



flourish

Much ado about something:
Supporting local theater

**A fresh approach to the
first-year experience**

The college with big ambitions:
The 10th anniversary of the College of the Arts

from the heART



An Administrator and a Pianist

(Above) Joseph Meeks at the piano in 1978 and (below) with his four-hand piano partner Sarah Stedman today. Meeks and Stedman will perform with the Marietta Master Chorale at KSU on March 7.

Lately, we are reminded each day of the fragility of the economy and of our own personal finances. In times like these, when economic conditions look grim, it is all too easy to feel insecure and to fret, to make cost-saving cuts that are more hurtful than helpful, and to postpone long-held dreams because of today's uncertainty.

Fortunately, although we may feel inundated with bad news, we also receive messages of hope and comfort each day. The warm smile of a friend. The sincere compliment from a loved one. The kindness of a stranger. When things are going well, we sometimes take these kinds of treasures for granted.

As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the College of the Arts, I hope we all remember much more than the bottom line. While enrollment growth and endowment figures are valuable measures of success, they are not the only yardsticks. Indeed, much of our success is almost impossible to measure at all: the people whose minds were opened by seeing a play or viewing an exhibition, the students who went on to inspire students of their own, the business leaders who chose to honor their parents by funding an arts facility or endowing a scholarship.

How do you quantify true success? You can use line graphs and pie charts, or you can measure how well you've done by the impact you have had on others and by the friendships you have collected. This is what sustains us when the clouds are gray.

I believe the College of the Arts is truly blessed, despite state budget cuts and temporarily declining returns on our endowments. We are blessed by the dedication of our students, the passion of our faculty and staff, and the many deep, abiding friends we have made in the community. These blessings have no dollar signs in front of them. You cannot redeem them for cash. You cannot trade them on the stock exchange. But, if you nourish them with attentive care, they will yield something far more precious than any other investment you can make.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph D. Meeks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph D. Meeks
Dean, KSU College of the Arts

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Flourish is a publication of the College of the Arts at Kennesaw State University.

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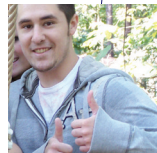
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On the Cover:
Students in one of the college's
First-Year Learning Communities.
Photo by Natasha Lovelace Habers.



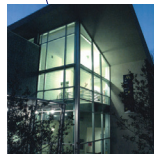
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scene it





A Piano Paradise

The pianos were the stars of the show at the All-Steinway School Celebration on Nov. 15. The concert highlighted the range and variety of piano repertory from solo piano to concerto, from four hands to four pianos on stage at once. Performers included (clockwise from top left) alumnus and artist-in-residence Robert Henry, Arts Dean Joseph Meeks who was named an International Steinway Artist that evening, Professor of Piano David Watkins and international guest artist Alpin Hong. Kennesaw State was designated an All-Steinway School after Dr. Bobbie Bailey purchased 27 Steinway & Sons pianos for the KSU School of Music. *Photo by Tim Harman*

Tyler Mitchell:

Maestro in the Making

By Jarnea L. Boone

Classical music brings junior violin performance major Tyler Mitchell an exuberance that takes over so naturally, and its glow never goes away. Mitchell remembers having been introduced to an electric violin by his fifth grade teacher and he began playing the violin in the sixth grade. A performance by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra then sealed his love for music. Over the years, he has collected more than 350 CDs of classical music and has decided to work towards a career as an orchestra conductor. "I took piano lessons for a couple of years because I thought it would be good to know more than one instrument. I have never, however, stopped playing the violin. It is my life," Mitchell said.

While Mitchell was in high school, KSU Assistant Professor of Music Education Barbara Hammond taught a lesson in one of his music classes. "I loved her energy," Mitchell said, "and thought that Kennesaw State's music program was a great option to consider for college." Mitchell also met KSU Assistant Professor of Violin Helen Kim in high school. "I thought that she definitely had a good sense of compassion for violin students," he said. "I looked forward to working with her at KSU."

Mitchell has not regretted his college decision and finds that the culture of the arts at Kennesaw State is one that has helped him build up a good, progressive work ethic. Mitchell practices five hours a day. "Your learning is all in the dedication."

Mitchell particularly credits Kim for her mentorship. "She has so much experience and is so accomplished," he said. "She taught me that playing my instrument has to become a part of my lifestyle and not just something I 'like' to do. I must love music more than anything, and I must believe in music."

So far at KSU, Mitchell has been a part of the Student Aid Council and has been a member of a few chamber groups. As a first-year student, he joined the KSU Orchestra and served as the orchestra's concertmaster, a challenging position that Mitchell feels further developed his performance skills and his leadership ability. "For concertmaster, I auditioned at the beginning of fall," he said. "I had to be sure it was what I really wanted because a lot of responsibility is involved. I had to be familiar with all aspects of the orchestra to be able to properly lead the group."

After graduation, Mitchell plans to go for his master's and doctorate degrees, and he wants to study abroad.

"I will have a rewarding career, and KSU is preparing me for that," Mitchell said. ☺

Anne Almasy



Cheryl Anderson Brown

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

in the Classroom

Learning the Keys to Piano Teaching

By Kathleen Walker

What's the best way to teach beginning piano to an adult learner? A teenager? A younger child? That's the question facing students in this year's Piano Pedagogy class. The course, which is divided into two semesters, explains various methods for teaching piano to different ages and types of learners and then gives the students the opportunity to put these theories into practice.

During the second semester, an individual wishing to take piano lessons is paired with a student teacher. "With this course, students pass on the art of playing piano to the next generation and expand the audience of music lovers," said course instructor Professor of Piano David Watkins.

How do the KSU students feel about the experience? "I like it," said class member Tsuey Wei Seah said. "We learn the most important things to pay attention to, but we also learn that listening is a critical part of teaching." By concentrating on the notes the lesson taker plays, the student teacher knows right away if someone has been practicing or not. "If the person is playing the wrong notes, I show them the correct ones," said Seah. "If the person gets everything right, it's very exciting."

At the end of the semester, both sets of students are examined, based on Music Teachers National Association requirements, to help prepare the student teachers to become certified piano instructors. Once they have completed the course, both students may continue with the lessons if desired.

"We have a number of lesson takers who remain with their student teachers," Watkins said. "We also have students who have gone on to contribute to their community and to professional associations." Either way, the course goal of creating future teachers and music lovers has been met. ☺



Photos by Tim Goldman



KSU student Tsuey Wei Seah learns how to be a piano teacher by teaching students from the community like Nancy Barnes.

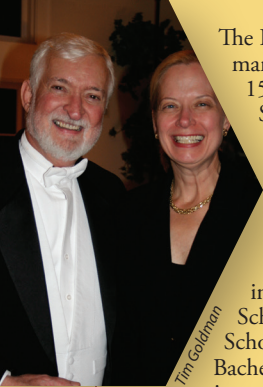
In the College

Dean named International Steinway Artist

Joseph Meeks, dean of the College of the Arts, was designated as an International Steinway Artist by the legendary piano maker Steinway & Sons during the university's All-Steinway Celebration concert on Nov. 15.

The International Roster of Steinway Artists includes many of the most prestigious pianists of the last 150 years, such as Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, Sergei Rachmaninoff and Arthur Rubinstein. Contemporary performers on the list include Lang Lang, Diana Krall and Billy Joel.

Meeks, who has served on the KSU faculty for nearly 40 years, began playing piano as a young child. He won numerous piano competitions, including the Walter Spry Memorial Piano Scholarship Competition to study at Converse College School of Music in South Carolina. He later earned Bachelor of Music and Master of Fine Arts degrees in piano performance from the University of Georgia and a Master of Music degree from Georgia State University. He completed additional studies at Yale University and the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, where he was selected to perform in an international concert during the Salzburg Music Festival. In recent years, he has been honored as a Lexus Leader of the Arts and received the Coca-Cola Lifetime Achievement Award for Arts Leadership.



Joseph Meeks with Sally Covalieskie of Steinway & Sons

Tim Goldmen

Professor named Educator of the Year

Having received the Higher Education Art Educator of the Year Award from the Georgia Art Education Association in November, KSU Assistant Professor of Art Education Diana Gregory was then selected to also receive the Southeast Higher Education Art Educator of the Year Award. It will be presented to her at the national conference in April. As a regional honoree, Gregory is automatically nominated for the national award.

