

M A R C H 2 0 0 6

NEWS

ARTS

T H E F I N E A R T S C E N T E R

F O R D A I L Y N E W S U P D A T E S L O G O N T O WWW.FINEARTSCENTER.NET

The New Fine Arts Center Building

As workmen erect the steel and raise the precast concrete wall panels for the new building, the faculty and staff continue working with the architects, designers and suppliers to prepare for the next phase of The Fine Arts Center's thirty-two year history.

Since 1974, students have been the focus of our expanding programs, and we are excited by the possibilities presented to

students in our new facilities. We encourage interested students to get an application from their high school counselor or download an application from the Fine Arts Center web site at www.fineartscenter.net.



THE FINE ARTS CENTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Graffiti

We all know what it is; we've seen it. (I always thought it would make a wonderful name for an Italian restaurant!) What we've seen has been annoying or shocking or amusing and, in some cases, pretty wonderful expressions of an artist's take on the world.



Artist? Yes. There are graffiti artists—their palettes straight from Rust-Oleum—who have transformed neighborhoods, train cars, and our comfortable notions about art. But, mostly, we have seen the defacing of public buildings with gang tags or with words better left to the proverbial drunken sailor. Sometimes, though, graffiti combines with apothegm and we find instruction in those terse observations sprayed from a can—well, in this case, brushed on a wall in our theatre shop.

I had occasion to be in the theatre shop one day last week, looking for a tape measure, and as I came up the stairs, I noticed—not for the first time, mind you—but really noticed all the scribbled, painted notes, left as a legacy from one theatre class to another: sayings, maxims, apothegms, aphorisms. Each has a different meaning, and I don't profess to be able to distinguish among the types without a dictionary at my elbow. But, there they are, in glorious colors, framing the shop door, Janus-like.

When I visit the Creative Writing class I am struck by what the students write about and the depth of their perception, not to say how they are able to embody those perceptions in images that are so apt and so powerful that you come away hoping that education does nothing to destroy that connection between the creative mind and the world, and with a belief that, indeed, our future is bright with thinking, feeling, and imaginative young people.

And, there, on the theatre shop steps, I stopped to read what former students had found instructive about their time with us, what they thought important to pass on to the next generation of FAC theatre students. Like most good apothegms, or sayings (which, I think, is the big category), they distill experience into a substance easily digested, but weighty with implications, and they apply generally, not just in the theatre.

*You must be in touch with yourself
to be in touch with others.*

*Do not be afraid to teach and to
not be afraid to be taught.*

*Don't let the past dictate who
you are, but let it enliven who
you become.*

I don't really care if I learn that Alexander Pope or Dewey or Anonymous said them. I do care that these students took the time to distill their experience and found a way to remind others who daily walk up and down

those steps that their time with us is significant and special—a time to be treasured. I am sure, too, that whether a theatre student or a creative writing student or a student in any of our disciplines, they would all agree with one hastily written high up behind the door: **"Stay here as long as you can. Like me!"**

Ray

STUDENT NEWS

Film/Video

The Film/Video II Class recently completed a pro bono project for a group called the Stinky Feet Kilt Racers. The "Kilt Racers" are a group of four individuals based out of Greenville and Atlanta, who will be competing in the Primal Quest Expedition Adventure Race in the summer of 2006. The ten day event spans 800 kilometers and involves trekking, orienteering, kayaking, river swimming, mountain climbing, mountain biking and rappelling. Since the event will be nationally televised, the Kilt Racers asked the Film/Video Class to produce a video to present to the media as a way of introduction to the individual Kilt Racers - Jim Kelleher, Vernon Winter, Lorna McGee and Toby Coker.

