



flourish

**Totally Immersed in Music:**  
KSU offers intensive programs for  
high school musicians

**Silent Heroes:**  
Anonymous giving has a major impact

**Aging Artfully:**  
A grand new day for older adults





# from the heART



Arts Dean Joseph Meeks (left) and Science & Mathematics Dean Laurence Peterson have always been strong supporters of each other's colleges. They frequently collaborate on projects that emphasize the interconnections between the arts and sciences.

**E**ach year, I am more and more amazed at how quickly time moves. So much has happened in my four decades at Kennesaw State, but, in many ways, I still feel as young and ambitious as I was that first day on campus. The arts are responsible for that—my hair may get lighter, but my soul is more vibrant and thriving.

As long as we continue to feed our souls and our imaginations, we can remain connected to the world around us. Einstein said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand."

Einstein was right. Sometimes, people think that creativity and the arts are disconnected, even unimportant. But, the arts are essential. Like the sciences, they offer us a mechanism for exploring and understanding the world around us. Beyond that, the arts provide beauty to brighten our lives. The arts dissolve our loneliness; by viewing art we are interacting with another soul somewhere in time. We may no longer know the name of the poet or the composer, but their voices speak to us, comfort us and inspire us.

When we take that next step, creating art, those connections grow even deeper. We really allow our imaginations to "embrace the entire world." That's why it is critically important throughout our lives to continue seeking beauty, to engage the arts all around us and to unleash our own creative powers.

You are never alone in the presence of the arts. You are never more connected to life than when you are being creative.

Einstein and I invite you to unleash your imagination no matter your age or level of experience—Seek an artistic endeavor that you have always wanted to experience. You may not understand the feeling that comes over you. It is incredibly complicated. It is intriguingly intricate.

It is unbelievably fulfilling.

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

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On the Cover:  
High school students performing  
a collaborative work in the Bailey  
Performance Center during the  
Summer Clinic for Music and Dance.  
Photo courtesy of the Summer Clinic.



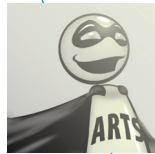
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## **Bringing new energy**

The KSU Dance Company sold out its fall dance concert—even allowing people to attend the dress rehearsal—in November. The title piece of the concert, “Chakra,” was inspired by traditional Indian medicine’s focus on aligning the body’s seven energy centers or chakras. As dance critic Cynthia Bond Perry wrote, “it is as if KSU Dance’s seven chakras are coming into alignment, with the launch of a new B.A. degree and a newly formed partnership with Atlanta Ballet.”

*KSU Dance Company members  
Stacey Caren (left) and Britani Edwards*

*Photo by Robert Pack*



April Marten won first prize in the alternative process category in the 2010 Juried Student Exhibition.

## Meet April Marten: Pursuing a paper path

By Jarnea L. Boone

Book arts, papermaking, paper arts. Junior art major April Marten is learning about all things paper. "I have always been fascinated with utilizing paper in different ways," says Marten. "I enjoy paper sculpting and paper forms like origami."

For the past two years, Marten has been creating the body of work that she plans to present during her senior art exhibition. She has also been working on a series of paper silhouettes. "What I enjoy, and what is most difficult about papermaking, is that it involves exact precision, almost like being a paper engineer," she says.

Marten has been interested in art since she was a small child. Her elementary school teacher recommended her for a gifted art program, but she could not get involved at the time. She went through school and became a paralegal. It wasn't until she was in her thirties that she decided to pursue her love of art.



Kristel Nubla

no formal art education prior to KSU, Marten took a bookmaking and papermaking class with Assistant Professor of Visual Arts Natasha Lovelace-Habers. "I wanted to pursue papermaking after that course."

Marten is grateful that her professors have instilled in her the courage to pursue her passion. "Prof. Lovelace has been mentoring me as an art student and on building a professional career before I graduate, and Prof. Robert Sherer has helped me find venues for my work."

Marten says she spends as much time as she can in the art community. She is president of the KSU student art guild, Visions, and she teaches art to elementary school students in a private studio. As an active member of the KSU Arts Advocacy Group, she traveled to Washington, D.C., last year to advocate for increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts.

With

After graduating from KSU, Marten is considering several possibilities for continuing her career.

"I want to eventually go on to graduate school to have the option to teach. I am also heavily into arts advocacy. I enjoy advocating for arts students and their unique needs."

In large part because of Marten's advocacy and leadership, the KSU art students now operate their own gallery on campus. ☺

Melissa Withers





# In the College

## Visual arts professors use grant to encourage awareness and action



Sustainable water solutions is the theme of Thomas Cochran's poster.

Associate Professors of Art Valerie Dibble and Jeanne Sperry received a KSU Global Learning grant for a collaborative service-learning project, for which they instructed their students to create visual solutions centered on the topics “Diabetes: Solution for a Sweeter Life” and “Sustainable Water: Thirsting for a Solution.”

The resulting, research-based posters were juried for inclusion in a traveling exhibition that Dibble and Sperry are presenting at several venues. The project also will be featured at the College Art Association in Chicago in February 2010.

“Because the exhibition was juried, not everyone who created a poster was chosen,” says Dibble. “This opportunity is great for our students because it serves as public exhibition experience and students can put that on their résumés.”

## Kennesaw State’s ties to Turkey continue expanding

Linda Tincher



Montaña (left) and Aguiar

KSU art professors Linda Hightower and Carole Mauge-Lewis recently oversaw a competition to create a new website look for Golcuk Art and Cultural Center in Golcuk, Turkey. As a class project in Art 4022 “Advanced Digital Design,” pairs of students submitted designs into a competition judged by Dilek Pecin, director of the center, and the mayor of Golcuk.

They selected the design by seniors Catalina Montaña and Anna Aguiar. One of their goals was to make the site refreshing and modern. The students designed the logo on the home page panel and a template for the site.

The project is just one aspect of Kennesaw State’s growing relationship with Turkey. Following last year’s celebration of the “Year of Turkey,” Hightower curated an art exhibition by KSU students and alumni at the Golcuk Center. She will return to Turkey again in May and June, leading students on the university’s first study-abroad program there.

## “Year of Korea” brings arts opportunities to KSU

Each year, Kennesaw State celebrates global learning by highlighting a particular culture. The 2009-2010 academic year is the “Year of Korea.” In honor of this celebration, which is coordinated by the KSU Office of International Programs & Services, the College of the Arts has created curricular connections and helped present public events to raise awareness of Korean arts. Among these efforts are:



TPS 1107 students created plays based on Korean materials.

- the exhibition, “From the Fire: Contemporary Korean Ceramics,” in the fall;
- a residency by members of the Korean Zither Musicians Association in October;
- the development of curriculum modules exploring Korean theater for the first-year learning communities;
- performances by the KSU Tellers and KSU Dance Company on the “Year of Korea” Day program; and
- a residency by the Hanyang University Orchestra from Seoul, Korea in January.

For upcoming “Year of Korea” events for the entire campus, visit [www.kennesaw.edu/yearofkorea](http://www.kennesaw.edu/yearofkorea).

## Cobb Symphony Orchestra performs monumental symphony at KSU

On Oct. 17 and 18, the Cobb Symphony Orchestra and Chorus performed Gustav Mahler’s Symphony No. 2 in the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center. This was only their second performance in the venue.

Often referred to as the “Resurrection Symphony,” Mahler’s Symphony No. 2 is “a mammoth and deeply moving work,” according to Brian Hermanson, executive director of the CSO. The work was conducted by KSU Associate Professor Michael Alexander, who is the music director of the CSO. It also featured Bryan Black, chorus director of the CSO, Magdalena Wor, mezzo-soprano, and KSU faculty member Jana Young, soprano.



Michael Alexander

The performance was praised by Atlanta music critic Pierre Ruhe: “Across the symphony, Alexander and his players were at their most convincing and heart-felt making broad statements in sweeping gestures.” Ruhe also singled out Young, who, he said, “sang the small soprano part gorgeously.”



# In the Classroom

## Educating actors for success

By Jessica Wilson

Kennesaw State University's Bachelor of Arts degree in theatre and performance studies does more than educate young actors; it sparks their careers.

