

# f flourish

M A G A Z I N E Vol. 12 No. 1 | 2014/2015



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# WE CHANGE LIVES.



**W**e nurture students to become the best actors, visual artists, dancers, musicians, and teachers they can be. We teach them to see their art as a business in which they can thrive artistically and professionally. By encouraging community involvement and responsibility, we are using art to shape a new generation of leaders.

Our mission at Kennesaw State University is to create an environment for art so vibrant that it not only changes the lives of our students, but also changes the lives of people in our community through the outstanding artistic performances and exhibits we present and our outreach into the community.

Our students are engaged with, and benefit from, an accomplished faculty of working professionals, small classes, and opportunities to exhibit and/or perform on- and off-campus. We also offer internships and study-abroad programs.

After 50 years of growth, the College of the Arts stands on a solid foundation. We have achieved regional, national and international recognition and have a leadership team committed to the College's continued growth and student success.

We are poised to take the College of the Arts to the next level with additional degree programs, expanded facilities, and enhanced community impact. With dedicated faculty, strong visionary leadership and strategic community partnerships, we are excited about the future.

In this edition of Flourish Magazine, you'll read examples of our strategic community partnerships. Our partners understand our mission, vision, and culture of the College of the Arts, and they help make this a unique place to grow and learn. Our partners are the best and brightest in their respective fields, like the Atlanta Ballet, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and the Alliance Theatre, to name just a few.

We invite you to visit our campus, experience our rich traditions of innovation, and become a part of our thriving community of celebrated scholars and artists.

Patty Poulter  
*Dean, College of the Arts*

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College of the Arts  
Kennesaw State University  
Box #3101  
471 Bartow Avenue NW  
Kennesaw, GA 30144  
470-578-3214

Daniel S. Papp  
President

W. Ken Harmon  
Provost/  
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Patricia S. Poulter  
Dean, College of the Arts

Harrison Long  
Interim Associate Dean, College of the Arts

Samuel Grant Robinson  
Assistant Dean, College of the Arts

Michael Alexander  
Interim Director, School of Music

Geo Sipp, Director  
School of Art and Design

Karen Robinson  
Interim Chair,  
Theatre & Performance Studies

Ivan Pulinkala  
Chair, Department of Dance

Kathie Beckett  
Director,  
Marketing and Communications

Joshua Stone  
Designer

Shane McDonald  
Photographer

Brenda Curtis  
Production Assistant

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**On the Cover:**  
Fostering a culture of innovation  
has led to remarkable growth for the  
Department of Dance.  
*photo: Robert Pack*

Upcoming

# EVENTS



## Art & Design: **Spring Arts Festival, April 18, 2015**

It may be cold now, but spring planning is already underway at Kennesaw State University College of the Arts. The second annual **Spring Arts Festival** is now scheduled for **Saturday, April 18, 2015**. Open to the public, the Festival will feature music, food, dance and, of course, art. Don't miss the iron pour metal casting event or a scavenger hunt through campus museum collections.

The Spring Festival is a great opportunity for the public to learn more about the School of Art and Design and to see the art of students and faculty members, as well as a pin-up show for high school students. It's a fabulous time to explore all types of art.

The event features various events, demonstrations (some hands-on), and workshops. Workshops will be held on photo printing, photography, and augmented reality. Watch painting and portrait drawing demonstrations, and enjoy tours of the Zuckerman Museum of Art and the Visual Arts building.

Patty Poulter, Dean of the College of the Arts, said, "The Spring Festival is a fabulous way to experience the arts in a new way. Take the tours, watch the demonstrations, and participate in the workshops; it will be worth your time. Bring your family, enjoy our campus, and help us celebrate the arts." For more information, visit [arts.kennesaw.edu](http://arts.kennesaw.edu).

## Dance: **KSU Dance Festival April 17-19, 2015**

The KSU Department of Dance will hold its second annual **KSU Dance Festival April 17-19, 2015**. The Festival features master classes taught by KSU faculty and guest artists, adjudicated performances, teacher workshops, and professional performances. The Festival is open to high school-age students from area schools and dance studios. A panel of national adjudicators will select one work for festival recognition, based on artistic and technical merit. All adjudicated works will receive written adjudicator feedback following the festival. For more information, visit [KSUDance.com](http://KSUDance.com).



Robert Peck

## Spring 2015 brings unique and exciting events to the **College of the Arts**

Every year, the College of the Arts showcases its energy and passion through an exciting calendar of events ranging from musical ensemble performances to innovative art exhibits and everything in between. Here are some highlights for Spring 2015.



### Music: School of Music 9th Annual Collage Scholarship Concert February 7, 2015

An evening of exciting and fast-paced vignette performances by over 200 School of Music performers, the 9th Annual Collage Scholarship Concert will feature two performances this year, at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturday, February 7, 2015. *Collage* is the signature production of the School of Music and a primary fundraising event for supporting scholarships for School of Music students.

In addition to the two performances, a public reception and raffle will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Patrons may purchase VIP tickets which include a special reception following the 8 p.m. performance, a silent auction, and premium seating for the event. Special repertoire, seamless transitions between diverse works, and unique lighting and stage design combine to create a truly memorable experience unique in our region.

This cutting edge concert experience highlights the incredible passion and talent of the faculty and students of the KSU School of Music and challenges preconceived notions of what a concert can be. *Collage* showcases the School of Music's mission to educate musicians who innovate, create, and lead their art into the future. Purchase tickets at [MusicKSU.com](http://MusicKSU.com).

### Theatre & Performance Studies: **ARMS AND THE MAN** at Stillwell Theater March 17-22, 2015

Join us for George Bernard Shaw's "**Arms and the Man**" at the Stillwell Theater. Directed by Harrison Long, "Arms and the Man" begins with Captain Bluntschli, a Swiss mercenary on the run, sneaking into a young woman's boudoir, but don't worry. This unlikely hero has shed his weapons in favor of chocolate creams. Shaw's most popular romantic comedy, this play has never seemed more relevant, nor more hilarious. Tickets \$5-20; available at [KSUTheatre.com](http://KSUTheatre.com).





## Meet Mot Thompson Dinos: Martha Thompson Dinos Music Performance Scholarship Honoring Joseph D. Meeks, Dean Emeritus of the College of the Arts

Above: (from left): Patty Poulter, Martha “Mot” Dinos, Michael Alexander, and Joe Meeks

By Kathie Beckett

The School of Music at Kennesaw State University has a new scholarship, thanks to Martha “Mot” Thompson Dinos. This petite powerhouse has been a long time patron of the arts in Atlanta, and now turns her generosity to the College of the Arts. Joe Meeks, former Dean of the College of the Arts and the named honoree, first introduced Mot to the School of Music.

“Mot and I met at a brunch and became instant friends. She was on the Atlanta Opera Board, and I kept telling her about Kennesaw State University.

Soon, she ventured out and came to a few performances,” said Meeks.

*“Just think of how many lives Mot’s gift may touch.”*

Dinos quickly became a regular patron to the School of Music events. She said, “I’ve really enjoyed all of the concerts in

the Bailey Performance Center, and I particularly love the Collage concert and the Star Spangled Spectacular. I am impressed with the depth of the performances, whether it’s an ensemble or a solo.”

An avid music lover, Dinos is a big fan of voice. She said, “I studied voice, but I did not have ‘it’ so I changed to science, which was a lot easier, but the

voice is such a wonderful instrument.” She’s also a piano player, although she jokes that it’s “just in C.” When pressed to pick a favorite instrument, she chooses the violin.

It only made sense to her to contribute to the School of Music and honor her dear friend Joe. She said, “I like music, and Joe showed me around the School. It inspired me, and I thought, ‘Gee, if I could help at least one of these kids go on to do better things, it would be a super thing for me to do.’” She chose to honor Joe because “he has done a lot for the School and having his name connected to the scholarship will enhance the attraction. His name denotes forward movement.”

Patty Poulter, Dean of the College of the Arts, said, “Mot’s gift will make such a difference in the lives of our students. Just think of how many lives Mot’s gift may touch.”

Ever so humble, Mot said, “It’s just a pebble in the pond, but I’m glad that I could help. It’s everyone’s responsibility to keep the good things going. There are so many bad things going on out there. We need to help the good things along.”