Strings

16 Strings Chamber Music students from the Fine Arts Center have won places in the South Carolina All-State Orchestras. **Zac Atchison** (J. L. Mann), **Trisha**



Cellist Seth Russell, Michael Rice at the harpsichord, baritone Nick Sloan & soprano Laura Greer singing

Berquist (Wade Hampton), **Meredith Bowden** (Easley), **Pratik Desai** (Riverside), **Nick Gerald** (Wade Hampton), **Charlotte Guest** (Greenville), **Brittany Hill** (Greenville), **Joanna Illing** (Greenville), **Mary Ashton Inglis** (Travelers Rest), **Mary Elaine Mahaffey** (Hillcrest), **Sergio Montes** (Christ Church Episcopal), **Anna Owensby** (Greenville), **Seth Russell** (Home Schooled), **Mark Sadka** (Greenville), **Caroline Spears** (Greenville), and **Kevin Tompkins** (Greenville) have been invited to participate in the annual orchestra festival held February 24-26 in Spartanburg, SC. The 16 FAC string players represents the largest number of invited students from any school in the state.



Dance January 6, 2006 NHSDA Induction Ceremony

Corinne Sutton, Jennifer Becker, Morgan Bauserman, and Brittany Alverson (l to r) were inducted into the National Honor Society for Dance Arts at the Fine Arts Center as charter members of their chapter. The primary mission of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts (NHSDA) is to promote and honor outstanding dance achievement in high school level students and to encourage well-rounded dance artists to become leaders in their communities after high school graduation.

Following the induction ceremony, the students presented choreography in progress by students for the invited guests.

The afternoon dancers took a field trip to Rock Hill to participate in the SCDancing Festival at Winthrop

University February 23-26.

The morning dancers collaborated with the advanced art classes at Greenville High in their study of Klee and Kandinsky. The Fine Arts Center dancers performed for the students and then shared their original compositions.

The dance students and theatre students attended the POP! performance of the well-received Hubbard Street Dance Chicago February 14th at the Peace Center.

Voice

In mid-December, voice students enjoyed an evening of music and food at the home of teacher Michael Rice. Having studied repertoire from the Baroque era, the singers performed with harpsichord and cello accompaniment.

Dance

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Visual Arts Students Selected for 2006 Scholastic Art Awards of South Carolina

Jurors for this year's Scholastic Art Awards of South Carolina chose 149 of the 1008 entries for the exhibition. Of the 149 works selected, 13 are by Fine Arts Center visual arts students. The Awards Reception was held Saturday, January 28, at 2:00 PM.

FAC students included are **Leah Albert** (American Visions Award, Painting); **Bryan**

Payment (Mixed Media); **Erica Stine** (Gold Key, Painting); **Joshua Sullivan** (Gold Key, Painting); **Ashley Hudson-Hines** (Photography); **Katelyn Kirkpatrick** (Photography); **Georgia Papatheodorou** (Photography); **Melanie Troidl** (Silver Key, Photography); **Maggie Allen** (Design: Product); **Adrienne Brower-Lingsch** (Design: Product); **Lena Roper** (Gold Key, Design: Product); **Selina Westerwelle** (Design: Product); **Renee Widener** (Design: Product).

The American Visions Award and Gold Key Awards will proceed to national judging in New York. There they will be considered for a summer exhibition of approximately 400 works by students from throughout the United States.



Leah Albert with her American Visions Award winning painting

FACULTY NEWS

In January, **John Ravnar** (Strings Chamber Music) performed the second concert in the subscription series at the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center in Atlanta, Georgia with the Lyra String Quartet and guest clarinetist Terrence Patterson. The concert was recorded for broadcast on Atlanta's national public radio station, WABE 90.1. The ensemble performed Mozart's Clarinet Quintet and Beethoven's String Quartet in e minor, Op. 59, No. 2. The Lyra String Quartet will perform again at Callanwolde in Atlanta on March 26, and at Spivey Hall on March 27

Jan Woodward (dance) conducted a brief overview of dance education to students who are taking Fine Arts in the Curriculum at USC Upstate. Judy Pennell, the instructor, is a retired art teacher from Greenville Schools and arranged for her USC Upstate students to visit the Fine Arts Center.