Two years ago, Assistant Professor Harrison Long proposed a new acting concentration. Other concentrations include musical theatre, performance studies and design/technology. As the coordinator of the concentration, he has brought in such renowned professionals as André De Shields, Per Brahe and Adam Fristoe. Long observes that proximity to Atlanta, one of the country's largest theatre communities, provides KSU with access to working professionals as teachers and mentors.

Long emphasizes the importance of a liberal arts program where students learn more than traditional performance skills. "Our approach is a holistic one; students are given the nuts and bolts of acting technique while developing communications skills, global awareness and empathy."

New courses in the acting concentration this semester incorporate innovative teaching methods. The new courses include Voice/Articulation, Dialects and Physical Theatre taught by Adam Fristoe whose innovative work has been featured in American Theatre magazine and The Chronicle of Higher Education. "Movement for the Performer," taught by Broadway performer Hylan Scott, stresses the importance of movement on the stage. Plus, "Audition Practicum," taught by Associate Professor Karen Robinson, helps students develop skills needed to get a job.

This spring, KSU is also offering its first "Professional Showcase," directed by Freddie Ashley, artistic director of Actors Express Theatre in Atlanta. The showcase will give seniors from the acting concentration the chance to perform on the Actors Express stage at King Plow Arts Center in front of leading members of the greater Atlanta theatre community.

According to Long, KSU has student and alumni actors working in every major theatre in Atlanta—proof that the acting concentration is not simply turning out graduates but successful, working actors. ☺

Photos by Scott Singleton



(Above and below) Recent opportunities for students in the acting concentration have included a multi-day workshop with Broadway legend André De Shields.



START THE FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE





# Around the World

## KSU visual arts students experience Japan

By Jarnea L. Boone

Japanese art includes everything from ancient pottery and bronze sculptures to cartoons and ink on silk. Japanese ceramics are among the finest in the world and are included in the earliest known artifacts of the culture. Painting is a preferred artistic expression in Japan, and the Japanese brushstroke is considered a valuable contribution to the aesthetics of painting.

To see Japanese art up close, in its own environment, might be considered an unobtainable venture. But not for KSU art students. For the last two summers, the university has sponsored “Art and Culture of Japan,” a study abroad experience in Kyoto and Tokyo, Japan. The program is being offered again in 2010.

Students meet for classes at KSU for a week and then spend a month in Japan. During the trip, students visit historical sites and interact with Japanese art, culture and people. The group also visits several tourist sites, including the dormant volcano Mount Fuji.

This experience has proven valuable for students. “One of my most memorable moments was that I got to talk and interact with the people there,” says Julianne Trew. “I made friends at the colleges we visited.”

Brian Prince says he had a surreal experience in Japan. “I have always had a fascination with Japanese art. One of my favorite moments was going to the Ghibli Studio Museum in Mitaka. I love the works directed by Hayao Miyazaki.”

Participants can earn up to nine credit hours from the experience. To make the program even more appealing, scholarships are available. For more information about the 2010 “Art and Culture of Japan” program, click “Study Abroad” at [www.kennesaw.edu/visual\\_arts](http://www.kennesaw.edu/visual_arts).



Art major Julianne Trew enjoyed the Japanese program in 2009.



Photos courtesy of Brian Prince and Julianne Trew





Linda Tricher

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## David Watkins:

### Sharing his music

By Cheryl Anderson Brown

Maybe it is a cliché, but it is true: Professor of Piano David Watkins is one of the nicest people you will ever meet. His debonair demeanor belies a quiet sense of humor, but his most notable quality is his dedication—to music, to service and, most importantly, to his students. Now, after nearly three decades at Kennesaw State, he is planning to retire at the end of this school year.

Watkins has had a full career as a concert pianist and teacher. One of his earliest achievements was receiving the prestigious Atlanta Music Club Scholarship to study at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. He completed both the Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees there. Then, he made his Carnegie Hall debut in 1986. Later, he was added to the roster of International Steinway Artists. Along the way, he accompanied Metropolitan Opera sopranos Irene Jordan, Linda Zoghby and Patricia Craig in recital. He toured with cellist Roger Drinkall. He performed solo recitals and concerti around the country and he recorded two commercial CDs.

Watkins served his profession by taking on leadership roles in several music organizations, including four years as president of the American Matthey Association and two as president of the Georgia Music Teachers Association. He believes strongly in giving back. Inspired in part by the scholarship that launched his career, he was one of the first to endow a scholarship for music students at KSU and he has continued contributing to that endowment every year.

“What music does for people, whether playing the violin or singing, is to allow them to express themselves as fully as possible,” he says. “My goal is to help them achieve that.”

He has met that goal in his studio every day of his tenure at KSU. His students are proof of his success. They have been accepted into the nation’s top graduate programs, have performed around the world and have won accolades and awards at state, national and international levels.

With his retirement, Watkins will have more time to concertize and to focus on projects like his current project for ACA Digital Recordings that will feature the unpublished works of David Berg, former chairman of the piano department at Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y. However, he promises not to stray too far from teaching or from the KSU School of Music.

“I’m still going to be teaching. It is what I love and I will never stop doing it.”



Tim Harmon

### DAVID WATKINS’ LAST CONCERTO

You can hear David Watkins’ final faculty performance at 8 p.m. on March 17 in the Bailey Performance Center. He will play Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto #3 with the KSU Orchestra. The orchestra will also present Dvořák’s Symphony #7. Tickets are \$5. To order tickets, call the box office at 770-423-6650 or click the box office link at [www.kennesaw.edu/arts](http://www.kennesaw.edu/arts).

CAMPUS



## Music

### Faculty & Staff

**Rob Cronin** composed a new Flute Concerto, which was premiered by **Christina Smith** with the Cobb Symphony Orchestra, Jan. 9-10, in Kennesaw. Also on the program was the premiere of "The Pond," written and performed by **Jen Mitchell**. The CSO is conducted by **Michael Alexander**. The concert received a positive review in the Jan. 11 issue of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

**Robert Henry** performed Grieg's Piano Concerto and Beethoven's "Fantasia in C minor" with the Valdosta (Ga.) Symphony Orchestra on Oct. 3. He was profiled in "Noteworthy: Orchestra marks 20th season, pianist returns for Beethoven, Grieg" in the Sept. 29 issue of The Valdosta Daily Times.

**Oral Moses** received the 2009 KSU Foundation Prize for Scholarship/Creative Activity for his CD, "Songs of America."

**Laurence Sherr** received a prize from the Association for the Promotion of New Music in October for his composition, Four Short Pieces for Solo Violin, which was then performed on a concert at the Tenri Cultural Institute in New York City on Oct. 23. Some of his works were also performed in Egelsbach, Germany in October as part of Holocaust memorial events. He was profiled in the article, "Der Klang der Versöhnung," in the Oct. 14 issue of Op-Online in Germany.

**Trey Wright** was profiled in "Take Five with Trey Wright" in the Sept. 7 issue of All About Jazz.

**Jana Young** performed on Mahler's Symphony No. 2 with the Cobb Symphony Orchestra Chorus, Oct. 17-18 at the Bailey Performance Center. Her performance, CSO director **Michael Alexander** and the Bailey Center were praised in the review, "Cobb Symphony succeeds on tricky path," in the Oct. 19 issue of Access Atlanta.

### Students

**Jon Brown, Brooke Eastlick, Luke Lovell** and **Megan Otte** performed as the KSU Santa Singers at the Atlanta Opera Guild Christmas party Dec. 12.

**Steven Melin** was profiled in "Author Interview: Smelin," on the blog, Audio Jungle.

**Tsuey Wei Seah** received a scholarship from the Georgia Music Hall of Fame and performed on the broadcast of the Georgia Music Hall of Fame Awards Show on Sept. 19.

## Theatre & Performance Studies

### Faculty & Staff

**Jane Barnette** published an essay, "Staging the Numinous," in the fall issue of Text and Performance Quarterly.

**Ming Chen** was a finalist for the 2009 KSU Foundation Distinguished Scholarship and Creative Activity Award.

**John Gentile** recently published two essays, "The Pilgrim Soul: Herman Melville's Moby-Dick as Pilgrimage" in the fall issue of Text and Performance Quarterly and "Stories of the Otherworld: An Interview with Eddie Lenihan" in the September issue of Storytelling, Self, Society. He presented an address, "Flashes of Fire within Dark Flight": Exile, Homecoming, and Nostalgia in Katharyn Howd Machan's "Redwing: Voices from 1888," at the Patti

Pace Performance Festival at Georgia Southern University, Jan. 29.

