



flourish

**Joseph Meeks:**

Building and encouraging  
a life of excellence and significance

**An ode to love and family:**

The naming of Morgan Hall

# from the heART



Reid Taylor

Joseph D. Meeks  
Founding Dean  
College of the Arts  
1998-2012

Few moments are more exciting or more ripe with anticipation and possibility than when the conductor walks onto the stage, raises his baton and that first note resounds throughout the concert hall. As dozens of talented musicians weave together the rhythms of joy, sorrow, celebration and beauty, each is an artist, but together they create something magical and monumental. The baton guides them and encourages them until that final, magical moment when the last note wavers in the air and drifts into the memory of all who have been blessed to hear it.

As I prepare to pass my own baton to new leadership for the College of the Arts, I am honored to recall the “music” that the faculty, staff, administrators, students, alumni and supporters have created together at Kennesaw State University. When I first joined the Kennesaw faculty as a piano professor in 1975, I never imagined that I would one day be called upon to orchestrate a college that included music, theater, dance and the visual arts. With the first notes of my final coda floating in the air, I am so grateful for all that we have built.

I am grateful to be able to pass the baton while I’m still in full stride and I will be interested in seeing the college move to the next levels of achievement. In the 14 years since the creation of the School of the Arts, now College of the Arts, I have been proud to be its founding dean. More than a decade of shared experiences, meaningful relationships and strong donor support has enabled the emergence of a vibrant and successful college that now counts itself among the best in the Southeast.

In these 14 years, the college has achieved many remarkable accomplishments. Excellent,

new facilities have been constructed. New degree programs have been added. Key community partnerships have been formed with organizations like Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, Atlanta Ballet, GloATL, Georgia Symphony Orchestra and many more. High profile international programs have been instituted in Turkey, China, Morocco, Italy, Ireland and elsewhere. In fact, the KSU College of the Arts is now serving as a model for the very first arts college in all of Morocco. More endowed scholarships have been created in the College of the Arts than any other college at KSU. In just the last five years, the College of the Arts has generated more than \$7 million in private giving.

As I prepare to step down from this esteemed podium, I am confident that the faculty and staff will carry on with the same high level of commitment to success and significance. They will continue to dream even bigger and brighter dreams and work together strategically to realize them for the benefit of the students and alumni, the arts in general and the community at large.

Thank you all for your support. I could not have made this incredible journey without you. Please join me in applauding those who will pick up the baton and lead the college through the next exciting phase of its development. It’s been a pleasure and an honor to serve you.

Joseph D. Meeks, *Dean, KSU College of the Arts*

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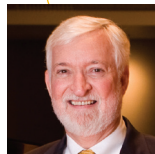
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Tracie L. Himant

## Meet Jessie Blowers: *On a mission for peace and art*

By Jessica Linnell Price

**W**hen Jessie Blowers sets her mind to a task—whether it’s getting Kennesaw State University to create a new major or putting together a human peace sign—she stops at nothing to get it done. And during her time at KSU, she has successfully completed both. Her Facebook group titled “Kennesaw State University needs an Art History Major” was the catalyst for the creation of the new major in 2011. Then, after co-chairing the KSU Peace Conference in 2011, she began planning a human peace sign event—her way of showing living art and peace as one.

After receiving permission to hold the event on campus, she set off to the task and never looked back. Though she had some experience planning large-scale events during the KSU Peace Conference, Blowers had no idea how much time, effort and even money it would take to pull off her vision. Parking arrangements, fundraising, securing vendors, coordinating volunteers and drawing out the peace sign to proper scale were all vital components of the event. But those components proved to be easy in comparison—Blowers still had to get people to show up.

On March 31, 2012, after late night emails and struggles to coordinate all the little things, Blowers’ vision came true. Well, sort of. She had hoped to break the Guinness World Record by having more than 6,000 people assemble in the name (and shape) of peace. Though her official total was 1,983, Blowers’ event was a major success. A video of the event is available at <http://vimeo.com/40196994>.

One of Blowers’ greatest supporters for the Peace Project was Michael Sanseviro, dean of Student Success. “Despite many, many setbacks that would have discouraged most people, Jessie pushed forward and persisted in her desire to bring this historical peace event to fruition,” Sanseviro says.

Blowers readily admits she had setbacks and times of doubt. “I’ve never worked so hard in my entire life on something. It consumed me, but it was so rewarding,” she says.

Blowers’ dedication to peace has not gone unnoticed. She was asked to introduce Nobel Peace Prize recipient Jody Williams as part of KSU’s Pathways to Peace Lecture Series on Feb. 2, 2012. She was also invited to the Carter Center as a guest to a member of the Carter Center Board of Councilors, where she again found herself next to a Nobel Peace Prize recipient—Jimmy Carter.

Blowers is already starting to plan her next attempt at breaking the record on Sept. 21, 2013, the International Day of Peace. But for now, she is concentrating on two things—graduating in December and having a baby. After graduation, she plans to combine her love of art and her business skills, and of course, to continue to support peace.

“She is one of the most passionate and focused students I’ve ever met,” says Sanseviro. “I know Jessie will achieve amazing things in her life and help so many people.” ☺



David Caselli

# in the COLLEGE



Robert Pack/WidescreenVideoProductions.com

## THE DEPARTMENT OF DANCE

In August, Kennesaw State University announced the establishment of the Department of Dance, formerly the Program in Dance. The change recognizes the growing excellence of the dance program and provides opportunities for continued growth. Ivan Pulinkala, formerly the director of the Program in Dance, is the chair of the new department.

Earlier this year, the KSU Dance Company returned to the Kennedy Center for their third consecutive appearance at the American College Dance Festival Association's National College Dance Festival. In October, the Department of Dance also announced a new partnership with the Rialto Center for the Arts at Georgia State University. The Rialto will serve as the Department of Dance's 2012-13 Presenting Partner.

## WELCOME NEW COLLEGE OF THE ARTS FACULTY AND STAFF

### Office of the Dean

**Kathie Beckett**, director of marketing and communications

### School of Music

**Karin Bliznik**, artist-in-residence in trumpet

**Judy Cole**, artist-in-residence in collaborative piano

**Carolyn Dorff**, artist-in-residence in voice

**Jason Eklund**, artist-in-residence in horn

**Charles Laux**, assistant professor of string music education

**Doug Lindsey**, artist-in-residence in trumpet

**June Mauser**, administrative associate

**Joseph McFadden**, artist-in-residence in double bass

### Bailey Performance Center

**Bob Becklean**, production assistant

**Dan Hesketh**, production manager

### Department of Theatre & Performance Studies

**Jan Wikstrom**, temporary assistant professor

### Department of Dance

**Amanda George**, administrative associate

**Stevan Novakovich**, assistant professor of dance

**David Tatu**, resident lighting designer and technical director

### School of Art and Design

**Justin Rabideau**, temporary assistant professor of art & interim director, Bernard A. Zuckerman Museum of Art

**David Short**, temporary assistant professor of art

## COLLEGE OF THE ARTS FACULTY HONORED AT ANNUAL CEREMONIES

The Kennesaw State University Foundation awarded more than \$150,000 to outstanding faculty and staff from throughout the university, including several professors from the College of the Arts. The awards were presented at the 2012 Faculty Awards Ceremony on August 15 and were awarded to professors who excelled this past year at teaching, research and/or creative activities and service.

This year, award recipients from the College of the Arts included:

**Laurence Sherr**, associate professor of music and composer-in-residence, received the KSU Foundation Distinguished Research and Creative Activity Award in recognition of an academic career that has produced more than 35 musical compositions and of his scholarship of music about the Holocaust.

**Ming Chen**, professor of theatre and resident designer, received the KSU Foundation Prize for Publications or Creative Activity for her textbook "Visual Literacy for Theatre."

**Linda Hightower**, professor of art, received the Holder Professional Development Award for travel funding to support her participation in residencies at several international arts/crafts collectives.

**Rebecca Makus**, assistant professor of lighting, received the Holder Professional Development Award for travel support to present invited lecture and lead workshops at the annual time wave conference.

**Kristen Seaman**, assistant professor of art history, received the Holder Professional Development Award for travel support for her research on marble Aphrodite statuettes from the agora in Athens, Greece.