"This recognition demonstrates the excellent reputation of the art education program," said Joe Thomas, chair of the KSU Department of Visual Arts. "Diana Gregory has further expanded that reputation through her extensive work in state and national arts organizations."

Gregory has been a KSU faculty member since 2000. She is the coordinator of art education and has been instrumental in the creation of the university's Master of Arts in Teaching Art, which will be launched in Summer 2009. She has taught in a variety of settings including art galleries, school systems, rehabilitation centers and nursing homes. Last year, she helped coordinate the university's participation in the federal government's Weed and Seed program which provided life skills training for children in underserved communities. As part of that project, Gregory developed an after-school art program for children in Las Colinas apartment complex in Marietta.

COTA faculty awarded by KSU Foundation

Associate Professor of Theatre and Performance Studies Karen Robinson and Associate Professor of Visual Arts Joe Remillard were recognized at the 2008 Kennesaw State

University Foundation Awards. Robinson won the Distinguished Teaching Award for which she received \$13,000. Half of the funds Robinson received from the KSU Foundation is designated for travel and professional development. "I plan to spend the money on traveling to conferences, cultural study abroad and trips for research, perhaps to New York City and Chicago where I have visited theater companies that influence my teaching," said Robinson.

Remillard won the \$10,000 Foundation Prize for the College of the Arts for his solo exhibition of his Italy-inspired paintings at the Trinity Gallery in Atlanta. The foundation prize specifically recognizes high-quality publications or creative works by a faculty member in each of the six colleges at KSU.

Remillard was the co-director of KSU's first full semester study-abroad program in Montepulciano, Italy, this fall and has spearheaded KSU's presence in the city during the past 10 years. "The prize money will be put to good use," he said. "I've tentatively scheduled to have an exhibition of my work at the Museo Civico of Montepulciano in 2009. Because of the exhibit's international component, the logistics and expenses of putting it on will be large. The foundation award money will help a great deal."

College hosts several residencies by renowned artists

Students in the College of the Arts had the opportunity to work with and learn from several nationally and internationally recognized guest artists in the fall, as the college hosted residencies by:

- New York City artist Steven Assael, one of the nation's leading figurative artists, who presented a two-month exhibition and a weeklong residency;
- international theatre scholar Per Brahe, an expert on Michael Chekhov, who offered a week of workshops on campus after working with KSU students in New York in 2007;
- international pianist Alpin Hong, who worked with both KSU students and area school children, when he visited campus to perform on the All-Steinway School Celebration;
- renowned clarinetist Charles Neidich, who directed and performed with the KSU Orchestra on Mozart's Clarinet Concerto during his weeklong residency; and
- Oberlin Orchestra conductor Bridget Reischl, who directed the world premiere of KSU Associate Professor of Music Laurence Sherr's Holocaust composition, "Flame Language," during her joint residency with the KSU and the Cobb Symphony Orchestras.



Valerie Dibble

Diana Gregory is nominated for national Higher Education Art Educator of the Year.

COLLEGE OF THE ARTS



Around the World

Interactive lessons in Turkish art history

By Kathleen Walker

Throughout the semester, students in the Turkish Art History class created works inspired by the art and culture of Turkey, like the postcards below.

One of the projects students in Associate Professor of Art Education Sandra Bird's Turkish Art History course were asked to complete was a visual timeline of different historical periods. To complete the task, students could use props such as an apple tea setting or postcards depicting Turkish art objects and architecture while also adding their own drawings or verbiage to tell the story of Turkish art.

"This activity gives me the opportunity to see what students have gained from the lectures," Bird said, "and it gives the students the chance to be more hands-on in the learning process."

The course, which was taught in fall 2008 as part of KSU's Year of Turkey, often featured storytelling rather than straight lectures. Guest lecturers also participated in the interactive lessons. Artist and Turkish Congressman Mehmet Sahin demonstrated the art of calligraphy and weaver, Pamir Thompson, showed students how to create a kilim, a carpet from Turkey used as a woman's dowry. The students also attended many of the activities presented as part of the Year of Turkey celebration.

Students enjoyed the various activities. "I love that attention is being paid to different subject matter," said visual arts major Jessie Holt. "Turkish art history is fascinating and this class provides a great opportunity to learn about a culture I normally would not get the chance to."

Bird hopes her students use what they have learned in relation to their own art. "I hope they look at historical precedents as inspiration for their own projects," she says.

"I want them to remember the fantastic pieces from the past and learn to appreciate traditional arts, not only from Turkey but from other cultures as well, even as they are developing their own artistic legacy." ☺



Using tessellation designs by graphic design students, Sandra Bird installed a Turkish prayer room on campus which Muslim students during the holy month of Ramadan.

Photos by Sandra Bird



Cheryl Anderson/Brown

Harrison Long: *It's More Than Fame*

By Teresa Bagwell

Devout: Embedded with a passion for teaching and acting like deep-abiding faith.

That's how one might describe Harrison Long, assistant professor of theatre and performance studies (TPS) and coordinator of the acting concentration. As he freely admits, he comes from a long line of teachers and preachers. And true to that heritage, his soul-stirring philosophical rhetoric flows with ease: the words can't help but evangelize enthusiasm for his dual profession as an actor and a teacher. Long describes the fusion of teaching and acting as a symbiotic relationship: "I'm a better actor for my work in the classroom; I learn a great deal from my students. And it's doubly exciting to see my students benefit from discoveries I make on the professional stage and from my collaborations with professionals in the community."

For example, KSU faculty and students comprised more than half of the cast of "Great Expectations" at the Georgia Ensemble Theatre, with numerous others working backstage, thanks to Long's ties as an original founding member. And in October, Long was instrumental in bringing internationally renowned artist Per Brahe of the Tisch School of Arts to campus for a five-day master class in mask work. A native of Cobb County, Long returned to the metro Atlanta area after years of acting and directing professionally in New York City and half a dozen states across America.

Though he continues to act (and was named one of Atlanta's best actors last season), Long recognized that a move to academia was a natural progression of his career when a position became available at KSU. "It's great to be here, in the place I love and came from, giving back to the community and serving the students of the community that means so much to me. It's a marvelous time of life."

Harrison (right) in the role of Magwitch for the 2008 Georgia Ensemble Theatre production "Great Expectations," for which he received an honorable mention as best supporting actor from The Sunday Paper in Atlanta.

The unique "performance studies" aspect of KSU's TPS department has been especially rewarding to Long. "We examine performance roles we all embody day-to-day, both on and off stage. The craft of acting is a remarkable tool for self-examination; it forces students to ask the right questions.

"Not only does our program equip students with the nuts and bolts to be an artist, but also a deep understanding of self, a strong sense of responsibility, and how to connect with the global and local communities. By jostling students and faculty into a heightened awareness of life—to make sense of the human experience—we give students something more substantial than fame. Yes, we strive to develop good communicators, but more importantly, students that have something to say."

Besides his usual full plate of teaching and committee responsibilities, Long's 2008-09 projects within the TPS program include directing the latest student production, "The Glass Menagerie," co-teaching an advanced course in Shakespeare, and developing special topics courses for the undergraduate curriculum. As for endeavors outside of KSU, Long recently accepted an invitation to play the villain in "A Man for All Seasons" at Marietta's Theatre in the Square. Rehearsals begin in February, and the play opens March. ☺

Courtesy of Georgia Ensemble Theatre



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

CAMPUS NOTES

Faculty & Staff

Jamie Bullins (theatre & performance studies) designed scenery for "Song of the Living Dead" at Dad's Garage Theatre in Atlanta, June 6-July 19.

John Culvahouse (music) adjudicated for the Columbia Marching Band Festival in Columbia, Tenn., Sept. 27; White Knoll Marching Band Festival in Columbia, S.C., Oct. 4; the 30th Annual Music City Invitational Band Festival in Nashville, Oct. 18; and the 47th Annual Contest of Champions in Murfreesboro, Tenn., Oct. 25. He also served as a clinician for the Rising Star Middle School Honor Band in Fayetteville, Ga., and the Dickerson Middle School Honor Percussion Ensemble in Marietta, Nov. 15.