**Harrison Long** narrated an orchestra version of the children's book, "Rebecca Woogie Came to Town," for a CD recording that was released with the illustrated book in October.

**Ivan Pulinkala** will have a book, "Piper of the Soul," published by Lambert Academic Publications in 2010. His article, "The Sensuality of Indian Movement," was published online by Artconcerns.com in Summer 2009 and will appear in print in 2010.

**Lauri Stallings** choreographed "Pour" for Le Flash Atlanta. The work was highlighted in two postings by **Cynthia Bond Perry** on ArtsCriticATL.com: "Le Flash-Atlanta: worlds collide in dance with Lauri Stallings' 'Pour'" on Oct. 5 and "Interview with choreographer Lauri Stallings" on Nov. 3.

### Students

**Natalie Barrow** appeared as "Ziegfeld's Favorite" in the Atlanta Lyric Theatre's production of "The Will Rogers Follies" in Marietta, Sept. 4-20, and she appeared in their production of "Cabaret," June 12-26.

**Briana Brock** and **Adam Rice** performed monologues from "Redwing: Voices from 1888" at the Patti Pace Performance Festival at Georgia Southern University, Jan. 29.

**Greg Garrison** was presented the 2010 Outstanding Student Storyteller Scholarship sponsored by the Southern Order of Storytellers during the SOS Winter Storytelling Festival on Jan. 28. He also performed at the festival.

**Phillip Justman** was profiled in "Rockdale native finds niche as storyteller" in the Rockdale (Ga.) Citizen, Nov. 13.

### Other

**KSU Tellers** performed "Family Stories" at the Conyers Rockdale Council for the Arts Center in Conyers, Nov. 13. They were also highlighted as an "offbeat student organization" in the Aug. 19 issue of Creative Loafing.

The **Program in Dance** was featured in the article, "Atlanta: Dancing all over," in the January issue of Dance Magazine. The Atlanta Ballet partnership was highlighted in the article, "A Peachy Partnership," in the September issue of Dance Spirit Magazine.

## Visual Arts

### Faculty & Staff

**Valerie Dibble** received the 2009 Tommy and Beth Holder Award from the KSU Foundation.

**Matt Haffner** has work featured in "Recent Acquisitions," an exhibition that opened in January at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia in Atlanta. His work was also featured in the group show, "The December Show," at the WhiteSpace Gallery in Atlanta, Dec. 11-Jan. 2 and in the group show, "The Cell Phone Photography Project," during the Atlanta Celebrates Photography festival, Sept. 19-Oct. 16. He will also be featured in the group show, "Spark, Borrow and Steal," at Pentimenti Gallery in Philadelphia, March 16-April 30.

**Natasha Lovelace Habers** received a Creative Activities and Research Experiences For Teams (CARET) grant from the KSU Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. The grant will support a collaborative project with The

Center Helping Obesity in Children End Successfully to create a children's book promoting healthier eating.

**Linda Hightower** received a scholarship to attend the Women Leaders for the World Program in Santa Clara, Calif., and Los Altos, Calif., Dec. 6-11.

**April Munson** received an Incentive Funding Award for Scholarship & Creative Activity from the KSU Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. The award will support a case study of Spain's University of Valladolid's blended/hybrid course for education students. Munson will offer a campus workshop and create a "best practices" website.

**Kristen Seaman** received an Incentive Funding Award for Scholarship & Creative Activity from the KSU Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. The award will support research in Greece and the writing of a book about rhetoric and innovation in the Greek art of the Hellenistic period (323-31 B.C.E.).

### Students

**Heather Alexander, Aaron Artrip, Morgan Baling, Sean Chancey, Ellen Delaney, Micah Entrekin, Rebecca Fabian, Mersia Ada Gant, Carly Hansen, Joani Inglett, Bradley Lewis, April Marten, Kristel Nubla, Deanna Roland, Josh Stainthorp, Holly Winter** and **Christopher Wong** attended a retreat, "Creativity Retreat - Arcosanti," in Phoenix, Ariz., Dec. 10-15. Each of them is creating artwork that will be displayed in the exhibition, "Visions of Arcosanti," opening March 15 in the Visions Student Art Gallery on campus.

**Caroline Annandale, Annie Mekas, Jessica Killpack, Deanna Roland, Marcy Starz, Rachel Wade, Sarah Wellman** and **Mark Verlander** were featured in "The December Show: KSU Downtown" at 363 Georgia Avenue Studios in Grant Park in Atlanta, Dec. 12-Jan. 7.

**Chasen Barry, Sheri Blight, Morgan Booker, Adnaan Chaudhri, Andrew Fishback, Jessica Killpack, April Marten, Annie Mekas, Chris Neuenschwander, Gunda Perry, Deanna Roland, Brook Schulze, Donna Shiver, Marcy Starz, Jonathan Terry, Mark Verlander, Rachel Wade, Sarah Wellman** and **Bryan Wilson** contributed artwork to the Georgia Lawyers for the Arts annual fundraiser at Mason-Murer Gallery in Atlanta, Nov. 20.

**Melinda McPherson** was invited to participate in the exhibition, "Not You," at the MINT Gallery in Atlanta in January. She also had a solo show, "Endangered People," at the KSU Student Gallery, Nov. 15-Dec. 15. She was profiled in the article, "The Soft-Sided Punk Rock Chick," in the Aug. 15 issue of the KSU Sentinel.

**Marcy Starz** was featured in the art auction benefiting Eyedrum Art Gallery on Aug. 14.

**Jason Royal** performed in the Atlanta Lyric Theatre's production of "Cabaret" in Marietta, July 12-26. He also played "Woof," in the 7 Stages production of "Hair" in Atlanta, Sept. 10-Oct. 9, for which he received positive reviews in the Sept. 14 issue of Creative Loafing and the Sept. 15 issue of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

**Geoffrey Smith** served as assistant to Matt Haffner as part of The Working Artist Project at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia in Atlanta. His work was exhibited in the group show for studio assistants at MOCA-GA, Sept. 3-Oct. 2.



# TOTALLY

# immersed in

By Scott Singleton and Jarnea L. Boone

# U



For a young musician, studying music with members of the Kennesaw State University School of Music faculty, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Cobb Symphony Orchestra can be a life-altering experience. Four KSU-sponsored events, all presented in the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center, offer this opportunity for high school musicians. The students are able to study and perform with talented peers as well as the finest professional musicians in the state.

The annual Male Chorus Day, established in 2005, enables male students to experience the power of singing in a large male chorus. Led by Associate Professor of Music and Music Education Leslie Blackwell, the students participate in a one-day workshop that focuses on three musical pieces and vocal technique, with a concluding performance in the evening. The event has grown to include 190 male students and offers a sound that Blackwell describes as “unique, mature and gutsy.”

Modeled after Male Chorus Day, the new Women's Choral Day was introduced last semester by Assistant Professor of Music Education Alison Mann. In its first year, the event attracted 286 female performers representing 13 schools in the Atlanta area, along with home-schooled students.

The students explored a wide variety of music, including pieces in Latin, English and Portuguese. Mann says, “Next year, I look forward to seeing familiar faces from our first event and meeting new singers for an intense and rewarding day of singing.”

Brass Blast!, another new program this year, will occur on Feb. 13 and is exclusively for high school brass musicians. Coordinated by Associate Professor of Music David Thomas Kehler, Brass Blast! will offer the students coaching from some of the best professional brass musicians in the Southeast, most of whom perform with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra or Cobb Symphony Orchestra.

“My hope for ‘Brass Blast!’ is that it becomes a popular annual event that students will want to participate in,” says Kehler. “This opportunity puts KSU’s best foot forward. It brings students to our campus and showcases what the School of Music has to offer.”