Scott Singleton

## THE SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN

In July, Kennesaw State University announced the establishment of the School of Art and Design, formerly the Department of Visual Arts. Joe Thomas, formerly chair of the Department of Visual Arts, is the director of the new school.

The change from department to school reflects the growth that the art department has seen in recent years. Between 2004 and 2009 the number of art majors increased by 70 percent, well above the university's average student population increase of 25 percent.

# Around the World

## Kennesaw State theatre troupe wins international awards in Morocco

By Shira Kerce

For 10 Kennesaw State University student actors, a recent trip to Casablanca, Morocco, was more than just an exciting and unique way to spend part of their summer. Not only did the trip provide students with a culturally eye-opening experience and the opportunity to perform for an international audience at the Festival International de Theatre Universitaire de Casablanca, but the students also left with two well-deserved acting awards for their performance of Jean Cocteau's "The Eiffel Tower Wedding Party." The Department of Theatre & Performance Studies students were presented with awards for "most promising troupe" and "most promising actress" for theatre student Abbey Sanders.

Winning the awards proved to be a rewarding end to an already exciting and fulfilling trip for the theatre troupe. Accompanied by the play's co-directors Professor Karen Robinson and Lecturer Margaret Baldwin from the Department of Theatre & Performance Studies, the students participated in a variety of educational and cultural activities. "The program was jam-packed with a range of incredible social, cultural and aesthetic experiences," Robinson explains. "The trip opened the students' eyes and educated them about Moroccan culture and, just as importantly, heightened their awareness and understanding of their own American culture."

While in Morocco, the students attended workshops focused on various aspects of performance, participated in discussions with local professors about Moroccan culture and visited several cultural sites, including the third largest mosque in the world, waterfalls in the High Atlas mountains and various markets where they sampled traditional Moroccan food and Moroccan mint tea.

The focus of the trip, however, was their performance in the theatre festival, sponsored by Hassan II Ben M'sik University. During the festival, groups from Morocco, Tunisia, Spain, Mexico, Turkey and Romania performed. The KSU group performed "The Eiffel Tower Wedding Party," a surrealist farce by French author Jean Cocteau that is set on the first platform of the Eiffel Tower, where a photographer attempts to capture the perfect photo of a wedding party.

"It is a wonderful experience for our students to participate in this prestigious international festival," says John Gentile, chair of the Department of Theatre & Performance Studies. "This is our second time participating in the Casablanca Theatre Festival and our productions have now won a total of four awards, a testimony of the program's quality and significance." In 2009, KSU theatre students performed "Moby-Dick" at the festival and received awards for "best performance" and "best actor" for student Phillip Justman.

Sanders, who won for her role as the photographer, describes receiving the award as a dream come true. "This performance was a challenge for me, and receiving this award is a way of celebrating my progress," she says. "It serves as reassurance to me that I am pursuing the right career field." ☺



(Above) TPS students prepare for Morocco.  
(Below) The "Eiffel Tower Wedding Party" cast and crew with a traditional Moroccan water seller.



Photos courtesy of Karen Robinson



(Above) TPS Professor Karen Robinson travels through Morocco.  
(Below) A man sells tiles in a Moroccan market.



THE ARTS





Sarah Singleton

# In the Classroom

## Dance majors develop choreographic work for ACDF 2013

By Nicholas Hinterhauser

The Kennesaw State University Department of Dance defines what it means to flourish. Since its founding in 2005, Kennesaw State’s dance program has developed into a strong cornerstone of the College of the Arts. The American College Dance Festival plays an important role in this development, allowing dance majors to display their choreographic talent that has been skillfully nurtured by experienced faculty members.

Assistant Professor Stevan Novakovich explains how critical the ACDF is to the success of the department: “A lot of the funding, good reputation and trust we’re getting right now is because we really take this festival seriously.” Leading by example, Ivan Pulinkala, chair of the Department of Dance, is the only choreographer in the history of the ACDF to have his work selected for three consecutive national festivals. “Ivan feels strongly that both our students and faculty are expected to present remarkable work at these festivals,” explains Novakovich.

Applying their experiences in the classroom as well as on the stage, student choreographers have the opportunity to participate in the growth of the department’s established legacy at the ACDF. Although two dance majors have already been selected to develop choreography for the ACDF, only one will compete at the festival alongside Assistant Professor Sandra Parks. The two students, Erin Rauch and Zachary Richardson, began constructing choreography for the event during the summer and will develop their pieces through the fall semester. Parks and Novakovich take turns mentoring both students, “offering them multiple perspectives of the choreographic process,” says Novakovich.

Rauch and Richardson’s pieces display opposite spectrums of what choreography can convey. While Rauch’s work is an emotional representation of human nature containing only two dancers, Richardson’s work is more conceptual, using more dancers in order to embody the idea of wind.

Rauch shares, “All of my work comes from the viscera; it’s all a part of me. I’m exploring all of my dance vocabulary and trying to say something with it.”

This application of technical skills combined with personal creativity is essential to the philosophy of the department. Novakovich shares, “It is very important to us that we create a new generation of graduates who are both scholars and artists. In our program, we don’t separate the two.”

Novakovich firmly believes in the importance of the festival as an effective learning experience. After the students witness other departments in action, he hopes the students will be “more self-driven to engage in our dance department and try to set themselves at a higher level of accomplishments and achievements.”

Tracie L. Hinman



Robert Pack



# Michael Alexander:

*Expanding musical horizons*



By Alyssa Sellors

Michael Alexander, director of orchestras at Kennesaw State University and music director of the Georgia Symphony Orchestra and Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestras, has expanded the KSU Symphony Orchestra in more ways than one. While an active guest conductor in Europe and around the United States, Alexander has managed to find time to devote his efforts and passions to the KSU orchestra students, and the outcome is a source of pride for both Alexander and KSU.

Since his arrival at KSU, Alexander has successfully grown the orchestra program from a handful of string players into two orchestras, started a summer music clinic which has flourished into the KSU Summer Arts Clinic, helped build the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and even made time to take KSU students overseas to perform. "I am continually inspired by my colleagues and it is a joy to work in such a collaborative environment where the school is continually growing," says Alexander. "I love teaching at KSU because the students are so eager to learn and are passionate about improving their art."

Out of all his accomplishments, the growth and success of the KSU orchestra program are at the top of Alexander's list. "The orchestra is one of the most collaborative ensembles in

the School of Music and I am pleased with how it has been integrated into the school." The orchestra has hosted and performed at the 2010 College Orchestra Director's Association National Conference, performed in Beijing and Xi'an, China, played at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre with Kansas in 2011 and more. The performance in Beijing and Xi'an in particular was a life-changing experience for Alexander and his students.

Alexander looks forward to the concert series this year with the KSU Orchestra. "We have great repertoire, amazing soloists and some really unique things planned, including the Kennesaw Festival of New Music, Peter Gabriel's 'New Blood,' and Bartok's Concerto for Orchestra to close our year," says Alexander.

In his spare time, Alexander enjoys spending time with family, hiking and playing soccer. His future goals include writing a book and expanding the collaboration between the School of Music and the Joel A. Katz Music and Entertainment Business Program at KSU. If the past is any indication, then Alexander will accomplish his goals and much more. ☺

Michael Alexander receives flowers from Chin Bing during the orchestra's trip to China.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



## Music Faculty

**Leslie J. Blackwell** conducted the KSU Male Chorus Day in Oct; 192 men from 16 area high schools and the KSU Men's Ensemble participated in an all-day workshop and evening concert with performances by the KSU Men's Ensemble and KSU Chamber Singers.

**John Culvahouse** became Immediate Past-President of the National Band Association in July. He will serve on the NBA Executive Committee for the 2012-2014 Biennium as Past-President. He was a Conductor Mentor at the NBA Young Conductor/Composer Mentor Project held in June at Arizona State University. Fall 2012 Marching Band Adjudications included the Columbia Invitational in Columbia, Tenn., the Silver Invitational in Columbia, S.C., the Smoky Mountain Invitational in Knoxville, Tenn., and the Band of America East Regional Competition at Towson University in Towson, Md. Culvahouse also served as conductor of the Gainesville/Hall County High School Honor Band in Nov.

