

FINE ARTS

THE FINE ARTS CENTER
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Susan Willis Retiring After 33-Year Teaching Career

3-D Metals teacher Susan Willis, retiring this spring from the Fine Arts Center, is the only faculty member who has taught here since the school's beginning. As fellow art teacher Jim Campbell comments, "During her tenure, the Soviet Union crumbled; the Cold War ended; the Internet started weaving its web; hemlines went up, down, and up again; but Susan remained steadfast in her approach to her own work and in her approach to teaching. A leader in the nation as a promoter of metal design programs, she founded



the only national exhibit devoted solely to young middle school and high school metal designers. And there are many artists in our community who discovered and developed their love of art-making under Susan's tutelage." Yet Ms. Willis's initial impression of the Fine Arts Center was skeptical. She recalls "driving from the old school district office to the Fine Arts Center and thinking, 'They can't be serious! This is such a shabby neighborhood; why would I want to drive here every day?'" She quickly warmed to her new environment, however: "It was absolutely thrilling because there were people I had never met before who were going to be on the faculty, and everybody seemed so committed and enthusiastic already, and they were obviously very bright people. It was a remarkable time in my life and in the life of the school. I've always felt very much at home and comfortable at the Fine Arts Center."

Ms. Willis was drawn to art early in her life. "As a child, I just devoured coloring books, and I can remember my mother saving money to buy me paint-by-number kits. She would bring one home, or we would go pick one out and she would buy it — we didn't have a lot of money for that kind of thing, but she really encouraged me because she saw that I liked to draw and dabble, and I always liked making objects.

So she would buy me the kit, and I would stay up all night and finish it by morning. She always praised me, but later, I realized that this must have been really hard on her, because right away, she would have to start saving again. She and my dad didn't know anything about making art or how one becomes an artist, but they always supported me. I've always loved tools — I'd have companies send me catalogues of tools, and my dad would go to the mailbox and say, 'Who ordered a tool catalogue?' because he had never been interested in that kind of thing, and here was this odd daughter tinkering!"

Ms. Willis received her BFA in Art History from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and her MS in Metals from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. "After my undergraduate work, I didn't feel finished, so I went off to UTK and I decided to major in something practical, so I picked Interior Design, but it

turned out that I hated everything about it. I had to take an elective, and I chose Metals, and I immediately took to it. I loved the fact that you can take a piece of sheet metal and create a piece that's wearable, that I could take this rough thing and transform it into something so appealing. And what I could do with enamel — bringing color into my work — just dazzled me, so I stuck with it."

Ms. Willis's work has received considerable recognition both nationally and internationally. Her successes include grants and fellowships from (among others) the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Surdna Foundation, the Rhode Island School of Design, the South Carolina Arts Commission, and the South Carolina Department of Education. She is a Distinguished Member of the Society of North American Goldsmiths, and a member of the Enamelist Society. Her work has been exhibited at such places as the Mint Museum in Charlotte, North Carolina; the Downey Museum in California (the Contemporary Metals USA II Exhibition); 2nd Internationale Emailausstellung Pavillion im Hofgarten in Coburg, Germany; the Georgia O'Keeffe Centennial Exhibition at Sarah

"I have been absolutely inspired, and usually it's had something to do with the students' work."

Squeri Gallery in Cincinnati, Ohio; the Biennale Internationale d'Email Contemporain in Limoges, France; the New York Gallery Association; and the 5th International Exhibition "World of Enameling" Salou 2003 at the Museu de l'Esmalt Contemporani in Barcelona, Spain. Her publications include pieces in *American Crafts* magazine and *The Fine Art of Enameling*. Never one to rest on her laurels, however, Ms. Willis has always pushed herself to continue learning and growing in her art. "I try to keep up with new techniques, and I've gone back to school every year or two years, and have taken a class with someone whose work I admire. It's helped me with techniques

to which I haven't otherwise had access. I've had some very fine teachers who have been very generous with their time, and I've also figured out how to do various things on my own. I've had to reevaluate my work periodically, and I've tried to keep it as original as possible. Greenville has never been a real hotbed of activity in metal work — there are more people working with metals now than ever before in the immediate area, but I've never had a core group of friends of fellow metal-workers. I think I have a strong individual look to my work. It's not influenced by just one teacher or artist. I probably would have made more work if there had been more competition, but I don't think the work would have been any better. I have never made enough work to satisfy myself; I always put a lot of pressure on myself."

