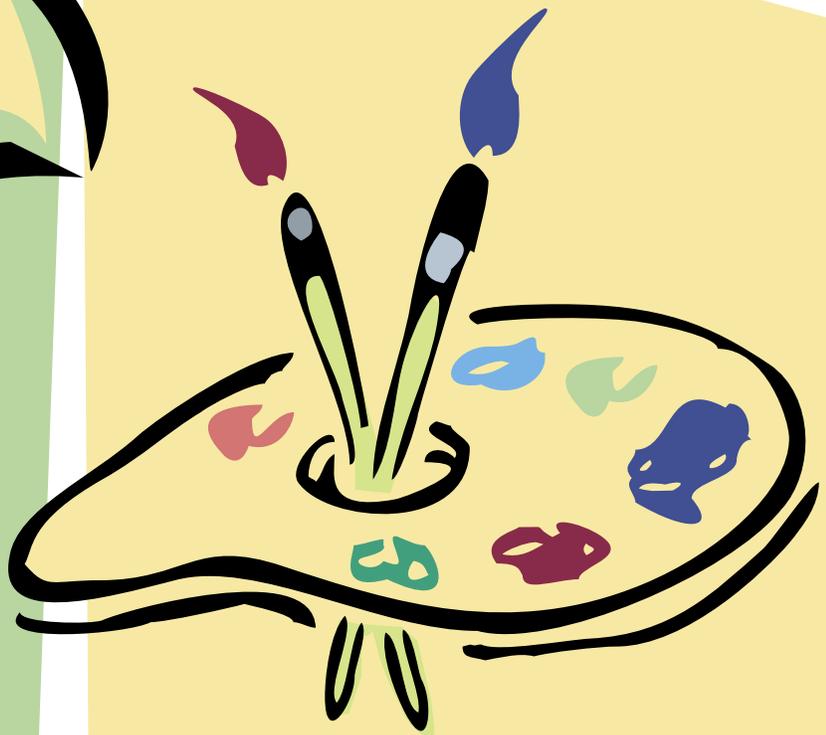


Arts life!

FLORIDA FIRST LADY'S ARTS INITIATIVE
ARTS RECOGNITION PROGRAM
2005 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Welcome

■ First Lady's Message

"We owe a debt of gratitude for the immeasurable gifts of art to many--the artists themselves, collectors, advocates, and our young people with hopes and dreams for a bright future. Florida's artistic landscape, past and present, is vibrant and rich, and we have so much to learn and share. Thank you for the opportunity to share a great passion."



"My service has given me a platform to be heard on matters of such great importance to me. Public service is a tremendous privilege and honor," says Mrs. Columba Bush, and "it comes with great responsibility."

One of my greatest joys comes from visiting schools throughout Florida and seeing the arts at work in the classroom. The excitement of the students fuels my own passion for the arts and for learning. The power of the arts to change lives and to enrich life is evident in schools and communities throughout our great state.

The success of the *Arts Recognition Program* has been inspiring. My own life has been greatly enriched, and I am humbled by my time with the student scholars, their teachers and families, and the leaders in their communities. It is wonderful to showcase the talent of twenty-four aspiring artists each year. To know that this program helps students continue their studies in the arts thrills me.

The students who are recipients of the 2005 *Arts Recognition Program* scholarship are highlighted in the pages that follow. As you read on, you will find out how the arts play a major role in the lives of these young people. You will learn about the positive affects the arts have had on these young people and the bright futures that await them. It is my hope that the *Arts Recognition Program* will motivate Florida's students to be involved with the arts and inspire dedication to the arts in our schools and communities.

Columba Bush
First Lady of Florida

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Blazejack



Garhammer



Graham



Heffron



Hernandez



Hibbs



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Putting Arts Education Front and Center

By Rod Paige & Mike Huckabee
Education Week
December 21, 2004

As a nation, we must develop children who are productive, happy, well-adjusted citizens, rather than kids who can just pass a test and get through school. Since the time when humans drew figures on the walls of the caves of Lascaux, the arts have been our means of recording human experience and making meaning in the world. They are a sign of a thoughtful, inventive, and creative citizenry. As the global economy becomes faster and more competitive, these qualities are increasingly important. As such, the arts are an integral part of a complete, successful, and high-quality education.

Study of the arts enhances young people's intellectual, personal, and social development. The arts provide a rich and engaging curriculum that develops students' abilities to think, reason, and understand the world and its cultures. A comprehensive arts education encompasses such areas as the history of the arts, the honing of critical-analysis skills, the re-creation of classic as well as contemporary works of art, and the expression of students' ideas and feelings through the creation of their own works. In other words, students should have opportunities to respond, perform, and create in the arts.