**George Curran** assisted with a workshop for the Southeast Trombone Symposium at Columbus State University in June, which included the bass trombonist from the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. He also performed a solo recital of Steven Verhelst's "Capriccio" with the UGA Trombone Choir at the Eastern Trombone Workshop in Washington D.C., in March.

**David Kehler** served as a guest conductor for the Duke University Wind Ensemble, the Walton High School Symphonic Band Camp, the Pope High School Symphonic Band Camp, the North Cobb High School Symphonic Band Camp and the Wheeler High School Symphonic Band Camp. He served as a conductor for the GMEA District 12 High School All-Region Band in Marietta and the Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony, as well as a clinician for a master class at the University of Georgia. He also served as an adjudicator for the Dixie Classics Concert Festival, the University of Kentucky Concert Band Invitational, the Festival of Music Concert in Atlanta and the Music in the Parks Concert Festival in Atlanta.

**Alison Mann** presented at the Georgia American Choral Directors Association Summer Conference at Spivey Hall on Women's Choral Literature, as well as coordinated and organized the Collegiate Honor Choir with Kenneth Fulton. Mann also conducted the fourth annual KSU Women's Choral Day, which featured 263 singers from 5 counties in the metro-Atlanta area. Mann also presented a paper with Harry Price, "Effect of Conductor Expressivity on Ensemble Evaluations by Nonmusic Majors," at the 24th Seminar of the International Society for Music Education Research Commission in Thessaloniki, Greece, in July.

**Richard McKee** directed the GMEA State-Wide Elementary Honor Chorus on Nov. 3.

**Laurence Sherr** presented a lecture on degenerate art and music of Nazi Germany on Nov. 5 on campus. On Nov. 26, the KSU Percussion Ensemble will perform a revised version of Sherr's "Waves." On Dec. 9, the Terminus Ensemble will give the North American premiere of a surround sound work created by Sherr for the Kofomi Festival in Austria.

**David Watkins** performed a solo recital and a lecture on the solo piano works of the American composer/pianist David Burge for the American Matthey Association Piano Festival at Union University, Jackson, Tenn., in June. On Nov. 2, he presented a lecture recital on the solo piano works of David Burge for the Georgia Music Teachers Association State Conference at Union Harris College.

## Students

**Emily Ahlenius** is teaching violin at The Harmony House in Kennesaw.

**Michael Gibbs, Ian Kennel, James Lavender, Chloe Lincoln, Joshua Martin** and **Steven Melin** participated in the third annual Student Composition Recital in April in the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center.

The **KSU Wind Ensemble's** performance of "Avelynn's Lullaby" by Joel Puckett was featured on 90.1, WABE, Atlanta Public Radio in Aug. They were also a featured ensemble at the 2012 Southern Division College Band Directors National Association/National Band Association Conference in Feb. and were featured in an article in the "National Band Association Journal."

## Theatre & Performance Studies Faculty

**Dean Adams** arranged a master class via Skype with 21-time Tony Award-winner Hal Prince in the Stillwell Theater. The conversation was moderated by Shuler Hensley, KSU artist-in-residence.

**Margaret Baldwin's** play "Night Blooms" ran from Sept. 26-Oct. 21 at Virginia Repertory Theatre in Richmond, Va. In Sept., Baldwin was featured on "Virginia This Morning" to discuss "Night Blooms."

**Jane Barnette** was named a Governor's Teaching Fellow for summer 2012. She also served as co-chair of the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA) Conference in Atlanta, June 28-July 1. Her article about the Iroquois Theatre fire of 1903, "The Matinee Audience in Peril," was published in "Theatre Symposium 20." She also co-convoked (with Henry Bial) "If Not Us, Who? If Not Now, When? Embodiment, Engagement, and the Pedagogy of Performance" for the American Society of Theatre Research (ASTR) in Nashville in Nov.

**Jamie Bullins** did the scene design for the following productions: "Musicals Suck: The Musical" at Dad's Garage Theatre in June, "Scratch, The Revengeance" at Dad's Garage Theatre in July, "The Man Who Came to Dinner" at Georgia Ensemble Theatre in Sept. and "Invasion: Christmas Carol" at Dad's Garage Theatre in Nov. He also did the costume design for "44 Plays for 44 Presidents" at Dad's Garage Theatre in Oct., The Goat Farm Arts Center's production of The Collective Project's "The Devil Tree" and "The Ghastly Dreadfuls: The Last Ghost" at the Center for Puppetry Arts in Oct. He is also serving as producer, director and designer for "A Christmas Carol" in Irondale Center, N.Y., in Dec.

**John Gentle** directed an international cast of Irish and American citizens in a reading of his new script, "Red Hanrahan," based on stories by W. B. Yeats, which was performed at the Yeats International Summer School in Sligo, Ireland, on Aug. 5. Gentle and Prof. Henry Scott will direct a fully-staged production of "Red Hanrahan," which is scheduled for production at KSU Feb. 19-24 in the Onyx Theater before it performs at the Edinburgh Festival in Aug. 2013.

**Renée Jamieson** is the stage manager for "Invasion: Christmas Carol" at Dad's Garage Theatre.

## Students

**Qate Bean** constructed the mask for The Goat Farm Arts Center's production of The Collective Project's "The Devil Tree."

**Paul Castañeda** and **Houston McArthur** presented their "Cityscape" research at the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA) conference in Atlanta in June. Castañeda also served as Dramaturg for Georgia Ensemble Theatre's production of "The Man Who Came to Dinner" in Sept.

**Molly Gilmartin** is the production assistant for "A Christmas Carol" in Irondale Center, N.Y., in Dec.

**Shannon Kennedy** did the costume design for "Scratch, The Revengeance" at Dad's Garage Theatre in July.

The **KSU Tellers** presented "Southern Scare: Ghost Stories from the Darker Side of Georgia" in Oct. at the Serenbe Stables.

**Ralph del Rosario** appeared as the Cheshire Cat in the Serenbe Playhouse production of "Alice in Wonderland" in Atlanta in June and July.

The **student cast** of the KSU production of Jean Cocteau's "The Eiffel Tower Wedding Party" won "most promising troupe" at the Festival International de Théâtre Universitaire de Casablanca, sponsored by Hassan II Ben M'sik University in Casablanca, Morocco. **Abbey Sanders** won "most promising actress" at the festival.

## Art and Design Faculty

**Sandra Bird** published a chapter, "Islamic Aesthetics," in "The Middle East: Its History and Culture," a University System of Georgia collaborative book project edited by Jason Tatlock of Armstrong Atlantic. Bird was also interviewed by the Islamic Speaker's Bureau of Atlanta's Director, Soumaya Khalifa, for a segment entitled "Islamic Art" - produced for the Atlanta Interfaith Broadcaster's series, "Meeting Your Muslim Neighbor." This series aired on AIB in Nov.

**Ben Goldman, Matt Haffner** and **Katherine Taylor** were among the jurors for the group show, "Talent Loves Company," at Barbara Archer Gallery in Atlanta, June 22-Aug. 4.

**Matt Haffner** has a site-specific art installation in the foyer of the Visual Arts Building. The installation is funded by an NEA Art Works grant and runs through March 2013.

**Kristine Hwang** judged the Istanbul Center Art Contest 2012 in Feb. and the MIST (Muslim Interscholastic Tournament) Web Design Competitions in March. She also served as a faculty advisor for the Atlanta Chapter of the KSU Student America Institute of Graphic Arts in Oct. She presented at the 2012 Southeastern College Art Conference in Durham, N.C., in Oct. and conducted a workshop on Japanese Binding at the 2012 College Night at the High Museum in Nov. Hwang also received a 2012 CARET grant and has worked with five undergraduate students on an e-book design project.

**Beth Lilly** was featured in the group show, "From Cosmology to Neurology and Back Again," at Whitespace in Atlanta in July and Aug.

**Carole Maugé-Lewis** and **Kristine Hwang** presented at the International Graphic Arts Education Association (IGAEA) Conference in July and the Southeastern College Art Conference (SECAC) in Oct.

**Shane McDonald** exhibited in the Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art's national juried exhibition, Metro-Montage XII, this summer with his oil painting, "Holding." In Oct., his oil painting, "Ouroboros," was selected as one of 100, out of more than 400 submitted, for the recent peer-to-peer auction and exhibition, "Imaginary Million." McDonald was also selected to paint the formal oil portrait of KSU Zuckerman Museum of Art benefactor, Bernard Zuckerman. The painting will be revealed at the grand opening of the museum in 2013.