Ms. Willis says that while it has been difficult to both teach and continue to produce her own work, some of her best ideas have come to her while teaching. "I have been absolutely inspired, and usually it's had something to do with the students' work — when that happens, I'll talk the idea out with the student, and then I'll say, 'You can have this idea if you want it, but if you don't, I will take it and make something really wonderful out of it.' That's what teaching is all about; you have to be generous with ideas and advice. You also have to give constructive criticism. You have to not be afraid to say the hard words, but not in a cold way. I've always tried to say, 'This is not an attack, and it's not personal, but this is what I see is not going well in your work, and here's an idea of how you can turn it around; but ultimately, it's your choice. It's always going to be your choice.' I wish I'd had tougher teachers. I had very good teachers, but I wish some of them had been tougher on my work."

In preparation for her retirement from the Fine Arts Center, Ms. Willis is in the



process of rearranging and revamping her studio at home. "I'm going to start by making pieces that are a little more commercial in nature. I have a couple of galleries that have asked me for recent and new work, and I want to see what the market is like out there." She is particularly interested in working with imagery relating to horses. "Horses have taken over my life. I've gotten interested in riding, and that's what I'm most excited about for the first few months of my retirement: riding my horse and using her image to make a lot of work. I want to make a body of work that has to do with horses, and I know that there is a huge audience out there interested in those kinds of pieces. I want to explore what the market is like in Greenville."

When asked what directives she would like to leave with her students, Ms. Willis said, "The materials will teach you a lot if you watch what's happening on your work bench. You can learn so much just by watching and letting the materials do what they do naturally. And you can educate yourself in so many ways — don't wait for someone else to show you! You can learn something on your own and become resourceful."

Ms. Willis is indeed leaving a significant legacy. Greenville artist Greg Flint says, "Susan Willis has had more of an impact on my life than any other teacher with whom I've studied. Her high expectations and commitment to producing quality, innovative work have stayed with me my whole life. Now I attempt to pass these same qualities on to my students."

auf Wiedersehen

Thirty-three years. A commitment to the highest standards of the profession. Students telling you their lives were changed. A career. Let's get out the plaque, the certificate, the gold watch. It would have to be one heckuva gold watch because Susan Willis would know right off the bat whether it was crafted properly, and if the overall design was aesthetically pleasing — it's what she does, who she is. That commitment, those standards were a part of the Fine Arts Center when it opened its doors in the renovated Hattie Duckett Elementary School in City View, on West Washington Street. She built one of the finest high school metals programs in the world and, now, having made the journey across town to our new home, having packed up that commitment and those standards, having made sure the new studio was properly outfitted and set up, she has decided to retire.

It isn't easy for any of us to say "Goodbye" to Susan. I have known her for 18 years, but there are many in this building who have known her longer, have worked with her here and in the Governor's School Summer Program — her colleagues, her friends — and, they,

like me, would tell you that she was an uncompromising force — voice — for excellence. She wouldn't let us cut any corners, wouldn't let us take the easy path, settle for less than our mission: to provide high quality pre-professional training for gifted students in the arts. She helped train me, guided me through those difficult early years, provided good counsel, held close the stories — the founding myths, if you will — of the Center and brought them out when we had to pick up our standards and, along with our students and parents, fight one more battle to save the Center.

Susan was our first Surdna Scholar, spending two weeks in Florence, Italy, at the Alchemia, studying with Manfred Bischoff, one of the finest artists in gold in the world. Since then, five other faculty members have followed her example, renewing their spirits and their art form through one of these grants. From that grant came the National High School Metals Exhibition, held every two years at the Center. Susan represented the United States at the International Enamel Exhibit in Limoges, France — there were over 30 artists from 22 countries and Susan, from the Fine Arts Center, carried

our flag. Her work, her students' work, thoughtfully crafted, often making more than aesthetic statements, also made us confront larger philosophical issues, while moving us at the deepest emotional levels.

The search for her successor will not be an easy one. We won't find another Susan — there isn't one — but we must find someone who has the strength of self to set high standards, engage students, make work that moves our spirits and challenges our minds. Then we can say that the legacy she left has been honored. You don't say "Goodbye" to Susan — you use that German phrase, *auf Wiedersehen*, "we'll meet again." Thank you, Susan, for who you are, what you stand for and for helping make this school one of our nation's finest.