KSU’s partnership with the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus offers high school musicians an opportunity to work together over an extended period of time. GYSO, founded by the Cobb Symphony Orchestra in 2006, established residence at KSU in 2007 and performs three major concerts a year. With more than 400 students, GYSO is the largest youth orchestra program in the Southeast and provides students with nine different ensembles, including two full orchestras, two wind ensembles, a jazz ensemble, a percussion ensemble, a chamber music program and a recently introduced choral program.

The experience of performing in a large ensemble is an essential piece of artistic growth for many students. April Johnson, now a music education major at KSU, says, “I had to completely change my mindset from playing as a soloist to playing with a section. That





experience has helped me feel well prepared whenever I perform with a new orchestra.”

Associate Professor of Music Michael Alexander, who serves as the music director of GYSO, says the program enables students to stretch their musical capabilities. “It is for students who love music and want an extra experience and an opportunity to play great music at a very high level with colleagues from across the region,” he says.

Jonathan Urizar, now a music performance major at KSU, joined GYSO while he was a senior in high school. “The orchestra helped

me by opening up new ways of thinking about music,” Urizar says.

For an even more intensive experience, the KSU School of Music and GYSO offer the Summer Clinic for Music and Dance. The one-week program offers high school students courses in band, chorus, dance, classical and jazz guitar, orchestra and piano. Now entering its fourth year, the Summer Clinic attracts students from throughout metro Atlanta and north Georgia.

Summer Clinic students receive comprehensive training. Depending on their instrument, they participate in large and small ensembles, receive

individual coaching and practice audition techniques. All of the students present a concluding recital to showcase their work.

According to Alexander, who co-directs the Summer Clinic, the experience “gives high school students an idea of what it’s like to be a music major in college.”

The transition to college can be challenging, so the School of Music is likely to expand its offerings for young musicians. If the popularity of the existing programs is an indication of the future of collegiate music programs, Georgia can expect a harmonious future. 🎶

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL MUSICIANS

The KSU School of Music has several events planned for high school musicians in the coming months, including:

### **Brass Blast!**

February 13

Young brass players will spend the day working with the finest brass musicians in the region and perform an afternoon recital. For more information, visit [www.kennesaw.edu/music/brass\\_blast.shtml](http://www.kennesaw.edu/music/brass_blast.shtml).

### **High School Invitational Choral Festival**

March 2

KSU will host its first invitational choral festival. The participating choirs—from Riverwood High School, Duluth High School, Kennesaw

Mountain High School, Cartersville High School, and Sandy Creek High School—were selected at the Georgia Music Educators Association and American Choral Directors Association conferences. For more information, contact Leslie Blackwell at 770-423-6153 or [lblackwe@kennesaw.edu](mailto:lblackwe@kennesaw.edu).

### **Summer Clinic for Music & Dance**

June 6-11

Students entering grades 9-12 will work in large and small ensembles, attend professional performances and present a recital. Co-presented with the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra & Chorus. Programs include band, chorus, dance, classical and jazz guitar, orchestra and piano. For more information, visit [www.kennesaw.edu/music-clinic](http://www.kennesaw.edu/music-clinic).





aging *artfully*  
a grand new day for older adults

By Scott Singleton



## BACK TO SCHOOL

At the age of 68, Bill Needs stepped into an art museum for the first time. Inspired by the experience, he enrolled in a drawing class at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Kennesaw State University's Continuing Education Center. In the second class meeting, Needs, who worked in vocational rehabilitation counseling for more than 25 years, unexpectedly discovered drawing skills.

"After I retired, I wanted to try things I did not have time for before, and I was surprised with how well I could draw," he says. "This was an astounding experience for me because I had no interest in the arts at all." Needs decided to pursue teaching after completing more art classes and now serves as a drawing instructor at OLLI, Marietta Community School and a local Methodist church.

Not alone in his experience, Needs joins a growing group of older adults who are actively participating in all areas of the arts. In addition to new skills, the arts are providing opportunities for seniors to meet new people, bridge generational gaps, maintain mental and physical strength and gain new perspectives.

Susan Bass, recently retired program development officer at OLLI, explains that the classes provide the students more than an opportunity to learn something new. "We take trips to the High Museum, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and even the Varsity," she says. "Students enjoy the socialization that the classes offer." OLLI currently offers classes in acrylic painting, art appreciation, digital photography, poetry, dancing, drawing, watercolor and many others. Three times a year, OLLI also holds socials that allow the seniors to practice their newly developed dancing skills.

Increased interactions with classmates often provide seniors with a new way of thinking. Kathy Rennell Forbes, watercolor instructor at OLLI and at Roomscales Gallery in downtown Woodstock, has taught students from Iceland, Holland, Japan and Slovakia. "They all have a wealth of information. They learn from me, and they learn from each other," explains Forbes. These students from all around the world, according to Forbes, offer unique glimpses into the culture, traditions and values of their native countries.

Participating in the arts also allows seniors to remain connected to younger generations. Forbes observes, "Art can bridge generations." Many of her students find a connection through displaying and discussing art with their children and grandchildren.

The social benefits for seniors participating in the arts cover a wide range of needs. For some, it provides hope when coping with loss. Bass recounts the experience of one student at OLLI who suffered the loss of her husband. For

The College of the Arts counts many older adults among its students. Some choose to audit a few classes while others decide to complete a degree. Sometimes they are exploring a new passion; other times they are fulfilling a dream deferred.

### Martha Griffith Art



"It is a joy to be able to develop what talent I have and to enjoy the company of the other art students."

### Anna Hall Music



"Most of my life, I've been a frustrated musician. So I decided to go back to school and study music to satisfy my own desires."

### Jim Wallace Theatre & Performance Studies



"Growing up in the 1950s, we did what was expected of us. Now I'm doing what I want to do. The first time I went to school was to get a degree. This time I'm getting an education."

If you are interested in applying for admission to the KSU College of the Arts, click the Admissions link at [www.kennesaw.edu/arts](http://www.kennesaw.edu/arts) or call 770-423-6614.





# I am embarking on a new period of living that

her, studying drawing and painting and interacting with her classmates proved not only a helpful distraction, but a source of hope. “It gave her serenity. It was a time for her to do what she wanted and not think of anything else,” says Bass.

In addition to social benefits, studying the arts helps older adults maintain their mental and physical abilities. Barbara Hammond, music education coordinator at KSU, highlights the advantages of studying music. “Music is storytelling, whether it has lyrics or not. It takes us on a journey and tells a story.” The narrative-like quality of music inspires creative thinking and increases imagination. According to a September 1998 issue of Newsweek, it has been shown that “music can actually help build and strengthen connections among nerve cells in the cerebral cortex.”

Hammond, who holds a graduate certificate in gerontology from Georgia State and often teaches at elder hostels, observes that musical skills are not required to benefit from music. The skill of listening is an aspect of music that Hammond often incorporates into her teaching. “It’s a developed skill, and it never leaves you,” explains Hammond. Understanding the concepts of musical repetition, contrast and variety forces the listener to compare and predict, according to Hammond. This mentally stimulating process allows seniors to enjoy, learn and grow from listening to music.

At KSU and in the Atlanta area, many venues exist for listening to live music, including the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Cobb Symphony Orchestra, and the KSU Orchestra. Many adults, however, want to do more than listen. John “Sandy” Sanders, recently retired president of the Big Chicken Chorus in Marietta, did not begin singing until later in life. Upon discovery of his new skill, Sanders fully embraced the role of a musician. Sanders explains, “The wonderful thing about this art form is it gives you some fabulous life experiences that you might not have had otherwise.” Sanders also appreciates the cathartic nature of music. “A couple hours of singing, no matter what kind of day you had, relaxes you.”

People also gain new perspectives through participating in the arts. In fact, for some, the world never looks the same after becoming involved in an artistic endeavor. Needs explains, “I look at everything differently. Every tree, with

# I missed the last 70 years.



The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at KSU Center provides a wide variety of classes for adults 50 and older. Most classes are between four and six weeks long and are offered both during the day and in the evening. Here are a few to choose from:

- Acrylic Painting
- Art Appreciation
- Calligraphy
- Caricature Art
- Color Theory
- Dancing for All Occasions
- Digital Photography
- Floral and Still Life
- Instant Piano
- Mixed Media Collage
- Music Reading
- Pencil, Pen and Ink Drawing
- Portraits to Landscapes
- Piano by Ear
- Watercolor

the changing leaves and the fading light, is now something to draw.” Janice Vernon Slocum, recipient of the 2009 KSU Flourish Award for Art Educator, has more than 40 years experience teaching art, most recently at the West Cobb Senior Center, where she offered her students a new perspective through studying painting and drawing. Slocum says, “With painting, they have to learn to observe. I teach them to see things, even shadows. They learn to notice things more.”

