

# NEWS

THE FINE ARTS CENTER  
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FALL 2011

## Director's Comments

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Summertime...

Contrary to Gershwin, the "livin'" was not "easy." There was a lot to do around the school as we got ready for the students to return in mid-August but, fortunately, we have a custodial staff who spent time meticulously cleaning and touching up each room: walls, floors, windows, desks, lights — well, let's put it this way, if it didn't move it was cleaned. The building sparkled on the 17th when we welcomed your students to 2011-2012 at The Fine Arts Center!

Then, too, there are those who say to me, "You must just love the summer, no students, I'll bet you get a lot done!" Hard to love a school building without the students in it; hard to love this building — as beautiful as it is — when the only sounds you hear are your own footsteps echoing down vacant halls and, somewhere, off in the distance, the hum of a cleaning machine. No, I'm afraid I'd be an advocate for a year-round arts school!

So, when the 17th came and the students began streaming through the doors, the energy was palpable, the excitement electric, the building came alive, and the happy noise of students greeting each other was the kind of music that Mr. Gershwin would have understood and, somehow, captured.

For our new parents, you will quickly learn what our returning parents already know: this is a special place, a place where your students will discover a great deal about themselves, not only as young artists, but, more importantly, what they will discover about themselves as human beings. Education isn't just about what tests you can pass, what dates and formulas you can remember, or your ability to regurgitate what's in the book or the teacher's lecture notes. It is also about what students may learn about their capabilities: who they are, how they meet and solve problems, how they interact and work with others, how they set goals and work diligently towards them, how they understand an increasingly complex world and their place in it and how the arts have always been a means of making those connections.

When you learn to manipulate the "stuff" of the arts, those technical things that are unique to each discipline, and that knowledge is applied to an assignment, yes, you complete the assignment, but, in so doing, as a student you have had to explore the materials, learn their "vocabulary," you have had to look inside yourself for your unique response, your response, not someone else's and, when you do, and each time that you are asked to do that, each time your exploration of yourself is deeper, you recognize the facile and clichéd response, and you search for, and find, your voice, your way. Your way. That's truly what education is: finding your way, your voice, the intelligent, thoughtful, compassionate application of what is being learned to the world in which you live. Emphasis on the world. No sense in reiterating what can be read in our daily headlines, or heard on the cacophony of news broadcasts — the world is beyond shrinking, it has shrunk, and it will be up to these young people to make the kinds of decisions that will determine our future. I'll trust it to these young artists, to those who meet the challenges put to them each day by a dedicated, creative and imaginative faculty. Meeting that daily challenge is the beginning. We've begun another year, summer's over, time to get down to work!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'R'.

## Open House — Thursday, September 15th, 6:30 pm

Put it on your calendar, Thursday, September 15th, at 6:30 pm! It's Open House for parents of returning students and for those who will be with us for the first time. You'll visit classrooms, meet the teachers, tour one of the greatest arts facilities anywhere — facilities designed by the faculty who uses them, in a building designed by **Gable Stubbs**! What a facility it is: a black box theatre with over 350 lighting instruments, functioning under the control of the latest equipment from ETC, the largest manufacturer of theatre lighting equipment in the world. A digital film class room with ten of the largest computers Mac makes, the same Macs and software that George Lucas used to edit the last *Star Wars* film; a 2,800 square foot dance studio with a Harlequin Cascade floor, the same floor that American Ballet Theatre dances on in New York; a Jazz Studies classroom with six rehearsal rooms, and one of the most modern and properly ventilated ceramic studios in the southeast, a photography studio that contains both a traditional darkroom and a digital lab, a 3-D metals classroom with flexible shaft drills at each bench, benches built of hard rock maple by the Greenville Woodworkers Guild and an art collection worth nearly a million dollars. Well, you'll just have to come and see for yourself, a building where everything is student-driven! The teachers are even more impressive than the building: buildings don't teach, teachers teach. But what teachers they are: two with doctorates, 12 with MFA's or two master's degrees, and three with the professional equivalent. All practice what they teach — they all submit themselves and their work to the critical adjudication of the marketplace. In other words, they fulfill the promise of our mission: We prepare students for advanced study and career opportunities through studio classes taught by professional artist/teachers. We want you here. Put us on the calendar!

## Gallery News

We invite you to visit the Francis Sheffield Wood Gallery throughout the year to see the exciting, rotating exhibits of artwork, new and old, here in the lobby of the Fine Arts Center.



*Faculty Exhibition*



*Student work from 2009 National Juried Metals Exhibition*



*"Such Good Allies," Jim Campbell*

**Annual Faculty Exhibition, August 17th-October 3rd.** Recent works from our Visual Arts faculty. The Visual Arts faculty are all actively making new and exciting work. This is an opportunity for them to showcase their most recent projects.