Ron Rash, Fine Arts Center Graduation Speaker

Ron Rash — poet, novelist, short story writer and teacher — will be the graduation speaker at our ceremonies on Wednesday, May 23rd, at 7:00 PM in the Wade Hampton High School auditorium.

Ron, a friend of the school for many years, has conducted a number of workshops for our creative writing students, and done a number of readings of his works for all of our students. His personal warmth, humanity, gentle demeanor and incisive, yet poetic, perspective on our world have made him a favorite with our students and faculty.

His debut novel, *One Foot in Eden* (2002), won the Novello Literary Award, the Appalachian Book of the Year Award, and *Forward* magazine's Gold Medal for Literary Novel of the Year, was short listed for the William Saroyan International Prize for Writing, and went on to become an SIBA bestseller. His second novel, *Saints at the River* (2004), was also an SIBA bestseller and won the Southern Book Award (presented by the Southern Book Critics Circle), the SIBA Book of the Year Award, and the Weatherford Award. Author also of several collections of poetry and short stories, he is the recipient of an O. Henry Prize, the James Still

Award from the Fellowship of Southern Writers, and two NEA grants. His most recent novel, *The World Made Straight*, won the 2006 Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Fiction and the 2007 ALA Alex Award, and is now available in paperback from Picador (April 2007). Picador published a collection of his short stories, titled *Chemistry*, as a paperback original on May 1, 2007. Ron Rash holds the John Parris Chair in Appalachian Studies at Western Carolina University.

We hope that parents of our seniors, and their larger families, will be in the audience to hear this talented man address our graduates.

Center News

Whitley Donates *Interval IV: Sun Disk* to Center

Philip Whitley, one of the south's premier sculptors, is donating *Interval IV: Sun Disk*, a welded steel piece 72" x 72" x 30", to the Center. It will be placed on a specially constructed limestone disk in front of the building on the concrete pad between the Black Box and the Recital Hall. Special lighting has been installed so that the sculpture will be visible at night from Pine Knoll Drive.

The addition of this piece to the Center's art collection not only enhances our three-dimensional portfolio but makes the school's commitment to the highest quality pre-professional arts training palpable — *Sun Disk* is a visible sign of what happens inside the building, in our classrooms and when students are challenged by a professional faculty to reach beyond what they believed they could do.

Whitley's decision brings further attention to what is fast becoming one of the finest — if not the finest — high school art collections in the country. Once the new building is complete and the workmen gone, the Center will begin hanging its highly valued print and painting collection. The Center will be, as one parent said the night of the Open House, a museum as a well as school.

Carl Blair Donates Painting to the Center

Unveiling to be held on May 24th at 6:30 pm in the lobby of the new Fine Arts Center, 102 Pine Knoll Drive in Greenville.

When visitors walk into the new lobby of The Fine Arts Center, they are immediately struck by the beauty of John Acorn's Honduran mahogany sculpture, "The Seasons." And now, another stunning piece has been donated. Carl Blair, long respected as one of the Southeast's outstanding painters, has donated a

12-foot long by 3-foot high painting, "Better Times Are Coming," hung at the top of the stairs. The "lobby of the second floor," so called because of the wide hall and the mahogany benches, has this signature piece that makes a powerful statement of The Fine Art's Center's commitment to building a collection of outstanding artists whose work is symbolic of the Center's philosophy in providing a teaching environment that underscores the school's belief that students should be surrounded by art that challenges their perceptions while aesthetically pleasing.

A reception will be held on May 24th at 6:30 pm to unveil the painting and honor Mr. Blair's artistry and generosity. Consider this an open invitation to join us for this special event.

Center to Receive 2000-Book Hobbs collection

The Semans Distinguished Professor of Theatre and Director of Training in the Department of Theatre at Duke University, Dr. Robert L. Hobbs, will donate his 2000-volume collection of theatre books to The Fine Arts Center. Dr. Hobbs, one of this nation's most respected actor trainers, having headed the Professional Actor Training Programs at Ohio University and at the University of Washington in Seattle before heading the program at Duke, worked often in Greenville when Jack Young was the Artistic Director of the Warehouse Theatre. Dr. Hobbs often conducted workshops for Fine Arts Center Theatre students, giving them a professional perspective on training programs and what one must do to prepare for a career in the theatre.