2013

**Dean's Club Heroes (\$100,000 +)**

Bobbie Bailey Foundation

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**Dean's Club (\$5,000-\$9,999)**Georgia Symphony Orchestra  
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Jo Ann Durham and Leo Perras

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2014

**Dean's Club Benefactors (\$25,000-\$99,999)**Anonymous  
Martha "Mot" Dinos**Dean's Club Patrons (\$10,000 - \$24,999)**

Georgia Symphony Orchestra

**Dean's Club (\$5,000-\$9,999)**Anonymous  
Dr. M. Bobbie Bailey  
William and Nina Beddingfield  
Sanford Cohn  
John and Linda Cooke  
Jo Ann Durham and Leo Perras  
Judith Ann Miller  
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Zachary DeVos

Gifts of \$100 and more to the College of the Arts made between January 1–December 31, 2013 and January 1–December 31, 2014 are included. Gifts at all levels are listed in the electronic edition of Flourish, available online at [arts.kennesaw.edu](http://arts.kennesaw.edu).



# Supporting THE ARTS

Above: (from left)  
Natalie Barrow, Pam Hubby,  
Dan Papp and Patty Poulter

## ArtsBridge Foundation and Kennesaw State University's College of the Arts Announce Partnership Expansion

New collaboration will enhance arts education outreach

**A**rtsBridge Foundation, the arts education outreach arm of Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre and Kennesaw State University College of the Arts, signed a memorandum of understanding on October 17 outlining a new collaborative effort to create programs that will enhance arts education opportunities for our region's students.

"We are excited about this new strategic project which will expand the relationship we already have with KSU's College of the Arts," said Pam Hubby, Director of Development, ArtsBridge Foundation. "For five years they have been an anchor in our ArtsBridge Field Trip Season, presenting "Synergy," a multi-disciplined arts montage showcasing the talented students and faculty in the College of the Arts."

Through this collaboration, ArtsBridge and KSU will expand arts education and talent development opportunities that will benefit not only high school and college students, but also the broader community. "The College of the Arts is looking forward to this partnership and its potential to impact the arts," said Dr. Patty Poulter, Dean of the College. "Our faculty will bring ideas and expertise to enhance ArtsBridge programming to include new master classes, auditioning, and other technical programs to support students' interests in dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts."

KSU's College of the Arts students will also be able to intern with the Foundation and the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Center. Natalie Barrow, Director of Arts Education and Community Outreach for ArtsBridge Foundation, will oversee the internship project.

New programs resulting from this partnership will be announced soon as part of ArtsBridge's 2014-2015 Season.

### About ArtsBridge Education Programs

Built in collaboration with leading local, national and international arts organizations, ArtsBridge provides quality arts education programs designed to engage, motivate and elevate our next generation of artists and arts supporters. Since 2007, more than 240,000 public, private and homeschooled students and teachers

have attended Field Trips to the Cobb Energy Centre, participated in The Georgia High School Musical Theater Awards - The Shulers, and been engaged through Master Classes, Workshops and Artists-In-Schools Programs. For more information please visit [www.artsbridgeGA.org](http://www.artsbridgeGA.org).



### About ArtsBridge Foundation

ArtsBridge Foundation, formerly the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, is charged with securing financial resources for ArtsBridge, the Foundation's arts education and community outreach programs. The Foundation welcomes individual and corporate contributions and gifts in support of these objectives.





## Academic Resource Center for Students

By Kathie Beckett

The newly opened Academic Resource Center for Students or ARCS isn't your typical advising center within a college. Instead, it is a resource center designed to assist students with whatever problems or issues they may face.

Samuel Robinson, Assistant Dean of the College of the Arts and Director of ARCS, said, "What we do is fill in the gaps between academic advising and everything else. We do some academic advising, but it's not our primary function."

Instead, the new center deals with the sometimes incredibly complex situations of students' daily lives. Christine Collins, Admission Coordinator, said, "We constantly ask ourselves, 'what does this student need to successfully move forward?' We try to help them past as many roadblocks as possible."

Robinson said, "We've already talked to a number of students who have been experiencing financial difficulty—to the point that they had been disenrolled—and we were able to help get them back into their classes. We've helped others who are having trouble getting to and from campus, who have trouble sleeping or have eating disorders. We know where to send them so they can get the help they need."

Using a graduation coach model, ARCS takes a holistic look at the college experience. Students are often referred to the appropriate resources on campus, perhaps Counseling and Psychological Services, financial aid, CARE (formerly Feed the Future) or even career services.

"Erin Stapleton from Career Services comes in two days a week for our students to discuss resumes, placement, internships, and even career referrals," said Collins.

Robinson said, "In the spring, we're hoping to work with the Collegiate Recovery Center to do risk education awareness for our students to help them assess their risk for addiction. We also hope to broaden our partnerships with other student services across campus and elsewhere."

ARCS' main goal is to meet students where they are, and help them gain the skills they need to be successful.

Dr. Patty Poulter, Dean of the College of the Arts, said, "We are very fortunate because our students have a close mentoring relationship with faculty members. The professor may help with academic issues, but it's harder for them to help with life issues. So, ARCS is a place where students may get that additional assistance in a culture of care and mentorship. It's paid off as the student learns to integrate the classroom and daily life."





## Atlanta Symphony Orchestra performs at KSU

By Dan Hesketh

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's 70th season as one of the Southeast's leading cultural institutions is currently underway, but due to the expiration of the musicians' labor contract in early September 2014, opening night did not happen exactly as planned. On September 26, 2014, one night after the scheduled first performance of the orchestra's 2014-15 season, the musicians of the ASO, independent of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra organization, performed two free concerts at Kennesaw State in the School of Music's Dr. Bobbie Bailey and Family Performance Center.

*Opening night did not happen exactly as planned...*

Over an hour before the beginning of the first concert, the line to enter the first-come, first-served performances had already formed and was extending hundreds of people long down the sidewalk beside the venue. The Bailey Center's Morgan Hall was filled to capacity for both concerts as the ASO musicians, led by conductor Michael Palmer, played Beethoven's Overture to Egmont and Dvorak's Symphony No. 7 to multiple ovations from the excited and appreciative audiences.

The two concerts at KSU were a huge success for the ASO musicians and the School of Music and provided the opportunity for members of the

community to hear these amazing performers and rally behind Atlanta's world-class symphony orchestra. The collaboration was born out of and served to further highlight the strong relationship between the School of Music and the musicians of the ASO, many of whom are either School of Music faculty members or regular guests on campus to perform and work with students.

On November 8, the ASO and its musicians signed a new labor agreement and were able to resume their 70th season the following week on November 13. As part of the 2014-15 season, the Atlanta Symphony returns to KSU for two performances in Spring 2015. On Friday, January 16, the orchestra was joined by conductor Marin Alsop, the first female music director of a major American orchestra, and violin soloist Julian Rachlin, to perform works by Barber, Prokofiev, and Tchaikovsky. On March 20, conductor Jacomo Bairos will lead the ASO for a special program featuring classical guitarist Miloš Karadaglić performing Rodrigo's *Fantasia para un gentilhombre* originally written for the "grand master of classical guitar" himself, Andrés Segovia.

*For more information about the School of Music and the upcoming ASO performances, please visit [musicKSU.com](http://musicKSU.com).*



By Kathie Beckett

**F**ootball will arrive at Kennesaw State University in fall 2015, and will be complemented by a full marching band.



Dr. Debra Traficante, Director of Athletic Bands, will direct “The Marching Owls,” a corps-style marching band with colorguard which will play a major role in the game day atmosphere during KSU home games.

“We cannot be more excited about the start of our upcoming marching band,” Traficante said. “It is an honor and privilege to be the first director of a group such as this, and it is something that I do not take lightly.”

Dr. David Kehler, Director of Bands, said, “The Marching Band will be the largest student group on campus. When it debuts at the first home game, people are going to be shocked at the quality.”

Starting a brand new marching band program has its challenges, though. Kehler said, “Our challenge and plan is not to have the band grow into excellence, but to have a first class product on day one. And that means a full, large ensemble; we don’t want to take three years to build the program. It must be great from the first day.”

Traficante added, “We are inserting a new culture into an already existing culture. And so, because marching band does not already exist here, there are challenges

with unique learning curves. For example, ‘What does this mean? Where does it fit? How does it coexist?’ The biggest challenge we face is answering those questions.”

The team is clear on its mission, however: to support the team, entertain the fans, and provide a social, emotional, and physical outlet for Kennesaw State students.

Recruitment is key to building the 300-member marching band. To date, Kehler and Traficante have visited 32 high schools and are utilizing social media. The new marching band logo has helped to brand the program.

“The creation of something as traditional as a logo, uniforms, or pregame is no small task,” Traficante said. “We are building our history right now and I am proud of the progress and decisions we are making for future generations of ‘The Marching Owls.’”

Director of Athletics Vaughn Williams said, “Football marks the beginning of new traditions at Kennesaw State, and the Marching Band will be a big part of our game day tradition. They will help us cheer on the team and represent the spirit of KSU Athletics. It’s our time—not only for football—but also for the marching band. Go Owls!”