Artists include:

- **Jim Campbell** (Drawing, Painting and Graphics)
- **Katy Cassell** (Metals)
- **Rod Fincannon** (Photography)
- **Greg Flint** (A.R.M.E.S)
- **Glenda Guion** (Clay)
- **Donna Shank Majors** (A.R.M.E.S)
- **Rebecca Stockham** (A.R.M.E.S)

**Shifting Plates — A Printmakers' Print Exchange, October 10th-November 25th:** This portfolio represents some of the prominent printmakers in South Carolina and demonstrates inventive and masterful handling of a variety of print media. The 15 artists included in this exhibition by county are:

- Anderson — **Syd Cross**
- Greenville — **Wells Alewine, Kent Ambler, Jim Campbell, Marty Epp-Carter, Kevin Clinton, Daniel Cvammen, Phil Garrett, Luis Jaramillo, Catherine Labbé, Mark Mulfinger**
- Pickens — **Steven Chapp, Katya Cohen**
- Spartanburg — **Andrew Blanchard, Jim Creal**

**Reception: November 3rd, 6:30-7:30 pm**

**Student Winter Exhibition, December 5th-January 28th.** With the semester nearly complete, this will showcase new student works in progress, highlighting the artistic growth by leaps and bounds.

**National Juried High School Metals Exhibition, February 6th-March 23rd.** The FAC will invite high school students nationwide to submit their best artwork made in the mediums of metals, jewelry and enamel to a biennial juried exhibition. This exhibition will showcase the accomplishments of students and teachers at the high school level.

**Juried Student Exhibition, April 16th-May 18th.** An annual opportunity for FAC students to experience the real-world art of entering and exhibiting in a show juried by a professional artist. This year's juror will be Denise Woodward-Detrich, director of the Lee Gallery at Clemson University.

## Accessories

One of the most difficult things those of us who live in this building have had to do these past five years — well, nearly five years — has been to be confronted daily with the contrast between the beauty of the building and its setting. Don't misunderstand, we love where we are, love the close relationship with our colleagues at Wade Hampton High School, love the site. We just don't love how the front of the building looks. Not the architecture, that's wonderful! **Gable Stubbs**, then of Neal Prince, gave us a building that's the envy of the many from across the state and the country. You know what it is, just like we do. Except, as with us, you have grown accustomed to the lack of signature landscaping. We're growing rocks! There is nothing in front of our building to put the exclamation point on our unique structure.



This fall, Trees Greenville is going to work with us to plant 15 trees on the west side of building. That will help and we've already begun our vision of having a sculpture garden on that side, too. We've just placed R. G. Brown's sculpture from our old site at 1613 West Washington Street on that side, confirming for all who drive by that the building beyond has something special going on. But, it's still not enough.

We called Gable Stubbs this summer and asked if he could help us with this "front of the building" problem. Gable sent us Graham Kimak of Graham Kimak Landscape Designs, who agreed to donate his firm's design skills to make our entrance as arresting as the building. What you see above is his stunning design. Through his relationships with contractors and suppliers, Graham has told us that his firm can do this for under \$15,000! Unbelievable! We are going to do it! With the help of our parents' organization, FAC pARTners, the dollars are available and, when a few more of the details are completed, work will be going sometime later in the fall to coincide with the best time to do plantings.

You can see how the stained concrete curves break up the horizontal line of the building, lending beauty and interest to the entrance. There will be upright on the shrubs and trees, the site will be irrigated to assure its proper care, and benches will be placed by the entrance to make it even more welcoming.

In addition to what the architecture says about what happens inside, the landscaping will add its singular voice. The building is — will be — as Lord Olivier said about the new national theatre in London years ago, "An outward and visible sign of an inward and probable culture."

Take pride, you made it happen.

## A Message from FAC pARTners

The Fine Arts Center parent, alumni and community group, "pARTners" would like to welcome back all new and returning students! Information will be coming home with your student regarding information on how to join "pARTners," how to purchase a car magnet and how to become involved as a volunteer. Please look for this information sometime this month.

**SAVE the DATE!** The second annual A Taste of the Fine Arts fundraiser has been scheduled for February 3, 2012. The first annual event raised over \$14,000, which has been and will be used to enhance the fine arts education of each and every student attending the FAC. Silent and live auction donations for this event will be greatly appreciated! Please be thinking about experiences, services and items that you might be able to contribute to ensure that we have another successful event. Anyone wishing to serve on the planning committee should indicate on the volunteer form that you will be receiving this month.

Lara Farnsworth, president, laragonyea@yahoo.com

Mary Lee Tierney, treasurer, rmltierneyinsc@aol.com

Lorri Payne, vice president, lhpayne@greenville.k12.sc.us

Stacie Brubaker, secretary, Stacie-Brubaker@adp.com

## Publix Cards

Make sure you get your Publix cards from the office or at Open House. You let Publix know that you want your contribution to go to The Fine Arts Center and each time you shop, you are helping our program and our students. You take care of your own health and the health of this school — what could be better?