Valerie Dibble (visual arts) was featured in "Georgia 291 Professional Printmakers Invitational Exhibition," at Art House Gallery in Atlanta in September.

Natasha Lovelace Habers (visual arts) is the juror and curator for "Topophilia," a national juried exhibit of artists' books, which will be held at Olde Towne Arts Center in Slidell, La., March 13-April 13.

Matt Haffner (visual arts) completed a two-week residency at Hambidge Artist Residency Program in Rabun Gap, Ga., where he focused on creating new artwork. He organized the juried exhibition, "Overhaul: Artists Exploring Issues of Identity," at Worthmore Jewelers in Atlanta, Oct. 6-31. The exhibition was part of the Atlanta Celebrates Photography event. One of his works, "The Travelers," was featured on the cover of the December issue of *The Atlantian*.

Harrison Long (theatre & performance studies) received an honorable mention in the supporting actor category in *The Sunday Paper's* annual Spotlight Awards. He was recognized for his portrayal of Magwitch in "Great Expectations" at Georgia Ensemble Theatre.

Carole Maugé-Lewis (visual arts) designed the cover for the book, "Enjoy Your Money," by J. Steve Miller, which was published in December.

Joseph Meeks (dean) was selected for the fall 2008 class of the Arts Leaders of Metro Atlanta, an arts and business leadership program offered by the Metro Atlanta Arts and Culture Coalition.

Oral Moses (music) performed several concerts in Stuttgart, Germany, including performances at Logo WilliBleicher Dec. 17, Weissorsaal in the New Castle Dec. 19, Marmorsaal Dec. 22 and Wilhelma Theater Dec. 26.

Ayokunle Odeleye (visual arts) installed a public sculpture memorializing the 1898 race riots in Wilmington, N.C. The July installation was covered by Star News, WWAY-TV and WECT-TV in Wilmington. The November dedication of the memorial was covered by Star News, WHQR 91.3 FM and Encore in Wilmington. Odeleye gave a lecture at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington about the sculpture on Nov. 9.

Daniel Sachs (visual arts) was featured in a group show at Heaven Blue Rose Contemporary Gallery in Roswell.

Robert Sherer (visual arts) participated in "The Plugged In Gala" Sept. 13 at the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center; he was one of five artists selected to create original art for the event. He also had a solo exhibition, "Blood Works: Portraits of Love and Loss in the Age of AIDS," at Edinboro University, Sept. 3-26. His Blood Works and American Pyrography series will be featured in a presentation by University of Massachusetts Lowell Scholar Jesse M. Kahn at the 97th College Art Association Annual Conference in Los Angeles in February. His work will be featured in "Queercraft," an exhibition at The Advocate & Gochis Galleries at the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center, Jan. 22-Feb. 28. He also made a lecture presentation, "Robert Sherer: My Career as a Gay Artist" for the Atlanta Executive Network, Jan. 15.

Laurence Sherr (music) had a composition, "Nocturne," recorded on the CD "Chroma: New Music for Piano" by Jeri-Mae Astolfi, which was released by Albany Music in December.

David Watkins (music) performed Liszt's "Totentanz" and "Hungarian Fantasy" with the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra April 1 and 3. He performed solo recitals at Vineville United Methodist Church in Macon on Jan. 9 and at Shorter College in Rome, Ga., on Jan. 12.

Students

Macra Adair, Morgan Booker, Destiny Bramlett, Brandi Brock, Amy Burnison, Alemenia Candis, Michelle Cooper, Ashley Davis, Casey Deming, Tim Goldman, Jeshua Holt, Brea Jones, Derrick Lauglaug, Emily Lester, Billy Linpinsel, Melissa Ray, B.J. Schaffer, Marcy Starz, Linda Tincher and Amy Yokhum (all art) were invited to participate in a juried invitational exhibit entitled "GPS N33 47° 38' W84 23° 31'," which was part of the American Print Alliance Dialogue Days, at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Atlanta, Sept. 27-28.

Natalie Barrow (theatre & performance studies) played Babette in Atlanta Lyric Theatre production of "Beauty & the Beast" at Earl Smith Strand Theatre in Marietta, Dec. 5-21. **Nick Morrett** (theatre & performance studies), **Chase Todd** (dance) and **Jason Marett** (dance) performed in the ensemble of the same production.

Morgan Booker, Brandi Brock, Frank Cox, Casey Deming, Jeshua Holt, Eileen Kennefick, Billy Linpinsel, Wes Lowrance, Geoffrey Smith, Erin Spangler and Amy Yochum (all art) participated in the juried exhibition, "Overhaul: Artists Exploring Issues of Identity," at Worthmore Jewelers in Atlanta, Oct. 6-31. The exhibition was part of the Atlanta Celebrates Photography Event.

Jeffrey David Gibb and Christina Infusino (both music performance) performed in the Capitol City Opera double-bill production of "The Impresario" and "Gianni Schicchi" at the Conant Performing Arts Centre in Atlanta, Sept. 12-14.

Kacie Kamins (art education) had artwork in the Georgia Art Education Association Annual Member Exhibition at the Lyndon House Art Center in Athens, Sept. 23-Nov. 8.

Marcena Kinney (music education) received a competitive grant from Steinway & Sons at the Georgia Music Teachers State Conference in November.

Emily Lester (art) won best in show for her photograph, "Antique Car," in the show, "Eyes on Olde Towne," at Olde Towne Arts Center in Slidell, La., in September. Her winning artwork was featured in *The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune*.

Kelly McKernan (art) had a painting, "Sold Secrets," featured in the online magazine, *Phirebrush*, in July. She and fellow art student **Natalie Osten** were featured in two group shows in Atlanta: "Bitesized" at Beep Beep Gallery, Dec. 5-21, and "Home" at Young Blood Gallery, Dec. 6-28.

Chris Neuenschwander (art) exhibited two drawings in the 2008 College Juried Exhibit at The Art Place Mountain View in Marietta, May 2-30. One of his works, a self-portrait, won the juror's choice award.

Tiffanni Spann (art) who works for the Jones Group in Atlanta, had her design accepted for the High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction, which will take place March 26-28.

Dorisz Tatar (theatre & performance studies) was accepted for a design internship at The Alliance Theatre in Atlanta.

Send your notes to arts@kennesaw.edu.



Remembering a favorite teacher M. Thomson Salter (1925-2008)

Professor Emeritus of Art M. Thomson Salter, 82, passed away in his sleep on Oct. 5. A member of the founding faculty of Kennesaw State University (then Kennesaw Junior College) in 1966, Salter retired in 1990 after serving as chair of the Department of Visual Arts.

Methvin Thomson Salter III was born in Atlanta in 1925. Following a tour of duty in the U.S. Army, he returned to Georgia and completed Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees at the University of Georgia. Before coming to Kennesaw, he taught at Wardlaw Junior High School in South Carolina, LaGrange High School in LaGrange, Ga., and Southwest High School in Atlanta. He also served as an arts administrator for three years for the Atlanta Public Schools.

As an artist, Salter worked in watercolor, oils, ceramics collage and textiles. His art was displayed at the High Museum, South Carolina Museum of Art, Gertrude Herbert Art Institute, McIntosh Gallery, the Governor of Georgia's office and elsewhere. As an arts patron, he was a member of several local and regional arts organizations and served as membership secretary of the Southeastern Art Education Association and president of the Georgia Art Education Association. He also helped operate Atlanta's Artists Associate Gallery in the 1960s and 1970s.

In addition to the warm friendships Salter formed with his colleagues, he also had great relationships with his students, who truly admired his mentorship and advice.

Gifts in his memory may be made to the Thomson Salter-Salova King Art Endowed Scholarship at KSU. For more information, call 770-499-3214.

a fresh approach

By Jarnea L. Boone

to the First-year

Learning Communities offer friendship and support



Imagine your first weeks of college. Wandering lost on campus. Trying to make new friends. Being overwhelmed by all of your courses. Wondering why you had to take general education classes that seemed irrelevant to your career goals.

studies. “They give time to take on projects that could not otherwise get done during the year.”