Information sessions on “The Marching Owls” will be held in the spring beginning February 10, 2015 in the KSU Center at 3 p.m. Register online (<http://bit.ly/1397tSw>) to attend a session in the spring. Follow “The Marching Owls” on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/KSUMarchingOwls>) and Twitter @KSUMarchingOwls



# Fostering Innovation

From its humble beginnings in 2005, the KSU dance program has evolved to become the largest collegiate dance program in Georgia with state-of-the-art dance facilities. Dr. Ivan Pulinkala, chair of the Department of Dance, attributes the growth to fostering a culture of innovation.

Pulinkala said, “The Department of Dance embodies the spirit of innovation that is embryonic to KSU’s culture of growth. Through innovative partnerships, curricular programming, and artistry, we prepare our students physically and intellectually for the professional world of dance.”

Management expert Peter Drucker, as quoted in the “Harvard Business Review,” has defined innovation

as “the act that endows resources with a new capacity to create wealth,” and further, “a change that creates a new dimension of performance.”

In that vein, the Department of Dance has pushed its often-limited resources to glean rich new opportunities for its students. Faculty and staff are constantly reaching for innovative ideas to create new performance dimensions. An innovative mentoring program for students has resulted in dance having some of the highest graduation rates (over 75%) on the KSU campus.

To keep any undertaking fresh, John Hagel, co-chairman of Deloitte’s Center for the Edge, says that “new architectures” are needed, designed to

increase the flow of information and learning inside and outside the organization's walls, according to "Harvard Business Review."

Dance has reached inside and outside its own walls, and developed strategic partnerships that leverage additional resources for students based on purely reciprocal systems of engagement. It has invited national and international visiting artists to KSU to teach and inspire students, as it has done with its successful partnership with the Israeli Consulate, for example.

Community outreach includes the KSU Dance Festival and "Synergy" at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Center, the largest outreach program for Kennesaw State's College of the Arts. Together, these programs reach more than 3,000 students from elementary school to high school. Further, Dance has achieved a national record of four successive invitations to perform at the American College Dance Association at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. making it a leading dance program in the Southeastern U.S.

Partnerships have been key to fostering innovation in Dance. "Our partnerships with Atlanta Ballet, gloATL, Dance Canvas, Cobb Energy Performing Arts Center and the Rialto Center for the Arts give KSU dance students opportunities to perform, choreograph, teach and study at professional venues," said Pulinkala.

He added, "The culture of innovation in the Department of Dance is supported and inspired by an extremely engaged group of faculty and staff. We are proud of our dance students who inhabit our adventurous culture of curricular and artistic innovation with a high level of intellectual curiosity and commitment."

For more information, visit [KSUDance.com](http://KSUDance.com).



### *Largest dance program in Georgia*

- Partnerships with Atlanta Ballet, gloATL, Cobb Energy Center, Dance Canvas, Rialto Center for the Arts, and the Israeli Consulate in Atlanta
- Four successive national invitations by the National American College Dance Association to perform at the Kennedy Center
- Nationally and internationally reputed faculty and guest artists
- State-of-the-art dance facilities at Chastain Pointe that house the largest dance studios in the metro-Atlanta area
- Regionally and nationally acclaimed KSU Dance Company

To learn more about the Department of Dance, please visit [KSUDance.com](http://KSUDance.com).





## Meet Geo Sipp: Arts & Design Director targets graduate marketability

By Chris Barker

The new Director of the School of Art & Design (SOAAD) is on a mission to secure space for new and enhanced programs that will make the University's art and design graduates even more attractive in the marketplace.



In the "age of the right brain," says Geo Sipp, employers are increasingly interested in candidates with fine arts degrees for their ability to think creatively and solve problems in lateral, non-linear ways. Strong communication skills also make SOAAD graduates marketable in Atlanta and other places with Fortune 500 companies. "These are skill sets our students need as they graduate," says Sipp.

Georgia's ascendancy in the film and television industries opens opportunities for graduates, and Sipp hopes that, within a few years, the University will be the state's first university to offer a full undergraduate program in digital animation.

Digital animation may be married to the University's computer gaming program, "making for an extraordinarily strong program" that will attract new students and broaden SOAAD's demographic, he says. Illustrators are needed as well, and animators may find rewarding work in the television, film, graphic design,

journalism, and convergent media (cell phone and computer) industries.

The school needs more space for 3D arts, particularly sculpture and ceramics, which intrinsically require room and currently cannot grow. There is demand, but there is no room for more students, Sipp says. Ceramics students can't make objects to scale "at the one time in their lives when they need to be adventurous, work large-scale and have the space to work," he adds, and there is little storage room, requiring students to take paintings and ceramics home.

A large open space with ventilation, electricity and plumbing for enhanced visual arts programming is also on Sipp's wish list, and he's open to options in creating more space for the School's artists and designers. Additional space for visual and 3D arts will also assist with reaccreditation.

"Kennesaw State has shown a very strong interest in supporting the arts, which are a significant front door to the University, just like athletics. We introduce the community to the University through public performances like athletics or arts events. Once you get on that 'front porch,' you find a myriad of rich and diverse opportunities and coursework that a large university is blessed to have."

"My objective is to build a School of Art and Design that is the go-to choice program for high school students in this state," he says. "I want people to think of us first when they consider an arts education in Georgia."



By Karen Robinson

In the fall of 2013, Department of Theatre and Performance Studies professor Dr. Charles Parrott supervised students in TPS 4010 Storytelling Practicum (known as the KSU Tellers) as they developed and delivered a curriculum for building storytelling skills to the students at the Global Village Project (GVP).

This was the first step in an ongoing project. The GVP girls (as they refer to themselves) are refugees from across the globe who have been placed in Clarkston, Georgia. The school's main mission is to prepare the girls for a traditional high school or GED program. But the faculty also works diligently to develop the girls' self-esteem, communication skills, and creativity. Dr. Parrott and the KSU Tellers visited GVP four times and each time, focused on a different set of storytelling skills.

The KSU Tellers began the project with two primary questions. First, they sought to discover how they could best teach storytelling to students with limited English language skills. Second, and more importantly, they asked: how they could ethically engage performance pedagogy with a sensitive population of refugee girls?

The students created lessons about narrative structures, emotion, and characters that were designed for students with limited English skills. They modeled their approach on Dwight Conquergood's notion of dialogic performance, which "struggles to bring together different voices,

world views, values systems, and beliefs so that they can have a conversation with one another" (9). This approach considers "the subject and object of research as co-subjects" (Pollock 326).

In short, they encountered the girls not as research subjects, but as co-creators of the experience. In addition to teaching storytelling to the girls (and having a great deal of fun along the way), the Tellers and Dr. Parrott kept an inventory of observations, interactions, and feelings they experienced along the way. In student journals and in-class brainstorming sessions, these feelings and memories held the answers to the questions posed.

The final phase in this activity was a panel presentation about the project delivered by four of the KSU Tellers. Hannah Sims, Nick Johnson, Kyle Egelhoff, and Laura Driskill presented their findings at the September 2014 International Association of Service Learning and Community Engagement Conference in New Orleans.

Parrott said, "The IARSLCE conference allowed the students to demonstrate how performance could be used to shared qualitative outcomes of service learning and engagement projects. Several scholars from around the country engaged the students in up-close conversations about their process. This allowed the Tellers out of the classroom to rehearse what it's like to engage in professional scholarly conversation."



## Meet Robert Sherer : Master Artist

By Kathie Beckett

School of Art and Design professor and acclaimed artist Robert Sherer began his art career in 1989 with a flurry of condemnation, censorship, and criticism. Today, his artwork is highly regarded and praised around the world.

Sherer is a multimedia artist/activist who explores race, gender, and sexual identity. Best known for his use of unconventional media (HIV+ blood and pyrography) and for four incidents of art censorship, he has accomplished in the past two

years what most people would like to accomplish in a lifetime.

*I emphasize to my students that they can make a living as working artists.*

Perhaps one of the most significant events for Sherer was that, in the spring of 2013, The High Museum of Art purchased his Blood Works piece *Hookups* from

Kibbee Gallery for their permanent collection. The piece premiered in the *Drawing Inside the Perimeter* exhibition opening on June 26, 2013.

This past June, he and KSU professor Jeff Campana opened the OTP Gallery space for School of Art and Design students at Marketplace 120, a new art and décor business in Marietta, Ga.

He'll exhibit at the *Art, AIDS, America* exhibition, a major national touring exhibition sponsored by a Curatorial Research Fellowship from the Andy Warhold Foundation for the Visual Arts; it is slated to open at the Tacoma Art Museum in

2015. Annually, he exhibits his pyrographs at the prestigious Lyman-Eyer Gallery in Provincetown, Massachusetts, and has done numerous other exhibits.

His art is in demand at auctions and he regularly attends book signings for his book *Blood Works: the Sanguineous Art of Robert Sherer*.

