

NEWS

THE FINE ARTS CENTER
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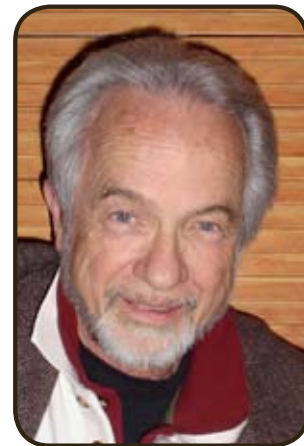
Director's Comments

A New Year. I learned some years ago to husband my resolutions. Don't get too ambitious, take the baby steps, realize that resolving to climb Everest is a bit more complicated than saying it and that there are probably more important other personal peaks to scale first. So, there are the personal resolutions and, then, the resolutions for the school. Easier, 'cause I have a faculty and staff who would be more than willing to help me make a list. Even with a new building, even with new equipment, and even with the "punch list" being systematically reduced, you just can't turn off the creative faucet of a group of artist/teachers who are continually searching for new opportunities for their students, new challenges.

In the last month, our students have been involved in an outstanding gallery project, in the building of a series of large ceramic pieces that will grace the butterfly garden at Roper Mountain, in creating a series of large photographs for the Slow Food gathering of over 100 people, professionals in the food industry, and others, all interested in restoring the commitment to using local and regional environmentally safe foodstuffs while, at the same time, taking the time to enjoy the meal, in contrast to the drive-thru, gulp-it-down mindset that is taking over our lives. Our dancers have had a guest artist, Brian McGinnis, a graduate of the Juilliard Dance Program and a member of the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, spend seven days setting a new piece on both the morning and afternoon dance classes. (You can see them performed at the District Dance Festival on February 10 in the Wade Hampton Auditorium.) To celebrate the new school, Jon Grier has written a new piece, based on the John Acorn sculpture in our lobby, for the Greenville County Youth Orchestra. The piece was debuted at the Shoulder-to-Shoulder Concert at the Gunter Theatre on Thursday, January 24. Shoulder-to-Shoulder. Members of the Greenville Symphony Orchestra sitting "shoulder-to-shoulder" with our youth orchestra for the premier of this work. The film class has been busy creating films for a healthy South Carolina, a state-wide effort undertaken by First Lady

Jennie Sanford. She came to the Center on January 18 to present a \$3,500 check to first-place winner, Danny Drescher.

The gallery project, which many of the community came to see, and which opened on January 4 (there were over 100 overflowing the gallery), the product of months of planning by artist Glen Miller and Fine Arts Center faculty member, Jim Campbell, filled the walls with charcoal drawings created by Miller on the spot over the course of one month. Classes from all over the school came to the gallery while he worked, watched him work, and asked questions. People from the community came in to watch him and, they, too, were welcomed and their questions answered. While we were eager to hand our alumni art show, I have to confess there was some sadness as Glen and Jim took the panels down this past week.



This is a faculty that resolves, each year, to stretch the boundaries of what students are asked to do and, for me, the surprise, the realization that, indeed, the various projects proposed will take the students to new places in their studies, new places in themselves.

Frankly, it makes me proud to see the students accept the challenges to which they are introduced. The only thing predictable about being a Fine Arts Center student is that you'll not only be introduced to the world but to yourself. Not a bad resolution for the New Year: Learn more about your world and yourself in that world. That's where change real takes place. Anybody want to ask if I'm looking forward to 2008?



Alumni News

Elli Papatheodorou, FAC visual arts graduate, is currently a Juried Winter Resident at the Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts in Newcastle, Maine. She received her BFA from Alfred University in 2006 and her travels have taken her to Anderson Ranch Arts Center (Snowmass Village, CO), Mali, West Africa, and Monterrey, Mexico. Watershed is a residency/retreat, which provides artists with time and space to create in clay. Watershed's unique niche grows out of its small and intimate communal approach to a non-hierarchical, process-oriented environment for experimentation, exploration, collaboration and growth.