## Karen Parks' Summer

Summer 2011 really began, for me, with a continuing whirlwind of activity during Spring Break. I traveled to New York City for selection and coaching of music for my summer concert tour of Austria, Italy and Russia. As soon as I returned from New York, I was immersed in extensive training of FAC students for contest and college entrance auditions. I am proud to state that since the beginning of my teaching at FAC, 100% of my students have gone on to college with scholarships and merit grants. Having been awarded their most prestigious Vocal Performance scholarship for an incoming freshman, **Lexi Aimé** went on to Oberlin Conservatory. Since then, she has attended the Manhattan School of Music's summer program and was invited by the Alexander Buono competition (which she won her senior year) to perform at Carnegie Recital Hall on two separate occasions. **Emma Ritter**, a full scholarship recipient to Valparaiso University, traveled to Los Angeles to compete in the Classical Singer competition. She was named one of the top ten high school classical singers in the nation and the only one from the state of South Carolina. Nicholas Hawkins, also a scholarship winner, will attend USC and, having won several competitions and merit grants, with a surplus in funds. **Jaclyn Alday**, in keeping with family tradition, will attend Winthrop College in the fall for voice and fashion design. Several of my students attended summer vocal programs. **Vivian Tompkins** attended Brevard Music Center and **Terah Gamble**, selected by audition into the Walnut Hill summer program, traveled for three weeks of intensive study to Boston and Italy.

As soon as the school year ended, I immediately took a flight to Salzburg, Austria, for rehearsals and a concert at the Mozarteum, then, afterwards, on to another flight to Milan, Italy.

My final summer concert was for the 75th anniversary of the Perm, Russia Festival. I sang both inside and outside of the Perm Concert Hall. My accompanist and I flew to Perm the day before the concert, arriving on the day of the performance. The concert was sold out and inside was SRO, so the overflow crowd was seated outside. Fortunately, the weather was beautiful on the evening of the concert. Not only was the concert inside shown on several large screens for the outside crowd but, also, as I sang part of the concert outside with the Perm Orchestra, there was a very large screen (Jumbotron) for the audience inside the concert hall to view. Another highlight was performing with Karavai, a group playing authentic Russian folk instruments, after returning inside the concert hall.

On May 17th, Theatre teacher **Teri Parker Lewis** performed an original, commissioned monologue at the Hyatt for the Transformation Breakfast. The event was a fundraiser for The Family Effect, a non-profit organization supporting the healing of addiction in families in Greenville County. The event included **Congressman Trey Gowdy** and Clemson head football coach **Dabo Swinney**. Teri essentially "crashed" the breakfast, showing up in character as an addicted mother off the street. Aside from Trey Gowdy's security team, no one in the crowd of over 350 knew she was coming.

After the event, one of the workers from the Hyatt admitted he almost called hotel security when the staged interruption began. All in all, the performance went smoothly, and Teri's performance helped raise the necessary funds for The Family Effect.



*Karen on a break between rehearsals and Maestro Pisani, with whom Karen studied as a Fulbright Scholar at La Scala.*



*Karen with renowned soprano Grace Bumbry, who attended the Mozarteum concert*



*Karen as seen on the Jumbotron during her Perm concert*



*Karen with the Maestro of the Perm Philharmonic*



*Theatre teacher Teri Parker Lewis performed for The Family Effect*

**Rebecca Lee** (Dance) will choreograph a dance piece for the morning dance students during her residency October 17th-21st. She has also joined the dance faculty of the A.R.M.E.S. after school dance program, teaching ballet.

**Monica Williams** (Dance 2006) performed the role of a Dynamite, a singing and dancing role, in the musical *Hairspray* at the TriArts Sharon Theater in Sharon, Connecticut, from July 12th-August 24th. Monica received her BFA in Dance from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in 2010.

**Heather Pynne** (FAC Theatre '07) recently graduated from Middlebury College with a Bachelor of Arts joint degree in Theatre and Dance with a focus on lighting design. Her most recent design was "Synergy," an evening of dance by seniors in the Middlebury College Dance Program. She plans to fly to Paris in November to design POST\*M, directed by Nerina Cocchi for inoutput, an international theatre group.



*Heather Pynne, then (2006)*



*Heather Pynne now, graduate of Middlebury College*

## T H E A T E R

### Summer Acting Experiences

This summer, Beginning Theatre Ensemble member **Cara Franz** attended the musical theatre course at the Pre-college Institute at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For four weeks, Cara studied singing, acting and dancing with professors from the university. She trained 12 hours a day, received one-on-one lessons, performed a solo in the student showcase, participated in a mock audition and basically worked her tail off! In one word, Cara says, it was "INTENSE."



*Actress Cara Franz at the University of the Arts*



*Actress Corsha Johnson attending the UNCSA summer acting program*

Advanced Theatre Ensemble member **Corsha Johnson** attended the summer acting program at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. For three weeks, Corsha studied acting, movement, voice, singing, circus and combat. Here's what Corsha has to say:

"Going to NCSA was like FAC in a way. It was like stepping into a scene from a movie, being bombarded with the arts from all directions. It would be an understatement to call it 'fun,' just as it would be an understatement to call it 'easy.' It was one of the most exhausting, trying and rewarding experiences of my life. It was never boring, and every day there was always a new challenge. I wouldn't trade the environment at NCSA, like the environment at the FAC, for anything in the world. I was able to eat, sleep and breathe the arts, and that's best kind of life!"