Dr. Fluhrer has known Dr. Hobbs for nearly 30 years and worked with him as a Guest Master Teacher at the University of Washington in Seattle and at the Champlain Shakespeare Festival in Vermont. "Dr. Hobbs's systematic approach to actor training helps the actor, through strong and precise image work, to discover the truth in the self to bring truth to the moment on stage," said Fluhrer. "To have this

collection of books, of annotated scripts, of this man's life in the theatre, will give the Center one of the best theatre resource collections in the southeast. I could not be more pleased that he has chosen our school to receive this gift." Dr. Fluhrer continues to hope that he can induce Dr. Hobbs to return to Greenville to conduct workshops for our theatre students.

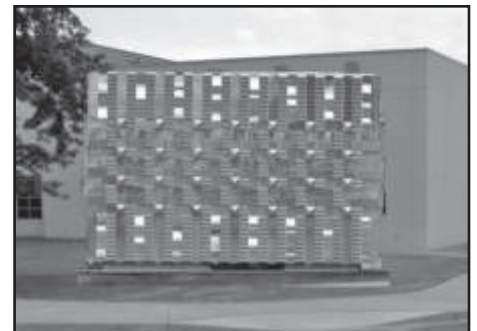
Another Acorn

The new Fine Arts Center, already in possession of sculptor John Acorn's stunning Honduran mahogany "The Seasons," will acquire his "Warp and Weft" from Roper Mountain Science Center's parking lot and move it this summer to the west side of the new building.

Formerly on the plaza next to City Hall, it was moved to the Roper Mountain site many years ago, and while the Science Center has done a wonderful job of maintaining the piece, Bill Bradshaw, Director of Roper Mountain, agreed that it would be more appreciated by (and better suited to) the new Fine Arts Center.

Dr. Fluhrer will be seeking funding for what promises to be a difficult and expensive move. The new site will need to be prepared, concrete poured, and Mr. Acorn would very much like to have the water feature restored. Discussions are underway to light the sculpture so it would be visible from Pine Knoll Drive at night.

When students return in the fall, the new sculpture will be in place, signifying the importance of the arts in education and to the school district.



John Acorn's "Warp and Weft"

Alumni News

Rochelle Rickoff has just been accepted into Harvard's Graduate School of International Educational Policy, and has received grant funding for the program. She was also accepted to George Washington University, Stanford, and Columbia.

Mezzo-soprano **Leah Wyman**, a student at the Manhattan School of Music in New York, is going to be in Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* with the American Music Theatre Ensemble and will sing in two recitals as the school year comes to an end. She will also sing in Benjamin Britten's *Albert Herring* with the Intermezzo Opera Festival this summer.

Faculty News

Fine Arts Center music faculty member **Dr. Gary Auguste Robinson** concluded his seventh season with Greenville's Foothills Philharmonic conducting its "Russian Duo" concert on Saturday, April 21st. A part of the Artisphere arts festival, the sold-out concert included Rimsky-Korsakov's Symphony No. 1 and Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 2, and featured pianist Fabio Parrini as soloist.

Creative Writing instructor **Claire Bateman** plans to complete her sixth book of poetry this summer and continue work on a book of short fiction. She has recently adjudicated poetry contests for the North Carolina Poetry Society and for Ohio University, and gave readings at Converse College and Hubhub, Hub City's new venue in Spartanburg.

In March, she attended the annual Associated Writing Programs conference in Atlanta. An acrylic painting by her serves as the cover for a poetry book by Beebe Barksdale, recently published by Press 53.

Claire Bateman's papers, letters, and manuscripts are now archived at Furman University as part of the South Carolina Poetry Archives Project.

Letter from Christopher Williams

Dear Dr. Robinson:

My group, Hour Negative, has about another month and a half to two months of recording for our debut album, "Top Dead Center." So, while they're finishing their studio parts, I am playing and recording for a few musicians around Greenville.

I'm about to begin working with a local artist by the name of Josh Montgomery. He's young, but he's a good songwriter and a very strong guitarist. I will also be recording some sessions for friends of mine by the name of the Chase Mantoath Band. I've been asked to do some playing with a female singer by the name of Mandi Leachman, although that might not come through, seeing as she's still in the studio with her session band. I've recently done some recording with a few heavy metal acts as well, mainly a group called Vadim Von and my former band, Meatcurtain. Things are finally looking up in my musical world with all of the recent events, connections, and playing inquiries.