Slocum recalls the experience of instructing her students to observe the violet hue of mountains from a distance. One skeptical student responded, “I’ve never seen a purple mountain before.” During the next field trip, the student approached Slocum and said, “Look at those mountains. They actually are purple.”

Whether it is listening to music or noticing purple mountains for the first time, the arts present older adults with helpful challenges. With opportunities to have their work displayed, students at OLLI and the West Cobb Senior Center have goals to work toward. Every year, OLLI holds a concert and student art show. Slocum often held art exhibitions at the Senior Center and encouraged her students to produce art to feature in the exhibition. “I always set a goal for them, and they enjoy the challenge,” says Slocum. Needs quickly had art accepted to an art exhibition at the Marietta Museum of Art and intends to continue submitting his art to exhibitions.

As opportunities to participate in the arts are increasing, more seniors are seizing the chance to get out of the house, meet new people, see new things and learn innovative skills. Although some older adults use the arts to reflect on their life, a process that psychologists call a “life review,” many of them are looking to the future. Forbes observes, “I find most of them are looking forward instead of looking back,” and many seniors are looking for meaningful, authentic experiences that enrich their lives.

Often an inspiration to his students, Needs is eager to share his story with everyone. Looking to the future, he says, “I am embarking on a new period of living that I missed the last 70 years. It’s like an awakening. I’ve had this inside me all my life and I never knew it.”

For more information and to register for classes, call 770-423-6765 or visit [www.kennesaw.edu/ConEd](http://www.kennesaw.edu/ConEd).

Photos courtesy of the Osher Lifelong Learning Center



Older adults can explore a wide variety of classes at KSU Center, including drawing (top) and dancing (bottom).



# SILENT **HEROES**

Anonymous giving has  
**A MAJOR IMPACT**



By Jarnea L. Boone

**F**riends of the KSU College of the Arts often offer to donate time, money or skill to the college, to a project, to a particular faculty member or to a student. Sometimes the offer comes with one line of “small print:” the friend wants to remain anonymous.

The anonymous donation is revered to the highest degree and the giver’s identity is kept with the utmost secrecy. Most anonymous gifts go towards “big impact” items. Stacie Barrow, director of development at KSU, says, “The donors usually want their funds to go towards things that have a broader impact on all students, faculty and staff.”

For instance, the KSU Department of Theatre and Performance Studies has benefited greatly from anonymous giving in recent years. “Some of our gifts are tagged for specific faculty and staff from the giver,” says Assistant Professor of Theatre and Performance Studies Jamie Bullins. “We honor what the anonymous giver requests.”

His colleague, Associate Professor of Theatre and Performance Studies Karen Robinson agrees. “Gifts to our department allow us to pursue initiatives and special projects that raise the standard of excellence in our programming and also contribute to the reputation of the department as offering students opportunities that go above and beyond the usual to the extraordinary.”

An anonymous gift also had direct impact on Associate Professor of Theatre and Performance Studies Harrison Long. “I am happy to have been one of the honorees named in an anonymous gift,” he says. “It is

gratifying to know that someone notices the hard work we’ve done and understands the impact that it has on our marvelous students.”

Anonymous giving is not unique to Kennesaw State. An April 2009 article by Ben Gose of The Chronicle of Philanthropy states, “At least 14 colleges have reported receiving a total of \$74.5 million from a donor who won’t even share his or her name with the institutions.”

Barrow says it is a private decision, “Anonymous donors may not want the public recognition for many reasons.” Studies conducted over the past 20 years indicate that the two most popular reasons that mystery donors want to give anonymously is to avert solicitations from other charities and because of a desire to keep a gift secret from family or friends.

Robert F. Sharpe Jr., a Memphis fundraising consultant, believes that “the severity of the current recession is also leading to new reasons for seeking anonymity. Individuals who have suffered little, or even prospered, during the downturn aren’t rushing out to buy expensive sports cars, for the sake of appearances. Such people might not want to stand out with a flashy, high-dollar gift either.” Gose reports, “During the past 10 months, the proportion of gifts worth \$1 million or more that have been made anonymously far exceeds historic patterns.”

The idea of the anonymous donor also reminds faculty and staff to be good stewards of these gifts and to treat everyone respectfully and well. According to Barrow, “You never know who’s paying attention to your good work.” ☺

*If you would like to know more about giving, call Stacie Barrow at 770-499-3129 or visit [www.kennesaw.edu/arts/friends](http://www.kennesaw.edu/arts/friends).*



## TPS BENEFITS FROM ANONYMOUS GIVING

Anonymous gifts to the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies have funded several residencies, master classes, projects and experiences for students, faculty, alumni and guests. Gifts have recently gone to:

- study abroad opportunities in Dublin, Ireland for students;
- a weeklong master class with mask specialist Per Brahe;
- programming, guest artists and production enhancements, including a new cyclorama for the Stillwell stage;
- a master class with Tony Award-winner and Broadway actor, singer, dancer and novelist André De Shields;
- and partial support for the Intercultural Theatre and Performance in Morocco project that involved a trip for 10 students and three faculty to take a touring production of Melville’s “Moby-Dick” to the Casablanca Theatre Festival in July 2009 and facilitate performance ethnography workshops.

Anonymous giving has supported TPS programs in Ireland (above) and Morocco (below).





## Rebecca Teem: *A talent of Wagnerian proportions*

By Teresa Bagwell

Like many dedicated artists, Rebecca Teem (music, 1989) is willing to follow her dreams to the ends of the earth. For now, they've taken her across the ocean to an opera house in Lübeck, Germany, where she is performing as Brünnhilde in consecutive seasons of Richard Wagner's "Die Walküre," "Siegfried" and "Götterdämmerung."

Teem burst onto the international stage after singing professionally for several years in the United States. In a review of one of her performances, Joe Banno of The Washington Post described her memorable soprano voice: "The roundness of her sound came with a lustrous glow and cannon like force." Even with her dynamic talent and hard work, Teem maintains a sincere respect and appreciation for the training ground that helped prepare her for this career.

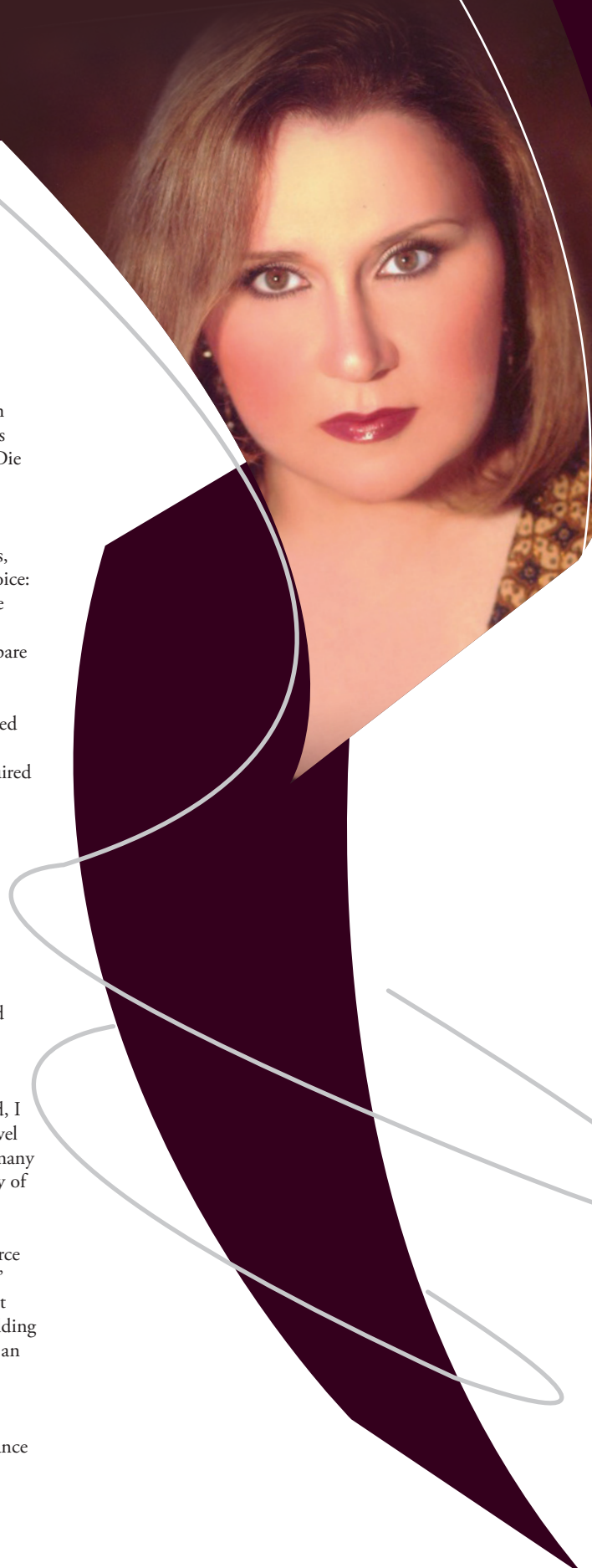
Although the music department was relatively young when Teem attended KSU, she says it served her well. "Superb" master classes and recitals characterized the school, along with challenging student milestones required to earn participation rights. When comparing her experience against colleagues and students from other schools, Teem came to appreciate the extra demands of the KSU program and the solid preparation for a professional career that it afforded her.