**Kristen Seaman** examined sculpture excavated at the Agora in Athens, Greece, during summer 2012 with the help of a Holder Professional Development Award.

## Students

**Lionel Castillo, Kelly Ozmer** and **Kam Putney** were featured in "Achromatic - A Mixed Media Show" at the Cobb County Central Library in Marietta.

**KSU Print Club** was exhibited in "Just PRINTS!" at The Art Station - Big Shanty, Kennesaw in Sept.

**Jennifer Woodall** participated in "The Imaginary Million" under the partnership of WonderRoot, MOCA GA, the Bernard A. Zuckerman Museum of Art and sponsored by Atlanta Cultural Affairs and ArtsATL.

## Dance Faculty

**Ivan Pulinkala's** work "Rhizome" was selected for performance at the National American College Dance Festival at the Kennedy Center in May. Pulinkala also received a 2012 Clendenin Graduate Fellowship for his Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from the University of Alabama, which he will complete in Dec. His new work, "Road Kill," was commissioned by Washington University in St. Louis in Oct. Pulinkala was also selected as a U.S. dance artist by the cultural affairs ministry of Israel to attend the International Dance Exposure in Tel Aviv, Israel, in Dec.

*An ode to love and family*

# The naming of Morgan Hall

By Cheryl D. Anderson

As the exclamations of the cheering audience drowned out the final strains of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" last April, no one in Kennesaw State's concert hall knew the same profound joy as Audrey Morgan. Although she was sitting there for the first time without her late husband, Jack, she could feel his spirit and his ever-present love of music reverberating through the hall that had just been named the Audrey B. and Jack E. Morgan, Sr. Concert Hall.

By her side instead was her beloved sister, Dr. Bobbie Bailey. In the five years since Bailey sponsored the naming of the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center at KSU, she has sought even more ways to honor members of her family. When she purchased 27 Steinway & Son pianos to make KSU an All-Steinway School, she named each of the concert grand pianos for a loved one.



Tracee L. Hinmunt

Audrey Morgan (right) with her sister, Bobbie Bailey, and Joseph Meeks at the concert celebrating the naming of Morgan Hall in April.



Melissa Withers

Audrey Morgan with her late husband, Jack, at her birthday celebration.

But, she wanted to do more for Audrey and Jack, who were not only family but also longtime business partners with her at Our-Way Inc., an air conditioning and refrigeration re-manufacturing company. So, she decided to make another significant contribution to the KSU School of Music in order to name the concert hall.

"Audrey and Jack are such special people to me," Bailey said, "and Jack especially loved music so much. Naming this beautiful concert hall for them seemed like an ideal way to celebrate them."

Like Bailey, the Morgans have been among the top financial supporters of Kennesaw State University for many years, sponsoring a large scholarship endowment in the School of Music and another in the WellStar School of Nursing. They also helped fund the Bobbie Bailey Athletic Complex at the university.

"Dr. Bailey and the Morgans are among the most generous people I know," said Joseph Meeks, dean of the College of the Arts. "Not only have they been angels to

the School of Music, but their philanthropy extends into so many areas of the community, including health care, education and sports. We are deeply honored by their ongoing friendship.”

Jack and Audrey Morgan were college sweethearts. They first met at Asbury College in Kentucky, where Mr. Morgan enrolled after serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a B-29 navigator, bombardier and gunner. For the entire 61 years of their marriage, he would refer to her as the “love of my life.” Together, they had two sons, Jack Jr. and Robert, and three grandchildren. Shortly before Mr. Morgan’s passing in November 2011, they learned that their granddaughter, Kimberly, was expecting their first great-grandchild. In fact, the imminent arrival of the baby prevented Kimberly from joining the family at the April celebration of Morgan Hall.

Both of the Morgans pursued additional educational opportunities; she studied business management at Georgia State University and he earned a degree in mechanical engineering at Georgia Tech. These were the skills that inspired Bailey to make what she and Mr. Morgan always referred to as “the call of a lifetime,” inviting her sister and brother-in-law to become her business partners. Bailey had finished her own education in night school while working for the company she would later buy. As a teenager during World War II she wanted “to do something useful” for the war effort and found one of her life’s callings in refrigeration design and manufacturing. She later ventured into other businesses as well, including two music labels, RX-Melody and Southernaire. She has been a member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences since 1972. She was also one of the 12 founding members of the DeKalb First Bank.

“I am in awe of Bobbie’s gift,” Mrs. Morgan said, “and I am in awe of seeing our name on the concert hall.”

But, Mrs. Morgan is no less “awesome” than her sister. Although officially retired, she continues to serve as chairman of the Audrey and Jack Morgan Foundation, and she is on the Board of Visitors at Berry College and is a Trustee of the DeKalb Medical Foundation.



Morgan Hall in the Bailey Performance Center.

Mrs. Morgan was deeply moved by the April 21 concert celebrating the naming of Morgan Hall. The evening featured the KSU Orchestra and the KSU Chorale performing Mozart’s “Vespers” as well as Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9, which is popularly known for its concluding “Ode to Joy.”

“Our guests were just blown away by the quality of the performance. The orchestra and choruses really did KSU proud,” she enthused. “The evening was perfect!”

A full house celebrates the naming of Morgan Hall.



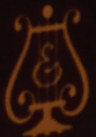
Dean Joseph Meeks speaks with Audrey Morgan at the naming celebration.





# Joseph Meeks

Ann Almay



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Building and encouraging a life of  
“*excellence* and *significance*”

By Cheryl D. Anderson

**R**everently, the middle-aged lady drew back the cloth to reveal a gleaming Steinway & Sons piano. The young boy held his breath. “Now,” she said, “You are ready.”

A young Joseph Meeks seated himself on the bench as his fingers trailed purposefully across the keys of the treasured instrument. In that moment, he first experienced the rewards of hard work combined with natural talent. It was a feeling he would strive to repeat throughout the next six decades.

“When Miss Floride finally let me play her Steinway,” he recalls, “I knew I had reached a milestone in my development. I knew, even at that young age, that I had arrived at something significant.”

Today, that very Steinway piano holds a hallowed spot in Meeks’ own living room, a treasured memory of practicing endless hours under Miss Floride’s ever-watchful tutelage. A precious gift from dedicated teacher to devoted student, it stands as a constant reminder to Meeks that excellence is its own reward.

That value was instilled in him from the beginning, when his parents, Floyd and Sallie Meeks, sought out Floride Cox to teach their middle son in the hardscrabble small, southern, cotton mill town of Belton, South Carolina. An intrepid, self-made businessman, Floyd Meeks never did things by half measures. So, when the youngster had a desire to play the piano, his father would only permit him to study with the best teacher in the region. Her studio was full, but Floride Cox couldn’t say no to the lanky boy with the big, brown eyes, and she would guide his career in ways they never anticipated. Together, they envisioned a life as a concert pianist for her talented student.

Under her guidance, Meeks, a gifted, scholarly student, graduated from high school a year early and was awarded the four-year Walter Spry Memorial Scholarship to study with noted American composer and performer Edwin Gerschefski. Gerschefski was the Dean of the School of Music at the conservatory of Cox’s alma mater, the Converse College School of Music, located in Spartanburg, S.C. Since Converse’s academic college was, at the time, solely a women’s



Joseph Meeks with Floride Cox, piano teacher, and Edwin Gerschefski, Dean of Converse College School of Music.



A thirty-something Joseph Meeks prepares for another classical piano recital.

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quality, *superbness*,  
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college, Meeks and the other male music students dual-enrolled at nearby Wofford College. Meeks rode his bicycle across town to Converse every day until his father purchased him a 1947 gray Chevrolet coupe two weeks after school began. It was a welcome gesture: the distance and time were eating into his practice time at the piano. It was at Converse that the future fundraiser first learned the importance of donor support. “Every room, every building, every scholarship had someone’s name on it,” Joseph Meeks remembers. “Every day, I was surrounded by all of these people, whom I’d never met, who were silently supporting me. It’s something I never forgot.”