Grace Grothaus (FAC visual arts) graduated from the Kansas City Art Institute last spring with a BFA degree in sculpture. She is now in Tulsa, Oklahoma, working as an education assistant at the Philbrook Art Museum.

Monica Williams (Dance 2006), a sophomore at NCSA, performed in the Fall Dance Concert in Brenda Daniels'

piece. Ms. Daniels performed in the Merce Cunningham Dance Company and is on the faculty at NCSA. The 16-minute piece had 4 dancers—2 males and 2 females—in the piece, with Monica as one of the female dancers. Diane Markham asked Monica to help with the summer dance auditions, where she demonstrated movements and organized the students.

Jennifer Becker (Dance 2006), a BFA/BA Dance Education dual major at Columbia College, assisted in teaching the "Rainbow Etude," which she learned while a student at the Fine Arts Center, to a group of South Carolina dance educators. The session was part of a January meeting for a graduate course titled, "Dance Education: Creative, Cultural, and Historical Contexts." The course is sponsored by the SC Center for Dance Education with a grant from the SC Department of Education.

Laura Ashlee Daniels (Dance 2005), a BFA major at Columbia College, currently is serving as Producer for the Columbia College Dance Company, in addition to dancing with the company.

FAC Alumni Exhibition

During February and March, the Sheffield Wood Gallery will host the Fine Arts Center Alumni Exhibition. The show features work by 24 former visual art students from across the country; a commercial photographer from California, a glass blower from Tennessee, a ceramics artist from New York, and an illustrator from Indiana—just to name a few. This diverse show represents work created by some of the Center's first students from the 1970s to some of our more recent graduates. Please visit the gallery and see this show!



Sean Anderson's "Kabul: Boy with Cart," one of the works included in the Alumni Exhibition

Glen Miller Opening

January 4 saw the opening of Glen Miller's "Ruminations on a Charred Vine," the culmination of a month-long charcoal mural done live in our gallery every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from the end of November to the end of December. The mural covered every wall of the gallery and, simply, was a stunning tour de force showing of his skill and imagination.



Healthy SC Challenge

First Lady Awards \$3,500 In Healthy SC School Video Contest

First Lady Jenny Sanford traveled to Greenville January 18 to award the December winner of the Healthy SC School Video Contest. Mrs. Sanford presented **Danny Drescher**, a 16-year-old student at the Greenville Fine Arts Center, with a check for \$3,500. Danny's video, "The Health Squad," was ranked #1 by fans judging in the Healthy SC Challenge channel on OurStage.com. Danny says he promised each of the actors in his video \$20 if his video won. With the remaining \$3,360, he plans to purchase the new Apple MacBook Pro and video editing software. Over 14 videos have been submitted by classmates in his film production class. Danny is going to try to make a second film before the January 24 submission deadline—students can submit up to two films each. **Mr. Jim Armbruster**, the Greenville office director of Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina, joined Mrs. Sanford in presenting the check to Danny. **Phil Bailey** and **Kemp Swiney** from Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated, presented **Roy Fluhrer**, director of the Fine Arts Center, with a \$1,000 gift certificate to purchase athletic equipment for the facility. Danny's class will receive a healthy lunch catered by Subway. "The Health Squad" is a fast-paced action series that stars a kung fu fighter, an intimidating body-builder, and a daredevil in a purple '80s track suit with a helmet. Each of the action figures fights crimes against unhealthy eating, inactivity, and tobacco use. Not only do they succeed in getting

their victims not to eat hamburgers, not play video games and not smoke, they replace their vices with a salad, a basketball, and a carrot! Voters determined "Skateboarding—It's not just for breakfast anymore" as the weekly

ing on ramps and rails at a skate park. The video concludes with a message from Ethan, "Staying healthy isn't hard, but skateboarding is. So, I eat healthy and stay fit." The contest runs through January 31, with video submissions accepted until 12 am on January 25, 2008. Each month, the video in the #1 spot receives \$3,500 cash and the runner-up receives \$1,500. Schools of the top two videos each also receive prizes. January is the final month of this contest which began November 1, 2007. OurStage, the only purely democratic online competition where the fans decide who's the best in emerging music, film and video, is hosting the contest on a special channel created solely for the Healthy SC School Video Contest. OurStage's unique judging engine ensures that each piece is judged fairly by the viewers—no rigging and no cheating. To view "The Health Squad," "Skateboarding" and other videos, visit <http://www.ourstage.com/video/channel/58-healthy-challenge>, where you can access all the rules and fill out an application to enter the contest.