I drove past the old FAC the other day and had some flashbacks to my high school years. I began to think about all of the performances I'd done and everything I've learned that will guide me through my life and career. I realized that the vast majority of these life experiences were learned at the Fine Arts Center. I learned so much at the FAC, not just about drumming, but in the different cultures of the world. I walked through the doors of the FAC my sophomore year as a young mind



that was focused on one area of drumming and only drumming. I walked out of the FAC my senior year as a musician, a well-rounded character with the ability to read musical scores and understand the compositional thought process of some of the greats (the "dead white guys"). I went from only knowing rock drumming to playing such greats as Thelonious Monk, Dave Brubeck, The Brecker Brothers, John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Freddy King, Charles Mingus, and many, many more. I learned what life truly is: art. I was able to train my voice and understand harmonies. I became a well-rounded symphonic percussionist. I had the ability to study under some of America's greatest teachers in an environment where young minds could be sculpted into intelligent young creators of things that most could only dream of doing. I was truly blessed when given the opportunity to study at such a school and shall forever be grateful to those who have taught and inspired me to be everything I can.

From the bottom of my heart, I humbly thank you all.

*Yours in music,
Christopher Williams*

Voice

New York, New York

FAC voice teacher **Michael Rice** led a group of 25 students and chaperones on a visit to New York City on April 20th-22nd. After a walking tour of midtown Manhattan (Central Park, Carnegie Hall, St. Thomas Church, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rockefeller Center, Radio City Music Hall, Times Square), the group attended a Friday night performance of the musical *Wicked* at the Gershwin Theatre. On Saturday morning, they visited the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the Manhattan School of Music, and Grant's Tomb. In the afternoon, they attended the Metropolitan Opera production of Handel's *Giulio Cesare (Julius Caesar)* starring internationally acclaimed

countertenor David Daniels. Daniels, a Spartanburg native and longtime friend of Rice, arranged for the entire group to greet him backstage following the opera.

The following voice, strings and theatre students participated in the trip: **Etorria Hallums, Anshelia Owens, Kelsey Rigg, Ruth Miller, Kelly Clarke, Lisa Stubbs, Megan Warden, Becca Payne, Catherine Mixon, Delvin Choice, Ashleigh Maynard, Pressly Caldwell, Samantha Schrader, Andrea McAllister, Pratik Desai, Sam Johnson, Seth Russell, Tyler French, Alison McKinney** (and her brother Christian).

In addition to Mr. Rice, the chaperones were Dr. Roy Fluhrer, Lee Maynard, Hennie Choice and Barbara Rigg.

Creative Writing

On April 21, Creative Writing students attended Maya Angelou's pre-performance Q/A session backstage at the Peace Center, and then proceeded to the performance. Thanks to Dr. Fluhrer for providing the tickets. The event was part of Artisphere.

Readings

Fine Arts Center Creative Writing students presented readings in the Fine Arts Center Recital Hall and, sponsored by the Emrys Foundation, at the Handlebar.

Novelist **Ashley Warlick** gave readings and master classes to Fine Arts Center Creative Writing students in March.

Dr. **Deborah Armstrong Hickey**, LMFT and RPTS, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Greenville Technical College, gave a presentation about working with dream images in writing to morning Creative Writing students in January.

Awards and Publications

In the Nancy Thorp Poetry Contest sponsored by Hollins University in Virginia, two of **Caroline Roper's** poems received recognition. She won second place in the nation for one of the poems, and Honorable Mention for the other.

In the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts Literary Contest, **Ben Wright** received a merit award for poetry and an Honorable Mention for short fiction.

In the University of Buffalo's National Poetry Contest, a new venue for us, the following students received awards and were invited to the ceremony in Buffalo over spring break: **Monica Young**, Honorable Mention; **Stacey Schutzman**, Honorable Mention; **Meredith Edlin**, Honorable Mention; **Jacob Watters**, Fourth Prize; **Beth Bennett**, Second Place in the nation.

In the regional publication *A Near*



Michael Rice greets another Greenville native, soprano Myra Cordell



Countertenor David Daniels greets Fine Arts Center fans backstage at the Met



"On the rocks" in Central Park

Miss, sponsored by USC-Spartanburg, work by the following students has been selected for inclusion: **Stacey Schutzman, Noel Thrasher, Tina Bu, Saga Hagebak, Emily Horowitz, Caroline Roper, Madeline Elledge, Jacob Waters, Jordan Pickens, Ardelia Allen, Amanda Vega, Rachel Hickey, Breanne Smith, Jake Ross, Beth Bennett, Monika Young, and Ben Wright.** Monika Young received First Place in Poetry and Third Place in Fiction. Jake Ross, Breanne Smith, Elizabeth Bennett, and Ben Wright received Honorable Mention in Poetry. **Meredith Edlin** and **Allyson Field** are receiving publication.