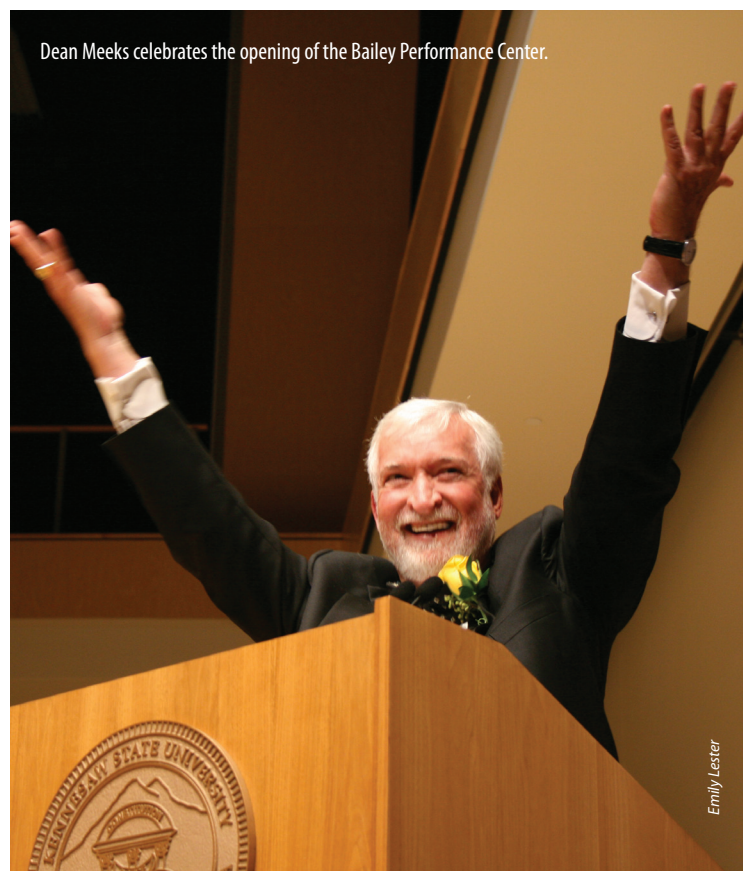
Gerschefski was then appointed the dean of the School of Music at the University of Georgia, and Meeks followed him, completing a Bachelor of Music degree and then a Master of Fine Arts terminal degree, both in piano performance. During the tumult of the 1960s, Meeks began teaching at the historically black Clark College, now Clark Atlanta University. It was an unlikely place for the pale, young man from a small, rural town in South Carolina, but a time rich with history-making events for Meeks. He met Martin Luther King, Duke Ellington and jazz pianist Don Shirley, among other notables. He was still not convinced that he should be a teacher, but fate was leading the way. Meeks soon became a beloved professor, but things were not always easy. He vividly remembers the day one of his Clark students came running up to him, panic and concern in her eyes. “Meeksie! Meeksie!” she cried. “The King is dead, the King is dead! You gotta get out of here,” referring to the assassination of Martin Luther King on April 4, 1968. Meeks calmly reassured the visually shaken student. “I wasn’t afraid of what might happen,” he says. “I knew I was where I was supposed to be, doing what I was supposed to do,” and he remained steadfast during this troubling time.

While teaching, Meeks continued to pursue his performance career through studying at Yale University with pianist and former dean of Yale’s School of Music Bruce Simonds. This was followed by time with Hungarian-born pianist Bela Boszormenyi-Nagy, at Boston University, and with Mozarteum Academy of Music (now Mozarteum University) pianist Heinz Scholz and Angelica Morales von Sauer, concert pianist and artist-in-residence at the prestigious Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. Meeks’ musical legacy reaches directly back to Brahms, Beethoven and Mozart.

As his career as a performer grew, Meeks was invited to perform at a brand new little college nestled among the pine trees and cow pastures of northern Cobb County, Georgia. Before he knew it, his life reached another turning point when he was invited to join the faculty of Kennesaw Junior College in 1975 as one of only three music faculty members. “It seemed like a big risk to leave a tenured position at Clark and re-launch my career at this small school

no one had ever heard of,” he remembers, “but my family and former professors supported me. I could have stayed where I was comfortable, but Kennesaw offered an opportunity to help build something significant and realize the dreams that reached back to my youth. My entrepreneurial spirit took charge and we were off and running to build what you see today.”

For Wayne Gibson, who headed the Kennesaw music program from the 1970s through the mid-1990s, hiring Joseph Meeks was no risk at all. “It was probably the best decision I made in my entire career,” he says with nearly 40 years’ hindsight. “He was a very hard worker and such a good pianist. We were able to talk about curriculum and teaching. It was a pleasure to have that kind of colleague.”



Even then, Meeks’ pursuit of his own artistic goals as a concert pianist did not cease. When he heard that William Masselos, one of the most respected pianists of his time, would be teaching at Georgia State University as part of their artist-in-residence program, Meeks asked to study with him. In addition to studying with Masselos, he was required to enroll in additional course work, which led to his realization that he only needed to complete two public recitals to earn an additional degree: the Master of Music.

Throughout his piano studies, Meeks never forgot the artistic value of Steinway pianos that he had first learned in Miss Floride’s studio. She had taught him to insist on excellence and would not permit him to attend any college that had not been accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). He carried

both of these lessons with him to Kennesaw State and immediately began working to ensure that the music program reached these high milestones. Together, he and Gibson wrote the curriculum for a bachelor's degree in music, and it became one of only six bachelor's degrees offered by the school when it became a four-year college in 1981. Once Kennesaw State had enough music alumni and met the strenuous criteria to apply for NASM accreditation, they co-wrote the application and, in 1984, they received that coveted membership. Earning a Steinway School designation would take a bit longer, for it required that most of the school's inventory of pianos be manufactured by Steinway & Sons. This was a lofty goal because the state bid requirement often resulted in a less expensive product and not the quality of the 80 percent handmade Steinway pianos. So, in the 1970s, Meeks wrote a justification as to why his students deserved to study and perform on the most superbly crafted piano available, and his proposal, after much scrutiny, was finally authorized to purchase Kennesaw State's first seven-foot Steinway B piano. In the 1990s, Joseph Meeks set out to purchase a larger Steinway piano, a 9-foot Steinway D (the official concert grand size). He pooled money from every source he could find and repeatedly, year after year, it was not enough, until finally in the late '90s, he met his goal and the first Steinway concert piano arrived at KSU. One Steinway piano, however, did not make an All-Steinway School — that would take another decade, with fate giving him a helping hand.

At about the same time, things were changing in the music department. Meeks was about to reach another turning point in his life. As Gibson prepared to retire as department chair, he went to Meeks with a completely unexpected proposal. By then, there were several more music professors to choose from, but Gibson had recommended to the administration that Meeks be invited to lead the department. "When I asked him to cover for me before my retirement, he was stunned," Gibson says. "He didn't feel like an administrator. I knew he could do the job, but neither of us knew what a real talent he had for administration."

Though honored, Meeks was hesitant to accept the responsibility. It would mean less time in the classroom and on the concert stage. Once again, however, his family advised him that he could take this opportunity to make a difference and do things he had always dreamed of. From that point, he avidly began to pursue another goal for music at Kennesaw State: an acoustically-stellar concert hall. With little public money available for this new dream, Meeks began in earnest his career as a fundraiser extraordinaire. He also showed his appreciation for the scholarships he had received by setting a goal of creating scholarship endowments to attract and retain the best students possible.

*"I never stopped pushing myself, and I always encouraged the faculty, staff and students to commit themselves to strive to do work of true significance."*

Soon, those endowments started to grow and interest in the concert hall gained attention. Then came yet another turning point. With the retirement of the Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, KSU separated the disciplines, creating the School of the Arts, and asked Meeks to be the acting dean until a national search could identify the best candidate for the job. As it turned out, after conducting the process of committee interviews and formal presentations, they decided that Meeks, one of three finalists for the position, was the most qualified person, and he was named the permanent, founding dean in 2001. Yet, for Meeks, accepting the position was truly a sacrifice.