Within the College of the Arts, FLCs serve more purposes in the growth of the artist on a more creatively inspired platform. FLCs in the arts are specifically targeted for students entering college and majoring in theatre and performance studies or visual arts. “The arts FLCs give students a way to express themselves in an open environment when they may have formerly had to be more traditional in the classroom,” Baldwin said. “In TPS courses, they are exposed to performance right off the bat. Students are put on stage when they might not have been otherwise.”

First-year student Kristen Smith expressed this challenge in the TPS learning community. “Students get to try things that most of us haven’t done before. We are challenged to try each end of the spectrum. For instance, if a student is interested in stage managing, he or she is encouraged to try acting, and vice versa.”

College is not like that any more. At least not for students who join one of Kennesaw State University’s First-Year Learning Communities (FLCs). The 25 students in an FLC take their general education courses together, allowing them to build relationships quickly and allowing them to connect better with their professors. Many of the courses are even designed around interesting themes, as well as disciplines and majors. For instance, in the art FLC the essay topics in the English composition class are about art history and other art themes.

Conceptualized to acclimate the first-year student to the rigors of college life and a college workload, FLCs are used across KSU’s academic programs to promote and cultivate a student’s interests in a particular departmental community, all the while familiarizing the student within the larger KSU community. FLCs are included under the umbrella of KSU’s “First-Year Experience” program, which introduces first-time, first-year students and transfer students with fewer than 15 credit hours to life at KSU. The “First-Year Experience” program has been listed for the sixth consecutive year on U.S. News and World Report’s “Programs to Look For” in its annual “Best Colleges” edition.

One of the main purposes of FLCs is to create a solid foundation of peers with similar aspirations and interests and professional support from faculty and staff invested in their students’ dreams.

“As a first-year student, you usually come into college a little confused and a little overwhelmed,” said first-year theatre and performance studies major Nayasia Coleman. “Our learning community has given me guidance and a close bond between me, my professors, and my peers. The FLC steers first-year students in the right direction.”

FLCs are also valuable for the faculty members involved. “The courses give faculty a chance to create a meaningful experience for their students,” said Margaret Baldwin, lecturer and interim coordinator of general education for theatre and performance

Photos by Natasha Lovelace Habers



Students in Natasha Lovelace Habers’ Visual Arts Learning Communities participated in a team-building ropes course in Fall 2008.





EXPERIENCE:

For the past three years, the arts FLCs have been working in conjunction with KSU's "Year of" initiative under the Annual Country Studies Program. Turkey is the area of study for the year 2008-2009, and first-year students are offered approaches to global learning by becoming involved in the examination of arts in this region, from its earliest history up to current events. In Jim Davis' KSU 1101 seminar course, first-year students are involved in the creation and design of a Turkish puppetry project.

Students are also working on the development of scripts for a Turkish play. In another course this year, TPS students are working on the formation of a mock production company.

"There are five or six members of a group on this project," said Kristen Smith, who has come to admire the focused effort of the production company. "It is so



FLC students build friendships that help them be more successful.

beneficial for first-year students because we not only nurture our own interests, but we form new ones."

Student Nayasia Coleman backs up the enthusiasm of the overall project. "We are always at an advantage because FLC professors know each other and their students' workloads, so they create more convenient ways to get things done. For instance, professors assign projects to work on to get one singular grade, instead of having two or three separate grades with two or three

separate projects. All of the things we learn in one class relates to what we learn in another."

Not only are arts FLCs a great means of intercultural exchange with the student involvement in the "Year of" initiative, they give students a greater chance for success at KSU and beyond.

"Arts FLCs promote bonding and serve as a container for people to learn about each other," said Baldwin. "Theatre performance and academics are connected in an interactive, creative atmosphere where first-years are encouraged to perform and ask questions and take risks. Arts FLCs also teaches collaboration and discipline."

Coleman agrees. "First-Year Learning Communities are open and laidback, so it's like we are being taught by a mentor in comparison to a professor. I feel that the professors not only teach the curriculum, but about life and how to survive in college."

Sophomore Cristina Devallescar reflects on her time in her TPS learning community and confirms the one-of-a-kind opportunities for personal growth. "The closeness of everyone felt like a family and made me feel more at home. I was automatically given the chance to meet students in my department who shared my passions. I met my best friend in our learning community."

First-year students are very amenable to the unique experience of the Freshmen Learning Community.

"Students are very positive about their experiences," said Baldwin. "FLCs are such a strong means of support for them. The energy from each incoming class is contagious, and receiving exemplary feedback from students at the end of their first year makes it all the worthwhile." ☺



the college with

BIG AMBITIONS

A look back on the 10th anniversary of the College of the Arts

By Cheryl Anderson Brown



KSU President Daniel Papp joins the standing ovation at the grand opening of the Bailey Performance Center.

Less than 50 years ago, the governor of Georgia decided to build a two-year college north of Atlanta to give people better access to higher education. The leaders in Cobb County helped secure an old cow pasture for the new school and everyone hoped it would do well.

Not even the most optimistic person could have envisioned that a few buildings scattered in a field at the end of a winding country road would quickly rise to become one of the top universities in Georgia, with a booming enrollment, international recognition and more than 65 graduate and undergraduate degrees.

Much less could they have imagined that a school with such humble beginnings would one day boast a dynamic arts culture, with destination venues offering world-class exhibitions and performances, innovative degree programs and a growing national reputation for excellence.

When the college opened its doors in 1966, it offered a selection of liberal arts programs that could be transferred to other schools. Among these programs were art and music, with one faculty member for each of these programs. (See biography of founding art faculty member Thomson Salter on page 6.)

“I came to perform a recital at Kennesaw Junior College in the early 1970s, and there was literally nothing here—no big roads, no restaurants, no businesses, but there was something special about this place,” said Joseph Meeks, dean of the KSU College of the Arts. “From the beginning, the school had ambition and energy. You could feel the excitement from the students and the faculty.”

That excitement led Meeks to leave a tenured position at another college and take a leap of faith at Kennesaw, where he joined Wayne Gibson on a two-person music faculty. “People thought I was crazy at the time, but I knew this was where I needed to be,” Meeks said.

The art and music programs shared close quarters in the old Humanities Building, now Willingham Hall, working to build ever stronger arts programs.

“We had tremendous support from the administration and the community from the very beginning,” Gibson recalled. “That was critical to our success.”

By 1980, the college had grown into a four-year college with a new name, Kennesaw College. In 1983, the Division of Arts and Humanities was created and, a few years later, the music department added a theater major.

By the mid-1990s, the institution had expanded so much that it was granted full university status as Kennesaw State University, and it became clear that the arts programs were ready to stand on their own. In 1997, the theater program was separated into its own department. One year later, the music, theater and visual arts departments were re-organized into their own School of the Arts.

Since then, the School of the Arts has been re-named the College of the Arts and has continued to reach new heights, including full accreditation for all of its degree programs, the expansion of the theater program to include performance studies, a new undergraduate degree in dance, invitations for students and faculty to exhibit their work and perform internationally, and exciting study-abroad opportunities.

During this time, the College of the Arts has generated a lot of excitement in the community and has been able to build a substantial donor base. This has allowed the college to expand its facilities and to greatly enhance its scholarship endowments. In 1998, there were only a handful of scholarships available to arts students; now, there are dozens.



(Left) Asst. Prof. of Art Keith Smith, Dean Joseph Meeks and new alumni. The number of arts graduates increases each year.

College
of the
Arts

“I am so proud to be associated with the arts at KSU,” said Gibson, who retired in 2000, but who has continued to be a donor and scholarship sponsor. “When I think about what the campus looked like 40 years ago and what it is like today, it’s hard to believe it’s the same place. However, I think the college still has the same heart and the same drive. I believe it will continue to grow stronger and more renowned because of the wonderful faculty and students.”

As Meeks often says, “artists cannot rest on their laurels.” Upcoming plans include a Master of Arts in Teaching Art, which is slated to launch later this year, and the completion of an Art Museum, which is in the fundraising stage for Phase II—Phase I opened in 2008.