Advanced Theatre Ensemble member **Samuel Farnsworth** attended Stagedoor Manor. Stagedoor offers total theater immersion, plus all of the fun of a great summer camp. It's the only performing arts program of its type in the world! Samuel took acting classes, performed in shows and met other acting students from all over the world.



*Samuel Farnsworth rehearsing a scene for Becoming Eleanor*

Visual Arts alumni **Andrew Davis** has been hired as the Ceramics Technician for Herron School of Art and Design. Located on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), Herron enrolls nearly 900 students in bachelor's and master's degree programs including fine arts, visual communication design, visual art, art education and art history.

Alumni **Kate Roberts** spent the summer as a resident ceramics artist at Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass Village, Colorado. Anderson Ranch offers an artists' residency program designed to encourage the creative, intellectual and personal growth of emerging and established visual artists. Finalists are chosen on the basis of artistic merit by an independent jury of established working artists and will live and work at Anderson Ranch for an approximately ten-week residency period.

Four students returned to the first day of class energized to make art after spending a month at the High School Summer Program at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, Maryland. Current junior **Denzel Harrison**, and seniors **Hanah Ellsworth**, **Michael Shillingburg** and **Franky Tran** were able to choose from a variety of art areas, including ceramics, sculpture, drawing, painting, product design, illustration and digital art, while living on campus. Michael said, "It was a good insight into what college life will be like." They also met students from across the country, their friendly competition in terms of college scholarships at the national level. Denzel said, "I loved it. I got to spend all day doing what I loved and it was a challenge too. Everyone there was great at art." The students honed their skills by working intently everyday for at least nine hours, and then spent the weekends touring Baltimore and East Coast art destinations. "The best part was going to the National Gallery in Washington, DC, and then to the Metropolitan Museum of Art — especially the Alexander McQueen exhibit — and of course, the Museum of Modern Art in New York," said Franky. Hanah said, "I have a lot more confidence now in my ability, especially in painting and drawing. The MICA summer program gave me a whole perspective on art."



*Ceramic artwork by Kate Roberts*



*Ceramic artwork by Andrew Davis*



*Franky Tran mixing plaster at MICA*



*Denzel Harrison drawing with ink at MICA*



*Hanah Ellsworth, Michael Shillingburg, Denzel Harrison and Franky Tran at MICA*



*Hanah Ellsworth during an all-night raku clay firing at MICA*

Current senior **Elizabeth Spring** spent five weeks in Savannah Georgia at the Savannah College of Art and Design's Rising Star Program, while current sophomores **Meagan Magnus** and **Rayne MacPhee** spent one week in SCAD's Summer Seminar. All three students studied art, worked in the studios and lived on campus. Elizabeth said, "I loved the positive environment there was while we were working on art and critiquing." She studied design and photography, and the highlight was meeting the inventor of a new technique for printing using drafting film and glue. Meagan and Rayne both studied metals and photography. "I loved experiencing college for a week and it helped me narrow my choices for schools to consider," said Meagan.



*Elizabeth Spring and Meagan Magnus (not pictured: Rayne MacPhee), who spent part of this summer at the SCAD*

## Introducing Rod Fincannon, Photography Instructor

This year, the Fine Arts Center welcomes the new photography instructor, **Rod Fincannon**. Rod was first introduced to photography at Northwest School of the Arts, a magnet school in Charlotte, where he grew up. He received his BA in the Fine Arts from Brevard College, and stayed on after graduation as a resident director and director of campus recreation. This experience galvanized his passion for working with students and inspired him to continue his education so that he could teach photography. He attended East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina, where he researched the art of portraiture and the field of personal identity formation, the social processes and experiences that shape our personalities. His MFA thesis, the culmination of this research, was titled *Searching for Resolve*. After completing his MFA in 2009, he returned to Brevard College to teach photography as a sabbatical fill-in, and this past year was a visiting lecturer at East Carolina University.

His work has been featured in *Photographer's Forum* and in shows throughout the region. A member of the Society of Photographic Education since 2007, he has been a lecturer at their regional conference and will speak again there this October. He also plans to attend their national conference in San Francisco next March.

Rod loves most outdoor activities, especially kayaking and backpacking. He has spent the past six summers in the Outer Banks as an eco-tour guide, and while living at the beach, he learned to surf. In 2007, he drove across the country with a friend from college, backpacking and camping through the national and state parks of the western states and Canada. In 2008, he backpacked through Italy and Switzerland for six weeks.

This October, Rod will be traveling back to Greenville, North Carolina, to marry Whitney Holland. They have "a spoiled-rotten" dog, Stella, a boxer/whippet mixture.