Such an intense administrative role would take him almost entirely out of the classroom and leave him little time for his own rehearsals and performances. "I no longer had Miss Floride or my parents to mentor and guide me, and I really pondered the decision to accept the invitation," he recalls. "I spent hours walking and thinking, working in the yard and thinking. I could hear Miss Floride in my mind, telling me that I had accomplished so many significant things as the chair of music. She had once said shortly before she died, as we were driving through the Blue Ridge Mountains on our way to the Brevard Music Center in North Carolina for a concert, 'Now, let's see, you are the chair of the Department of Music, right?' My answer, as always, was, 'Yes ma'am.' She turned to me and said, 'Well, they're going to make you dean next.' And I said, 'No, ma'am. This is as far as I will have time to go in the administrative chain.' She said, 'You'll see.' In so many ways, she was my angel and I oftentimes lovingly accuse her of dying, going to heaven and making me dean," he jokes with a fond smile. Her prediction had come true.

"The uncanny turn of events, upon reflection, was that my career was modeling those teachers/mentors of my own academic preparation — in particular,

Edwin Gerschefski, administrator, professor and performer. What could be a better career? It enabled me to embrace the talents I had for all three," Meeks says.

Having accepted this broader role, Meeks expanded his goals of national accreditation, superior facilities and scholarship endowments for all of the arts departments. One by one, accreditations were achieved, scholarships created and new buildings opened, thanks to the support of then-president Betty Siegel. Then, Dr. Bobbie Bailey, a close friend of Meeks, generously gifted an endowment to construct the concert hall he had long strived for; it was finally constructed in 2007.

As part of her naming gift for the new concert hall, the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center, Bailey asked if she could give the school a piano in memory of her mother. Meeks was delighted, but he insisted that it be a Steinway; he took Bailey with him to

Dean Meeks plans his schedule with his longtime assistant, Melissa Fryer.

New York to handpick the new instrument. “Piano Professor David Watkins and I played every piano at the factory for her, until we were finally able to select just the right one to honor the memory of her mother, Mary Bailey,” Meeks says.

When they returned to Kennesaw State for a grand opening concert celebrating the new hall and the new piano, Bailey revealed a huge surprise. “I have one more thing I want to do. I want to make Kennesaw’s School of Music an All-Steinway School,” she told the 624-seat, standing-room-only audience, who cheered uproariously for this phenomenal announcement.

“I was truly amazed,” Meeks says. “For so long, I had dreamed of that moment, but I was almost unprepared for it. I could not believe it was happening.” With that announcement, Bailey revealed that she was replacing the school’s entire inventory of 27 pianos with the instruments that Meeks had been taught from childhood were the most excellent in the world.

In addition to the Dr. Bobbie Bailey and Family Performance Center, the Onyx Theater, made possible by a generous endowment funded by anonymous donors, opened in fall of 2009 and the Bernard A. Zuckerman Museum of Art, realized from benefactor Bernard Zuckerman’s challenge gift, is slated to open in fall 2013. Meeks also played a key role in the construction of the Visual Arts Building in 2002 and the Dance Studios at Chastain Pointe, which are currently in phase II of construction. “I never stopped pushing myself,” Meeks says, “and I always encouraged the faculty, staff and students to commit themselves to strive to do work of true significance and to always aim for excellence.”

The growth at the College of the Arts has continued with even more scholarships, facilities and programs. Meeks is preparing to step down as dean in February 2013 and explore the next phase in his career, but the legacy of his leadership will not be forgotten, according to his colleagues.



“During the years that Dean Meeks has led the College of the Arts, the college has grown in size, reputation, quality and private support,” remarks KSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Ken Harmon. “All departments and schools in the college that can be accredited by national accrediting agencies are accredited, or are in the process of being accredited. Similarly, as a friend-raiser and fund-raiser, Joe’s skills deserve special mention. The College of the Arts has more endowed scholarships than any other college at Kennesaw State.”

For Gibson, who first invited Meeks to campus, the praise is more personal. “Joe helped make my career a joy. I am very, very proud of what we started and of what he continued, not just in music, but in all of the arts.”

One can only imagine Miss Florida would say the same thing. After years of delaying the decision to achieve “just one more goal,” Meeks is at last passing his baton to others, with the voice of his angel whispering once again, “Now, you are ready.” ☺



The arts district on campus has experienced tremendous growth under the leadership of Dean Meeks.

## Alumnus returns to teach art students

By DeLain Climmoms



Art Alumnus Ben Goldman

Six years ago, Ben Goldman (art, 2006) was an art student attending classes at Kennesaw State University. Today, he is an adjunct professor at Kennesaw State, who teaches drawing and painting and enjoys an extraordinary connection to his students. Goldman's traditional academic approach to art emphasizes representation. "I believe that if students begin by learning how to draw realistically, they can progress towards contemporary art and do whatever they want. I encourage my students to look for ways to create three-dimensional art on a two-dimensional surface."

Goldman says all of the skills Kennesaw State art students are taught will help them become successful in the contemporary art scene. "Even though we are learning traditional methods, they are still very relevant in today's art world. It could be street art, art that's based on illustrations, comic book-looking art or the so-called lowbrow art. I want my students to understand why they are drawing something and the reasons behind the art. I want them to view their project as more than something that is just pretty."

Goldman, who also completed a Master's degree in drawing and painting at Georgia State University, is very active in the metro-Atlanta art scene. He runs Kibbee Gallery in Atlanta and maintains his own studio ([www.bengstudio.com](http://www.bengstudio.com)). "My art tends to focus on human behavior and social issues. I typically showcase works by emerging artists, including KSU students."

Many Kennesaw State art students have benefited greatly from Goldman's instruction and teaching abilities. Senior Kamilah Sanders recalled the creative freedom during Goldman's class. "Professor Goldman would give us parameters, but we could decide the direction we wanted to take it, depending on his guidelines." Another senior, McKenzie Murphy, also praised Goldman's flexibility and for helping her turn ideas into reality. "I liked being able to express our art through whatever medium we chose. We were able to do that, and he would give really helpful instructions on each medium."

Former student Leah Clemons remembers an assignment that left an indelible impression on her. "I really enjoyed a project where Professor Goldman asked us to copy another artist that inspired us. This project really helped me to know myself." As a graduate of the KSU art program, Goldman knows what the students need. "I know what it's like to be a student. I try hard to keep it interesting, while hammering away at the core skills we need." ☞



Artwork by Ben Goldman (art, 2006)



## David Chapman: *Carrying on the tradition*

By Shira Kerce

For David Chapman (music performance, 2001), playing the piano has been an important part of his life ever since his first lesson in November of 1991, when he was 12 years old. Exactly ten years later, in November of 2001, Chapman performed his senior recital at Kennesaw State University, completing a major requirement toward receiving his first music degree.

Since then, Chapman has continued his music education, receiving a Master of Arts in Music from the University of Georgia in 2006 and currently working toward a Ph.D. in Musicology from Washington University in St. Louis.

Chapman admits that the decision to pursue additional music degrees has not always been an easy one. “The most difficult part of continuing a music education,” he says, “has been trying to remain confident about its value in our society,” when there seems to be a constant feeling of “doom” for the arts and the humanities. Nevertheless, Chapman explains, “I decided to pursue a music education because I felt it was my duty and my privilege to carry on a tradition passed to me by my parents and teachers.”

This rich tradition of love and respect for music was one that Chapman cultivated while a student in the KSU School of Music. Chapman recalls many music professors who challenged him and gave him a “taste of the kind of rigor that would be expected on the graduate level.” Beyond course work, though, Chapman also found inspiration from his professors in a broader sense. “They were very helpful in casting a vision for what might lay beyond college, beyond the campus and especially beyond the county and region,”

he explains. He recalls one important and memorable lesson when a professor pointed out the window and told the class that there was not one thing out there they should be afraid of.

During his time at KSU, Chapman had the opportunity to continue studying with one of his first piano teachers as a child: Joseph Meeks, professor of music and dean of the College of the Arts. “Dean Meeks was tough and demanding, yet caring, humane and attentive,” Chapman recalls. “He remains one of the most honored and beloved figures in my life, and the fear of disappointing him animates me even today.”

“David Chapman is the consummate student,” says Joseph Meeks. “He epitomizes the student scholar/artist profile. He is very bright, talented, dedicated, hardworking, collaborative, engaged...and the list continues. David always brought an enthusiasm for learning to the classroom and studio. He always will be remembered as one of the highlights of my teaching career.”