Oh, and he is a painting/drawing professor at the School of Art and Design and also teaches a senior level exhibition course. So, how does he do it all?

The Alabama native said, "I realized back in the 1990's--when my career was taking off--that the biggest problem with being a celebrated artist is that there's too much celebration and not enough art." He made the decision to make his art and studio time a top priority.

Sherer added, "I emphasize to my students that they can make a living as working artists. I realized early on that the world is full of people who are dilettantes. They are moderately accomplished at a wide range of things, but masters of nothing. I decided that I was going to primarily spend my adulthood married to art. For me, art was a religious calling, and I wasn't going to do a shabby job of it. You must prioritize."

Sherer is a great example of the results from prioritizing his art. He has turned his passion into an international career. View his work and learn more at [www.robertsherer.com](http://www.robertsherer.com).





# Savor the Arts Series

By Kathie Beckett

**D**r. Patty Poulter, Dean of the College of the Arts, is now hosting a new lunch-and-learn series for special friends of the College entitled “Savor the Arts.”

Held twice a year, the luncheons focus on a specific topic in the arts. Lunch is served in a different location each time, depending upon the subject matter.

For example, the first luncheon focused on printmaking, and was held on the stage of the Dr. Bobbie Bailey and Family Performance Center. After a lunch served by Kennesaw State Catering Services, art professor and printmaker Valerie Dibble presented on the art of printmaking.

Prior to each luncheon, School of Art and Design students were encouraged to submit a drawing or illustration reflecting that luncheon’s theme. The artist of the winning design was awarded \$500, and the winning design (one for each luncheon) was then pulled as a limited edition print.

The prints are available for a donation of \$100 or more and proceeds will support College of the Arts scholarships. The top

three designs for each series were made into notecards for donors, patrons, and friends of the College.

Dr. Poulter said, “The Savor the Arts series has been a great way for our supporters to learn more about what we do on a daily basis at the College of the Arts. It’s been great fun to share our passion with our patrons.”

The second luncheon focused on the art of choreography and was held in the large studio of the Department of Dance. Dr. Ivan Pulinkala and two students demonstrated the art of choreography through dance, and Dr. Poulter was set on fire.

Well, not really set on fire; it was a stage illusion created for use in the sold-out dance concert “Pyromania” held in November. Dr. Poulter good-naturedly agreed to participate in the theatrics, much to the delight of the crowd.

The next luncheon in spring 2015 will focus on theatre, and will be held in the Stillwell Theater.

To obtain a print, please call Brenda Curtis at 470-578-3214.



### Winners of the first art contest are:

- Top Design:** “Printmaking Spirit” by Manami Lingerfelt
- Runner-up:** “Savor the Arts” by Sydney Privitera
- Runner-up:** “Taking Flight” by Leann Alame

### Winners of the second art contest are:

- Top Design:** “Peacock” by Leann Alame
- Runner-up:** “The Delicate Balance of Dance” by Sydney Privitera
- Runner-up:** “Pressure” by Leeann Alame



Robert Pack

# International Activities

## Fulbright Scholar: Nepal

Professor Lin Hightower of the School of Art and Design received her second US Fulbright grant award. She was the first faculty member in the KSU College of the Arts to receive a Fulbright award in 2013 and this second Fulbright is the more prestigious award of Senior Scholar.

Dr. Hightower has a unique specialty of combining art and design skills with art career business skills to preserve intangible visual arts cultural heritage. Her teaching assists higher education art and business majors develop essential skills to establish art cooperatives, which will create sustainable fair living wages income for low-income artisans who practice the rich historical art and craft techniques of their cultures. In Nepal she is teaching art product design and art career business skills with Katmandu University, pursuing research on the early success indicators of artisan cooperatives and working as an artist/designer and consultant to the Association of Craft Producers.

## Chen Yi CD: China

Chinese composer Chen Yi was chosen as the Featured Guest Composer for the School of Music's annual Kennesaw State Festival of New Music that took place in February 2014. In partnership with Kennesaw State University's Confucius Institute, the School of Music was able to bring Dr. Chen to campus during the festival to present lectures about Chinese music and culture and to work with School of Music student musicians who were learning her music. In addition to Dr. Chen's visit to KSU, the School of Music recorded an album of Chen Yi's music titled *Chinese Rap* featuring performances by the KSU Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, and Chamber Singers. The piece that lends its name to the title of the album, *Chinese Rap for Violin and Orchestra*, was written to celebrate Helen Kim's, soloist and Associate Professor of Violin, 10th year at KSU and was given its World Premiere by the KSU Symphony Orchestra during the festival.



Kathie Becker

## Gaiety School of Acting: Ireland

Department of Theatre and Performance Studies students participated in Irish Drama at the Gaiety School of Acting, the National Theatre School of Ireland, a four-week summer intensive study of Irish drama and practical acting classes.

The school, located in Dublin's major arts and entertainment district, focuses on the work of four major Irish playwrights: Samuel Beckett, John Millington Synge, Sean O'Casey, and Brian Friel. The program is carefully designed to place the writers in both a theatrical and cultural context, developing an understanding of the historical and literary background of selected texts from each writer. The program culminates in a final evening showcase of selected scenes from the various plays.

The dates for summer 2015 are June 29 through July 24 with the application due March 4, 2015. To learn more, visit [www.KSUTheatre.com](http://www.KSUTheatre.com).



American Civil Rights Drama  
(performed in English!)

# Night Blooms

Von: Margaret Baldwin  
Regie: Karen Robinson

Gesponsert von Halle Foundation, Atlanta, Georgia



## Award winning theatre: Germany

In May 2014, Margaret Baldwin, Karen Robinson of the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, along with TPS alumnus Meagan Dilworth and TPS major Meg Harkins, traveled to Germany for an intercultural exchange centering on Night Blooms, Baldwin's award-winning American Civil Rights drama set in Selma, Alabama. During the residency, Robinson directed a staged reading of Baldwin's play with an international cast that featured students, faculty, and alumni from KSU and Universität Paderborn. Three performances of Night Blooms played to sold-out audiences at Theatre Paderborn and at the university's studio theatre. Baldwin also traveled to southern Germany, where she gave a guest lecture on Night Blooms at the Universität Tübingen. The KSU-Paderborn exchange, residency, and performances were made possible with generous funding from The Halle Foundation, with additional support from the KSU College of the Arts. The next chapter of this intercultural exchange will bring students from Paderborn to KSU in February 2015 to collaborate with students from TPS and the KSU Department of Foreign Languages on an exploration of the German play Woyzeck, by Georg Büchner.



## Printmaking techniques: Japan

In May of 2014, a group of KSU students went to Japan on a study abroad trip to study advanced printmaking techniques. Before the trip, the students worked on printmaking units that were combined with Japanese language components. They learned about Japanese language and culture as well as advanced relief wood block printing. The program combined the studies into a service-learning project where the students printed relief language blocks and worked with Japanese students practicing English. They visited universities and art studios on the trip and printed with the Japanese community. The language

practice was facilitated through the use of printmaking activities designed to encourage conversation, cultural understanding and social interaction between the two different cultural groups. The students also researched traditional Japanese patterns and techniques and incorporated them into the block designs. Valerie Dibble and Debbie Hutchinson represented the Visual Art department on this trip. After the trip, the students continued printing and held an exhibition of the prints at the Art Station at Big Shanty in September 2014. There will be more exhibits of this work in 2015.



## Meet Zac Evans: Passionate about Music

By Kathie Beckett

Recent Kennesaw State University School of Music graduate Zac Evans has been awarded a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation scholarship. The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Arts Award is given to only 20 recipients each year. Evans is the first Kennesaw State student to receive this award.

Evans graduated magna cum laude from the School of Music with a Bachelor of Music in performance with a concentration in saxophone in spring 2013. He plans to pursue his master's degree in jazz composition at the University of Texas in the fall.

The leading graduate scholarship in the nation for the visual arts, performing arts and creative writing, the Graduate Arts Award provides up to \$50,000 per year for up to three years for exceptional students with financial need to study at an accredited graduate institution in the U.S. or abroad.

"We believe that society is enriched through art and our most exceptional artists should be able to develop and share their talents, regardless of their financial means," said Emily Froimson, vice president of programs at the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. "By removing a financial obstacle, our award will allow these students to focus on studying and honing their crafts."

In its fourth year, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Arts Award elicited 320 applications and portfolios from students in 41 states and the District of Columbia. The 20 finalists represent just 7 percent of the total applicant pool. They were selected by a 38-member panel of experienced artists and arts educators in the fields of music, dance, theater, creative writing, visual arts and film.

