

ARTS NEWS

FINE ARTS CENTER - JANUARY 2004

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Students Win Honors

Nineteen Fine Arts Center Strings Chamber Music students auditioned for, and won places in, the Upstate Regional Festival Orchestra. **Trisha Berquist** (Wade Hampton), **Meredith Bowden** (Home Schooled), **Will Clarke** (Greenville), **Savannah Guest** (Greenville), **Mary Ashton Inglis** (Travelers Rest), **Wesley Johnson** (Mauldin), **Tiffany Lanier** (Greenville), **Mary Laurel Lawton** (Travelers Rest), **Mary Elaine Mahaffey** (Hillcrest), **Haley Owens** (Greenville), **Lindsey Owens** (Greenville), **Spencer Player** (Home Schooled), **Chloe Robinson** (Greenville), **Elizabeth Robinson** (Greenville), **Fields Roop** (Greenville), **Jane Spears** (Greenville), **Clarke Sumerel** (Wade Hampton), **Gregory Tompkins** (Greenville), and **Julie Anne Wilson** (Greenville) performed November 8 at Anderson College.

Fine Arts Center visual arts student **Elizabeth McWilliam**

has won an Honorable Mention from the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts ARTS program. Only 10% of over 6,000 applications received awards this year. Elizabeth is one of only 5 visual arts students from the state of South Carolina to be recognized. She will receive a \$100.00 award in addition to the national recognition.

FAC violinist Chloe Robinson (Greenville HS, 12) has won the 2003-04 South Carolina All State Orchestra Solo Competition. The competition was held at Bob Jones University on December 6th. Chloe will rehearse and then perform the Dvorak Violin Concerto (first movement) with the All State Orchestra in Myrtle Beach, SC, February 27-29. Chloe is a fourth year at the Fine Arts Center. She is a member of FAC's Strings Chamber Music Program, is Concertmaster of FAC's Greenville County Youth Orchestra, and is enrolled in Dr. John Grier's music history class. Chloe's violin teacher is Ms. Haejin Kim.

*South Carolina All State
Orchestra Soloist
Chloe Robinson*



From the Director

Writing makes the writer. We shouldn't be surprised. A weight lifter does not earn his muscles by dreaming of them first and then pressing two hundred pounds. Nor does a chess player improve by imagining himself a champion, but only by playing one game. So if a society were to want writers, it would encourage reading of the right sort, the sort that would teach quality not quantity, innovation not convention, subtlety not glibness, contemplation not instruction, challenge not amusement, permanence not the nonce, reality not its representation. So if a society wished to inhibit the development of its writers, keeping youngsters out of the company of good books would be a splendid beginning.



– *Tests of Time*, William Gass, *The University of Chicago Press*, 2002, p.247

With just a few awkward changes in structure and rhythm –but not in meaning– we could substitute the more inclusive words “artists” or “the arts” for the words “writing” and “writer” in the above quotation by one of America’s great writer/philosophers and arrive at why what we do here at The Fine Arts Center is so important. I would go so far to say that if it were our desire to usher in the warm and wonderful world of *A Clockwork Orange*, or big brother’s 1984 we would remove the arts from our schools, strike them from our sensibilities, tell students that our future lies in standardized math and science test scores.

Will those test scores help us understand the human condition, make us more compassionate participants in a fast changing world? Will those scores help us empathize with cultures and peoples different from us, build the structures that recognize these differences, celebrate them and, at the same time, enable us to embrace change as a constant, but not to be feared? Don’t misunderstand me: math and science should be a necessary and significant part of any student’s education. I still consider my time spent in plain and solid geometry as crucial to developing the mental tools that would later help me analyze and think through the information that daily bombards all of us. But math and

science, merely because they are measurable, merely because we are able to match South Carolina students against those from other states and determine if we are on the appropriate educational track, are not the only subjects that deserve our attention. Scientists and mathematicians must have their methods leavened with the arts. Odd, isn’t it, that many of our great scientists were also artists, musicians, painters and poets.

With the arts, instead of contracting we are expanding; instead of pulling back we are reaching out; instead of building walls, we are taking them down. So here at the Center, we keep our students not only in the company of good writers and books, but good artists, good musicians, good dancers, good actors, and good filmmakers. Gass is right, but we want our “splendid beginning” to be the art of living a full life.