As Chapman looks forward to his own music career and begins searching for a university faculty position of his own, his love for music and desire to share that love with others continues to motivate him. “I love that music unites and divides people. I love that it requires dedication and discipline—that it is not easy. I love that people love music and that, for this reason, it can be something shared with or given to others.”

# ALUMNI NOTES

To submit a news item, send an e-mail to [arts@kennesaw.edu](mailto:arts@kennesaw.edu) labeled "Alumni News" or submit online via the Kennesaw Alumni Artists Network website at [www.kennesaw.edu/arts/KAN](http://www.kennesaw.edu/arts/KAN).

## Music & Music Education

**Nathan Autry** (music education, 2004) completed an Educational Specialist degree in teacher leadership from Piedmont College in Demorest, Ga. He also has a Master of Music degree from Georgia State and is the choral director and fine arts chairman at Sprayberry High School in Cobb County.

**Kristen Michelle Brent** (music performance and music education, 2012) is the choral director at Taylor Road Middle School in Fulton County.

**Jonathan Dotson** (music performance, 2003) had a solo classical guitar recital at the UTB/TSC Arts Center in Brownsville, Texas, on Sept. 28.

**Robert Henry** (music performance, 1999) released his transcription of Chet Atkins' "Waltz for the Lonely" for piano in Feb. He also played J.S. Bach's complete "Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I" in Sept. Henry also performed "Schubert and Brahms" at Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Oct.

**Cole McDonald** (music performance, 2007) took part in the 6th Annual Horn Workshop in Daytona Beach, Fla., in July. He also performed with the Georgia Symphony Orchestra at KSU's Star Spangled Spectacular on June 30.

**Steven Melin** (music education, 2012) is pursuing graduate study in film scoring at Columbia College in Chicago. In addition to scoring short films, he is also writing music for video games and the concert hall.

**Nick Morrett** (music, 2010) played the role of Riff Raff in Next Stage Theatre Company's production of Richard O'Brien's "The Rocky Horror Show" in Oct.

**Lauren Denney Wright** (music education, 2007) is the Director of Wind Ensemble Activities and a clarinet professor at Berry College in Rome, Ga.

**Tammy Evans Yonce** (music performance, 2003) has been appointed assistant professor of music at South Dakota State University where she will teach applied flute, music literature and pedagogy.

## Theatre & Performance Studies

**Jennifer Akin** (theatre, 1996) performed in "Smoke on the Mountain."

**Olivia Aston** (theatre & performance studies, 2010) was in "James and the Giant Peach: Ronald Dahl's Fantasy Adventure for Children" presented by the Georgia Ensemble Theatre Conservatory in Nov.

**Corey Bradberry** (theatre & performance studies, 2008) is the Executive Director for The Goat Farm Arts Center's production of The Collective Project, Inc.'s "The Devil Tree." He also appeared as Rod Wrong in The Collective Project, Inc.'s production of "The Red Herring" at the Goat Farm Arts Center.

**Lowrey Brown** (theatre & performance studies, 2010) and **Andrew Crigler** (theatre & performance studies, 2010) performed in Theatrical Outfit's "A Wrinkle in Time" April 14-May 6 in Atlanta.

**Andrew Crigler** (theatre & performance studies, 2010) directed The Collective Project, Inc.'s production of "The Red Herring" at the Goat Farm Arts Center.

**Greg Garrison** (theatre & performance studies, 2010) served as the playwright for The Collective Project, Inc.'s production of "The Red Herring" at the Goat Farm Arts Center.

**Sara Gosier-Copeland** (theatre & performance studies, 2012) is the intern coordinator for "A Christmas Carol" in Irontdale Center, N.Y., in Dec.

**Kelly Greene** (theatre & performance studies, 2009) served as Production Manager for The Collective Project, Inc.'s production of "The Red Herring" at the Goat Farm Arts Center.

**Sean Haley** (theatre & performance studies, 2010) was the Artistic Director for The Goat Farm Arts Center's production of The Collective Project, Inc.'s "The Devil Tree."

**Melissa Harvey** (theatre & performance studies, 2012) presented her "Cityscape" research at the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas (LMDA) conference in Atlanta in June. She also served as preceptor for the summer 2012 Reacting to the Past Game "Greenwich Village 1913," which was part of the History/Theory II (TPS 4523) course taught by Jane Barnette.

**LauraBeth Hettinger** (theatre & performance studies, 2012) is the theater director at Cartersville High School.

**Daniel Hilton** (theatre & performance studies, 2011) and **Matt Lewis** (theatre & performance studies, 2008) performed in "Assassins" presented by Fabrefaction Theatre Company on Oct. 19-Nov. 11.

**Steven Love** (theatre & performance studies, 2012) did the lighting design for "Scratch, The Revengeance" at Dad's Garage Theatre in July.

**James Maloof** (theatre & performance studies, 2010) did the scene design for "44 Plays for 44 Presidents" at Dad's Garage Theatre in Oct. **Ben Tilley** (theatre & performance studies, 2005) did the lighting design.

**Melissa Oulton** (theatre & performance studies, 2008) appeared as Vesper Kind in The Collective Project, Inc.'s production of "The Red Herring" at the Goat Farm Arts Center.

**Becca Potter** (theatre & performance studies and dance, 2011) appeared as Kate/Chutney in Atlanta Lyric Theatre's production of "Legally Blonde."

**Andrew Puckett** (theatre & performance studies, 2010) played the role of Vil in the short film "White Elephant." He is also in a band called The Pucketts, with his wife Julie.

**Ben Tilley** (theatre & performance studies, 2005) is doing the lighting design for "Invasion: Christmas Carol" at Dad's Garage Theatre. He will also do the lighting design for "A Christmas Carol" in Irontdale Center, N.Y. in Dec.

**Jason Turner** (theatre and performance studies, 2007) was cast as the Demon Clown in the LA Opera production of "The Two Foscari," starring Plácido Domingo, Sept. 15-Oct. 9 at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles.

## Dance

**Becca Potter** (dance and theatre & performance studies, 2010) and **Priscilla Curtis** (dance, 2012) were in Atlanta Lyric Theatre's "Anything Goes" in Sept. and Oct.

**Chase Todd** (dance, 2010) was the Emcee in the KSU production of "Cabaret" Oct. 16-21 in the Howard Logan Stillwell Theater.

## Art and Design

**Aaron Artrip** (art, 2011) co-curated the group show, "Fresh Blood," at Mason Murer Gallery in Atlanta. The show featured fellow alumni **Denise Burke** (art, 2011), **Jeff Cecil** (art, 2012), **Asia Matos** (art, 2011) and **Sam Parker** (art, 2004). The show was reviewed by ArtsATL on May 24.

**Dustin Baker** (art, 2010) had two pieces up for auction at "An Evening with Ulysses S. Grant - Keystone" on Oct. 6 at Carvers Cafe in Mount Rushmore National Memorial, S.D.

**Perry Bennett** (art, 2006) had a photo featured as the cover image of the June 12 issue of SportsCar magazine.

**Brandon Crawford** (art, 2005), **Sam Parker** (art, 2004) and **Nikki Starz** (art, 2010) were featured in the group show, "Talent Loves Company," at Barbara Archer Gallery in Atlanta, June 22-Aug. 4.

**Ben Goldman** (art, 2006) curated "Inhabited," at Kibbee Gallery from Oct. 6-27. The exhibition included works by **Caroline Annandale** (art, 2012) and **Brandon Crawford** (art, 2005).

**Brandon McDonald** (art, 2011) and **Marcy Starz** (art, 2009) were featured in the group show, "Fifty/Fifty," at ABV Gallery in Atlanta, July 14-Sept. 8.

**Samuel Parker** (art, 2004) participated in "Forward Warrior!!," a live painting performance on July 14 at Sam Flax in Atlanta. He also had a solo show "Patterns in the Void" at ABV Gallery in Atlanta in Oct.

**Donna Shiver** (art, 2009) participated in "Squared Exhibition," art inspired by the Marietta Square on Oct. 7 and "2012 Art and Design Show House" to benefit Marietta Cobb Museum of Art from Sept. 15-29.

**Marcy Starz** (art, 2009) and **Nikki Starz** (art, 2010) were part of the The Creatives Project's 2012 Annual Exhibition and Fundraiser "Convergence: Six Artists, One Space" on Oct. 19 at The Goat Farm Arts Center in Atlanta.