Patricia Poulter, dean of Kennesaw State's College of the Arts,

said, "Zac's story is incredible; it's filled with challenges and obstacles that would have stopped a lesser-motivated person from moving forward."

Evans' creative side may be best displayed in his band Monkier, composed of several Kennesaw State alumni. Monkier is largely representative of Evans' talent and innovation as a musician. He combines hip-hop and jazz in a way he said had not been done before.

According to Evans, "Monkier's use of odd-meter rapping, interesting instrumental parts and solo sections sets the band apart as original and innovative."

Evans said he credits his musical success to his KSU professors, including Sam Skelton, Trey Wright and Mike Alexander.

"Zac embodies what is best about the School of Music," said Alexander, interim director of the KSU School of Music. "His creativity, work ethic and ability to see all of the possibilities of any opportunity that presents itself will certainly put him in a position to succeed in his career."

### ABOUT JACK KENT COOKE FOUNDATION

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation is a private, independent foundation dedicated to advancing the education of exceptionally promising students who have financial need. Because we believe that high-potential, low-income students will excel educationally when given the resources to develop their talents, the Foundation supports exceptional students from elementary school to graduate school through scholarships, grants, direct service, and knowledge creation and dissemination. Founded in 2000 by the estate of Jack Kent Cooke, the Foundation has awarded \$120 million for over 2,000 scholarships and \$76 million in grants to organizations that support our mission. [www.jkcf.org](http://www.jkcf.org)

## ART & DESIGN

### FACULTY/STAFF

**Joe Thomas, Don Robinson, and Diana Gregory** presented "SoTL in Visual Arts: A Portrait in Creativity" at the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSOTL) in Quebec. **Sam Robinson** and **Matt Haffner** also contributed to the presentation. Learn more: <http://bit.ly/1r1yeqo>.

**Joe Thomas** co-chaired (with Elizabeth Pilliod, Rutgers University-Camden) a session at the College Art Association national meeting in Chicago in February, 2014: "The Erotic Gaze in Early Modern Europe." He also curated the exhibition "Virginia Dudley and American Modernism" for the Zuckerman Museum of Art, July-August 2014.

**Kristine Hwang's** student group project and her own design works won awards at the 2014 American Graphic Design Awards: 1. Group Project of "The Anatomical Dissection of Type" E-book won from Graphic Design USA. Student designers: Daniela Dewendt, Laura Zerlin, Emily Seed, Greg Thyne, and Taylor White; 2. Her SOAAD Spring Festival Promotional Poster won an American Graphic Design Award from Graphic Design USA; 3. Her logo design of Sub City won an American Graphic Design Award from Graphic Design USA.

**Matt Haffner** keeps a blog for his photo students with info about exhibition opportunities, calls for proposals, grant opportunities, interesting articles, internships, etc. It also has tons of links to art review web sites, art supply stores, local galleries, art sites for inspiration, and more. He has recently changed it around a bit to serve more all studio art, graphic design, and art history majors. <http://dubblxposure.blogspot.com/>

**Sandra Bird** gave a presentation for the Year of the Arabian Peninsula Lecture Series at the KSU Social Science building on 8/28 entitled, "The Maqamat of al-Hariri: A Medieval Pictorial Travelogue." The presentation examines collections of ancient stories that have been told and retold throughout the Muslim world since the 10th century.

**Ruth Dussault** is working on a three-year documentary film project visiting remote maker communities that combine ecological primitivism with open source tools to purport a vision of economic equity. She was also featured in the *The Places Journal* publication (UC Berkeley) with her photography survey of homemade recreational battlefields, "Play War." She also has a print commission in the current issue of *Art Papers*.

**April Munson** and **Lindsey Archer** presented a paper, "Shifting Directions in the Arts: Building Quality Online Courses and Degree Programs," at an international conference in Geneva, Switzerland.

**Page Burch** has been asked to be on the Steering Committee and to run the 2015 National Conference on Cast Iron Art in Birmingham, Alabama. He will be Co-Chairing the performances for the conference as well.

**Dan Sachs** has had a busy year, including a show at the Avenier Collection in Marietta; "Prowess" at Artevaggio Gallery in Duluth; "Depiction" at Artevaggio Gallery; "(Ex)Communicated," at Auburn University; Nerdacon, Columbus State University; Show at Studio on the Square. He also had work in the Faculty Show, as well as in the Artist Series at the Zuckerman Museum of Art. His papers, Alfred Thompson Bricher's "A Pensive Moment" and Winslow Homer's "The New Novel" were accepted for presentation to the Arts in Society International Annual Conference in London in Spring, 2015.

**Robert Sherer** has raised approx. \$13,000 toward the \$20,000 endowment goal for his LGBT Scholarship Fund.

**Shane McDonald** led the first Community Art Sale, Nov. 6-8, raising \$1200 in new student scholarships. McDonald painted an oil portrait of **Roberta Griffin**. McDonald also created an installation for the Bailey Performance Center atrium. "Real Man" depicts a full-length, life-size nude self-portrait in oils. Interchangeable costumes, each rendered on canvas with oil paints, may be hung on the painting like one adorns a paper doll.

**Kristen Seaman** won an Incentive Award for Research and Creative Activity from the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning to examine excavated sculpture from the Agora in Athens, Greece. She also co-chaired a session at the 2014 Annual Conference of the College Art Association in Chicago.

Professors **Jeff Campana** and **Keith Smith** participated in the 2014 Georgia High School Ceramic Arts Awards and Symposium.

**Deborah Sosower** will be exhibiting in the upcoming WonderRoot CSA 05 Season this spring.

**Jeanne Sperry** has a 70-piece installation of her graphic design work that focuses on spirituality on permanent display at Hillside Celebration Hall, Woodstock, GA.

Led by **Valerie Dibble**, the Visual Arts students participated in a Study Abroad exhibit on "The Visual Language of Japan: Japanese Printmaking". The prints were produced during a service learning printmaking project they conducted while on study abroad this May 2014.

### STUDENTS

**Leann Alame** and **Laura Milum** were accepted into the portfolio exchange "Opposites Attract" with professionals from Atlanta Printmaking Studio.

**Elisha Lent-Powell** and **Brianna Bailey** were recognized by the County Commissioner for their logo designs being chosen for an upcoming green space, Green Meadows Preserve in Paulding County.

**Dr. April Munson's** submission with the MAT cohort *Hair Piece, Hair Peace: An Interrogation of Identity* was accepted for presentation at the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry. MAT students are **Shanna Coulter, Sara Sousa, Kottavei Williams** and **Jamie Richardson**.

**Gia Lopez** had an internship at the Zuckerman Museum of Art.

The following students were selected as award winners of the recently concluded Diversity Art Competition, advised by **Joe Remillard**: 1st place: **Adam Sanford & Meg Daniel**; 2nd place: **Manami Lingerfelt & Shanna Coulter** and 3rd place: **Ryan Benefield & Mandy Holasek**.

**James Gilbert** received the Ted and Roberta Griffin Visual Arts Scholarship for 2014.

**Tony Desantis** is having a one-person exhibition, "Imagination Unleashed" of his prints at the Creative Loft.

**Shannon Broome** presented a paper at the 2014 Collage Colloquium at Agnes Scott College ("Queer Identity in Alan Moore's Watchmen").

**Jane Custer** won a 2014 Flourish Visual Arts scholarship from Kennesaw State's College of the Arts and the 2014 Bernard Osher Re-Entry Scholarship. She also presented a paper at the 2014 Collage Colloquium at Agnes Scott College.

**Angelica Delaney** published two articles in the *Kennesaw Journal of Undergraduate Research*: "Wonder Woman: Feminist Icon of the 1940s" and "Reading Cleopatra VII: The Crafting of a Political Persona."

**Mariah Heilpern** won the 2014 Outstanding Art History Senior Award and a 2014 Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Award from the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at Kennesaw State.

**Dana McKay** is an intern at the Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art, and is undertaking docent training at the Michael C. Carlos Museum.

**Krishna Sarmiento** was selected to participate in the High Museum of Art's competitive Andrew W. Mellon Undergraduate Fellowship Program in Curatorial Training during Summer 2014.

**Angelica Delaney, Ashley Hazel, Monica Russ, and Adam Shroeder** presented papers at the 2014 African and African Diaspora Studies Student Research Conference at Kennesaw State.

**Lauren Bearden, Monisha Bernard, Angelica Delaney, Ashley Hazel, and Mariah Heilpern** presented papers at the 2014 Kennesaw State Symposium of Student Scholars. The Symposium's reception also recognized undergraduate research of **Shannon Broome** and **Jane Custer**.