Teem believes that music teachers with unique styles and creative personalities were the driving force within the program. Professor of Music Joseph Meeks, now dean of the KSU College of the Arts, made a tremendous difference in Teem's life and career. She says, "His continuing support kept me going when the class work demands seemed overwhelming."

Meeks was also an inspiration and testament to the worthiness of her aspiration to become a professional musician. Teem recalls, "In my mind, I can still attend a recital with Joseph Meeks at the piano and recall the level of concentration and love that poured through the piano. I have heard many wonderful artists, and I believe no one has moved me with the simplicity of loving a musical performing experience like he did."

Donna Angel, Teem's former voice teacher, was another mentor and source of admiration. "She always insisted there be performance opportunities," Teem says. "For my first opera at KSU, we had no stage or theater. But it was so important in her estimation that we spent an entire weekend building a stage on which to perform. Her sacrifice and determination were such an encouragement."

Beyond Germany, Teem says, "I will keep on singing and auditioning, wherever that takes me. The process of building a career in the performance arts is neverending, and to compete in the real world of classical music requires being devoted and gifted, in the right combination. But the accolades are wonderful, and I love what I do." ☺





## **Ben Tilley:** *Lighting the way*

By Jarnea L. Boone

As electric manager for the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies at Kennesaw State University, Ben Tilley (theatre & performance studies, 2005) is involved with every show that is produced by the department. His main responsibility includes implementing the vision and design of the shows' lighting designers.

"Every fall, I am given preliminary schedules, budgets and designer info from our production manager," says Tilley. "I meet with our technical director to discuss details in regards to load-in, load-out, special effects and any challenges, limitations or issues that may come up with space, money or other circumstances."

Tilley's position involves an understanding and an appreciation of the art of stage lighting while using the support around him. Along with the crew, Tilley helps maintain a show during the run.

Tilley has plenty of experience backstage. He frequently designs for Dad's Garage Theatre in Atlanta and has been the assistant

technical director at The Grand Theatre in Cartersville since 2006. These professional activities enrich his approach to working with the students and productions at KSU.

"It is always different and never boring," he says. "I love it."

Tilley appreciates being able to help his alma mater continue expanding creative opportunities for rising artists. "The department was very hands-on throughout the entire process of our new black box theatre's concept and construction. We now have a state-of-the-art audio and lighting system that lets us expand in areas that were limited in the studio theater."

Tilley is amazed at how much KSU has grown since his days as an undergraduate. "The campus continues to evolve. There are more students, more buildings and more enthusiasm towards the school. It makes me proud to have been a part of it as a student and more proud to be a part of the staff and be able to give back for what I was given as a student." ☞

Tilley at work in the booth of Howard Logan Stillwell Theater.



Photos by Linda Tincher



# ALUMNI NOTES

## Music

**Mark Helwig** (music education, 2002) won "Most Humorous" for his oil painting, "Evil-ution," in the Dragon Con Art Show in Atlanta in September.

**Judy Jascomb** (music, 2008) portrayed the Divine Music Director in the Theatre on Main production of "The Littlest Angel" in Cartersville, Dec. 12-20.

**Huu Mai** (music performance, 2004) performed on the Beethoven Triple Concerto with the Gwinnett Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 9 in Lawrenceville.

**Linda Phillips Rogers** (music performance, 2008; music education, 2009) has had a concert band composition, "Native Spirit," published by BRS Music.

**Matt Lewis** (theatre & performance studies, 2008) is in the MFA acting program at the University of Alabama.

**Elizabeth Neidel** (theatre & performance studies, 2007) performed in the Atlanta Lyric Theatre's production of "Cabaret" in Marietta, July 12-26. She was nominated for a 2009 Suzi Award for choreography for the Atlanta Lyric Theatre's production of "Smokey Joe's Café." She also interviewed celebrities like Nancy Sinatra and Twyla Tharp on the red carpet at the world premiere of "Come Fly With Me" at The Alliance Theatre in Atlanta in September. She is also choreographing Atlanta Lyric Theatre's production of "The All Night Strut," running Feb. 19-March 7.

**Margot Potter** (theatre, 1996) and her daughter, Avalon, appeared in a print ad for Tulip Fashion Glitter.

**Lara Cline Jeanneret** (art, 2005) and her husband, Matt, welcomed their second son, Colin, on Sept. 4. Their son, Evan, is two years old. Jeanneret has her own graphic design business, Lara J Designs.

**Lori Richman Jenkins** (art education, 2004) won third place "Best in Show" for her multimedia piece, "Family Evolution," in the 2nd Annual National Juried Art Show: Southern Appalachian Artist Guild.

**Shane McDonald** (art, 1992) has been appointed a trustee of the Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art. He was featured in "Painter's Paradise," in the Oct. 25 issue of the Cherokee (Ga.) Tribune.

**Kelly McKernan** (art, 2009) was featured in the art auction benefiting Eyedrum Art Gallery on Aug. 14. She is also in the group exhibition, "A Cry for Help," at Thinkspace, Jan. 8-Feb. 5. She ranked #21 in the first 1,000 artists on the ArtistADay website in November. She is a member of the Cheap Paper artist collective. She contributed a guest item about MINT Gallery to the



## ALUMNI INDUCTED INTO GEORGIA MUSIC HALL OF FAME

On Sept. 19, KSU music alumnus Mac Powell, lead singer of the Christian rock band Third Day, and his bandmates, were inducted into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame during the 31st awards show at the Georgia World Congress Center.

(From left) Third Day members Tai Anderson, David Carr, Mac Powell and Mark Lee

Third Day has had 25 #1 singles and has earned numerous awards, including four Grammy Awards. The group has enjoyed countless television appearances and collaborated on the soundtrack for the movie "The Passion of the Christ."

**Rob Schumann** (music, 2005) was featured in the article, "Paragould Personalities: Rob Schumann, A Musical Ministry," in the Dec. 19 issue of the Paragould (Ark.) Daily Press for Dec. 19. Schumann is the music minister at East Side Baptist Church in Paragould.

**Steven Watson** (music performance, 2000; music education, 2001) married Jessica Lowery on Sept. 12.

## Theatre & Performance Studies

**Jennifer Akin** (theatre, 1996) recently appeared in two Theatre in the Square productions in Marietta: "Smoke on the Mountain," June 30-July 26, and "Sanders Family Christmas," Nov. 24-Jan. 3.

**Janea Boyles** (theatre, 1996) owns The Mercantile, a neighborhood grocery and specialty food shop in Candler Park in Atlanta. Her successful struggle to obtain a permit to sell wine and beer at the store was documented in the article, "Winning at City Hall: Knowledge is power when it comes to local government and business," in the Aug. 7 issue of Atlanta Business Chronicle.

