary and a classical monologue, as is standard for a college audition.

They continued working on some of these pieces for their trip to the South Carolina Theatre Association’s Annual Convention November 10-12 at USC - Columbia. Juniors and seniors from the afternoon class auditioned for South Carolina colleges and universities. All students attended workshops and performances.

The boy on the suitcase is Theatre II student Tyler French. The girl looking up is Leslie Miller (Theatre II). The boy sprawled on the floor is Theatre I student Jared Bryant. And the picture of four, from left to right is Noah Garrett, Jared Bryant, Carrie Ann Culbertson, and Justin Lee (all Theatre I students).



Visual Arts

Ceramics students recently took a field trip to Clemson University to view the Henry Bauer Alfred University Ceramics Collection, tour the visual art department, and visit the Anagama Kiln.

Strings Chamber Music

22 Strings Chamber Music students went places in the Upstate West Regional Orchestra Festival held at Anderson University. This is the largest number of string players from any school in the upstate. The students will advance to the next round of All-State Orchestra auditions at the USC School of Music in January. The select students are **Zac Atchison** (J. L. Mann), **Trisha Berquist** (Greenville), **Anna Catherine Bowden** (Easley), **Meredith Bowden** (Easley), **Marjy Buschur** (J. L. Mann), **Erin Byrnes** (Greenville), **Pratik Desai** (Riverside), **Missy Gaddy** (Greenville Tech Charter), **Mandy Gonzales** (J. L. Mann), **Samuel Johnson** (Wade Hampton), **Adam Maalouf** (Mauldin), **Evelyn Maris** (Wade Hampton), **Meredith Miller** (Mauldin), **Sergio Montes** (Christ Church Episcopal

Above : Glenda Guion's morning and afternoon classes enjoy the trip to Clemson

School), **Laura Neubauer** (Eastside), **Anna Owensby** (Greenville), **Sarah Rogers** (Greenville), **Seth Russell** (Home Schooled), **Caroline Spears** (Greenville), **Audrey Sutton** (Eastside), **Kevin Tompkins** (Greenville), and **Beth Uhimchuk** (Wade Hampton).



Above: Fine Arts Center Halloween Dance participants have fun for charity. The Fine Arts Center Halloween Dance is one of two yearly dances that raise money for charity.

GUEST ARTISTS

Professional actress Christine Albright, a former Journeyman at the Warehouse Theatre (1999 - 2001) was a recently a guest artist. She has BA in Theatre from Ball State and her MFA in Acting from The University of California in San Diego. Chris has performed regionally as well as Off-Broadway, and she is beginning her second season as an Oregon Shakespeare Festival company member, where she will play Juliet in "Romeo and Juliet."

On Tuesday, October 24, Chris spoke with the theater students about the profession and actor training, as well as about the differences between large and small markets and between New York City and Los Angeles. Here is what one Theatre II student, **Leslie Miller**, wrote about Chris' visit:

Once upon a time...there lived a girl named Christine Albright. As a child Christine tried a little bit of everything. She was the only cheerleader who was also in the Math Club. When it came time for this bright young girl to go to college she was having trouble deciding where to go and what to major in because she loved everything. Her guidance counselor led Christine to where she is right now. Having noticed her bubbly personality and love of people her counselor talked her out of science and technology and into acting. Christine knew how much she loved theatre and decided to go for it. However she soon found out that theatre and the world around it is no fairy tale.

When Christine Albright came and spoke to my class about where she had been and what she had done to get to where she is now, I learned about the trials and tribulations that face an actor. Being an actor isn't just about raw talent, it is something earned. There is never a class that doesn't need to be

taken or something new that doesn't need to be learned. Acting isn't just an art; it's a class, a job, and a business. Hard work is required to make it to the top and everyone starts at the bottom.

When first beginning an acting career, one must take all opportunities and experiences and use them to their fullest extent. Connections must be made for they will be crucial later. The world of theater is a small one, truly six degrees of separation. Friends made now will resurface later. After having gained experience and as many friends as possible through theater classes, training, and college, the next step is to find an agent- a good agent. An agent who understands the actor personally and has good connections, which lead to lots of auditions.