### ALUMNI

**Aaron Artrip** is Artist in Resident at Red Onion press at the Acworth Cultural Arts Center.

**Monisha Bernard** completed a Certificate in Public History at Kennesaw State in 2014.

**Roxanne Thompson** is employed with Arts Station at Big Shanty as their Arts Coordinator.

**Lauren Bearden** is a graduate student in Art History at Georgia State University. She presented her undergraduate Kennesaw State research at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the American Council

for the Study of Islamic Societies in Augusta, GA ("Disassembling the Roman Mosaic: The Roles of Indigenous Peoples in the Roman Mosaic from Ancient Uthina, Tunisia").

**Judith Murphy** is a graduate student in Public History with Museum Certification at the University of West Georgia. She is working on a MA project for the Georgia Department of Transportation on Woodland through Mississippian era Native Americans at the site of Long Swamp in the Etowah Valley. She also is designing an exhibit on Georgian music from the pre-recorded era for the Atlanta History Center.

**Christopher Neuenschwander** was invited to be a Visiting Artist at West Georgia University where he conducted and completed a large-scale, collaborative wood cut wheat paste project with the print students and faculty. <http://bit.ly/1vfnio>

**Mariah Heilpern** is the Gallery Manager at the ZuCot Gallery in Atlanta.

**Joe Remillard** is proud of alumna **Donna Shiver** who is featured in the current issue of *International Artist* (Jan-/Dec 2015 pg. 12). Her painting, *Rocks and Water*, has been chosen as a finalist in the periodical's Landscape Competition.

## DANCE

**Dr. Ivan Pulinkala** was chosen for the choreographic commission of "RINPOCHE" for Atlanta Ballet's Wabi Sabi as well as a choreographic commission for The Israel Ballet. His article "Partnering for Change in Dance Higher Education" was published in "Research in Dance Education Journal."

**Amanda George** successfully defended her thesis for the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing with an emphasis in poetry from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Her creative thesis is titled "Reconciliation" and craft thesis is titled "Not as Long as the Poetry Heals: An Argument for Poetry as Therapy."

**April Munson** and **Lindsey Archer** presented "Shifting Directions in the Arts: Building Quality Online Courses and Degree Programs," at an international conference in Geneva, Switzerland. Archer also presented another paper at a national conference, *Writing Dancing/Dancing Writing* in Iowa City entitled "Dancing in a House of Cards: Bricological Efforts to Transcend the Limitations of Text."

**Daniel Gwartzman** joined the Dance faculty this August from NYC where he has directed Daniel Gwartzman Dance Company since 1999 and was completing a fifteenth anniversary season at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Together, a commissioned dance, premiered at SUNY Brockport and The University of the South. He is a guest choreographer at The University at Buffalo this year. Volcano premiered on the KSU Dance Company in the fall and was presented by the Alabama Dance Festival. He was awarded a residency this summer by the City University of NY.

## MUSIC

### FACULTY/STAFF

**School of Music** produced the world premiere of "Chinese Rap for Violin and Orchestra" by **Chen Yi**.

**Judy Cole** debuted as a conductor with "Into the Woods" at KSU and Cole recorded with Dr. Oral Moses on a CD of songs to be produced by Dr. Bobbie Bailey.

**David Daly**, along with members of his Coles College Executive MBA team, recently completed a consulting project for Quimica Suiza Industrial (QSI, Inc.) in Lima, Peru, in completion of requirements for the Master of Business Administration degree. As project lead, David directed all communication between the KSU team and QSI officials, and lead the development of the team's strategic recommendations for the firm during their recent residency in Lima. He also graduated from the International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM) Venue Management School at Oglebay.

**Leslie Blackwell** was the headliner clinician for the Kentucky American Choral Directors Association 2014 Summer Conference, "The Dance of Conducting: The Art and Meaning of Gesture" in Louisville, KY July 14-16. She gave lectures "Gesture: The Interpretive Dance of Conducting," and taught masterclasses in conducting. She also conducted a workshop and reading session focused on Choral Repertoire for Men's Chorus at Georgia American Choral Directors Association 2014 Summer Conference.

**Chuck Jackson** served on a discussion panel and make a series of six (6) presentations at the Music for All/ Bands of America Summer Symposium at Ball State University in Muncie, IN. Presentation topics included Classroom/Behavior Management for ensemble classes; Flute Fundamentals & Techniques; Clarinet/Saxophone Fundamentals & Techniques; Trumpet Fundamentals & Techniques; Tuba/Euphonium Fundamentals & Techniques; and Percussion Fundamentals & Techniques. The Summer Symposium draws music educators from across the US and abroad.

**Robert Henry** signed a contract with the artist-management firm, Parker Artists, based in New York. Parker Artists will seek to increase his performance and teaching opportunities in the US and around the world. He also performed Gershwin's Concerto in F with the Asuncion Symphony in Asuncion, Paraguay.

**Doug Lindsey** submitted an article to be published in March ITG journal; will solo with the East Hall HS at GMEA this Jan.; received an official Schilke artist endorsement; was accepted into the new works recital and will present a new work at the International Trumpet Guild Conference in 2015. He also performed a duet in concert with Phil Smith with the Georgia Brass Band at UGA.

**Tom Gibson** played the Lion King at Fox, and was interviewed on Newstalk 1160 on his funk group, "Bumpin' the Mango."

**Leah Partridge** performed the role of Musetta in a new production of La Boheme with the Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in October. She also sang the four heroines in the Tales of Hoffman with the Seattle Opera in May 2014. She made her debut in the title role of Carlisle Floyd's Susannah with Ash Lawn Opera in Charlottesville, VA, and has been invited to perform in a benefit concert with Lawrence Brownlee to raise money for the Jessy Norman School of the Arts in Augusta.

**Edward Eanes'** group, Atlanta By Six, performed at Dalton State College on Feb. 4 as part of their Fine Arts and Lecture Series.

**Alison Mann** was appointed to the Southern Division ACDA Executive Team, 2014-2016, and judged the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association state festival. She was selected to present her research based on vocal modeling in the choral classroom at the National American Choral Directors Association National Conference in Salt Lake City, in February. She also conducted/sang at the 2014 C.S. Lewis Summer Choral Institute in Oxford and Cambridge, England.

**Ben Wadsworth** did two book reviews for W.W. Norton; was appointed to first committee in Society for Music Theory (IT), performed with Adam Kirkpatrick and Edward Eanes at the Velvet Note and produced a successful online theory placement test and remedial course fully on Moodle.

**Margaret Grayburn** and **Terri Talley** have served on the Cobb County Elementary Music Report Card Committee, creating rubrics for assessing students from kindergarten thru fifth grade.

**Helen Kim** had a busy season, including performances with The Orchestra of Lorraine in Metz, France; the premiere of Chen Yi concerto with KSU orchestra to be recorded on March 1; KSU Faculty Chamber Players concert with Christina Smith; Atlanta Chamber Players concerts; Concert at the Atlanta Opera Chamber Music Series at The Bremen History Center; and recorded as concertmaster for Joe Gransden's latest CD project.

**Charles Laux** traveled to Quito, Ecuador to observe Rachel Mudgett, a senior music education major, who is student teaching in strings and general music at the Colegio Menor de San Francisco in Cumbaya. In addition to his observations, he guest taught elementary, middle, and high school string classes and gave a presentation to the music faculty about music education technology resources. He also presented numerous sessions at conferences, schools all over the United States. He co-produced a series of pedagogical videos for viola and double bass that will be featured as part of the Essential Elements Interactive website at [www.essentialementeractive.com](http://www.essentialementeractive.com).

**Dan Hesketh** married Mallory Boggs on July 5th. He also successfully launched the new School of Music app.

**Angee McKee** presented a session at The Atlanta Choristers Guild Fall Workshop in September.

**Wes Funderburk** was commissioned by trumpeter Russell Gunn to take 10 of his original songs and expand them for big band. Russell's Krunk Jazz Orkestra, featuring vocalist Dionne Farris, premiered the arrangements on the main stage of the Atlanta Jazz Festival to a crowd of tens of thousands of people. The Joe Gransden Big Band (of which he is the lead trombonist and arranger) performed at the Blue Note jazz club in New York City on July 14th. It was the CD release party of their newest album "Songs of Sinatra and Friends". He was reelected to his second term as governor on the board of the Atlanta Chapter of the The National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences.

**Laurence Sherr's** Holocaust memorial work "Flame Language," for mezzo-soprano, clarinet, cello, percussion, and piano, was performed on January 25, 2014 at the New Voices @ CUA Festival in Washington, DC. Sherr's work was chosen from a national pool of applicants for this festival of new music for voice at The Benjamin T Rome School of Music at The Catholic University of America. While in DC for the festival, Sherr pursued research on Holocaust music in the collections of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. His short piano work Brook by the Pagoda was performed at the Swedenborgian Church in San Francisco.