Clearly, the little school in the cow pasture has come a long way in a short time, but as it always has done upon reaching one milestone, it continues to reach for others. ↻



1966
Kennesaw Junior College opens its doors; programs include music and art

1977
KJC becomes Kennesaw College

1983
School of Arts and Behavioral Sciences created

Department of Music created

1986
Department of Visual Arts created

1989
Joe Mack Wilson Building opens

Howard Logan Stillwell Theater opens

Fine Arts Gallery opens

1998
School of the Arts created

2002
Visual Arts Building opens

First Annual Benefit Gala presented—
In six years this event raised more than \$1 million for scholarships

2005
School of the Arts becomes College of the Arts

2007
Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center opens

Phase I of Art Museum opens

2009
Wilson Building Annex nearing completion

First graduate program—MAT in Art—scheduled to launch

1972
Permanent Collection of Art started

1980
Kennesaw College awards first four-year degrees—Music major Martie Barrett Ansong is the first graduate

Music Building opens

1985
Accreditation received from the National Association of Schools of Music

Department of Music renamed Department of Music and Performing Arts

1988
Kennesaw College renamed Kennesaw State College

1996
KSC becomes Kennesaw State University

Department of Music and Performing Arts splits into Department of Music and Department of Theater

2001
Accreditation received from the National Association of Schools of Theatre

2004
Department of Theater becomes Department of Theatre and Performance Studies

2006
Accreditation received from National Association of Schools of Art and Design

2008
Dance major created

Department of Music becomes the School of Music

KSU designated an “All-Steinway School”

Anniversary campaign reaches out to new donors

In celebration of its 10th anniversary, the College of the Arts launched a fundraising campaign aimed at garnering broader participation from its alumni, students, parents, and friends in the community. Called the “10 for 10



Much ado about something.

Supporting local theater

By Lauren Highfill

Many people have made donations to support the arts in their communities, but the mayor of the newly formed City of Dunwoody, Ken Wright, is a unique case. In October 2008, Wright announced that he would donate his first year's salary as mayor to the Stage Door Players, a local theater company that Wright had been patronizing more than the years. Wright, who's also the president of an e-learning and IT solutions company in Dunwoody, may seem like an unlikely advocate for the arts. In college, he studied political science and criminal justice and focused on business and entrepreneurship after graduation. He was actively involved with the campaign to establish Dunwoody as a city and is a firm believer in achieving a thriving and balanced community.

"I got plugged into our local theater about three years ago and started attending as a date night with my wife. I ended up really enjoying the experience, so I started spreading the word to make people in the area aware of it."

When Wright decided to run for mayor, he recognized that this new position

would allow him to do even more for the community. "I thought it would be a nice gesture and set an example if I donated my salary as mayor," said Wright. "The Stage Door Players were the first group I thought of because I had a great connection with them and they

have such a need for exposure, much like other arts and nonprofit organizations."

Wright's significant contribution has encouraged others to give to the Stage Door Players, said Robert Ezigio, artistic director for the theater company. "Ken's gift was a great kickoff to the new season. Established donors have increased their donations and we've gotten more support from local businesses and merchants," Ezigio said. "Thanks to Ken's support, people are coming out in droves!"

According to Ezigio, Wright's donation will go into the general operating fund for the Stage Door Players to pay for "everything from royalties to salaries and rent." Although that might not sound exceptionally glamorous, covering these costs is essential to most local theaters' continued existence.

"Without donations from corporations and private citizens, we really couldn't survive," said Tess Kincaid, resource director at Georgia Ensemble Theatre in Roswell. "It's not accurate to say that ticket prices cover all costs; they're only a small part of what goes into running a theater."

With the relative infrequency of Wright-like donations, many local theaters strive to find creative ways to fundraise. At Dad's Garage Theatre in Atlanta, where they target the 18- to 35-year-old market, a popular fundraising event is the annual Bacon Fest. The event offers food, drinks, entertainment and a silent auction provided by local businesses and bands. Dad's Garage's appeal to their target market "helps create demand for live performance with younger audiences," said Lena Carstens, managing director at

(Continued on page 14)



Melissa Ray

Dunwoody Mayor Ken Wright has pledged his salary to a local theater.



Courtesy of Stage Door Players



Many area theater companies also offer education programs for young people like this one at Stage Door Players in Roswell.

(Continued from page 12)

Dad's Garage. "We consider ourselves to be the gateway; by coming here, our audience members are more likely to try other more traditional theatre venues." Likewise, by contributing during these types of fundraising events, patrons may become more comfortable with the idea of donating to support the arts.

Donations to local theaters make possible many of the events and programming that benefit the community. Some of the activities that Georgia Ensemble Theatre presents include offering nonprofit groups the opportunity to use preview shows as fundraisers for their organization and providing discount tickets to students of several area schools. "We never want to turn anyone away because they can't afford to come to a show," said Kincaid.

Underprivileged elementary school children have the chance to experience live theater at the Stage Door Players' annual Christmas show. Last year, the group did a special live performance for members of a school's chorus. "They were able to see their first professional production and meet the cast after the show," said Ezigio. "These are kids who had never had this kind of exposure or opportunity." For this most recent holiday season's special showing, the Stage Door Players performed "A Taffeta Christmas," which was choreographed by KSU alumnae Elizabeth Neidel (theatre and performance studies, 2007).

Many theaters gain additional financial support by offering classes, workshops or residency programs that students and the general public can take advantage of and contribute to. One unique class at Dad's Garage partners engineering students from an Atlanta-area technical college with an

improv instructor. "This class helps students further develop their people skills, presentation skills and other abilities that will make them more competitive in the job market," said Carstens. They also offer a similar program to area law firms.

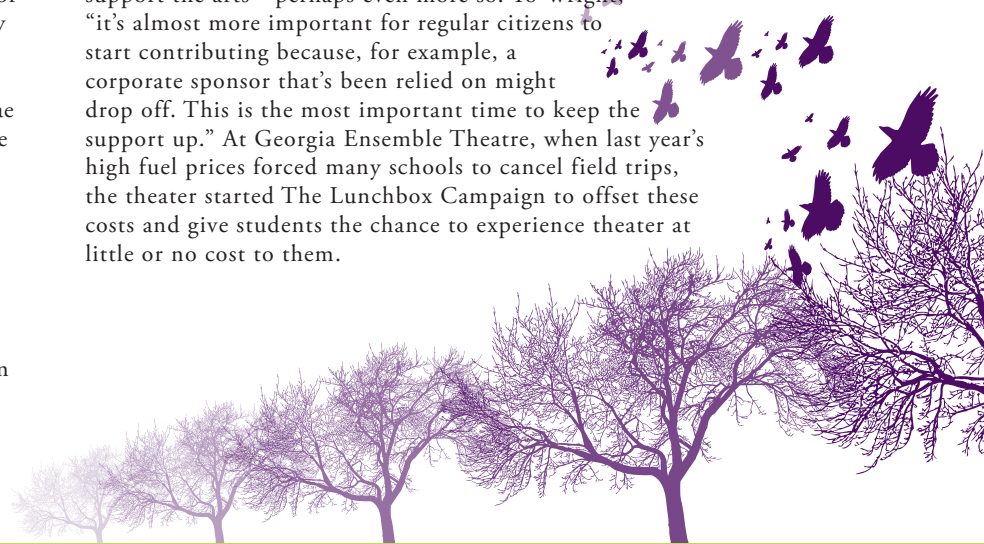
The asset that local theaters offer their communities is a large component of why Wright chose to donate his gift to his local theater.



Courtesy of Georgia Ensemble Theatre

In addition to hundreds of productions each year, area theaters present numerous community programs, like this one at Georgia Ensemble Theatre.

Even in sluggish economic times, it's important to support the arts—perhaps even more so. To Wright, "it's almost more important for regular citizens to start contributing because, for example, a corporate sponsor that's been relied on might drop off. This is the most important time to keep the support up." At Georgia Ensemble Theatre, when last year's high fuel prices forced many schools to cancel field trips, the theater started The Lunchbox Campaign to offset these costs and give students the chance to experience theater at little or no cost to them.