The Healthy SC Challenge is an outcome-based, cooperative effort aimed at encouraging individuals, communities and organizations across the state to show shared responsibility in developing innovative ways to improve the health of South Carolina's citizens. For more information about the Healthy SC Challenge, please visit www.healthysc.gov, or call 803-737-4772.



(L to R)
Jim Armbruster,
Pat Burns,
Danny Drescher,
Jenny Sanford,
Phil Bailey and
Kemp Swiney



(L to R)
Roy Fluhrer,
Patricia Burns,
Danny Drescher,
Jenny Sanford,
Ken and Harriette
Drescher

winner of the Healthy SC School Video Contest. **Ethan Godwin**, a student at Irmo Middle School in Lexington County, created "Skateboarding." He will receive a fitness prize pack from Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated and will remain in the contest for a chance to win January's monthly prize of \$3,500 cash! Ethan Godwin's video contest profile says "Skateboarding is my favorite physical activity. I have been practicing for six years now and love every minute of it!" The video shows him skateboard-

From the Office of First Lady Jenny Sanford

Dance

Guest Dance Artist

Brian McGinnis graduated from The Juilliard School in 1997 with a B.F.A. under the directorship of Benjamin Harkavy. Post graduation, he danced with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Elisa Monte Dance, and Parsons Dance Company. Brian has toured extensively and conducted master classes nationally as well as internationally. Recently, he was part of The White Oak Project founded by Mikhail Baryshnikov. He was a student at Perry-Mansfield in 1996, and has returned as a part of its New Works Festival and to teach for the High School and College program. He has recently joined another highly respected dance company, the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company (www.lubovitch.org), and will be performing in its national and international tours.

Mr. McGinnis was in residence with the Fine Arts Center dancers for seven days in January when he set a new work on the afternoon dance students and taught technique classes to the morning students. The choreographic work, "thee who holds the key," will be performed at the Greenville County Schools Dance Showcase on Sunday, February 10, at 3:00 in the Wade Hampton High School Theatre. The lighting for the dance will be designed by **Dirk Holleman** and the costumes by **Carol Phillips**.

Greenville County Schools Dance Mini-Festival

Fine Arts Center dancers, as well as dancers from across the district, will participate in the first dance mini-festival. The event will be held on Saturday, February 9, in the Fine Arts Center and will offer modern dance classes

for the district's dance students. The guest company, The Power Company, a professional modern dance company based in Columbia, will be teaching classes to the students. There will be a Dan Wagoner Repertory class for the advanced dancers, which will be open for students, parents and other interested audience members who wish to observe the class. **Jennifer Becker**, a graduate of the Fine Arts Center, is a member of the dance company.

Greenville County Schools Dance Showcase

Fine Arts Center dancers will perform three works in the district's Dance Showcase on Sunday, February 10, at 3:00 in the Wade Hampton High School Theatre. The morning dance students will perform a dance choreographed on them by guest artist **Lisa Wheeler**. Ms. Wheeler danced with the Dan Wagoner Dance Company and is the Associate Artistic Director of Ben Munisteri Dance Projects based in New York City. The dance piece, "Vanishing Point (of View)," was inspired by the paintings of Jan Vermeer. The afternoon class will also dance a work created by Lisa Wheeler, which is an excerpt of choreography she set on The Power Company titled "The Wonderful Thing." The final piece the dancers will perform is the dance choreographed by Brian McGinnis, "thee who holds the key." The dance was choreographed on the afternoon dancers and is a challenging and exciting work. Mr. McGinnis, a graduate of Juilliard, has just recently joined the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company based in New York City.