GUEST ARTISTS

Dance

Lisa Wheeler, guest choreographer set a piece of choreography on both the morning and afternoon dance students the week of February 6-10. The pieces will be performed in the School District Dance Showcase April 30th at Gunter Theatre and in the Fine Arts Center Dance Concert on May 9th at the Fine Arts Center. She was a member of Dan Wagoner and Dancers for five years and recently served as Associate Coordinator

for the Wagoner Restoration Project for the National Center of Choreography. Lisa is Associate Artistic Director and performs with Ben Munisteri Dance Projects (<http://www.munisteri.com/>). Ben Munisteri Dance Projects just finished performing at Dance Theater Workshop in NYC in January. She has also been a guest teacher at Florida State University.

Brian McGinnis, the guest dance artist the week of March 6-10, will be coming to the Fine Arts Center following the Parsons Dance Company's tour in Italy. He received a B.F.A. from Juilliard and has danced with the Parsons Dance Company since 2002. He will be teaching Limón and Graham technique, and the style of Paul Taylor to both the morning and afternoon classes. He has also danced with Elisa Monte Dance and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. The residency is funded from the Surdna Fellowship that Jan Woodward received last year.

Creative Writing

Jennifer New, author of *DRAWING FROM LIFE: THE JOURNAL AS ART* and *DAN ELDON: THE ART OF LIFE* spoke to Fine Arts Center students and faculty about the art of creative journaling on Feb. 3. Ms. New works as a writer and educational consultant in Iowa City, IA. Her visit was sponsored by the Surdna Foundation in New York as the second part of Creative Writing instructor Claire Bateman's 2005-2006 Surdna Foundation grant.

On March 3, Dr. Gilbert Allen of Furman University will be a Creative Writing guest artist, sponsored by the South Carolina Arts Commission. Dr. Allen's four collections of verse are *In Everything* (Lotus, 1982), *Second Chances Orchises*, 1991), *Commandments at Eleven* (Orchises, 1994), and *Driving to Distraction* (Orchises, 2003). He received the 2002-2003 Literary Arts Fellowship from the South Carolina Arts Commission. His poems have appeared in numerous publications, including *Able Muse*, *The Cortland Review*, *Free Lunch*, *The Georgia Review*, *Image*, *Quarterly West*, and *The Southern Review*.

GCYO

The school district's student symphony orchestra and the Orchestra-in-Residence at the Fine Arts Center, Greenville County Youth Orchestra, staged its *Shoulder-to-Shoulder* concert at the Peace Center's Dorothy Gunter Theater on Thursday, January 5th. The GCYO/Greenville Symphony "Shoulder-to-Shoulder" orchestra performed Mozart's Violin Concerto No.5, which featured GSO Concertmaster Xiaoqing Yu as soloist, and Mozart's famed Symphony No.41 ("Jupiter"). The full youth orchestra performed Rimsky-Korsakov's *Overture on Russian Themes, Opus 28*. FAC music faculty member and GCYO Director Dr. Gary Augustine Robinson conducted the concert before a full house..

The *Shoulder-to-Shoulder* concert is made possible by the outstanding support of the Greenville Symphony Orchestra. During the 2005-2006 school year, the GSO will spend over \$700,000 in grant money on



Lisa Wheeler, guest choreographer instructs FAC dancers.

GREENVILLE COUNTY YOUTH ORCHESTRA SEASON



Dr. Gary Auguste Robinson and Concertmaster Xiaoqing Yu at rehearsal.

music projects in our schools, particularly those considered disadvantaged, or exhibiting special needs. *Shoulder-to-Shoulder* is one of these projects, and is directed toward advanced student musicians who may be considering a career in music. Putting them together with an equal number of professional musicians from the Greenville Symphony in a "side-by-side" situation, *Shoulder-to-Shoulder* gives student musicians of the GCYO Chamber Orchestra a rare opportunity to experience orchestral rehearsal and performance on a truly professional level.

Former GSO Education Coordinator Carol Roosevelt, along with GCYO Director Gary Auguste Robinson originated the *Shoulder-to-Shoulder* project. The Greenville Symphony Orchestra paid for the participation of its professional musicians and worked actively to market the concert. GCYO's parent support organization, the GCYO Association (Holly Caprell, President), funded rental of the Peace Center's Dorothy Gunter Theater and facilitated many other aspects of the project.