**Nikki Starz** (art, 2010) and **Julianne Trew** (art, 2012) were in the group show, "From Cosmology to Neurology and Back Again," at Whitespace in Atlanta, July 6-Aug. 4.

**Rachel Wade** (art, 2009) had a solo show at DooGallery in Atlanta for the R-Town Art Walk on Sept. 5.

**Johnathan Welsh** (art, 2011) and **Caroline Annandale** (art, 2012) were featured in the duo show, "Façade," at Kibbee Gallery in Atlanta in June.

**Mi Yoo** (art education, 2009) received \$1000 worth of school supplies from Office Max as part of their "A Day Made Better" program that works to erase teacher-funded classrooms.

# Celebrating the Arts

The KSU College of the Arts offers many opportunities for alumni and friends to celebrate together. For information about our alumni and donor opportunities, click the “Friends” link at [www.kennesaw.edu](http://www.kennesaw.edu) or call 770-499-3214.



Tracie L. Hinnant

## Star Spangled Spectacular

On June 30, Kennesaw State celebrated the nation's birthday on the Campus Green with its annual Star Spangled Spectacular and fireworks show featuring the Georgia Symphony Orchestra. The event featured a mix of Broadway, Americana and patriotic favorites, capped off with a roaring fireworks display. Before the celebration, the Atlanta Steinway Society gathered for a reception in the Leo Delle and Lex Jolley Lodge for music, refreshments and laughter. ☺



Harry Price

## Kennesaw State Symphony Orchestra flash mob

Few events inspire spontaneous public celebrations of the arts like flash mobs. On Oct. 22, the Kennesaw State University Symphony Orchestra provided exactly that with three separate flash mobs in the Burruss Building, the Carmichael Student Center and outside the Social Science Building. The performance featured Peter Gabriel's “Sledgehammer” in promotion of the orchestra's Jan. 10, 2013, concert of Gabriel's “New Blood” in its entire concert version. For tickets to the performance, call 770-423-5560 or visit the KSU Box Office at [kennesaw.edu/arts/boxoffice](http://kennesaw.edu/arts/boxoffice). ☺



## Jeanne Sperry and Barbara Hammond retire

Associate Professor of Art Jeanne Sperry, who specializes in graphic design and illustration, retired at the end of the 2011-2012 academic year. Sperry taught in the Kennesaw State University School of Art and Design for 17 years and designed the original KSU owl logo.

Barbara Hammond, senior lecturer in music education and the program coordinator for music education, also retired at the end of the 2011-2012 academic year. Hammond taught in the KSU School of Music for 27 years and worked extensively with the Bagwell College of Education as the liaison between the education and music departments at KSU. ☺



Tracie L. Hinman

Joy and Rex Simms (front right), April and Bill Conaway (back right), and Barbara Kirby (left).

## Atlanta Steinway Society *Heroes of the Keyboard*

By Cheryl D. Anderson

When people give \$100,000 to the Kennesaw State University College of the Arts, they are designated as “Heroes” on the donor list. If you added up all of the contributions from the members of one Atlanta music club, it would make them a society of heroes.

Founded in 1980, the Atlanta Steinway Society is devoted to supporting young pianists and to promoting piano music performance. Members of the society raise money to award scholarships to piano students. Typically, the awards rotate among Atlanta’s colleges, with three or four awards each year. Through this rotation, every college in metro Atlanta has benefited throughout the last three decades.

Kennesaw State was included in that lineup for many years, receiving a piano scholarship every couple of years. Then, something changed. KSU piano professors Joseph Meeks and David Watkins began spending more time with the Atlanta Steinway Society.

“Joe and David and I used to go to dinner regularly,” says Society founder Barbara Kirby. “Their support of us and their enthusiasm for Steinway pianos led us to start giving scholarships to Kennesaw more frequently.” Soon, a KSU student was receiving a scholarship every year. Eventually, the Steinway Society established an endowment at KSU to ensure that piano students will benefit in perpetuity.

The relationship is different with KSU, according to Society president April Conaway, because KSU is more actively engaged with the Society’s programming. “If

we want to have a concert, KSU is always willing to identify students for us, and we usually pay a little honorarium to show the students how much we believe in the value of their talent and hard work.”

The Society believes KSU has a “model” School of Music. “It is such a vibrant, growing school. We want to bring young people into the music world, and KSU seems to be one of the best in showcasing and preparing up-and-coming young artists,” says longtime member Joy Simms. In fact, Soohyun Yun, assistant professor, Joseph Meeks, dean of the College of the Arts, and Timothy J. Ste. Marie, marketing consultant, all serve on the advisory board for the Society.

Many members of the Atlanta Steinway Society also show their support of KSU by attending concerts throughout the year. A few have become enthusiastic fans of different faculty artists. For instance, Conaway and her husband can always be seen at the Faculty Jazz Parliament, while Kirby is now a devotee of Russell Young, KSU professor of opera, which led her to fund an opera scholarship this year.

As serious as this Society of heroes is about music, they also appreciate that they can just have a good time with their friends at KSU. “At the luncheon for scholarship sponsors this year,” Conaway enthuses, “I had my picture taken with School of Music director Harry Price and the KSU Owl. I don’t know how Harry felt about it, but I thought it was grand!” ☺



# thriving together



2012 Flourish Award winners (from left) Dennis Hanthorn, Pam Carsillo, Dean Joseph Meeks, Jon Ludwig and Alfred L. Watkins

Tracee L. Hinnant

## The Final Flourish Luncheon

On Sept. 28, the Kennesaw State University College of the Arts presented its annual Flourish Awards at the Final Flourish Luncheon at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre. The awards were presented to Dennis Hanthorn; Alfred L. Watkins of Lassiter High School; Pam Carsillo, retired Cobb County art educator and the Center for Puppetry Arts.

The event, which included more than 250 guests, also honored the career of Dean Joseph Meeks, who will be stepping down in February 2013 after 38 years of service at KSU and 14 years as the college's founding dean. Meeks received a Special Flourish Award for Lifetime Achievement, presented by local radio celebrity Lois Reitzes.

Guests were treated to a special exhibition of artwork from School of Art and Design students and enjoyed performances by students from the School of Music, the Department of Theatre & Performance Studies and the Department of Dance. Each performance was preceded by videos of the student performers expressing their gratitude for scholarships and donor support.

Major sponsors of the 2012 Final Flourish Luncheon included Bobbie Bailey, Audrey Morgan, Anonymous, Bill and Nina Beddingfield, Coca-Cola, The Color Spot, Inc., Jo Ann A. Durham, Barbara Kirby and the Atlanta Steinway Society, Georgia Symphony Orchestra and Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co. ☺



Norman Radow (from left), Jody Kuehn, Chancellor Hank Huckaby, Richard Corhen, John Anderson, Dean Joseph Meeks, Catherine Lewis, Michael Harders, President Daniel Papp, Bernard Zuckerman

Tracee L. Hinnant

## Bernard A. Zuckerman Museum of Art Groundbreaking Ceremony

Kennesaw State University held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Bernard A. Zuckerman Museum of Art on Sept. 25 at the construction site adjacent to the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center. The museum is expected to open in fall 2013.

The facility is named in honor of retired businessman Bernard A. Zuckerman, who provided \$2 million for the \$3 million project. Other major donors include the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation and the Leo Delle Lassiter Jolley Foundation, among others.

This 9,200-square-foot museum will house the University's permanent art collection and serve as a cultural resource on contemporary art. It includes three exhibition galleries, as well as the Leo Delle Lassiter Jolley Foundation Collection Research Center and the Ruth V. Zuckerman Pavilion, a glass atrium devoted to the sculptures of Zuckerman's late wife, who was renowned for her work in stone and bronze.

The Zuckerman Museum of Art is part of the KSU Department of Museums, Archives and Rare Books, which also oversees the Museum of History and Holocaust Education, the Fred D. Bentley, Sr., Rare Book Gallery and the KSU Archives. ☺



Chancellor Hank Huckaby (from left), President Daniel Papp, Bernard Zuckerman and Dean Joseph Meeks

Tracee L. Hinnant

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**Thursday, January 10, 2013 | 8 p.m.**

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