The other schools participating in the Greenville County Schools Dance Showcase besides the Fine Arts Center are the dancers from the A.R.M.E.S. dance pro-

gram, League Academy, Stone Academy and Tanglewood Middle School.

Dance Students to Become Members of NHSDA

Three Fine Art Center dancers, Maggie Base, Emily Hammond and Amanda Porter, have earned enough points to become members of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts (NHSDA.) Kaitlyn Martinez, currently a member, is now eligible to move up three higher levels of membership. The dancers will be inducted into the honor society in January. The primary mission of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts (NHSDA) is to promote and honor outstanding dance achievement and to encourage well-rounded dance artists to become leaders in their communities after high school graduation. Current members are **Alexandria Black, Mary Margaret Elsey, Danielle Goddard** and **Kaitlyn Martinez**.

We Appreciate It!

Community and parents help Fine Arts Center dancers by designing and creating costumes for the dancers in new pieces of choreography. Carol Phillips is designing and creating costumes for Brian McGinnis' piece "thee who holds the key." She is a veteran in costume design, having created many beautiful costumes for The Greenville Ballet and other ballet companies. Tina Monteleon is creating costumes for Lisa Wheeler's piece "Vanishing Point (of View.)" Ms. Monteleon has created costumes for the South Carolina Children's Theatre and has helped with costumes for The Greenville Ballet. Her daughter, Gianni, is a dance student at the Fine Arts Center. Beth Base is helping with the costumes for "The

Wonderful Thing," choreographed by Lisa Wheeler. Her daughter, Maggie, is also a dance student at the Fine Arts Center and her son, Peter, also attended the Fine Arts Center in dance.

Film/Video

Kristy Higby, digital artist and filmmaker from Mercersburg Academy in Pennsylvania, spent two days working with photography students on preparing digital portfolios. Her film, *Flag Day*, received a juror's honorable mention at the 2005 AFI/Discovery Channel SILVERDOCS Documentary Conference and Filmfest held in Silver Spring, MD; a Jury's Citation at the 25th Black Maria Film and Video Festival in Jersey City, NJ; Best Documentary at the Dam Short Film Festival in Boulder City, Nevada; and Best Activist Film at the San Francisco Women in Film Festival '07 recognition at the Arizona Film Festival.

During their time with Higby, students learned how to organize and present their works in a variety of digital formats, ultimately creating Quicktime movies of their portfolios.



Top: Digital portfolios designed by photography students

Bottom: Kristy Higby works with Aimee Johnston on digitizing her portfolio.

Theatre

Visiting Theatre Artist

by *Advanced Theatre Ensemble*
member *Jamee Ernst*

The theatre class eagerly awaits the arrival of international theatre artist, **Jeffrey Fracé**. Jeffrey Fracé is an associate artist with the Saratoga International Theater Institute (the SITI Company), an ensemble-based theatre company with whom he travels, performs and teaches. He also has his own production company, Point B Productions, based in New York City. As an actor, Jeffrey has appeared in over 40 professional productions. In addition to acting, he also dances, writes and directs. Jeffrey will join the theatre classes beginning January 26, staying for one week. There will be a short "informance" on February 1 at 7 pm in the Black Box Theatre.

The theatre classes will also be presenting an evening of commedia dell'arte on March 14 & 15 at 7pm. Admission is free (donations accepted).

Visual Arts

Debbie Cooke, photography teacher, is one of 17 visual artists in South Carolina to be awarded membership in Southern Artistry. Southernartistry.org is a free, online artist registry dedicated to showcasing the lives and work of outstanding visual artists, writers, performers, filmmakers and arts educators who are living and working in the South. The site is maintained by the Southern Arts Federation in partnership with nine state arts agencies and the Center for Arts Management at Carnegie Mellon University.