**Corey Bradberry** (theatre & performance studies, 2008) is the musical director and **Marium Khalid** (theatre & performance studies, 2009) is a teacher for West Side Elementary School's drama club. They both assisted with the club's production of "Alice in Wonderland," Nov. 19, at the Earl Smith Strand Theatre in Marietta. Their work was highlighted in the article, "West Side Story," in the Nov. 6 issue of the Marietta Daily Journal.

**Dru Jamieson** (theatre & performance studies, 2008) portrayed Professor Plum in the Theatre on Main production of "Clue: The Musical" in Cartersville, Oct. 17-Nov. 8.

**Laura Krueger** (theatre & performance studies, 2001) performed in the Actor's Express production of "Fair Use," Nov. 5-Dec. 5, in Atlanta.

**Ashley Holmes Reeves** (theatre & performance studies, 2003) designed costumes for the Actor's Express production of "Fair Use," Nov. 5-Dec. 5, in Atlanta.

**Jody Reynard** (theatre, 1998) danced on the Omaha Symphony's annual "Christmas with the Symphony" concert Dec. 18-20 in Omaha, Neb. He was mentioned in the review of the concert in the Dec. 19 issue of The Omaha World-Herald.

## Visual Arts

**Andy Azula** (art, 1990) serves on the Board of Advisors of The Creative Circus. His UPS commercials, in which he appears as "the Whiteboard Guy," were parodied on the Dec. 19 broadcast of "Saturday Night Live," earning Azula a lot of buzz on the internet and a spot in the "Top 10 Business News Events of 2009" in the Dec. 29 edition of Richmond (Va.) Bizsense. He was the subject of the column, "Q & A with Stuart Elliott," in the Nov. 30 issue of the New York Times. He was the featured speaker at The Creative Summit, presented by the American Association of Advertising Agencies, Oct. 23, in Minneapolis. He was also profiled in "Adman Andy Azula answers 11 Questions" on KARE-TV in Minneapolis/St. Paul.

**Diana Raciti Banes** (art, 2007) obtained a new position as the in-house graphic designer for Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church in Alpharetta, Ga. She and her husband, Louie, are expecting their first child in March.

Art alumni **William Cash** (2006), **Sarah Daly** (2005), **Ben Goldman** (2006), **Shane McDonald** (1992) **Kelly McKernan** (2009), **Gunda Perry** (art, 2009), **Donna Shiver** (2009), and **Rachel Wade** (2009) contributed artwork to the Georgia Lawyers for the Arts annual fundraising gala at Mason-Murer Gallery in Atlanta, Nov. 20.

**Katherine Fernie** (art) got married in May 2009 and is now Katherine Howard. She teaches oil painting classes near Boston.

Dec. 2 posting, "Our Favorite Things: Best of 2009," on Burnaway.org. She was profiled in the Nov. 26 posting, "Artist Kelly McKernan," on the GC:VA blog.

**Ann Marie Naumes** (art, 2002) is the new director of merchandise for the Harrisburg (Penn.) Senators baseball team. Her appointment was announced in the Jan. 14 edition of Minor League Baseball.

**Samuel Parker** (art, 2004) contributed a guest item about "Born: Relief" to the Dec. 2 posting, "Our Favorite Things: Best of 2009," on Burnaway.org.

**Tony Quinton** (art, 2006) was featured in an exhibition at the 6th Street Gallery in Kansas City, Kan., in August.

**Edward Smucygz** (art, 2004) portrayed Richard Lionheart in the Lionheart Theatre Company production of "The Lion in Winter" in Roswell, Nov. 6-22. He also appeared in "A Christmas Carol" at The Rosewater Carol in Roswell, Nov. 27-Dec. 19.

**Marcy Starz** (art, 2009) was featured in the group exhibition, "Harbingers," at Beep Beep Gallery in Atlanta, Jan. 9-Feb. 7.

## KSU HONORS PIANO ALUMNUS



Concert pianist and KSU artist-in-residence Robert Henry (music performance, 1999) was honored by the KSU Alumni Association with

a 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award at the Homecoming Dinner on Nov. 14. Henry has a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Maryland. He has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center and Strathmore Hall and with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

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

# 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, an exhibition at Knoke Fine Arts and the Annual Scholarship Luncheon.



Linda Timcher

## Annual Scholarship Luncheon

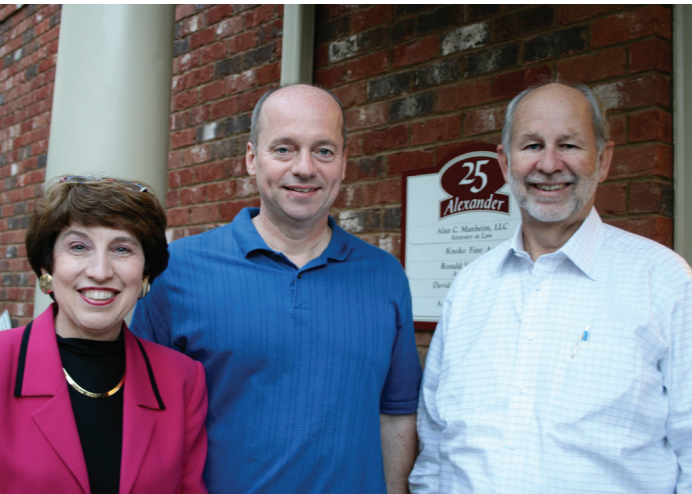
College of the Arts scholarship sponsors were well represented at the 2009 KSU Scholarship Luncheon in October. The annual event gives donors the opportunity to meet the recipients of their scholarships and it gives students the chance to say thank you in person. Guests this year included Bill and Nina Beddingfield and Angela Swindell (left), who received the Florence B. Beddingfield Memorial Art Scholarship that was established by the Beddingfields and his sisters in memory of their mother, a graduate of the KSU Department of Visual Arts.



Melissa Ray

## Flourish Awards and Luncheon

The College of the Arts presented its annual Flourish Awards at the Flourish Luncheon on Sept. 1. The recipients were honored for their work in promoting and supporting arts in Georgia. The luncheon raised more than \$100,000 for endowed and non-endowed scholarships and student-learning initiatives. (From left) Cheryl Myrbo, who was honored for her leadership of community art projects; Mark England; Janice Vernon Slocum, who was honored for her career as an art teacher; Earl Reece, executive director of Earl Smith Strand Theatre, which was honored as the arts organization of the year; and Ken Smathers. England and Smathers accepted the arts leader award on behalf of Olivia Smathers for her leadership of the Little General Cloggers.



Linda Timcher

## Knoke Fine Arts Gallery hosts special exhibition

In October, art conservator Dave Knoke hosted a special exhibition of work by Athos Menaboni at his gallery in Marietta. A portion of each work sold during the show benefited the KSU Art Museum & Galleries. Menaboni collector and KSU benefactor Russell Clayton gave a special talk to the crowd at the opening reception. Among the guests that evening were fellow Menaboni collectors and benefactors Janice and David Miller and Joe Thomas (center), chair of the KSU Department of Visual Arts.





Melissa Withers

## John Cooke: *A steady commitment*

By Kevin McKenzie

John Cooke describes his wife, Linda, and himself as “artistic nuts.” John, who retired as a board-certified emergency physician in 2000, and Linda, who has worked at Cobb Hospital for 37 years, are both devoted fans of the arts. “We share an eclectic love of music,” he says.

“If I had to listen to one kind of music for the rest of my life, it would be bossa nova,” says John, “but I play an equal amount of Led Zeppelin, Brahms and Ella Fitzgerald.”

The Cookes appreciate that the Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center, only five miles from home, gives them an opportunity to regularly experience and enjoy Kennesaw State University’s expansive and diverse music programs.

But, the Cookes’ love of music extends well beyond concert-going. “We’ve named seats in the new Performance Hall and we’ve committed ourselves to annual giving for several years.”

Annual giving, John says, is important because it provides a steady stream of financing for the college in good times and bad. “When you know you can count on something coming in, you can plan ahead,” he says.

Both John and Linda are enthusiastic about sharing their experiences at the KSU College of the Arts and recruiting friends to support it.