EXPANDING AND IMPROVING FACILITIES FOR THE ARTS AT KSU



Photo: Jamie Bullins

The building boom continues at Kennesaw State where yet another new facility for the College of the Arts is nearing completion. Located between the existing Joe Mack Wilson Building and the year-old Dr. Bobbie Bailey and Family Performance Center, the Wilson Building Annex will include spaces for both the Department of Theatre & Performance Studies and the School of Music. Meanwhile, the popular Howard

Logan Stillwell Theater is undergoing a refurbishment.

When the annex is completed in early 2009, it will provide appropriate studios for the music faculty, many of whom have been crowded into spaces that challenge their ability to teach on some instruments. The School of Music also will gain state-of-the-art Wenger practice rooms for its students.

Theatre & Performance Studies Professors Dean Adams (left) and John Gentile often donned hard hats to keep tabs on construction of the new black box theater.



When money is tight and people start adjusting their budgets, arts venues often suffer. This trend has created a unique situation for Dad's Garage. Instead of struggling to fill the seats during the recent economic downturn, the group has seen increased attendance, according to Carstens. "Our sales have been strong and we think that's due to our theater being an inexpensive option for entertainment."

Ken Wright's gift to his local theater spotlights not only what people can do to support their communities but also what local theater adds to where they live, work and play. "The arts are definitely an important aspect of keeping the community healthy, viable, attractive and balanced," said Wright. Additionally, although he didn't donate to the theater for personal recognition or attention, Wright hopes that his gift can serve as an inspiration for other community members—whether artists or non-artists—to give. "Even though

the arts may not be your background or something that you do every day, it's a critical lynchpin of a community. And, the only way for it to survive is through support from the community."

Whether you enjoy comedy or drama, are an artist or an arts appreciator, the next time you attend a show with family and friends, remember that there's more to your local theater than what's going on onstage. From supporting other nonprofit organizations to exposing new audiences to the world of theater, the programs offered by local theaters help support a thriving, healthy and balanced community. Most of these programs—and the theaters that offer them—wouldn't be possible, as Kincaid said, "without the kindness of wonderful donations from the community." 🐾



Additionally, the new building will allow Theatre and Performance Studies to realize its long-held goal of establishing a real black box theater. The current black box, the Studio Theater in the Wilson Building, was converted from a practice room and does not provide enough space or production flexibility. The new theatre will seat 125 people—double the capacity of the old space—in a variety of seating arrangements. It also will be better

equipped to meet the lighting and sound needs of various productions.

At the same time, the university has invested in a renovation of the mainstage theater, Stillwell Theater, which has not been refurbished since it opened in 1989. Stillwell's house has received a complete facelift: new seats, new carpet, new curtains and even new lighting in the foyers. 🐾

Find a local theater to support

In addition to the outstanding productions presented by the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies at Kennesaw State University, metro Atlanta offers more than 100 theater companies. For a list of them, visit the Atlanta Coalition of Performing Arts online at www.acpa.org.

Here are box office numbers and web addresses for a few of the theater companies in the area:

KSU Theatre and Performance Studies
Kennesaw
770-423-6650
www.kennesaw.edu/theatre

Actor's Express
Atlanta
404-607-7469
www.actors-express.com

Alliance Theatre
Atlanta
404-733-5000
www.alliancetheatre.org

Dad's Garage
Atlanta
404-523-3141
www.dadsgarage.com

Georgia Ensemble Theatre
Roswell
770-641-1260
www.get.org

Georgia Shakespeare
Atlanta
404-264-0020
www.gashakespeare.org

Synchronicity Performance Group
Atlanta
404-484-8636
www.synchrotheatre.com

Theatre in the Square
Marietta
770-422-8369
www.theatreinthesquare.com

Theatrical Outfit
Atlanta
678-528-1500
www.theatricaloutfit.org

The Towne Lake Arts Center
Woodstock
678-494-4251
www.tlaclive.org

Margot Potter: Theatrical Crafter

By Kathleen Walker

Whether she's pitching her idea for a new arts and travel show or working on her new book, Margot Potter (theater, 1996) draws on the performance skills she learned while a theater major at KSU. "I use all of my different talents and abilities," Potter says. "My professors instilled a sense of self-confidence and they also taught me acting, research and writing skills."

Potter, who describes herself as "eclectic, restless, and creative," divides her time and talent among several projects. She's written four books in her Impatient Beader series and is working on the fifth, discusses jewelry on QVC, creates crafting how-to videos, and works on her internationally read blog, "The Impatient Crafter."

After earning her degree, Potter moved to Philadelphia in the hopes of becoming a professional actress. However, life did not turn out as she planned. "It's a whole different world in professional theater," she says. "I learned to be flexible, to have a plan yet be open to ideas I would normally push aside. That's when exciting things happened for me." One of those things was the inspiration for writing a fun book about jewelry making, which eventually became The Impatient Beader series. "I proved I could do something completely outside my comfort zone," Potter says. "That opened the doorway to where I am now."

Although she is proud of her books, she also looks forward to the next idea and the next project. Ultimately, her goal is to host her own TV show. "With a show, I get to integrate performing back into the mix," Potter says. "I want to appeal to the average person by making the complex look easy and by showing how sometimes mistakes can lead to your best ideas, in art and in life." ☺



Images courtesy of Margot Potter

Margot Potter (right) meets a lot of fans at the many craft shows she attends to promote her now numerous craft books.

BACK TO CAMPUS



Matt Dunlap

Discovering a changing KSU landscape

By Jarnea L. Boone

When Matthew Dunlap (music performance, 2000) returned to Kennesaw State University to perform a solo recital on Nov. 8, he was thrilled that his career had brought him full circle. “Professor Mary Akerman had contacted me to showcase my talents,” he said. “I couldn’t resist. My family still lives in Marietta, but I had to also go and see my alma mater and my KSU professors.”

Dunlap thought that the most surprising positive change about the campus was the growth of the school. “I thought, ‘Where am I?’” he said. “Now, where roads once were, there are dormitories, and roads have been re-routed. I can see the shadow of the school I went to. The entire campus is different and amazing, and the faculty is still great.”

After completing his Bachelor of Music degree in guitar performance at KSU, Dunlap attended the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore where he received a Master of Music degree. He then completed a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Florida State University. While at FSU, he served as teaching assistant to Bruce Holzman, director of the guitar program, and during the summers, he studied at the Accademia

Musicale Chigiana in Italy with world-renowned Italian classical guitarist Oscar Ghiglia.

Looking back, Dunlap reveres KSU’s music faculty for having set a strong foundation for his career. He credits Assistant Professor of Guitar Mary Akerman for not only giving him the gift of guitar instruction, but also professional guidance and life advice. “When I left KSU, I absolutely felt prepared for the world ahead of me because of her direction,” he said. “I was ready for more education with my foundation sturdy beneath me.”

During his next visit to campus, Dunlap hopes to spend more time with the students. “I regret that it was such a short trip because I did not get to work directly with any students,” he said. “But it was great to just talk with some of them and with some of my professors, who congratulated me on my success. I was really impressed with the world-class Bailey Performance Center, which was not at KSU when I was an undergraduate. The experience was more than worth the trip.”

Dunlap now teaches in Virginia at Harmony Intermediate School in Hamilton and Heritage High School in Lynchburg. ☺



(Left) Matthew Dunlap performing in the Bailey Performance Center.

(Below) After his performance, current KSU guitar students lined up to speak with him.



Photos by Cheryl/Anderson Brown

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

Diana Raciti Banes (art, 2007) works for a small graphic design firm in Cartersville. She and husband, Louie, are expecting their first child in the summer.

Art alumni **Perry Bennett** (2006), **Jessica Blinkhorn** (2005), **Baxter Crane** (2007), **Brandon Crawford** (2005), **Sarah Daly** (2005), **Stephanie Funk** (2007), **Jeff Gaines** (2008), **Ben Goldman** (2006), **Kenny Holland** (2006), **Shane McDonald** (1992), **Samuel Parker** (2004), **Edward Smucygz** (2004) and **Nicole Trapani** (2004) were featured in the exhibition, "Small and Cheap," at Art Space International in Atlanta, Nov. 14-Dec. 7.