ALUMNI NEWS

Voice

Tenor **Anthony Bucci** has been cast in the opera *Jackie O* at the University of Michigan. The work, based upon the life of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, was written by Michael Daugherty and had its world premiere as a co-production of the Banff Centre and the Houston Grand Opera in 1997.

Tenor **LaFredrick Coaxner** will perform his senior recital at The Juilliard School in New York City on April 21, 2006. FAC voice teacher **Michael Rice** will attend.

Theatre

On Monday, November 28, the afternoon theatre class had a special guest. FAC alum, **Adam Knight**, visited the class to talk about New York City, professional theatre, and the world beyond Greenville. Adam graduated the Fine Arts Center in 1997, attended the University of Evansville in Evansville, IN, and moved to New York City shortly thereafter. Adam worked at both the Williamstown Theatre Festival and the O'Neill Playwrights Conference and held a year-long internship

with the Signature Theatre, one of the premiere off-Broadway houses, where he observed the process of artists such as Edward Albee, John Guare, and Joseph Chaikin.

Adam currently is directing, writing, and performing in NYC's blossoming downtown theatre scene. His theatre company, Slant Theatre Project, is dedicated to building new work specifically tailored to the performance space and actors involved. Through Slant, Adam has worked with such theatre artists as Adam Rapp, Theresa Rebeck, Mat Smart, and Christine Albright (former Warehouse Theatre Journeyman). Adam also works for the League of Resident Theatres in New York City, a not-for-profit group supporting regional theatre work in America.

Creative Writing

Kelly Lynn Wright, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Wright of Travelers Rest, has been recognized by the *American Advertising Federation* for their **Most Promising Minority Student Program**. Kelly, a senior at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, will receive a degree from the College of Journalism and Mass Communications in August. Students from various colleges and universities must be nominated by one of their professors and then complete an application to be read by a panel of judges to be considered for this national award. Receiving this award means that Kelly will fly to New York City in February to be honored at various events held over a two day period. In addition, while attending these special meetings, she will be able to network, interview, and be honored by some of the top advertising agencies, media companies and advertisers in the country. Her resume' will be featured in a resume' book available to the advertising industry's human resource managers across the nation. Kelly's name and photo will be featured in **USA Today's** issue of *Advertising Age* during the week of February 6, 2006. Kelly will receive a degree from USC's College of Journalism and Communications in August.



Mary West hosted a Fine Arts Center faculty meeting at her gallery where she recently exhibited the new art work of FAC alumna, Sarah Grothaus. Pictured are: Sarah standing next to one of her sculptures, Mary West and Dr. Jon Grier.

In an e-mail to Fine Arts Center Director Roy Fluhrer, alumni Alex Hernández writes:

Hey Roy,

I was drinking my tea to get better from bronchitis and talking to a friend through e-mail (semi-real time) when we started reflecting on things that we've done in our lives. Without even thinking it, I started writing about how Iowa had valued my education more so than my home state despite my attending Governor's School, IB and the Fine Arts Center.

The more I think about it, the more my time at Fine Arts Center really cultivated some of the things I enjoy today. I always look at jewelry, although I'm as broke as a joke (I more semester of law school left). I want to collect art; did some of my own paintings at Grinnell; I voraciously

antique when given the opportunity; I donate to independent media like NPR and Christian Science Monitor; and I use analogies to hit emotions, concepts and circumstances when I really want that image to hit the listener. All of those type of things I was exposed to at FAC, and I think it took my predisposition towards the art to the next level that so many people don't get to do. Art and appreciation of artistry really has become part of an integral yet overlooked part of my life. Whether I see it or not, I do see many parts of life through a creative writing lens, even if I do not do creative writing for a living.

Consider this another thank you for the opportunity I was given so many years ago. It meant a lot then to be given a chance to grow in so many ways even though I was "past deadline"; but, it also means a lot even now. Thanks for doing what you do and what the faculty does. It really can mean a lot, even if it seems pedestrian at times.