Ray

Visiting Artists



Visiting artist Susan Harbage Page works with Sebastijan Jemec and Andie Rawlinson

The Fine Arts Center was delighted to have photographer, Susan Harbage Page, spend the week before Thanksgiving working with the photography students. The visit was inspired by her Greenville County Museum exhibition, “Susan Harbage Page: Ties That Bind” and the resulting 2003 *Emrys Journal*. Page has photographed women and their religious objects in settings as far away as West Africa, and as close as Bob Jones University. Her photographs are frank and real visions of women---from murky descriptions of veiled Bedouins to revealing self-portraits. During her resi-

dence she worked with students on self-portraits and the idea of “identity.” The resulting student work will be on display at the Metropolitan Arts Council offices in June 2004. Page’s visit was funded with grants from the Fine Arts Center’s Foundation and the Metropolitan Arts Council.

Voice

On November 19, operatic superstar David Daniels spent the day at the Fine Arts Center talking to music students about his training and career. The Grammy-nominated counter tenor has been a long time friend of FAC voice instructor Michael Rice. Daniels was in the area to spend some time with his family and friends in the upstate and in Charleston after a run of performances of Handel’s *Julius Caesar* at the Houston Grand Opera.



International opera star David Daniels signs an autograph for Shetavia Patterson (Wade Hampton).

Dance

Namu Lwanga, the director of the Kayaga of Africa, taught a master class to the Advanced Middle School A.R.M.E.S. Dance Students in October. She taught the students a dance and shared some of the culture of Uganda, bringing drums, songs, and native dance costumes. It was sponsored by the Peace Center’s education outreach program.

All of the dance students attended the POP! performance of the Kayaga of Africa at the Peace Center in October. Several of our dancers were invited on the stage to perform the iwaist dance.

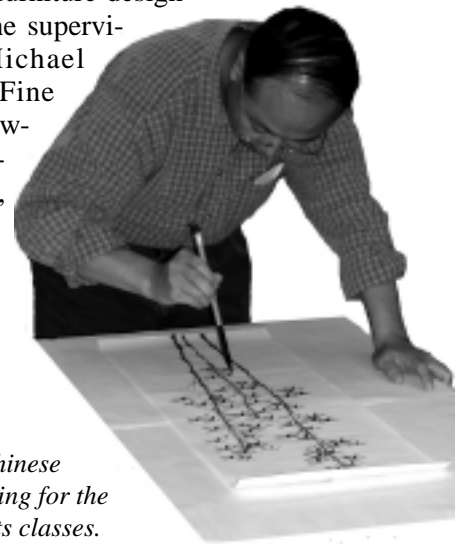
Wanda Ebright, Assistant Professor from Coker College, taught master classes to the morning and afternoon students on October 3rd. Her Graham based modern dance technique class was based on the principles of the legendary dancer and choreographer, Martha Graham.

Visual Arts

Thanks to sponsorship by the Surdna Foundation, the Fine Arts Center Foundation, and the South Carolina Arts Commission, ten Fine Arts Center visual arts students will participate in a woodworking workshop with master furniture designer/craftsman, Michael McDunn in March 2004. This workshop will be the second collaboration between Mr. McDunn and Fine Arts Center students and faculty. Several years ago Fine Arts Center students built wooden display panels and display pedestals for the arts community under the direction of Michael McDunn in collaboration with Upstate Visual Artists, the Metropolitan Arts Council and the South Carolina Arts Commission.

Participating students will receive 32 hours of woodworking instruction in Mr. McDunn’s woodworking studio. They will create hanging display units to be used in the new Fine Arts Center galleries.

Students will learn fundamental woodworking design, tool use and shop safety while working in a professional furniture design studio under the supervision of Michael McDunn and Fine Arts Center Drawing and Graphics instructor, Jim Campbell.



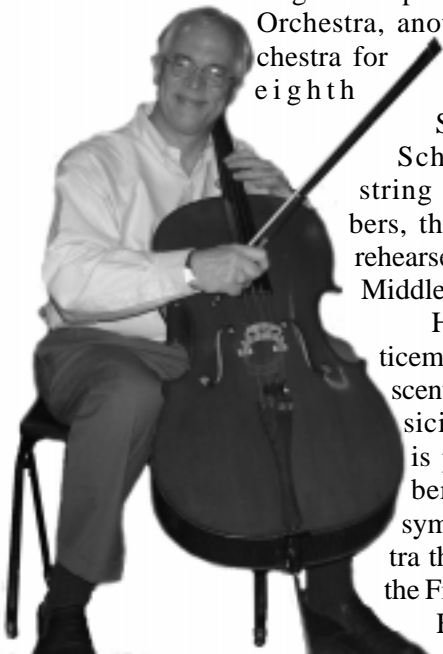
Lin Li, father of ARMES student Richard Li, demonstrates Chinese watercolor painting for the ARMES visual arts classes.