When in an audition situation, being prepared is crucial. The mission, should you choose to accept it, is to remind the auditors why they wanted to do that play in the first place. Having an exceptional monologue, which is loved and cherished by the actor, is important. Finding such a monologue will take time and effort. Eventually, an actor should have a repertoire of monologues, 10 classical dramatic monologues, 10 classical comedic monologues, 10 contemporary dramatic monologues, 10 contemporary comedic monologues, 1 rock the house monologue, and 1 truth and beauty monologue. An actor must sell himself, finding his most marketable characteristics. "No" will be the most often heard word after an audition, but the actor must not let it phase him. He must be like the unaffected duck and let the water wash off his back. To auditors, the actor is a product, a face, and sometimes because a certain actor is 5'6½", he will lose the part to someone 5'5".



may happen and results of what actually happened. Sometimes things blow up, but other times a beautiful rainbow is created. Not every experiment is a success, but there is always something to be gained in the process.

Eventually everything will begin to take shape and connect together revealing a life's story. It is like working a puzzle. Start with the border; learn the craft, then begin working where the pieces fit together easily. All the little puzzle pieces will add up to the whole picture, but remember, nothing is permanent. Super glue was not used in the making of the puzzle. If at any time a change needs to be made, make it. Wherever a person is, is where he is supposed to be. Another chapter is always unfolding in the fairy tale of life.

~The End~

Auditioning is a symbiotic relationship where everyone wants what's best. Having a great show is the ultimate goal.

Aside from acting and the hectic theater world where seemingly eccentric actors and actresses dwell, the real world must be explored. Meet real people with normal lives. Because when on the stage, an actor's job is not to play an actor, it is to play a real person. Use everyday people with mundane lives and jobs to inspire. Practice simple courtesies like sending a handwritten Thank You note after every audition and keeping in touch through e-mail. Read theater magazines and keep up with the latest news.

What got Christine Albright excited about acting was her discovery that she could use her interest in science and apply it to her art. Acting is like a science experiment. Different things are being tested. There is a hypothesis about what

Guest artist Christine Albright

Parking Permit Reminder

All students who drive to the new Fine Arts Center building on Pine Knoll Drive beginning January 3, 2007 need valid parking permits installed on the rearview mirror or prominently displayed in the front window of the car. The Fine Arts Center shares parking with Wade Hampton High School. Wade Hampton students who currently have parking permits from Wade Hampton will not need to get new Fine Arts Center permits. Wade Hampton will enforce parking restrictions for vehicles that do not have either a valid Wade Hampton permit or a Fine Arts Center permit. Permits can be obtained in the Fine Arts Center office.

GCYO

The Fine Arts Center's Orchestra-in-Residence, Greenville County Youth Orchestra (**Dr. Gary A. Robinson**, Director), staged its Young Artist Concert No.1 at the Peace Center's Dorothy Gunter Theater on Tuesday, October 17, 2006.

The full GCYO performed Claude Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*, Johannes Brahms's *Variations on a Theme by Haydn*, and Bedrich Smetana's *The Moldau*. GCYO's Chamber Orchestra accompanied soloist D.J. Cheek (SC-GSAH) in a performance of the Handel/Casadesus



Viola Concerto in B minor. The concert also featured selections performed by the GCY-Philharmonic, conducted by Kathleen Robinson. GCYO hornist Staci Willis (home school), accompanied by The Philharmonic, performed the Allegro movement Mozart's *Horn Concerto No.3 in E flat*.

In late October, members of the Greenville Symphony Orchestra served as coaches and mentors to GCYO musicians in two rehearsals, rekindling their annual "Shoulder-to-Shoulder" project.

On January 4th, 2007, GCYO and GSO members will recombine to stage the Shoulder-to-Shoulder concert at the Dorothy Gunter Theater featuring Dmi-



tri Shostakovich's *Cello Concerto No.1* (GCYO cellist **Seth Russell**, soloist), Serge Prokofiev's suite from *Lieutenant Kije*, and George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, featuring Guest Artist Carolyn Carrier on piano.

Tickets for this concert are available at the Peace Center Box Office, 467-3000.

On November 3d and 4th, GCYO and its parent support group, the GCYO Association, staged its eighteenth annual Middle School Orchestra Festival at

Mauldin Middle School. During the festival, members of the GCYO Chamber Orchestra served as teachers and mentors to the 120 participating middle school students. The GCY-Philharmonic, conducted by Kathleen Robinson, joined the 2006 Festival Orchestra in the concluding concert, which was conducted by GCYO's Gary A. Robinson and Laura Bessant and Mauldin Middle School's James Kilgus.

Faculty

Glenda Guion (clay teacher) recently participated in the 5th Greenville Open Studios weekend. Over 80 visitors came to her Dacusville ceramics studio. Ms. Guion has also had her article "Making an Ocean of Clay" archived on the web site for *Pottery Making Illustrated* magazine. The article is about Fine Arts Center ceramics students creating a fish mobile for the Greenville Hospital Children's Hospital. You can find the piece at: www.potterymaking.org.