**Kayleen Justus** authored a content entry about the history of music in the Caribbean for a new Encyclopedia of Ethnomusicology that is slated for publication by the SAGE publishing house in 2016. She has also been invited to travel to Trinidad in January to compete in the national steel band competition with one of the country's top ensembles.

**Sam Skelton** received kudos from Dr. Janice Crews of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra on his students.

**John Warren** has been asked by John Cipolla, president of the International Clarinet Association, to coordinate the 2015 and 2016 ICA High School Clarinet Competition. Each year, the ICA hold a high school, a young artists (twenty-somethings), an orchestral, and a research competition. As coordinator for the high school competition, John will oversee all aspects of the competition, from choosing literature, seating prelim and final jury panels, handling all communications with applicants, and conducting the auditions at the conference. The 2015 conference will be held in Madrid, and 2016 will be back in the USA. Also, his application for the Excel Leadership Program in May has been accepted.

**June Mauer** noted that we surpassed the projected ad revenue of \$7,000 and have sold ads worth \$10,650.00 for this academic year.

**Trey Wright** performed a master class and recital at the Georgia Guitar Festival held at the University of North Georgia and gave a clinic at GMEA titled "Introduction to Jazz Guitar" and performed in the GMEA Jazz Band Reading Session. Students from **KSU Freshman Jazz Combo** performed at a packed house at Churchill Grounds in downtown Atlanta. Special thanks to **Justin Chesarek** and **Sam Skelton** for their help. Wright also performed a faculty recital of original works with the Trey Wright Trio, and was selected as one of the recipients of the College of the Arts Online Initiative Grant. In addition to teaching MUSI 3314, The History of Rock and Roll, he completed the COTA Online Course Development Boot Camp in May and had his online Jazz History course approved through Quality Matters. In early August he recorded a CD of original compositions (featuring KSU Faculty members Sam Skelton and Marc Miller) to be released on Blue Canoe Records in early 2015.

**Soohyun Yun** was selected to receive a 2013-2014 COTA Research and Creative Activity Travel Award. She also adjudicated at Shorter University Knight Performance Scholarship Competition and attended the Piano Pedagogy Symposium at UGA. Yun will present lectures and master classes at venues including Korean Association of Piano Pedagogy Annual Conference, Pianissimo-Musical Arts, Baekseok University, Soong-Eue Women's University and Baekseok Conservatory in Seoul, Korea in May. Yun contributed as one of the Translation Team on the Piano Repertoire Guide: Intermediate and Advanced Literature, the forthcoming first Korean edition, Se-Kwang Music Publishing Co., 2015, Seoul, Korea (August-October, 2014). She also published a book review on "The Piano Solos in Lyrical Style by Carolyn Miller, Hal Leonard, 2014", MTNA American Music Teacher, October/November Issue 2014.

**Jeff Yunek** lead the 2014 meeting of the South Central Society for Music Theory at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, MS and was re-elected as President for the next two years.

**Mary Akerman** and KSU, along with the Atlanta Guitar Guild, hosted the Austin Guitar Society's first teacher training seminar in the Southeast utilizing their groundbreaking system for classroom guitar study, [Guitarcurriculum.org](http://Guitarcurriculum.org). We had 20 educators from metro-Atlanta, South Carolina, and Canada studying with the Austin team.

**Jana Young** performed a song recital for the inaugural season of the Blue Ridge Chamber Music Festival in June. This festival featured the Bergonzi String Quartet, Pulse Trio and an Evening of Song, featuring Appalachian Folk songs arranged for voice, violin and piano. Ms. Young was appointed to the Festival Board and was featured in two gala events in October. She also taught and coached young operatic artists from Boston Conservatory, Colorado State University, Ithaca College, University of Southern Mississippi and University of Central Florida as a faculty member for the International Performing Arts Institute in Kiefersfelden, Germany outside of Munich.

### STUDENTS

Jazz performance students **Patrick Arthur**, **Michael Optiz** and **Brandon Boone** performed at the Georgia Music Hall of Fame awards show broadcast live on GPB. Each student also received a scholarship.

**Beth Anne Ake**, **Haley Myers**, **Soyoun Sheehan** and **Ai Nguyen** participated in GMTA Collegiate Meeting as representatives of KSU-MTNA.

**KSU-MTNA** organized "Fall Festival" for 15 local pre-college piano students to perform a recital and to participate in music activities.

**Beth Anne Ake** and **Soyoun Sheehan** performed solos and a duet at the Atlanta Steinway Society's Gala in 103 West as KSU Steinway Scholarship Winners.

**Christian Artieda** is Academic Director at Canzon Institute of Atlanta. He oversees music and arts classes for over 100 students in addition to teaching Music Theory classes.

**Chris Campbell** performed in two concerts as a member of the Atlanta Guitar Orchestra at Georgia Perimeter College and at St. Luke's Cathedral. He and **Mary Akerman** performed a duet.

**Vanessa Burnham** was given an internship at the Atlanta Opera for this fall semester working on the production of Madama Butterfly as well as learning about other aspects of running an opera house.

**Kadeem Chambers** was featured on the audio track for the new movie, "Drumline: A New Beat."

**Erik Kosman** taught the Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps, and received the silver medal at the Drum Corps International World Championships in Indianapolis. **Tyler Elvidge** marched with The Cavaliers Drum & Bugle Corps.

Recipients of KSU School of Music Summer Music Festival Stipends: **Ryan Gregory**, Orchestra Institute for 2014 Miami Summer Music Festival. **Shelby Jones**, Monteux Orchestral Program. **Sara Knapp**, Conn-Selmer Institute. **Joseph Poole**, Southeast Trombone Symposium. **Mudussir Quraishi**, Conn-Selmer Institute and 2014 Summer Symposium SWAG Team. **Leah Sexton**, International Performing Arts Institute. **John Thomas Burson** **Justin Rowan**, **David Anders**, **Michael Lockwood** and **Melinda Mason**, Spectrum Brass Seminar at Bayview Music Festival.

**Rachel Stein** worked as a counselor at Eagle's Nest Camp, a wilderness and arts camp for children Pisgah Forest, North Carolina. Also directed the musical "Into the Woods Jr."

**Chiaman Tang** attended the Franklin Pond College Chamber Music Festival.

### ALUMNI

**Sam Skelton's** and **Trey Wright's** former student **Zac Evans** was revived in Creative loafing: <http://clatf.com/cr/notes/archives/2014/04/17>

**Mia Athanas** was hired as the Assistant Band Director at Mabry Middle School. **Tory Bethune** was hired at P.B. Ritch Middle School, Paulding County. **Megan Burton** was hired at Austell Elementary School, Cobb County. **Amanda Esposito** was hired at Riverside Primary School, Cobb County. **Jon Fallis** was hired at Duluth Middle School, Gwinnett County. **Ian Kennel** was hired at McNair Middle School, Fulton County. **Anthony Mancini** was hired at Newton County Theme School at Floquett. **Lisa Mason** was hired at Riverwatch Middle School, Forsyth County. **Drew Paller** was hired at Pine Mountain Middle School, Cobb County.

**Zac Evans** was awarded a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship. The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Arts Award is given to only 20 recipients each year. Evans is the first Kennesaw State student to receive this award.

## THEATRE & PERFORMANCE STUDIES

### FACULTY/STAFF

**Melanie Martin Long** recently completed a DVD course entitled "Mastering Your Stage Presence" for The Great Courses series by The Teaching Company. Her musical adaptation of *The Frog Prince* received its world premiere at Georgia Shakespeare Festival in July of 2014.

**Jamie Bullins** had a busy 2014 with the following: "Invasion: It's a Wonderful Laugh," scene design, Dad's Garage/Alliance Theatre; "Courage," scene design, The Alliance TYF; "Pump Boys and Dinettes," scene design, Georgia Ensemble Theatre; "Same Time, Next Year," costume design, True Colors Theatre Company; "3rd Annual Atlanta One Minute Play Festival," director (9), Actor's Express; "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz," costume design, Serenbe Playhouse. "Gutenberg, the Musical," scene design, Dad's Garage Theatre. In 2013, he did "Everyone's Carol: A Christmas Carol," design/direction/producer, Abingdon Theatre, NYC; "Invasion: Christmas Carol," scene design, Dad's Garage Theatre; and "Grimm Lives of the Inbetweens," scene design, The Alliance TYF.

**John Gentile** took a group of students to study Irish Drama at the Gaiety School of Acting, the National Theatre School of Ireland. Students enjoyed a four-week summer intensive study of Irish drama and practical acting classes, including scene study, voice work, movement, and seminars in textual analysis and historical and cultural context. The Gaiety School of Acting is the National Theatre School of Ireland and holds an international reputation for excellence.