Slow Food Greenville Features Students' Photos

Photography students from the Fine Arts Center participated in Slow Food Greenville's inaugural event, "Grits, Greens and Good Luck" at the Lofts at Mills Mill on January 20. Their instructor, **Debbie Cooke**, started South Carolina Slow Food in 1990, and has since joined this newly reorganized group. For this event, students researched and photographed local food products, and displayed their resulting digital prints at the event. In addition to exhibiting their work, students joined participants in a meal of heritage and heirloom fare including Caw Caw Creek pork, The Cliffs Organic greens, Anson Mills grits and grains, Flat Rock Bakery bread, and Happy Cow Creamery milk and butter. Many students volunteered during the event, helping where needed. For more information on Slow Food concepts, go to www.slowfood.com



Photographs by
Fine Art Center
photography classes



Roper Mountain Butterfly Garden Sculptures

Fine Arts Center clay students have just finished creating two large sculptures for the Butterfly Garden at the Roper Mountain Science Center. The students took a field trip to the center in October to view the potential sculpture sites and to draw from the butterfly collection. **Ginger Kopkal**, Master Gardner and the developer of the garden, presented a program about the life cycle of a butterfly and their host plants. In December, the students presented their designs to **Bill Bradshaw**, the director of Roper Mountain Science Center and Ms. Kopkal. The sculptures are now almost complete and will be installed as a permanent part of the garden in the spring.



Music

Fine Arts Center Students Participate in Region and All-State Band Festivals

For the first time since the mid-1990s, Fine Arts Center winds, brass, and percussion students were recently permitted to participate in auditions for the South Carolina Band Director Association's (SCBDA) Region and State band festivals. FAC musicians fared well at the region band audition, which was held at Greer High School on Saturday, January 12.

The SCBDA divides the state into five regions. Greenville County Schools and the Fine Arts Center are located in Region 1, which roughly encompasses the Upstate. In a first audition, students compete to participate in a bands representing their region. Ninth and tenth grades vie for places in the Clinic Band while eleventh and twelfth graders audition for chairs in the Senior Band. Musicians placing first or close to that on their instruments then qualify to compete with their counterparts from the other four regions to participate in the vaunted All-State Band.

Fine Arts Center students earning chairs in the Region No. 1 band included: **Fiona Aldrich** (flute, Blue ridge HS, 12); **Faith Russell** (flute, home school, 09); **Sara Hoggatt** (oboe, Riverside HS, 12); **Chris Askew** (bassoon, Mauldin HS, 11); **Jay Belanger** (horn, Wade Hampton HS, 11); **Josh Caprell** (timpani, Southside Christian, 12); **Wesley Strasser** (mallet percussion, Wade Hampton HS, 09); **Peter DiLeo** (mallet percussion, Eastside HS, 12); **Jason Lawler** (snare drum, Eastside HS, 11).

Chris Askew, Josh Caprell, Wesley Strasser, and Peter DiLeo each placed

first on their respective instruments and will advance to auditions for All-State Band. Jay Belanger and Jason Lawler also earned scores that allow them to advance.

The Region 1 band festival will be held at Furman University on February 29 and March 1. The All-State Band Festival takes place March 14-16 and is also held at Furman.

Robinson Maintains Busy Conducting Schedule

Music faculty member Gary A. Robinson has maintained a busy performing schedule in addition to his teaching and conducting duties at the Fine Arts Center. As Music Director and Conductor of the Foothills Philharmonic, Robinson directed that orchestra's October "Hopelessly Romantic" concert, which featured the music of Max Bruch and Alexander Borodin and which showcased area violinist Deirdre Hutton. That performance was followed in November by the Foothills Philharmonic/Carolina Ballet Theater production of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Ballet* at the Peace Center for the Performing Arts. Modeled on concerts staged by the Boston Pops, Robinson conducted FP's New Year's Eve "Celebrate O-Eight," held this year at the Carolina First Center and featuring vocal selections sung by area soprano Lisa Odom. On January 26, Robinson and Foothills Philharmonic give their second symphony concert of the current season at the Peace Center's Dorothy Gunter Theater. Entitled "Showcase," the performance featured the music of Franz Josef Haydn and Aaron Copland, and showcased the cello playing of Furman University's Christopher Hutton.

Information on Foothills Philharmonic and its 2007-2008 season can be found at www.foothillsphil.org.