In *Polyphony*, the national publication sponsored by Chicago Latin School, work by the following students has been selected for inclusion: **Tina Bu** (three pieces — one piece of fiction and two poems), **Jake Ross, Max Lasser, Monika Young** (two pieces — one piece of fiction and one poem), **Ben Wright, Emily Horowitz, Madeline Elledge, Rachael Gallman** (two poems), **Rachel Hickey, Stacey Schutzman, Max Lasser** (two pieces—one story and one poem), **Beth Bennett** (two poems), **Saga Hagebak, Amanda Vega, Caroline Roper,** and **Jordan Pickens.**

Ben Wright won a Scholastic Gold Key (Regional) in Poetry and a Scholastic Gold Key for his senior writing portfolio. National results will be available later in the month.

Dance

Guest Artist Brian McGinnis

The week of April 16-20, **Brian McGinnis** was our dance artist-in-residence.



Dance Festival

The Fine Arts Center was the hosting site for the inaugural Greenville County Schools Dance Festival on Saturday, April 14th. Over 120 district dance students participated in classes offered in the Dance Studio, the Black Box theatre, and the Recital Hall from 9:00 until 6:00. The featured guest artist was **Brian McGinnis**, formerly a dancer with the Parsons Dance Company. Other professional dancers and teachers taught classes throughout the day. The guest faculty in Classical Indian dance, African dance, and Flamenco performed a dance demonstration for all of the students in the Black Box theatre. The main goal of the Dance Festival was to give students in the district's dance programs an opportunity to broaden their dance experiences. Students experienced instruction from guest artists, were exposed to a variety of dance forms, and were able to observe and share with other dancers.

The Fine Center Dance Ensemble performed the following afternoon in the District Dance Showcase on April 15th for the community in the Wade Hamp-



ton High School Theatre. **Dr. Phin-nize Fisher** presented the opening remarks for the dance concert. The morning dance students performed "A Gentle Release of Gravity," and the afternoon dancers performed "Shift," both choreographed by our guest choreographer **Lisa Wheeler.**



Dr. Fisher backstage before the introduction

Generation to Generation

Dancers **Meredith Jenkins, Shellie Robert, Shannon Hutcherson, Katie Gohari, Alex Black** and **Lauren Miller** presented their choreographic works in the Generation to Generation performance on April 19th. The dancers who performed were: **Danielle Goddard, Danielle Brower-Lingsch, Kaitlyn Martinez, Amanda Porter, Meredith Jenkins, Shellie Robert, Shannon Hutcherson, Alex Black** and **Lauren Miller.**

Fine Arts Center Dancers Perform in Columbia College Alumnae Concert

The afternoon dancers performed **Lisa Wheeler's** choreography, "Shift," in the Columbia College Alumnae Dance Concert on Saturday, April 21st. Ms. Wheeler, an esteemed alumna from

Columbia College, also performed on the program. The dancers from League Academy traveled with the Fine Arts Center dancers to Columbia where both groups took a class on campus.

Dance Scholarship Winners

Meredith Jenkins (Dance) received the Judges Scholarship from the Music Club of Greenville.

Meredith Jenkins and **Mahalia Mays** both were awarded scholarships for summer dance study. The judges were Brian McGinnis and Anita Ashley, guest artists for the Dance Festival, who observed the dancers in both ballet and modern dance classes at the Dance Festival on April 14th. Meredith plans to attend the Amy Marshall Dance Company Summer Intensive in New York City in August for ten days. Mahalia Mays will attend the North Carolina School for the Arts for five weeks this summer.

Music

Fine Arts Center percussion students **Ben Tomlinson** (Riverside), **David Katilius** (JL Mann), and **Josh Caprell** (Southside Christian) will study at renowned music programs this summer. And, as a result of competitive auditions, each will attend with a substantial scholarship. Ben and David will attend the Sewanee Summer Music Festival (Sewanee, TN), where they will study with Frank Shaffer, Principal Timpanist with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and Associate Professor of Percussion at the University of Memphis. Josh will return to the Brevard Music



David, Ben, and Josh.

Center (Brevard, NC) where he will study with Timothy Adams, Principal Timpanist of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and Associate Professor of Music at Carnegie Mellon University, as well as Conrad Alexander, Assistant Professor of Percussion at Ithaca College.