Jan Woodward completed the mat certification through the Kane School

of Core Integration in New York City. The dance students have been studying Pilates mat work as part of their conditioning for dance technique.



Mahalia Mays and Dr. Fluhrer after dance performance in the Greenville County Museum of Art

Fluhrer Recognized by Winthrop University and the South Carolina Dance Association

At a ceremony in Rock Hill, South Carolina, on October 20, **Dr. Fluhrer** was awarded the Winthrop University Medal of Honor in the Arts for his years of service to state and national organizations. Fluhrer, currently serving as the president of the International NETWORK of Schools for the Advancement of Arts Education, has a long history of working with Winthrop, serving on the School of Visual and Performing Arts Advisory Board during the tenure of Dean David Franklin. Fluhrer is also part of the Advisory Council for the Arts in Basic Curriculum Project, housed at Winthrop. He was the president of the South Carolina Arts Alliance and is still a board member; until recently, he was also a board member of the South Carolina Alliance for Arts Education, and

Above left: Kathy Robinson conducts.

Left: Dr. Gary A. Robinson conducts

of the South Carolina Consortium for Gifted Education. In 2004 he received the Metropolitan Arts Council Visionary Award for his service to arts education in the Greenville Schools and community. The South Carolina Arts Education Association awarded him its Advocacy Award in 1999 and, on November 11, 2006, in Myrtle Beach, he was given a similar honor by the South Carolina Dance Association.

The Fine Arts Center Dance Ensemble performed November 9 at the Greenville County Museum of Art as part of the Museum's evening Artists Talk series.

The dancers choreographed movement that relates to the works of Jasper Johns in the exhibit *Jasper Johns: Look Homeward*.

The Fine Arts Center dancers worked with art teachers in the state as part of the SCAEA conference. Hilary Jernigan and **Jan Woodward** collaborated using concepts of works by the artist Paul Klee and choreography.

The morning art and dance students took two field trips to the Greenville Museum of Art to study how art and dance intersect. **Jim Campbell** gave a tour of the exhibit Elements of Style to give the students an overview of elements of design.



Shellie Robert, Mary Margaret Elsey, Katie Gohari, and Emily Rostampour perform at the Greenville County Museum of Art

You're Invited to the Fine Arts Center "House Warming" & Open House February 8, 2007 6:30-8:00 PM

Join us for your first opportunity to visit our exciting new facilities! We'll offer tours of the new Fine Arts Center and all its studios, performance spaces, recording studios and more. You'll be among the first to see this grand new school where the students of Greenville County and beyond will come to study the visual, literary and performing arts.

And, in the spirit of the traditional "house warming," consider bringing a gift to celebrate the occasion. We've registered the Fine Arts Center at TARGET! Listed below are some of the items we need to outfit our kitchen, which will be used to prepare for receptions and events, entertain visitors and provide teachers a place to have lunch each day.

Casual Home white porcelain square dinner plates, salad plates, mugs (KDL066/05)	\$ 4.99 each
"Shangrila" frosted 20-piece flatware set (844LO202RA)	\$29.99 each
OXO stainless steel kitchen utensils (turner, slotted spoon, fork)	\$ 6.99 each
Measuring cup sets (1/4 c-1 cup)	\$12.99 each
Hand towels (6 pak) red or light green	\$ 5.99 each
JA Henkels kitchen knives Starter Set	\$29.99 each
JA Henkels paring knife	\$21.99 each
Sink drainer (white plastic)	\$ 7.99
Euro-Pro toaster oven	\$39.99
Panasonic microwave (NN-T664SF)	\$99.99
T-Fal Encore Hard Enamel pots and pans 10-piece set	\$69.99

OR A TARGET GIFTCARD FOR \$5-\$10-\$25-\$50-\$100!

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.

Calendar of Events		
High School Visitation Day		January 19
Fine Arts Center House Warming	6:30- 8:00	February 8
All State Orchestra		February 23-25
Theatre Presentation	7:00	March 2
Strings Chamber Music Concert	7:30	March 8
Music Club of Greenville	AM	March 12
Theatre Presentation	7:00	March 15 - 17
Creative Writing Recital	7:00	March 19
Guitar Concert	7:30	March 21
District Dance Showcase		April 13-15
Generation to Generation Reception & Concert	5:00	April 19
Greenville Tech High School Art Awards		April 20



The School District of Greenville County
 Dr. Phinnize Fisher, Superintendent
 Fine Arts Center, Dr. Roy S. Fluhrer, Director
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