Alex

*Alexis E. Hernández
J.D. candidate, 3L, University of Iowa College of Law
National Treasurer: HNBA-Law Student Division*

I was a year out of school when I decided it was time to move to D.C. I wanted to pursue other interests in my life. Throughout my childhood and college years all I ever cared about was soccer. I couldn't see myself doing anything else with the rest of my life. My only other joy came from making people laugh. I never actually considered joking around to be a possible career endeavor, just something I did with my friends and family. Once it became apparent to me that college life and soccer were definitely over, I decided it was time to start a new chapter (awesome cliché) in my book of life that I like to call "My Book of My Life." That chapter was called "time to pursue other interests in my life: comedy."

I have lived in D.C. for 2 years now, and I have been performing stand-up comedy and improv comedy for almost as long. Performing in front of others is a feeling like no other and I honestly can't imagine myself doing anything else. For me stand-up comedy is such an interesting form of performance art, and I have learned more about myself through my involvement within it than I have anywhere else. Having an idea to talk about and being able to communicate and translate that idea effectively all the while revealing 100 percent of your own true self, resulting in laughter for the response is the greatest feeling in the world. (The second greatest feeling is having a Degree in Communications/Journalism and still not caring about the use of run-on sentences and the inappropriate use of commas.)

Standup comedy is constantly opening my mind to other cultures, opinions and beliefs.



Rory Scovel

Standing Up for the Arts

Rory Scovel graduated from the Fine Arts Center in 2000. Since graduating college from USCS, he has found success as a professional comedian in Washington, DC opening with such people as, Bobcat Goldthwait, DC Benny, Daniel Tosh and will soon to be working with Nick Swardson and Kevin Brennan.

It is something that really inspires me to learn more in order to stimulate creativity. I perform through Washington Improv Theater (WIT) and the independent troupe Dr. Fantastic.

I have never imagined myself as a stage actor but after performing improv and learning to build entertainment on the spot from absolutely nothing, I feel as though it is something I would enjoy learning much more of.

Also through WIT, I participated in the 48-hour film project and won best film for the city of Washington D.C (best callback ever). The 48- hour film project is a competition where teams of filmmakers have 48 hours to make a 7-minute short film. The required elements in each film are a specific character, a specific prop and a specific line of dialogue. Each group also has to make a film in a certain genre. Ours was buddy buddy. I also participated in the making of the short film *Multiverse*, which is another WIT entry into a separate portion of the 48-hour film contest. WIT also took first prize in this film.

In conclusion, I would especially like to thank the Fine Arts Center for pushing me in the right direction with my chosen career path. I know there isn't a "standup comedy" department at the school, but without the inspiration to appreciate and learn art in general, I am sure I might find myself pursuing other things. I am extremely grateful for everything I learned through the Film/Video department with Eric Rogers, because I fully intend to apply that knowledge in the future when I fully commit to the creation of a sketch comedy show.

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	
March 2	7:30 PM Strings Chamber Music Concert
March 3	Guest Artist in Creative Writing, Gil Allen
March 9-11	Theatre A Modern Moral
March 9, 10, 11	Guest Artist in Dance, Brian McGinnis
March 6-10	District Dance Showcase, Gunter Theater
March 30	Guitar Concert
April 3-7	Guest Artist in Theatre, Bob Hobbes
April 3	Creative Writing Recital
April 17 - 21	Generation to Generation Week
April 20	Generation to Generation Reception/Concert
April 30	Fine Arts Center Dance Concert
May 5	Voice Recital
May 9	Dance Concert (FAC Theatre)
May 10	Percussion Recital
May 12	Showcases
May 16	Strings Chamber Music Concert
May 17	Guitar Recital
May 22	Awards Day
May 23	Graduation
March 2	7:30 PM
March 3	7:30 PM
March 9-11	7:30 PM
March 9, 10, 11	7:30 PM
March 6-10	7:30 PM
March 30	7:30 PM
April 3-7	7:00 PM
April 3	7:00 PM
April 17 - 21	7:00 PM
April 20	6:00 PM
April 30	3:00 PM
May 5	6:30 PM
May 9	7:00 PM
May 10	7:00 PM
May 12	9:15 AM & 1:15 PM
May 16	7:30 PM
May 17	7:30 PM
May 22	7:30 PM
May 23	7:30 PM



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