Rod is delighted to be working with the students and faculty at the FAC, and comments that he has been "floored by the quality of facilities."

The Metals Department is grateful for the generous help from volunteer **Jeffrey Jackson**, who met teacher **Katy Cassell** at the Gala last spring. Encouraged by their neighbor to attend the FAC Gala, Jeff and his wife, **Eva**, walked into the Fine Arts Center for the first time and were very impressed. After purchasing student-made jewelry, he wandered into the Metals studio and struck up a conversation with Ms. Cassell about the department facilities and curriculum. Inspired to help, Mr. Jackson kept in contact and offered to fix equipment and procure improvements to better outfit the program. Over the summer, Mr. Jackson repaired the vacuum table, which will allow Metals students to learn the process of lost-wax casting. In addition, he donated stumps, which are the ideal hammering surface, cast iron tables for forging along with cutting and welding torch tips. Ms. Cassell is looking forward to planning more improvement projects for the Metals Department with the help of Mr. Jackson.



*Jeffrey Jackson*

## Watson's Riddle

The Fine Arts Centers Jazz Studies teacher **Steve Watson** has a new CD which was released August 30th on Palmetto Records (Sony). Steve has been the jazz instructor at the FAC since 1990.

What do you get when a former Los Angeles studio guitarist collaborates with his “favorite” drummer — who just happens to be a founding member of one of the most iconic rock bands of all time — and creates a refreshingly innovative style of smooth jazz?

The answer is Watson's Riddle, a dynamic new instrumental group formed in Upstate South Carolina by veteran guitarist Steve Watson and original Marshall Tucker Band drummer **Paul T. Riddle**, and also featuring legendary pianist **Chuck Leavell** (Allman Brothers Band, Sea Level, Rolling Stones) and top-notch bassist **Tim Lawter** (MTB).

Watson's Riddle will release its debut album later this year. The eclectic fusion effort offers 56 minutes of groove-oriented sonic bliss that evokes an equally wide range of human emotion. It's the kind of music that can be described as just what the doctor ordered. As cliché as that might sound, in the case of Watson's Riddle, it's literally true.

Watson's Riddle was conceived when cardiothoracic surgeon **Douglas Appleby, M.D.**, encouraged his friend and guitar instructor Steve to write music that was “emotionally engaging, relaxing and transforming to the human soul.” Watson wrote some of the album's material during the good doctor's weekly lessons and eventually took the project to Riddle, who brought in Leavell and Lawter.

Leavell's powerful presence is felt throughout the album with his brilliant piano work, giving the project an extra dose of aural magic.

Riddle served as producer for the album and Watson composed all ten tracks. The music of Watson's Riddle is a blend of jazz, R&B and pop or, as Paul likes to call it, “melodic freak.” It offers moments of introspection, moments of playful funkiness and even laid-back moments where everything seems right with the world. There are numerous solos, and the collective interaction among the musicians is sure to appeal not only to a jazz audience but to rock and pop fans as well.

Electric, nylon-string and acoustic guitar interplay is central to the sound of the recordings, and all musical parts were played by real musicians without any drum loops or sequences. Simply put, it's pure and honest music made by old souls, but with a boldly contemporary vision.

Watson's Riddle recorded the album at Mill Street Recording Studios in Inman, South Carolina, which is owned and operated by Lawter and his fellow Marshall Tucker Band alumnus **Rusty Milner**. Initial guitar tracks were recorded at the Fine Arts Center in Greenville, SC, with engineering assistance from **Eddie Howard**.

Additional album contributors include **Hazen Bannister** (Swingin' Medallions) and **Steve Keeter** on keyboards, **Ricky Hicks** on percussion, **Matt Olson** on soprano sax, **Will Compton** on alto sax and **Dick Goodwin** on trumpet. Dr. Appleby is not only the album's executive producer, he also plays acoustic guitar on one of the tracks.

Watson, a graduate of the prestigious Frost School of Music at the University of Miami, has performed on records by such acclaimed artists as B.B. King, Dolly Parton and Billy Mitchell. He was the guitarist on such network TV shows as *Hill Street Blues* and *Magnum P.I.*, and his motion picture credits include *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* and *Sixteen Candles*. Watson now lives in Greenville, SC, where he is president of WatsonWood Music and serves as a university and high school educator.

Riddle played drums for the Marshall Tucker Band from 1970-85, helping the group earn a multitude of accolades, including 12 gold and platinum albums. He has also toured with the Allman Brothers Band — winning a Grammy Award for his contribution to the live album, *2nd Set* — and is a frequent guest at the Warren Haynes Christmas Jam. Riddle resides in his native Spartanburg, SC, where he is a music producer and a veteran drum instructor.

The album is off to a great start! It is currently #36 on the Top 50 jazz chart and #16 on the Top 50 Indie chart at smoothjazz.com. Take a closer look at [www.watsonsriddle.com](http://www.watsonsriddle.com).