“We’re supporters with passion,” says John. “We support the arts because we think it’s a good thing for society. Attending concerts is one thing, donating is another. I say, open up the checkbook.”

The Cookes consider it a responsibility to sustain mankind’s greatest achievements. “When you listen to Brahms or look at a Van Gogh,” says John, “the arts lift us from our routine lives to a higher plain.” ☺

### The Color Spot Scholarship Signing

(From left, front row) Michael Feldberg, Dean Joseph Meeks, (back row) Assistant Dean Samuel Grant Robinson, Vice President Wesley Wicker, and Visual Arts Chair Joe Thomas



### Young business leader endows unique scholarship

The Color Spot Inc., a graphics printing company in Marietta, has implemented a new scholarship program in the Department of Visual Arts. In addition to the \$20,000 scholarship endowment, it includes paid internships. “This is a groundbreaking program,” said Joe Thomas, chair of visual arts. “For students to receive both a scholarship and a paid internship is unique. I’ve never seen it before.”

Michael Feldberg, president of The Color Spot, created this unique scholarship-and-internship combination to help prepare graphic design, photography and printmaking students for careers. Although only in his mid-20s, Feldberg has been a financial supporter and volunteer with the KSU College of the Arts for many years. “I am delighted to be associated with a young man who is not only successful in his career but who also is committed to serving the community,” said Dean Joseph Meeks. “His willingness to now share his professional expertise with our students is incredibly generous.”



### REMEMBERING DEAR FRIENDS

Last year witnessed the passing of several dear friends of the College of the Arts. Each of these remarkable people has left a valuable legacy for the students and programs at Kennesaw State University.



**George Beggs** was dean of the former School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at KSU. Following his retirement, he and his wife, Rosemary, continued to attend arts events and take an active interest in the progress of the college. He particularly enjoyed the students and, as a scholarship sponsor, was always a guest at the Annual Scholarship Luncheon.



**Warren “Red” Chilton** was a cheery addition to many arts events each year. He and his wife, Pat, were often the last people on the dance floor for each of the college’s black-tie fundraisers. He was especially fond of the Starlight Summer Series where he could relax with friends during a sunset performance. An avid arts supporter, he also served on the board of the Georgia Ballet.



**Ruth McNutt** was a longtime music teacher and member of the Cobb County Music Teachers Association. She also enjoyed playing piano for her church and for the Marietta Kiwanis Club. Upon her passing, she bequeathed a Steinway piano to the KSU School of Music, thereby ensuring that her love of music would be shared with generations to come.

**Gretchen van Roy** moved to the Atlanta area a few years ago, bringing her love of opera with her. She was excited about the development of the opera theatre program at KSU and enjoyed helping it grow. Her interest in that program inspired her to create an endowed scholarship for vocal students at KSU.



# Named Endowments

J.T. Anderson, III Scholarship  
James T. Anderson, Jr. Scholarship  
Atlanta Steinway Society Endowed Scholarship  
Atlanta Women's Commerce Club/  
Flo Bruns Memorial Scholarship  
Bobbie Bailey Music Scholarship  
Florence B. Beddingfield Memorial Art Scholarship  
Fred D. Bentley, Sr. Scholarship  
Eric and Gwendolyn Brooker Voice Scholarship  
The Color Spot Inc. Endowment Fund

JoAnn Durham Arts Endowed Arts Scholarship  
Cynthia Feldberg Piano Scholarship  
R. Wayne Gibson Endowed Piano and Voice Scholarship  
Girardot Endowed Scholarship  
Glenn Hollingsworth, Jr. Memorial Scholarship  
Nick S. Labroff Memorial Endowed Piano and Voice Scholarship  
Michael Edwin Lips II Memorial Arts Endowed Scholarship  
Robert and Livvy Lipson Arts Scholarship  
Joseph D. Meeks Music Endowed Scholarships  
Brian Miller Memorial Music Scholarship

## Golden Circle

### Lifetime Recognition

M. Bobbie Bailey  
Fred Bentley, Sr.  
D. Russell Clayton  
Fred Stillwell  
Bernard Zuckerman

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#### \$1,000-\$2,499

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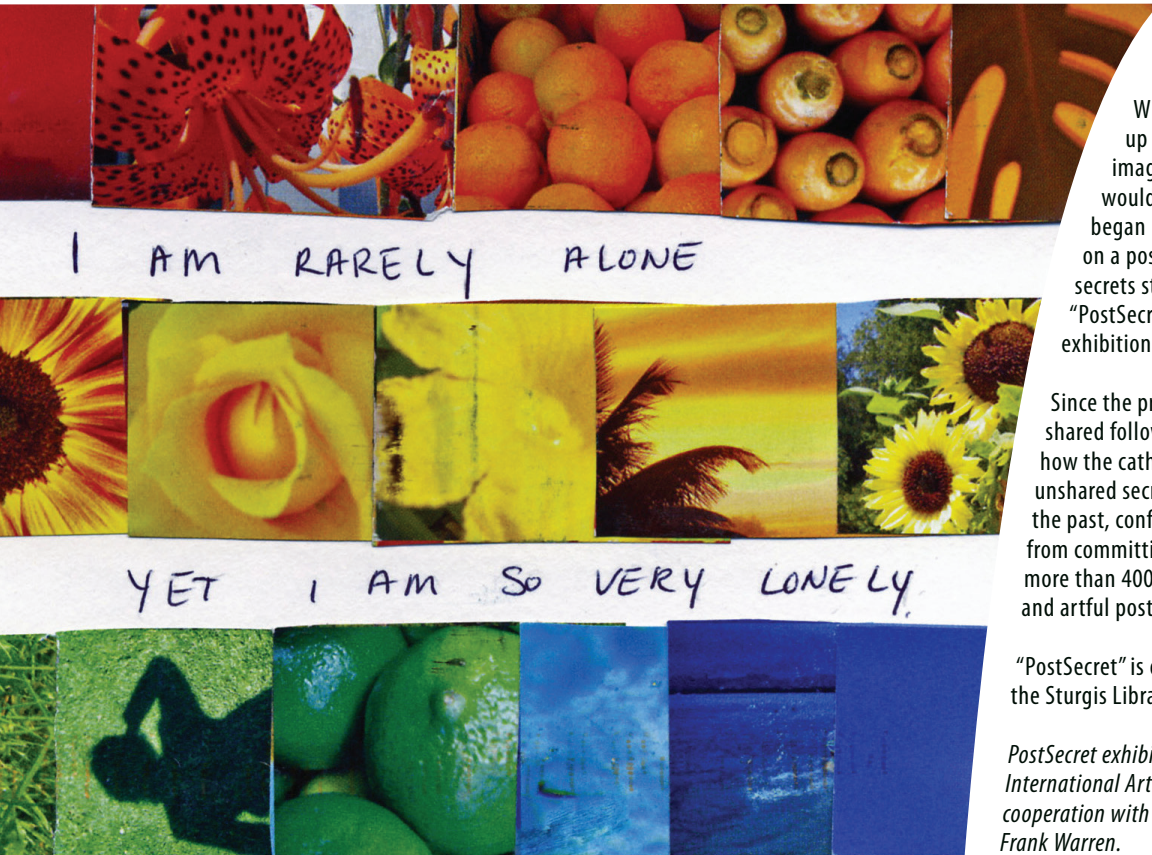
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Questions? Please contact Stacie Barrow at 770-499-3129 or sbarrow2@kennesaw.edu.



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## "Secret" exhibition

By Jennifer Escalona

When Frank Warren literally dreamed up the idea for "PostSecret," he never imagined that his "postcard art project" would take on a life of its own. Warren began inviting people to write a secret on a postcard and mail it to him. Postcard secrets started to trickle in, and now "PostSecret" is a weekly blog and traveling exhibition enjoyed around the world.

Since the project's inception, Warren has shared follow-up letters on the blog, detailing how the catharsis of revealing a previously unshared secret has helped people move on from the past, confront tragedy and even turn away from committing suicide. The exhibition includes more than 400 of the most poignant, intimate and artful postcards.

"PostSecret" is on display in the Art Gallery in the Sturgis Library through March 27.

*PostSecret exhibition tour was organized by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C., in cooperation with Frank Warren. Image courtesy of Frank Warren.*

*flourish with us*

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