Visual Arts



On March 24th, visual arts senior **Charlie Tatum** held a tile sale at Coffee Underground in downtown Greenville. The event was a huge success, with sales totaling \$1,125. All of the money raised has been sent to the Save Darfur Coalition, a group committed to raising awareness about the ongoing genocide and pressuring world leaders to take immediate action. A big thank-you goes out to all of the students who put their hands in the clay and to everyone who purchased tiles to support this project.

17th Annual Upstate High School Art Exhibit

Fine Arts Center visual arts students recently had their works on exhibit in the 17th Annual Upstate High School Art Exhibit. The juried annual event sponsored by Greenville Technical College held an award ceremony on April 20th



Amanda Griffith, Ceramics



Elisabeth Schlaudt, Alternative Photography

with the following students winning cash prizes: **Amanda Griffith**, First Place in Ceramics; **Hannah Gysin**, First Place in Alternative Photography; **Elisabeth Schlaudt**, Second Place in Alternative Photography; **Caroline Walker**, Third Place in Alternative Photography; **Julie Cabande**, Third Place in Metals. Congratulations to all of the students chosen by their teachers to



Hannah Gysin, Alternative Photography



Caroline Walker, Alternative Photography

be included in the exhibit: **Calley Dunn**, **Erica Stine**, **Wynne Hungerford**, **Katie Boodle**, **Melody Hill**, **Lauren Jordal**, **Timothy Chorbadian**, **Rebecca Weekes**, **Alison Dixon** and **Kaylyth Harris**.

Fine Arts Center Students Design Posters For Foundation

Using the Fine Arts Center's new state-of-the-art digital graphic design lab, 20 Fine Arts Center visual arts students created poster designs for the Emrys Foundation's twenty-fifth anniversary. The Emrys Foundation encourages women and minorities in the arts, including literary and visual arts, music, dance, theater, and film. Founded in 1983, Emrys (a Welsh word meaning "child of light") has sponsored music competitions and presented concerts, art exhibitions, conferences, creative writing

awards, poetry workshops, readings, and lectures. In 2004, the Emrys Foundation was presented the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award for the arts, in recognition of outstanding contributions to the arts in South Carolina.

Fine Arts Center student **Kristen Pandolfi's** design was chosen to promote the series of events that will mark Emrys's anniversary celebration. She was awarded a \$250 prize.

Fine Arts Center Student Designs and Paints Mural

Visual arts student **Katie Boodle** designed and painted a mural for St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School. The mural was created as part of her Senior Project for Greenville Tech Charter School and as her Concentration project for her Visual Art Studio Advanced Placement course at the Fine Arts Center.

Katie created the design in consultation with St. Anthony's Principal, Sister Catherine; and Vice Principal, Sister Mary Jane. She enlisted help from Sue Boodle, Michael Boodle, Julian Cantrell and her mentor Susan Wilson on this large-scale project. Bob Grovand was her Senior Project coach at Greenville Tech Charter.



Katie Boodle with her mentor, Susan Wilson.



Katie Boodle details an area of the mural for St. Anthony's

Fine Arts Center ARMES students' artwork becomes part of the Pete Hollis Memorial Sculpture Garden

Pete Hollis was a community and educational pioneer whose inclusive, innovative approach to education in our district became a national model. He strongly believed in students and found exciting new ways to enable them to make good, creative choices.

On May 12th, the Pete Hollis Memorial at the junction between Poinsett Highway and Pete Hollis Boulevard will be dedicated. An important part of the memorial is a frieze of carved, handmade tiles along the wall. These tiles are the result of a collaboration between the ARMES program, an afterschool program of the Fine Arts Center for elementary and middle school students, and the current junior class from the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities. Over 200 ARMES program students and 24 Governor's School students took part in the project.

This project was made possible through the help of numerous people. Among them, in addition to members of the Pete Hollis Committee, are **Parks McLeod, Brian Miller, Danny Schaaf, Dale Perry, Norman Belk, Glenda Guion, Greg Flint, Donna Shank-Major, Rebecca Stockham, Ben Gilliam, Joe Thompson, and Sharon Campbell.** Importantly, this would not have been possible without all the folks from SYS Constructors who got contributions to the memorial, built it at cost, and good naturedly installed the tiles on a very hot day.