L to R: Chuck Leavell, Steve Watson, Paul Riddle, Tim Lawter

The Fine Arts Center's Orchestra-in-Residence, the Young Artist Orchestra, will showcase its repertoire during its 2011-2012 season with compositions from the late 18th through 20th centuries. Led by FAC faculty member Dr. Gary A. Robinson, the 44-member chamber orchestra will perform three Young Artist Concerts at the Peace Center's Dorothy Gunter Theater, two educational concerts (January 27, 2012, also at Dorothy Gunter Theater), and will be a part of the Winter Orchestras Concert (at Wade Hampton High School on January 31, 2012) and the Spring Orchestras Concert (Peace Center Concert Hall, April 24, 2012). YAO's major concerts include:

## YOUNG ARTIST CONCERT NO: 1: "FROM AGE TO AGE"

Featuring music performed by The Philharmonic, **Kathleen S. Robinson**, Director

7:30 pm, Saturday, November 5, 2011, Dorothy Gunter Theater

YAO: Hoffmeister, Franz: Viola Concerto in D

**Preston Barbare**, viola

YAO: Horwood, Michael: Symphony No.1

III. Vivace in Moto Perpetuo

PHIL: Verdi, Giuseppe (arr. Ryden): La Forze Del Destino Sinfonia

PHIL: Haydn, Franz Joseph: Concerto for Trumpet in Eb Major

Hunter Brons, trumpet

I. Allegro

YAO: Haydn, Franz Joseph: Symphony No. 101, D major (The Clock)

## YOUNG ARTIST CONCERT NO: 2: MIGHTY BEETHOVEN RETURNS

7:30 pm, Saturday, January 28, 2012, Dorothy Gunter Theater

Vieuxtemps, Henri: Concerto, Violin, No. 5, op. 37, A minor

**Cathy Woo**, violin

Beethoven, Ludwig van: Symphony No. 2, op. 36, D major

## YOUNG ARTIST CONCERT NO. 3: SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER

Featuring members of the Greenville Symphony Orchestra

7:30 pm, Saturday, May 12, 2012, Dorothy Gunter Theater

Schumann, Robert: Concerto, Piano, op. 54, A minor

Maria Parrini, piano

Copland, Aaron: Appalachian Spring: Suite



*Kathryn Woo*



*Maria Parini*



*Preston Barbare*

## FAC AP Theory Students Make the Grade

A near-record number of 29 FAC music students took the AP Music Theory Exam in May, and the results are in — 93.1% “passed” the test (a score of 3 or higher on the AP scale of 5), with an average score 3.83. The national pass rate is normally about 65% and the average score about 3.1. Congratulations all!

FAC Percussionist **David Wilson** (Wade Hampton HS, 11) attended two percussion workshops during summer 2011. The June 18th-24th Interlochen (Michigan) Summer Percussion Institute provided opportunities for highly motivated students to work with a world-class faculty in many different percussion disciplines. Master classes and ensembles were available on marimba, timpani, ethnic instruments, drum set and orchestral percussion. Participants performed in master classes, had lessons with Institute faculty members and played in a variety of ensembles. Faculty members included timpanist **Tim Adams** (University of Georgia); **Keith Aleo**, Percussion faculty, Boston Conservatory and Director of Education and Orchestral Activities at the Avedis Zildjian Company; **John Alfieri**, Instructor of Concert Percussion and Conductor of the Percussion Ensemble, Interlochen Arts Academy; drumset star **Danny Gottlieb**, University of North Florida/Lt. Dan Band; **Ji Hye Jung**, Assistant Professor of Percussion at the University of Kansas; West African keyboard percussion specialist **Valerie Naranjo** of the famous NBC Saturday Night Live Band and **Jacob Nissly**, Principal Percussionist of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

From July 17th through the 22nd, David studied at the University of North Texas Jazz Combo workshop in Denton, Texas. It was open to musicians of all levels (minimum age 14) and provided comprehensive studies in jazz combo playing and improvisation. The curriculum included: combo, faculty concerts, jazz history and listening, jazz theory (basic to advanced) master class instruction on bass, drums, guitar, piano, saxophone, trombone and trumpet, student concerts and jam sessions. The workshop included members of the UNT jazz staff and featured drumset faculty members **Mike Drake** and **Ed Soph**.

FAC percussionist **Lex Nordlinger** (home school, 12) sharpened his drumset skills at the famous Jamie Aebersold Summer Jazz Workshop, held in July on the campus of Kentucky State University. Activities included combo rehearsal and performance, master classes, theory and ear training and nightly faculty performances. Amongst the many jazz luminaries comprising its faculty, the workshop included drummers Ed Soph (University of North Texas), Jason Tiemann and Steve Barnes (who have performed and or recorded with David Liebman, as well as countless others) and Colby Inzer, a performer in the NY/NJ and Louisville, Kentucky, area.