**Harrison Long** starred in *Out of Hand Theatre's* production of *Red Rabbit White Rabbit* by Nassim Soleimanpour. He was also selected to serve as Interim Associate Dean for the College of the Arts.

**Jan Wikstrom** served as Dialect Coach for Georgia Shakespeare's production of "One Man Two Guvnors."

**Meagan Dilworth** began the M.A. program in Theatre Education at Emerson College in August 2014.

**Rebecca Kling** was cast in the new ABC series "Manhattan Love Story."

**Justin Anderson** directed "Driving Miss Daisy," the award-winning "Mary Poppins" at Aurora Theatre and "Lyle the Crocodile" at Synchronicity Theatre.

TPS faculty **Margaret Baldwin Pendergrass**, **Karen Robinson**, alumna **Meagan Dilworth**, and current student **Meg Harkins** traveled to Paderborn University in Germany and produced three performances of a staged reading of Baldwin's play "Night Blooms" with an international cast that included the TPS team and

UPB students and faculty from Scotland, India, and Germany.

**Ming Chen** presented at a conference in Warwick, England.

**Shannon Eubanks** will appear in the Alliance Theatre's world premiere of "Tuck Everlasting."

**Charles Parrott** led in a presented at the International Association for Service Learning and Community Engagement and the National Communication Association Conferences in fall 2014.

**Rebecca Makus** designed a world premier of a piece choreographed by John McFall for the Atlanta Ballet, and presented at the spring 2014 Southeastern Theatre Conference.

**Karen Robinson** and students acting in TPS's spring 2014 production of "Ruined" opened 2014 The Phenomenal Women's Conference, sponsored by the Center for Ethics and Leadership with performances from the play and a panel discussion focused on women and leadership.

### STUDENTS

**Drew Hale** produced a short film entitled "Man in the Trunk" that is currently in the film festival circuit. He has moved to Hollywood from NYC and signed with a talent and literary agency. Learn more: <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm4620079/>

**Anita Bennett, Anterior Leverett, Damian Lockhart,** and **James Smith** performed excerpts of "Ruined" as part of Friends of the Congo week at Morehouse College.

**Anita Bennett, Anterior Leverett, DaShon Greene, and Avery Sharpe** performed excerpts from the play "Ruined" at KSU's 2014 African and African Diaspora Studies Student Research Conference in March.

**Joseph Pendergrast** appeared in Aurora Theatre's production of "Mary Poppins" in August 2014, and in Synchronicity Theatre's production of "Lyle the Crocodile" (November-December 2014).

**Stacey Melich** performed the leading role in the world premiere of "The Doctor, the Devil, and My Dad" at 7 Stages Theatre in October 2014.

**Damian Lockhart** served as Assistant to the Director for Todd Kreidler's production of "How I Learned What I Learned" starring Eugene Lee at Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre Company in October 2014.

**Laura Driskill, Kyle Egelhoff, Nick Johnson,** and **Hanna Sims** presented a panel on teaching storytelling at the Global Village Project at the fall 2014 International Association for Service Learning and Community Engagement Conference in New Orleans.

**Ashley Schomburg, Emily Stembridge,** and **Corinne Weintraub** teach theatre for children at Jitterbug Performing Arts.

**Casey Orlando** is Assistant Stage Manager for "Lyle the Crocodile" at Synchronicity Theatre.

**Lindsay Ross** won Second Place in Lower Level (1-2 years of college study), College Musical Theatre Women at the National Association for Teachers of Singing conference in October 2014.

### ALUMNI

**Qate Bean** is the House Manager at Georgia Ensemble Theatre Company.

**Corey Bradberry** began the M.F.A. program in Directing at University of Southern Mississippi in fall 2014.

**Zachary Bromberg, Josh Brook, Andrew Crigler, Phillip Justman, Rose Alexander,** and **Regina McCray** appeared in SAIAH Arts International's production of *Terminus* at the Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve in Decatur, Georgia.

**Ariel Gratch** was hired as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English and Rhetoric at Georgia College and State University in August 2014. He has an essay being published by Communication Teacher in April 2015.

**Lark Hylton Honrine** is pursuing a Masters in Education at Kennesaw State University.

**Blaire Hillman** performed in "Curious Encounters 2" at 7 Stages and "How to Survive Being Human" produced by Ex Somnium. Blaire teaches at Jitterbug Performing Arts founded by TPS alum Lindsay (Creedon) Prather.

After traveling the country to study similar initiatives, **Elizabeth Jarrett** has launched Common Ground, a creative place-making initiative focused on repurposing unused outdoor spaces in various Atlanta neighborhoods. Its first major event, the Phoenix Festival—a day of music, literature, and art—took place at the Urban Sprout Farm on November 15, 2014.

**Mariam Khalid and Phillip Justman** of SAIAH Arts International, garnered five of Creative Loafing's Best of ATL awards for their immersive theatre piece *Terminus* at the Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve.

**Matt Lewis** acted at the Texas Shakespeare Festival in Summer 2014.

**Steven Love** is a staff electrician at the Alliance Theatre.

**Haylee Scott** continues as stage management apprentice at the Alliance Theatre.

**Audra Pagano** has joined the sales team at 11 Alive.

**Erik Teague** designed costumes for Actor's Express productions of *Rocky Horror Picture Show* and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. He won a 2014 Suzi Bass Award for Costume Design for "The Navigator," produced by 7 Stages at The Goat Farm.

**Daniel Terry** was nominated for a 2014 Suzi Bass Award for Best Sound Design for "Mary Poppins" at Aurora Theatre.

**Lowrey Brown** and **Trevor Goble** have been cast in the Alliance Theatre's upcoming world premiere of "Edward Foote."

**Rose Alexander** and **Patrick Schweigert** are participating in acting internships at Aurora Theatre where and will appear in the upcoming revival of *Les Misérables*.

**Kristen Michelle Walker** is enrolled in KSU's American Studies Master of Arts program.

**Sara Peavy, Josh Brook,** and **Daniel Hilton** will appear in Synchronicity Theatre's production of "Lyle the Crocodile."

## DEAN'S OFFICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Patty Poulter** attended the CASE conference; delivered opening remarks at the Music Library Association Meeting and served on the Clendenin Scholarship Awards Committee. She was elected to the ICFAD Board of Directors, conducted the opening meeting for COTA faculty regarding high impact practices, and initiated COTA's collaboration with Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre's ArtsBridge Foundation. Further, she toured Montipulciano, Italy with other KSU deans to establish and expand study abroad programs. She also conducted a choral piece at the Dec. 4 Choral Holiday Concert and initiated the "Savor the Arts" Lunch and Learn Series for patrons and donors.

**Harrison Long** was appointed as Interim Associate Dean after serving as Interim Director of the School of Art and Design; he was also named KSU's 2014 Distinguished Professor. He wrote two articles: "Theatre Across Communities: A Tale of Two Cabins," accepted for publication in the "Journal of Higher Education Outreach & Engagement," and "We're not for Huck Finn: An Important Story Struggles to be Told" soon to be published in "The International Journal of Arts Education," a journal for which he serves as an Associate Editor. He also presented at the International Arts in Society Conference in Rome, Italy and presented at the national Imagine America conference in Atlanta. He performed in "White Rabbit Red Rabbit" with Out of Hand Theatre and is directing George Bernard Shaw's "Arms and the Man."

**Samuel Robinson** conceived and opened the Academic Resource Center for Students, a comprehensive resource center for students in the College of the Arts. He served on the consolidation working groups for Student Recruitment, Counseling, and Disability Services and Testing as well as the special committee to consolidate the new University's Strategic Plan. He is serving his second year as chair of the President's Commission for Disability Strategies and Resources, as well as serving on the consolidation working group for the Assessment of Institutional Effectiveness, including service on the IE Handbook subcommittee. Named College of the Arts staff member of the year.

**Kathie Beckett** served on Media/Public Relations, Communications, and Social Media KSU/SPSU operating working groups. She presented to the Marketing Council on search engine optimization and attended the Digital Summit in Atlanta. She also managed the website redesign for [arts.kennesaw.edu](http://arts.kennesaw.edu) and [cota.kennesaw.edu](http://cota.kennesaw.edu). She is currently serving on the Strategic Planning for Community Engagement council and Strategic Enrollment Planning committee. Kathie was named as the 2014 COTA Staff Employee of the Year.

**Jessica Drewry** upgraded and redesigned the COTA Ticket Alternative site to include a pick-your-seat option as well as non-ticketed events. She also expanded parking and directional information on the Ticket Alternative Site. She implemented VKSU's new volunteer database website so that students may volunteer electronically. The database also tracks volunteer hours automatically.

**Joshua Stone** implemented the new website redesign for [arts.kennesaw.edu](http://arts.kennesaw.edu) and [cota.kennesaw.edu](http://cota.kennesaw.edu).



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