Fine Arts Center Visual Arts Students Serve as Role Models for Middle School Art Students

Fine Arts Center visual arts students **Amanda Griffith, Chase Parker, Kaylyth Harris** and **Kevin Bost** served as counselors and role models for the Arts Awakening Weekend. This is the third year Fine Arts Center students have assisted in this three-day project of YMCA Camp Greenville for students from Lakeview and Tanglewood Middle Schools.

The students are recommended by their art teachers from among the 7th and 8th graders. The camp incorporates camping activities such as hiking, a campfire, and the high ropes for campers in addition to painting and sculpture.

The project is the brainchild of **Greg McKee**, who invited **Kiki Carpenter**, (parent of a FAC alumna Aki Carpenter, visual Arts 2000) to develop and chair the program. Teachers from Lakeview and Tanglewood attend and take part in all the activities. Among the teachers this year were **Dawn Dickerson** from Lakeview, and **Deanna Mullinax** and **Laura Paradis** from Tanglewood. **Sharon Campbell** (parent of FAC graduates Kate Campbell 2000 and Jamie Campbell

2002) assists in the area of sculpture. Each year, Greg McKee and all the students create a gift for Camp Greenville.



Film/Video

Acceptances

Film/Video student **Sage Bartow** has been accepted to Columbia College of Chicago and New York University. **John Williams** has been accepted to the North Carolina School of the Arts and the University of South Carolina.

Rogers Goes A-Wandering

Film/Video instructor **Eric Rogers** will be spending a week this summer with his wife, visual artist Jo Carol Mitchell-Rogers, wandering southern back roads looking for odd and interesting imagery to photograph for a collaborative project. The trip is being funded by a grant from Anderson University. He will spend the rest of the summer tackling the learning curve that comes with all of the fantastic new equipment in the new facility. (And he might also do a little fly-fishing as well.)

Groups

The newly formed Fine Arts Center Sierra Club meets Tuesdays after school and has instituted a school-wide recycling program that includes paper, plastic bottles, and batteries. Cell phones and printer cartridges are also recycled for a small profit that will be returned to the school, and students are encouraged to bring these items to the FAC for recycling.

On March 23rd an excerpted showing of *An Inconvenient Truth* was given in Recital Hall, guest hosted by Dr. Ronald Sobczak, President of the Bartram Chapter of the SC Sierra Club. A similar showing of *Who Killed the Electric Car?* was given on May 8th, and both were followed by a lively Q&A moderated by the guest host.

Greenville County Youth Orchestra

Young Artist Concert No. 3

Greenville County Youth Orchestra performed its final Young Artist Concert for the 2006-2007 season on Tuesday, April 17th, at the Peace Center's Dorothy Gunter Theater. The concert featured solos by two of the orchestra's seniors. **Meredyth Bowden** performed the Cello Concerto No. 1, Op. 49 by Dmitri Kabalevsky. She is a senior at the Fine

Arts Center and Easley High School. **Matthew Hayes** performed the Saxophone Concerto in E Flat by Alexander Glazunov. He is a senior at Riverside High School. Other selections included "The Number of Things" by Jon Jeffrey Grier, Rossini's *William Tell* Overture, and *Romeo and Juliet* Fantasy Overture by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky.



Meredyth Bowden



Matthew Hayes



Greenville County Youth Orchestra

Greenville County Youth Orchestra Graduating Seniors

GCYO, the Fine Arts Center's Orchestra-in-Residence, bids fond farewell to departing seniors, many of whom have been with the orchestra for four and five years. A significant number are headed toward careers in music, and we are proud of the part GCYO has played in their musical education. Pictured in this image, starting in the front row from left to right, are: **Samantha Clymer, Meredith Miller, Denaë Buzzell, Alison McKinney, Jenny Labadorf; Meredyth Bowden, Javian Brabham, Corrinne Word, Mary Elizabeth Hendricks, Aubrey Elliott, Melissa Youssef; Hunter Harris, Andrew Davis, John Van Steenburgh, Erin Byrnes, Hannah Kelly; David Katilius, Sergio Montes, Ben Tomlinson, Matthew Hayes.**



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		
ARMES Auditions		May 14-25
Voice Recital	6:30	May 15
Jazz Concert (PM Classes)	7:30	May 16
Strings Chamber Music Concert	7:30	May 17
Dance Concert	7:00	May 18
Last Day for Seniors		May 18
Awards Day	2:00	May 20
Graduation Rehearsal	4:00	May 21
Graduation	7:30	May 23
Last Day for FAC Underclassmen		May 25



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