*David Wilson*



*Lex Nordlinger*

## Alumni News

Cellist **Samuel Johnson** attended the Killington Music Festival in Vermont. Samuel appeared with faculty members in several chamber music concerts. In addition to her work in artist management, violist **Susannah Plaster** is a member of the Indie band, The Michael J. Epstein Memorial Library. The first CD from the ensemble was released this past spring, followed by a tour with engagements in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. Violinist **Kevin Tompkins** performed at the Round Top Music Festival in Texas. Kevin worked with many renowned musicians and conductors, including **JoAnn Falletta**, music director of the Buffalo Philharmonic.

## Faculty News

Strings Chamber Music instructor **John Ravnan** performed on the Spotlight Concert Series at Piccolo Spoleto in Charleston, South Carolina, with Violas Four! The members of the ensemble are professors of viola at UNC-Greensboro, the University of South Carolina, and Appalachian State University. Included in the recital program was the premiere of a work written for the ensemble by USC School of Music composition faculty member Reginald Bain. The concert was recorded for broadcast by South Carolina Public Radio.

In September, John performed as guest artist with the Kandinsky Trio in their season opening series of concerts at Virginia Tech University and Roanoke College. He joined the ensemble in performances of Gustav Mahler's Piano Quartet, and the Piano Quintet of Antonin Dvorak. John also gave a master class for Virginia Tech music students.

## Student News

This past summer, students in the Strings Chamber Music classes studied at several esteemed music programs. **Paul Aguilar** attended the Indiana University Summer String Academy, directed by **Mimi Zweig**. In addition to his individual studies, Paul's string quartet won second prize in the festival's chamber music competition. **Preston Barbare** returned to the Robert McDuffie Festival for Strings at Mercer University, studying with Lawrence Dutton of the Emerson String Quartet. Pianist **Naomi Causby** studied with faculty members of the Juilliard School and the Curtis Institute while at the Bowdoin International Music Festival in Maine. She also served as an assistant at the Southeastern Piano Festival. In June, *The State* newspaper published an article about Naomi's first place finish in the Arthur Fraser Piano Competition and her musical studies in Columbia and at the Fine Arts Center. **Shannon Elliott** participated in the Eastman Viola Workshop in Rochester, New York. **Maria Parrini** studied at the Philadelphia International Music Festival with members of the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Curtis Institute of Music. Maria had the distinction of participating in the festival as both a pianist and a cellist.

The winners of the Clemson University Symphony Orchestra's 2011 Concerto/Aria Competition are violinists **Paul Aguilar** and **Reagan Bachour**. Paul will perform the final movement of Wieniawski's Violin Concerto No. 2 in D minor, and Reagan will play the first movement of Max Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor. Both Paul and Reagan will appear as concerto soloists in two concerts with the orchestra on October 11th at the Brooks Performing Arts Center in Clemson, South Carolina. Additionally, the winners receive a \$200 prize. Violist **Shannon Elliott** was also a finalist in the competition.



## CREATIVE WRITING

### Dylan Combs — Iowa Young Writers Studio

(The University of Iowa is home to a legendary creative writing program and with the help of the Fine Arts Center Foundation, Dylan was able to attend this summer.)

On my trip to Iowa, there was a cancelled flight, Delta lost my luggage and I had to suffer cafeteria food every day. I'd go through all of that again to experience the Iowa Young Writers' Studio one more time. I thought that by winning the scholarship through Scholastic I would get away from home for a while and have a workshop for a few weeks. However, when I attended the studio, it blew my expectations away. Workshop came around, and I listened to my instructor and fellow writers discuss my work for an hour, which is the longest time anybody has discussed any work that I have produced. I expected this would only be helpful for the particular piece I submitted, but through workshop, I discovered new directions in which can I take my approaches to fiction.

Not only did my writing improve in the matter of two weeks, but I also learned how to get to know my peers very quickly. It suddenly occurred to me a few days in that I was surrounded by writers my age, around 60 of them. It takes me a long time to form friendships with people, but in Iowa, I felt comfortable talking to everyone almost immediately. Surrounded by a diversity of writers, I found inspiration from plenty of sources.

Of course, I can't forget how Iowa City impacted me. Literature seemed to be the most important thing to the city. Quotes from famous writers throughout history lay etched in the walkways and sculptures of classics could be found on every street — I realized I was in a city that warmly welcomed and appreciated writers. With the 75th anniversary of the Iowa Writers' Studio happening this year, I found myself going to the readings almost every night. Of course, there was nothing better than discovering that the city was a playground for eavesdropping, people-watching.

The experience helped shape my writing and character, so I've brought back a piece of Iowa with me. I remember that towards the end of the session, I was working on editing the anthology with another writer, rushing for a printing deadline and reading my eyes dry, when I saw that I was a part of a promising body of writers. I can't express how important competitions like Scholastic are for artists, because things like this happen because of them. I also can't express how thankful I am to the Fine Arts Center for getting me to the Iowa Young Writers' Studio.

Dance Guest Artist **Brian McGinnis**, currently dancing with the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, will be choreographer-in-residence from September 12th-23rd. He will choreograph a new dance for both classes, which will be performed in the Fine Arts Center Dance Concert on April 27th. He will also teach master classes on Saturday, September 17th, and for the A.R.M.E.S. dancers on September 20th and 22nd after school.