A Day In the Life of the Orchestras at the Fine Arts Center

8:15 a.m. - Almost from the moment its doors are unlocked each weekday morning, the sound of music emanates from the classrooms and echoes down the corridors of the Fine Arts Center. Rosin churns from the bows of violinists, violists, and cellists hard at work in John Ravnan's 8:15 a.m. chamber music class. Other string players, having already locked themselves into one of the practice studios, methodically weave scale notes between the clicks of beating metronomes. Not seen by those attending regular-hours classes, these student musicians establish the firmament for musical culture at the Fine Arts Center each day.

9:15 a.m. - 3:05 - Each Tuesday, however, this musical culture reaches far beyond the official conclusion of classes at 3:05 and into the deep hours of the evening. After scores of middle school students enrolled in the A.R.M.E.S. (Arts Reaching Middle and Elementary Schools) funnel through the front door of the Fine Arts Center and then disperse to its classrooms, another 120+ musicians & students enrolled in Greenville County Youth Orchestra (GCYO) and Greenville County Junior Youth Orchestra (affectionately known as "The J") begin arriving for weekly rehearsal.

Both GCYO and "The J" are part of the after school orchestra program that has served motivated students in the Greenville County Schools since the 1970s. A four-tiered system, it begins with Stringsations, an entry-level string orchestra for first-year players. Graduates from



Bruce McLean

Stringsations pass onto Honors Orchestra, another string orchestra for seventh and eighth graders.

Staffed by School District string faculty members, these ensembles rehearse at Northwood Middle School.

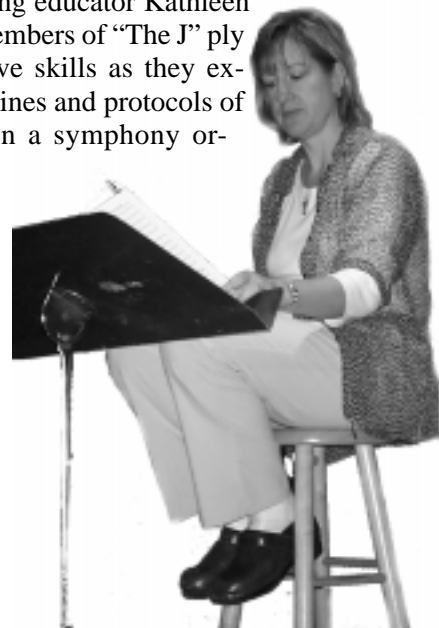
Held out as enticement to these nascent orchestral musicians, however, is possible membership in a full symphony orchestra that rehearses at the Fine Arts Center.

For Honors Or-

chestra members who are able to audition up, there is Greenville County Junior Youth Orchestra. Rehearsing from 4:30 until 6:00, playing with "The J" is a giant step beyond anything they have experienced up to this point. A hand-selected team of wind and brass players, ranging from precocious sixth graders to savvy high school band students, expands the physical size and the musical scope of the ensemble. Led by respected violinist and string educator Kathleen Robinson, members of "The J" ply their collective skills as they explore the routines and protocols of performing in a symphony orchestra.

And in **the 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

time block, "The J" swells the population of middle school students at the Fine Arts Center to near capacity: well over 200 students. Then, the sixty-plus musicians of GCYO begin to arrive at around 6:00 p.m.



Kathleen Robinson

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - GCYO is the school district's top-flight student symphony orchestra, and is the Orchestra in Residence at the Fine Arts Center. Its members represent most of the high schools in the district, as well as other public and private schools from across the Upstate. Led by FAC music faculty member Dr. Gary Auguste Robinson, the orchestra has been around in one form or another since the early 1970s, when it was most closely associated with the Singing Christmas Tree. In the late 1980s, it became an honors-level course in orchestral performance offered by the Fine Arts Center. Young musicians interested in GCYO must pass a rigorous audition to attain membership and credit, and must continually meet the challenges presented by "adult level" orchestral music.