Gareth Botha (art, 2007) and **Todd Gurley** (art, 2002) were selected by the City of Atlanta to create a window display representing Atlanta for "Good Morning America" on ABC. It was revealed in the live national broadcast Dec. 4.

Tammy Copeman (interdisciplinary studies, 2007) had a sculpture accepted into the Mid-South Sculpture Alliance's "Symposium 2008 Inside" in Lexington, Ky., Oct. 25-Nov. 25.

Michele Cox (theatre & performance studies, 2005) recently completed shooting an independent short film, "The Last Job," starring Derrick O'Connor. Plans are underway to expand it to a full feature for release in Fall 2009.

Daniel DeKonty (vocal performance, 2004) released a CD, "Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs," in September.

Jan DiPietro (art, 2002) was featured in "Georgia 291 Professional Printmakers Invitational Exhibition," at Art House Gallery in Atlanta in September.

Stephanie Dodgen (theatre & performance studies, 2008) has designed several recent productions—"The Emperor's New Clothes," "James and the Giant Peach" and "Peter Pan"—for Let's Pretend, Inc., an after-school arts program in Roswell.

Matthew Dunlap (music performance, 2000) was featured in a three-page article, "Music Makers: Tune in to local teacher Matthew Dunlap's School of Rock," in the May issue of Montgomery Living magazine for his work last year at Carver Elementary Arts Magnet School in Montgomery, Ala. In 2008-

09, he is teaching in Loudon County, Va., schools. He performed a solo recital at Kennesaw State on Nov. 8.

Katherine Fernie (art) is studying in Ohio at Cleveland State University, where she earned an art merit scholarship. She has exhibited recently at six local shows in Cleveland and one in New Hampshire. She won best of show for "Being Art" and third place for "Undercover" at the same exhibition in 2008. She won the Silver Lake Association of Madison (N.H.) logo contest and won the people's choice award in the Madison Library's Old Home Week Photo Contest in September.

Caroline Harrison (theatre & performance studies, 2007) is the general manager at The Shakespeare Company in Memphis, Tenn.

Lara Jeanneret (art, 2005) co-founded Bela Creative, a graphic design company.

Lori Richman Jenkins (art education, 2004) completed a Master of Art Education degree at North Georgia College and State University in August.

Rachel Jennings (art, 2008) is working for Jackson Fine Art Gallery in Buckhead.

Katye Jordan (theatre & performance studies, 2008) is studying French at Parole de Vie Béthel in Montreal. She performed at the Quebec Intercultural Storytelling Festival, Oct. 21-28 in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

Huu Mai (music performance, 2004) performed as the featured soloist on Beethoven's Triple Concerto with the Gwinnett Symphony Orchestra on Dec. 9.

Leah McRath (music education, 2002) performed the lead role in Prokofiev's "The Love of Three Oranges" at Indiana University Nov. 14-22. She is a graduate student in IU's Jacobs School of Music.

Elizabeth Neidel (theatre & performance studies, 2007) works in the education department at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta and is a member of the Teaching Artist Bank of the Georgia Council for the Arts. She played several supporting roles in Atlanta Lyric Theatre's "Beauty & the Beast" at Earl Smith Strand Theatre in Marietta, Dec. 5-21. She choreographed "A Taffeta Christmas" which ran Nov. 28-Dec. 21 at Stage Door Players in Dunwoody.

Erin Bell Palmer (music education, 2008) married Matt Palmer in November. She has a private piano studio and teaches chorus and general music at Sandy Springs Middle School in Sandy Springs.

Samuel Parker (art, 2004) was featured in the two-person show "Majestic Hours," Nov. 8-Dec. 8 at Beep Beep Gallery in Atlanta.

COTA Alumni Recruiting Network

The College of the Arts is launching its COTA Alumni Recruiting Network this spring. Talented and accomplished COTA graduates are invited to help recruit the best students for the college. Alumni volunteers are needed to assist in attending on- or off-campus events such as audition days or performing arts fairs, contacting accepted students, and identifying qualified students in their areas. For more information, contact Christine Collins at ccolli61@kennesaw.edu.

Margot Potter (theatre, 1996) has finished two more crafting books, which are slated to debut in January 2009. She has launched her own channel on YouTube, where she posts humorous videos about crafting. She also has been commissioned by Swarovski to create four more designs to use in their DIY market segment and she will teach again for them at the 2009 Gem Show in Tucson, Ariz.

Jody Reynard (theatre, 1998) performed on the concert, "All Singin' All Dancin,'" at the Summer Broadway Festival on July 28. He also appeared in the variety show, "Rosie Live," with Rosie O'Donnell on Nov. 26 on NBC.

Edward Smucygz (art, 2004) appeared in the play, "No Sex Please, We're British," at The Rosewater Theatre in Roswell, Sept. 5-Oct. 11.

Katherine Uhle (music performance, 2007) performed as Senorita Warblewell in the Capitol City Opera production of "The Impresario" at the Conant Performing Arts Centre in Atlanta, Sept. 12-14. Her performance was positively reviewed by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution on Sept. 14.

Karen Wurl (theatre & performance studies, 2001; M.A. in professional writing, 2004) is working on a Master of Fine Arts in playwriting at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. Her one-act play, "Now and at the Hour Of" was produced in the Fuse1 project at WMU in March 2008; it has been selected for the American College Theatre Festival Region III in Saginaw, Mich., in January 2009. Her full-length play, "Vampires," was developed and read in the New Play Project at WMU in May. In March 2009, her play, "Miss Macbeth," will be produced at Whole Art Theatre in Kalamazoo. This summer, she will be a teaching assistant at WMU's Prague Summer Program in Austria.

Celebrating the Arts

The KSU College of the Arts offers many opportunities for alumni and friends to celebrate together. Special events in the last few months have included the Flourish Luncheon and the Annual Scholarship Luncheon.



Cheryl Anderson Brown

Annual Scholarship Luncheon

On Oct. 24, Kennesaw State honored its numerous scholarship sponsors and this year's scholarship students. As always, there was a huge attendance by supporters of arts scholarships and their scholars. (Clockwise from top left) Beddingfield scholar and art education major Carol Craig, John Collar from the Austell-South Cobb Rotary Annual Scholarship, Rotary scholar and art major Marcy Starz, and members of the Florence Beddingfield family Kyle Smith, William Beddingfield, Cherie Smith, David Ellis and Susan Ellis.



Tim Goldman and Melissa Ray

Flourish Luncheon

The College of the Arts raised more than \$100,000 for scholarships and student-learning initiatives with its first Flourish Luncheon. A volunteer committee including chair Mike Feldberg, Kathryn Kennelly, Traci Newman, and Mike and Jan Russell helped raise the money while another volunteer committee consisting of Merrell Calhoun, Tim Lee, Mark Maguire and Betsy Trope selected the recipients of the 2008 Flourish Awards to honor individuals and organizations that help the arts flourish in Georgia.

The award recipients were (clockwise from top left) Smyrna business owners and philanthropists Bob and Elaine Feldberg; the Cobb Symphony Orchestra, represented by executive director Brian Hermanson, artistic director Michael Alexander and special operations director Susan Stensland; Richard Garner, artistic director and founder of Georgia Shakespeare in Atlanta; and art teacher Jayne Hebert of Addison Elementary School in Marietta.

Fred Stillwell:

You could call him a renaissance man

By Kevin McKenzie

A patron of the College of the Arts, a lover of violin music, the biggest fan and supporter of the KSU Fighting Owls, Fred Stillwell chuckled at the suggestion that developers can't stop helping to develop their community, even after retirement. "I don't know about that," Stillwell said. "I was asked to be on the board of trustees at Kennesaw and I accepted that job and just kind of fell in love with the place—I've been hanging around for almost 20 years now."

While "hanging around," Stillwell's contributions to KSU have included endowing the College of the Arts with one of its most significant gifts: the Howard Logan Stillwell Theater, named in memory of his father. "I was very fond of my dad," said Stillwell, "and I always wanted to do something special for him. He loved music and taught me the love of music."

The effect of this donation continues to be felt by Stillwell even today, as the theater undergoes refurbishment. "Riding down the highway and hearing that there's going to be an event at the Howard Logan Stillwell Theater—that gives me emotional butterflies beyond belief," said Stillwell. "There is no question that it is better to give than receive."