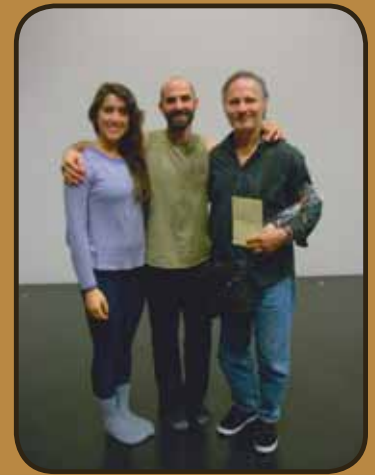
On October 8th, the Fine Arts Center dancers will host a Saturday Day of Dance for dance students in the community. Ballet, modern dance technique, improvisation, Pilates and repertory will be taught throughout the day, beginning at 9:30 am and finishing with an informal performance at 2:00 pm. Two other Saturday Days of Dance are scheduled for January 21st and February 4th, with some different class offerings.



*Samantha Patterson places in top five in the nation for NHSDA Award*

The dancers have begun their bake sale again this year! Every Friday, the dancers sell baked goods in the front entrance area. The dancers are also organizing fundraisers for the Fine Arts Center chapter for the National Honor Society for Dance Arts with a car wash on Saturday, September 10th, at Chick-fil-A in Greer (1379 W. Wade Hampton) from 11:00 am-3:00 pm.

**Samantha Patterson** (Dance) placed as a finalist at the national level for the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO) Artistic Merit, Leadership and Academic Achievement Award and is one of the top five in the nation to receive the award, one of the highest dance honors programs in the U.S. Her solo, titled *Crutch*, is on their website. For more information and to view her solo, go to [www.ndeo.org](http://www.ndeo.org).



*Jacqueline Calle, Brian McGinnis and Lar Lubovitch in Saratoga Springs, New York*



*Spoletto field trip*

## Dancers Take Field Trip to Spoleto

The FAC dancers **Caroline Hafer**, **Kara Nichols**, **Anna Noble**, **Samantha Patterson**, **Kaitlyn Schultz** and **Hannah Winton** and theatre tech student **Andrew Mulkey** took a field trip to Spoleto to see the Corella Ballet at the end of May. **Jan Woodward** and **Dirk Holleman** organized the trip, which also included a brief visit to the beach.

**Jacqueline Calle** (Dance) attended the Lar Lubovitch Dance Workshop at Skidmore College for pre-professional and professional dancers in Saratoga Springs, New York, this summer. The workshop was led by **Lar Lubovitch** and his ten-member dance company, which includes **Brian McGinnis** and **Kate Skarpetowska**, who have been dance guest artists at the Fine Arts Center.

In repertory, she learned *Smoke Rings*, which was a solo originally choreographed for Mikhail Baryshnikov, an excerpt from *Legend of Ten*, which is Lar Lubovitch's newest work on the company, *Cryptoglyph*, with music by Meredith Monk, two older works, *Marimba* and *Pardon My Affection*, and the duet, *Concerto 622*.

## Summer

**Jacqueline** saw the Lubovitch company perform *Legend of Ten*, *North Star* and *Coltrane's Favorite Things* among others in lecture demonstrations. The Lar Lubovitch Dance Company also performed a full dance concert at SPAC (Saratoga Performing Arts Center). She also had the opportunity to see the New York City Ballet perform Balanchine's *Apollo* as well as Justin Peck's world premier of *The Enormous Room* at SPAC.

**Mireille Fehler** (Dance) attended the five-week Atlanta Ballet Summer Intensive this summer. The program was led by **John McFall** (artistic director) and **Sharon Story** (Centre's Dean). Mireille was also accepted into the American Ballet Theater's (ABT) Summer Intensive in Alabama, but chose to attend the Atlanta Ballet program.

**Jan Woodward** taught ballet and modern dance/improvisation in the Explore the Arts program held at the Fine Arts Center and two weeks at the Foothills Dance Conservatory in Seneca. She saw **Doug Varone** and Dancers perform at the American Dance Festival in Durham, North Carolina.



*Mireille Fehler at Atlanta Ballet Summer Dance Intensive*



*Jan Woodward and Gerri Houlihan (Dean) at ADF-American Dance Festival in Durham, North Carolina*

## F I L M

Digital Filmmaking students **Sam Robertson** and **Sofi Yankelevitch** attended film camps during their summer vacation.

Sam attended a pair of courses at the Maine Media Workshops. For the first week, he took a class on the use of Adobe After Effects, a popular special effects program. The second week, he took a screenwriting class under the screenwriter Wayne Beach, the writer and director of *Slow Burn*.

Sofi attended a week-long workshop at Savannah College of Art and Design where she studied DSLR Photography and Film/Video Production.

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

Fine Arts Center  
 Dr. Roy S. Fluhrer, Director  
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