At 6:15, rehearsals with the GCYO's Chamber Orchestra begin. GCYO-CO is open by audition to members of the full orchestra. It is a small ensemble (16-26 members) consisting of GCYO's most skilled

FAC Food Fight Benefits Community Kitchen

and experienced players. The group rehearses and performs sophisticated works of the Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Contemporary periods. GCYO-CO serves as the faculty and as the featured ensemble for GCYO's annual Middle School Orchestra Festival, which is staged at Greenville Academy Middle School in October. (This year's MSOF brought together 82 young musicians who were selected from GCS string and band programs.)

The Chamber Orchestra also becomes a skilled, flexible ensemble for accompanying concerto soloists, and performs its own stand-alone concerts. In January, CO members will perform alongside members of the Greenville Symphony Orchestra in a side-by-side concert entitled *Shoulder to Shoulder*. In April, it will be the featured ensemble in a concert entitled *Heavy Metal*, performing a recent composition by American composer Bill McGlaughlin and the premier of a new work by Fine Arts Center Composer-in-Residence Jon Grier.

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - By 7:00 p.m., the members of Greenville County Youth Orchestra have assembled in the theater and are ready for the final two-and-a-half hours of music making at the Fine Arts Center. GCYO is a full-scale symphony orchestra that rehearses the literature of the Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary periods, and performs a series of masterworks concerts like that of professional symphony orchestras. GCYO concerts include its August Orchestra Camp Concert, its Fall Sampler and Middle School Orchestra Festival concerts (both in October), its January Winter Orchestras Concert, and its Season Finale concert held in late April. Logging in 120+ hours of rehearsal each year, GCYO musicians acquire a suppleness and sophistication in music making only rarely encountered at the high school level, and equaled only by the Fine Arts Center's repected strings chamber music program.

With the 9:30 conclusion of GCYO's rehearsal, music -making takes a brief respite at the Fine Arts Center. By the time its doors are locked around 10:00 P.M., the Fine Arts Center will have served some five hundred student artists, and music will have radiated, more or less continually, from its walls for over thirteen hours.

The process will begin again, tomorrow, at about 8:00 a.m.

The creative writing, visual arts and film/video classes challenged the music, dance and theatre classes to see who could collect the biggest "food tree" for the Southern Side Community Kitchen. The Southern Side Community Center has helped serve a great range of needs of the Fine Arts Center's neighborhood for many years. One of the Community Center's important services is to provide hot meals and other food assistance to families and individuals in our area.

If you would like to help, contact the Southern Side Community Center at 232-5651 .



Clockwise, visual art student Kara Kilburn and dancers, Tiffany Henry, Danielle Perry, and Tiffany Lanier

Departments Collaborate

The Visual Art students and the Dance students from the Fine Arts Center combined classes to share common elements in design for both visual art and dance. The students toured the exhibit, "Disco Must Die" at the Greenville County Museum of Art and discussed the meaning behind the works of art as well as the design elements represented. The second trip to the Art Museum involved the students in hands on experiences drawing and moving to different pieces of art in the exhibit.

Guidance News

In early October seniors were given copies of College and Scholarship handouts. Included in these packets were lists of schools in their art area that their teachers suggested for them to consider when applying to colleges. In mid October students were given an update to the original handouts. If any student needs additional copies of the information, they are available in the guidance office.

Dates of importance:

Remaining SAT dates: January 24, (regular deadline, December 22), March 27 (regular deadline, February 20), May 1 (regular deadline, March 25) and June 5 (regular deadline, April 29)

Remaining ACT dates: February 7 (regular deadline, January 2), April 3 (regular deadline, February 27) and June 12 (regular deadline, May 7)

Nine premier conservatories now have a common application that can be accessed at unifiedapps.org. Conservatories include: Boston Conservatory, Cleveland Institute of Music, Curtis Institute, Juilliard, Manhattan School of Music, Mannes College of Music, New England Conservatory, Oberlin and San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Latest updates from local colleges:

Columbia College - Entering freshmen with SAT scores of 1300 and above will be awarded FULL TUITION, renewable for up to four years. 800-277-1301 or www.columbiacollegesc.edu

Anderson College - During the months of November and December, the essay portion of the application has been waived. Also, Anderson is offering significant scholarship money based on GPA for students who live in dormitory housing. 800-542-3594 <http://www.AC.edu>.

Students seeking Financial Aid (state and federal) in the form of loans and grants must complete the Free Application for Student Aid (AFSA) at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. The forms are also available in guidance offices at the home high school. The forms cannot be submitted until after January 1, 2004.

Reminder: A large selection of college catalogs and resource materials is available in the guidance area. I encourage students to take advantage of this information.