This idea has become a philosophy for Stillwell. "I've told several people that the nicest thing, and the most enjoyable, and the most satisfying thing you could ever do is to adopt a college, adopt a school and do things for that school, whatever they need, either your time or your money."

Stillwell's numerous gifts to KSU also include the Stillwell Stadium, the Model T Ford on display in the KSU Center, even the handcrafted violin made by his grandfather, on display in the Stillwell Theater lobby. In return, Stillwell has developed what he considers the most rewarding part of his life: his relationship with Kennesaw. "I feel like I may have helped a few kids one way or the other," said Stillwell. "Any time you can support kids' learning, then you've done a masterful thing." ☺



Melissa Roy



Cheryl Anderson Brown

New scholarship honors the memory of a beloved brother

Diann and Richard Labroff recently created the Nick S. Labroff Memorial Piano and Voice Endowed Scholarship in memory of his brother. Although employed by the Oxidental Petroleum Company, Nick Labroff fostered a lifelong love of music that began as a boy when he would listen to the New York Metropolitan Opera radio broadcasts on Saturdays.

“Nick had a quick mind and a sharp wit, but his compassion, tolerance and generosity are his legacy,” according to Richard Labroff, who also funded a scholarship at KSU in honor of Diann when she graduated from the Coles College of Business at KSU in 1997.

“Diann and I have enjoyed attending music events at KSU and getting to know the School of Music over the years,” he said. “We are pleased that this tribute to Nick will help students at KSU.”

Local music organization converts annual scholarship to an endowed scholarship

For more than two decades, the Atlanta Steinway Society has awarded annual scholarships to music students at Kennesaw State as well as various other colleges. At the end of 2008, the organization decided to make their commitment to KSU permanent by establishing an endowment, the proceeds from which will fund music scholarships in perpetuity.

Launched in 1980, the Atlanta Steinway Society raises money to support music students at every level of study, supports piano competitions and hosts music events to promote excellence in music throughout the community. The society was started by Barbara Kirby, who also founded the Atlanta Piano Galleries.

“We have been honored to be associated with Dean Joseph Meeks and Kennesaw State for more than 20 years,” Kirby said. “The KSU School of Music is a vibrant and growing program. We are delighted to strengthen our association with it and to assist its students.”

School of Music celebrates the gift of 27 Steinway & Sons pianos

The KSU School of Music joined the ranks of Yale, Oberlin and Juilliard when it was officially certified as an All-Steinway School during a celebratory concert on Nov. 15. (See pages 2-3.) This designation indicates that all of the school’s pianos have been made by Steinway & Sons, the world’s most prestigious piano maker. The distinction was made possible by longtime KSU benefactor and trustee Dr. Bobbie Bailey, who purchased 27 new Steinway pianos for the university.

“This is yet one more significant achievement for our excellent School of Music,” said KSU College of the Arts Dean Joseph Meeks. “Thank you to Dr. Bobbie Bailey for making this long-held goal come to fruition.” During the event, Steinway representatives presented Bailey with a “Living Legacy” pin and named Meeks an “International Steinway Artist,” an honor that places him among the top pianists of the last 150 years. (See page 6.)

The main focus of the evening, however, was on the positive impact Steinway pianos will have for students at KSU, as Bailey indicated. “I am so proud of these students,” she said. “They deserve to have the best pianos possible. Now they can put on their résumés that they attended an All-Steinway School.”



Cheryl Anderson Brown

Dean Joseph Meeks, Diann and Richard Labroff, and KSU President Daniel Papp at the Nick S. Labroff Memorial Piano and Voice Endowed Voice Scholarship signing.

Thriving Together



Tim Harmon

(From left) Barbara Kirby, Sally Covaleskie, Dean Joseph Meeks, Bobbie Bailey, KSU President Daniel Papp and Byron Brown at the All-Steinway School Celebration.

A Selection of Upcoming Arts Events at KSU

For a complete list of College of the Arts events, visit www.kennesaw.edu/arts or call 770-423-6650. All events are subject to change.



Staging a Georgia classic

From tales of Appalachian Jack and China's fabled Monkey King to last year's original production of "Moby-Dick," the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies has established a reputation for staging adaptations of ancient myths, favorite folk tales and literary masterpieces.

This spring, they bring a Georgia favorite back home for its southeast regional premiere with "Everything That Rises Must Converge," based on two stories—the title piece and "A View of the Woods"—by Milledgeville-native Flannery O'Connor. Conceived, created for the stage and originally directed by Karin Coonrod in New York, the KSU production will be directed by Karen Robinson, associate professor of theatre and performance studies.

"These stories have all of the ingredients of masterful fiction and compelling theater," Robinson said. "They feature fascinating and fiercely funny characters that are recognizable yet mysterious, finely wrought details of time and place, and riveting storylines that unfold in unexpected ways."

The department has launched a new companion website for the production with background information and insight for audiences, particularly high school teachers and their students. To access the site, click the link at www.kennesaw.edu/theatre.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. To order tickets, call 770-423-6650 or click www.kennesaw.edu/arts/boxoffice.

Artwork by Joshua Stone and Shea Trembeath

Through March 3

26th Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition. Celebrating more than a quarter century of spirited competition among KSU student artists, the 26th Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition is open to all students. Entries are juried by distinguished Atlanta arts professionals, with many cash prizes awarded. Many of the works are available for purchase. Opening Reception: January 15, 5-8 p.m. Fine Arts Gallery, Joe Mack Wilson Building. Free.

March 1

Premiere Series: Jennifer Larmore, mezzo-soprano and Antoine Palloc, piano. Jennifer Larmore, originally from Marietta, is returning to KSU for her fourth appearance. With more than 70 recordings and performances with the world's most renowned opera companies and orchestras, Larmore is known for the astonishing range, flexibility and color of her voice as well as her insightful interpretations of the operatic repertoire. Larmore won a 2008 best opera Grammy for her performance of Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel" directed by Sir Charles Mackerras. 3 p.m. Performance Hall, Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center. \$40.

March 19-April 30

"ATA Türk: Chantal Zakari and Mike Mandel in Collaboration." Curated by Will Hips. Contemporary artists Chantal Zakari and Mike Mandel will present their most recent collaborative work as part of the Year of Turkey programming at Kennesaw State University. Opening reception: March 19, 5-8 p.m., dialogue with the artists 6 p.m. Fine Arts Gallery, Joe Mack Wilson Building. Free.

April 14-19

"Everything That Rises Must Converge." By Flannery O'Connor. Conceived, created for the stage and originally directed by Karin Coonrod. Directed by Karen Robinson. A new stage adaptation of native Georgian Flannery O'Connor's last short stories, including the title piece as well as "A View of the Woods," as devised by New York director Karin Coonrod. Both stories feature startling family dynamics, revealing the paradoxical fragility and explosive power of love. 8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Howard Logan Stillwell Theater, Joe Mack Wilson Building. \$15.

April 18

Premiere Series: James Ehnes, violin. Having made his solo debut with the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal at age 13, Ehnes has won numerous awards and prizes, including the first-ever Ivan Galamian Memorial Award, the Candada Council for Arts' prestigious Virginia Parker Prize and a 2005 Avery Fisher Career Grant. He has made more than 20 recordings including a 250th anniversary tribute to Mozart in 2006, which included the composer's complete works for violin and orchestra. 8 p.m. Performance Hall, Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center. \$40.

Tickets and Information

Box Office: 770-423-6650

Art Museum & Galleries: 770-499-3223

www.kennesaw.edu/arts

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Coming Soon: James Ehnes



flourish

The Premiere Series will present Grammy Award-winning violinist James Ehnes accompanied by pianist Andrew Armstrong at 8 p.m. on April 18 in the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center.

Since making his solo debut with the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal at age 13, Ehnes has secured a reputation as one of the world's preeminent concert violinists. He has earned many prestigious awards

and is a prolific recording artist. Among his 20 recordings is a 250th anniversary tribute to Mozart, which included the composer's complete works for violin and orchestra.

To order tickets or to find out more about the Premiere Series, contact the KSU Box Office at www.kennesaw.edu/arts/boxoffice or 770-423-6650.



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