FAC Strings Chamber Music Students Win Top Honors in the SC All-State Orchestra Concerto Competition

Cellist **Seth Russell** (Home School), won first place and will perform Saint-Saëns' Cello Concerto with the Orchestra at the Brooks Performing Arts Center, Clemson University, on Sunday, February 24, at 2:00 pm. The runner-up was violinist **Kevin Tompkins** (Wade Hampton) performing Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto.

GCYO Premieres New Composition

The Greenville County Youth Orchestra, under the baton of Dr. Gary Auguste Robinson, premiered Jon Jeffrey Grier's concert overture *A Fifth Season* on the GCYO's Shoulder-to-Shoulder Concert at the Peace Center on January 24. The work is Grier's dedicatory salute to the new Fine Arts Center and is based in part on elements of the magnificent John Acorn sculpture *The Four Seasons*, which stands in the lobby of the new building. Its musical form retraces the history of the school and looks to a future—fifth season—of challenges and hope. The concert featured guest musicians of the Greenville Symphony Orchestra sitting shoulder-to-shoulder with GCYO members. Also to be performed were the Saint-Saëns *La Jeunesse d'Hercule* (The Youth of Hercules) and the Mozart Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major, with **Valerie Hsu**, piano soloist.

Sierra Club News

FAC Sierra Club Hosts Seminar

The FAC Sierra Club will host a showing of the PBS program *Art in the 21st Century: Ecology*, on Wednesday, February 20, from 5:00-6:30 pm in Recital Hall. The program explores, through the eyes of three practicing artists, the question of how our understanding of the natural world is deeply cultural. Discussion will be led by **Dr. Joseph Pollard**, Professor of Biology at Furman University, and FAC's own **Debbie Cooke**, Instructor of Photography. The event is free and open to the public and light refreshments will be served.

The FAC Sierra Club has also adopted a length of trail at Lake Conestee Nature Park, and held a trail clean-up session at the park on December 15.

Fine Arts Center

Concert/Performance Dates 2008

January 24 at 8 pm
**GYCO Shoulder-to-Shoulder,
 Gunter Theatre**

January 31 at 7:30 pm
**Winter Orchestra Concert,
 Carolina High**

February 1 at 7 pm
**Jeffrey Fracé Presentation,
 Black Box Theatre**

February 9
Dance Mini-Festival

February 10 at 3 pm
**District Dance Showcase,
 WHHS**

February 20 from 5-6:30 pm
Sierra Club

March 6 at 8 pm
Strings Chamber Music

March 13 at 6 pm
**Visual Arts Alumni Show
 Reception**

March 13 at 7:30 pm
Jazz Recital

March 14 & 15 at 7 pm
Theatre Performance

March 16 at 2 & 5 pm
ARMES Strings Concert

March 20 at 7:30 pm
**Brass, Winds and Percussion
 Informance**

April 17 at 8 pm
**GCO Concert,
 Gunter Theatre**

April 20 at 2 pm
ARMES Strings Concert

April 22 at 7:30 pm
**Spring Orchestra Concert,
 WHHS**

April 24
**Generation-to-Generation
 (6:00 Reception/
 7:00 Performance)**

May 1 at 7:30 pm
Jazz Recital

May 5 at 7 pm
Creative Writing

May 7 at 7:30 pm
**Brass, Winds and Percussion
 Recital**

May 9 & 10 at 7:30 pm
Dance Recital

May 11 at 3 pm
**ARMES Strings Concert,
 WHHS**


May 13 at 6:30 pm
Voice Recital

May 14 at 7:30 pm
Jazz Recital

May 15 at 8pm
Strings Chamber Music

May 16 at 9:20 am & 1:20 pm
Honors Showcase

May 30 at 7:30 pm
Film Video Screening



**GREENVILLE COUNTY
 SCHOOLS**
Where enlightening strikes.

The School District of Greenville County
 Dr. Phinnize Fisher, Superintendent

Fine Arts Center
 Dr. Roy S. Fluhrer, Director
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