Visual arts alumni Alex Nolan with his recent ceramic and metal kinetic sculpture

Alumni News

FAC Creative Writing alumni **David Brothers**, now in his second year at Lander University, is featured on Scholastic's national website. His poem "Mirror Farm" won a national Gold Award in 2001.

Dance alumnae **Meghan Price** (2001) and Erin Bailey (2003) are performing in the faculty dance performance at Columbia College November 14 and 15.

Dance alumna, **Rebecca Lee** (1999), has ballet choreography which is also being performed in the faculty dance concert at Columbia College.†

Meghan Price and **Erin Bailey** are choreographing and performing in the Columbia College Student Choreographer's Showcase on December 4th.

Brian Moran (Dance/Theatre 1979) has released a new musical CD, Red Rooms. Brian who plays electronics, is part of the musical trio Chainworks.

Faculty News

FAC Music Faculty member **Dr. Gary Auguste Robinson** conducts two productions of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* ballet this season. November 29 and 30, Robinson conducted members of the Foothills Philharmonic in the production staged by the Carolina Ballet Theater. Gary and FP will be making the local premier of a new orchestration of the score by Joseph Ceo. In a December 13-14 production by the South Carolina Ballet Association, Robinson conducts members of the Greenville Symphony Orchestra. Both productions will be staged at the Peace Center for the Performing Arts.

Film/Video Instructor **Eric Rogers**, (along with film instructor's Laurie Ramano and Andrew Sklar from the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts in Jacksonville, FL), recently spent several days in Southern California touring the film programs at various schools including, Chapman University, Cal Arts, Arts Center College of Design, The American Film Institute, and UCLA. The trio was also able to get VIP tickets from Ms. Ramano's friend, Jack Kenny (Executive Producer of "Wanda at Large") to get into the Warner Brothers Studios to see the filming of the show "Two and a Half Men."

Drawing and Graphics instructor **Jim Campbell** and Director **Roy Fluhrer** recently attended the 2003 Surdna Fellowship Convocation in NYC with Surdna Fellows from across the US to participate in roundtable and small group discussions about issues in arts education. Jim and Roy were delighted to be able spend time

with Fine Arts Center Creative Writing alumna Ashley Crout who is living in NYC and working with the Surdna Foundation. (See alumni news)

Debbie Cooke, photography teacher, presented a session on the Fulbright Memorial Fund Program at the 2003 South Carolina Art Education Conference in Charleston, SC.

Art School Representatives Visit Visual Arts Department

Visual arts students have had numerous opportunities this semester to speak with admissions representatives from outstanding art schools. Ceramics instructor Glenda Guion organized this year's schedule, which included hour-long presentations about the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Massachusetts; Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, Maryland; and Kansas City Art Institute in Kansas City, Missouri. Each representative described her school in great detail, including course offerings, degrees offered, campus life, costs of attending, and requirements for acceptance. These slide programs offered our students a realistic glimpse of what applying to and attending such schools might be like; in addition, getting to know the admissions reps, who looked at individual portfolios while at the Fine Arts Center, provided students with an on-sight critique of their work and helped them make that personal connection that could lead to greater scholarship awards in the future.

Other schools who sent representatives to make informal presentations included the Rhode Island School of Design, Atlanta College of Art, and College of Charleston. Steve Nevitt, chairman of the Art Department of Columbia College, included information about his program when he spoke to the students about his exhibition in the Sheffield Wood Gallery.

Thanks

The Fine Arts Center recently acquired a nine-piece Pearl Export drum set for use in its percussion program. Donated by Simpsonville drummer and US Army mechanic Nick Santangelo, the drum set came complete with hardware and Sabian cymbals. The two bass drums from this set have been added to the drum pod used by FAC percussion students in drum set practice and in classroom instruction with Gary Auguste Robinson.

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

Sheffield Wood Gallery Schedule

January 5 - 30 - Recent work by John Pendarvis
January 22, 6:30 p.m. - Reception for John Pendarvis
February 2 - 27 - Recent work by David Detrich
March 1 - 26 - Generation to Generation - Greenville County Schools art teachers and their students exhibit recent work
April 5 - 30 - The Fine Arts Center's Second National HighSchool and Middle School Metals Exhibition

Calendar of Events - In Theatre

March 12 7:30 - Strings Chamber Recital
March 14 2:00 - 5:00 - ARMES Strings Recital
April 22, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - "Heavy Metals" reception for exhibit and concert of new music by Fine Arts Center students and faculty



GREENVILLE COUNTY
SCHOOLS
Where enlightening strikes

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