Research has shown that those who study the arts improve their achievement in other subjects, including mathematics, reading, and writing. In math, for example, studies point to a direct connection between music and spatial reasoning and spatial temporal skills, which are important to understanding and using mathematical concepts. For high school students, course-taking data collected by the College Board indicate that students of the arts annually outperform their non-arts peers on the SAT. In 2004, for example, students who studied music scored 40 points higher on the math portion of the test than students reporting no arts coursework. Similarly, students who studied acting and play production outscored their non-arts peers on the verbal portion of the SAT by an average of 66 points.

The effect of arts study on reading is similar. Because reading is the educational skill upon which all others in our lives are based, the No Child Left Behind Act focuses on literacy and sets the goal that all students read by the 3rd grade. We know from research that the arts can help achieve this goal, and that certain forms of arts instruction enhance and complement reading instruction. Studies have shown, for example, that when creative dramatics are a component of reading with preschool-age children, skills in comprehension and vocabulary increase.

The academic benefits of arts education also go beyond math and reading. An analysis of U.S. Department of Education data on 25,000 middle and high school students found that students who were highly involved in the arts performed better on a variety of academic measures than other students. They earned better grades, did better on exams, performed more community service, and watched fewer hours of television. And a growing amount of evidence shows that the arts can be particularly beneficial to students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, and can even keep some potential dropouts in school.

To put it simply, we need to keep the arts in education because they instill in students the habits of mind that last a lifetime: critical analysis skills, the ability to deal with ambiguity and to solve problems, perseverance and a drive for excellence. Moreover, the creative skills children develop through the arts carry them toward new ideas, new experiences, and new challenges, not to mention personal satisfaction. This is the intrinsic value of the arts, and it cannot be overestimated.

"From music and dance to painting and sculpting, the arts allow us to explore new worlds and to view life from another perspective. They also encourage individuals to sharpen their skills and abilities and to nurture their imagination and intellect."

President George W. Bush

Welcome to the Florida First Lady's Arts Initiative: Arts for Life!

Columba Bush dedicates her time and energy to promoting and supporting a variety of programs, including appreciation of the arts, arts education, and the prevention of substance abuse and domestic violence. She is focused on the positive influence that strong family, community involvement, and the arts can have on a person's life.

Mrs. Bush has long been passionate about the arts, education, and the healthy development of children. In 1999, she translated that passion into action by collaborating with Arts for a Complete Education/Florida Alliance for Arts Education (ACE/FAAE) to develop *Arts for Life!*, the First Lady's arts initiative that focuses on raising statewide importance of the arts in schools and communities. Through *Arts for Life!*, Mrs. Bush strives to promote and improve arts education in Florida.

Arts for Life! provides the following:

Arts Recognition Scholarship Program

Each year, twenty-four high school seniors in various arts disciplines are awarded scholarships on the basis of artistic merit and academic excellence. Scholarship recipients, their families, teachers, and school administrators are honored at a reception hosted by Mrs. Bush in the Governor's Mansion each spring.

Youth Arts Ambassadors Program

Scholarship recipients are provided with opportunities to showcase their artistic talents and share their learning-journey stories at events in Florida and beyond. Two top-scoring recipients are also invited to travel with Mrs. Bush to international destinations, which have included Mexico and Japan in previous years.



School Visits

From the Panhandle to Key West, the First Lady travels Florida to recognize excellence in the arts in schools and communities. She has witnessed firsthand the incredible power and positive impact that studying and participating in the arts have on people's lives and learning.

Florida PRIDE!

Each year, the Governor and Mrs. Bush invite students to submit artwork for the cover image of their holiday card to express their pride in the artistic achievements of Florida's students. The holiday card is shared with more than 20,000 friends and family members.

Special Exhibitions at the Florida Governor's Mansion

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month and Black History Month, an artist or group of artists whose artwork represents a significant contribution to the culture is exhibited in the Governor's Mansion during each month-long celebration.

Lopez



Shin



Mayer



About Arts for a Complete Education/Florida Alliance for Arts Education (ACE/FAAE)

MISSION

To promote, improve, and enhance arts education in Florida.

VISION

For every child in every school to have a well-rounded education that includes a comprehensive, sequential, high-quality program of arts instruction; and for all Florida communities to have broad-based cultural programs available to support lifelong learning in and through the arts.

Since 1989, Arts for a Complete Education/Florida Alliance for Arts Education (ACE/FAAE) has united educators, artists, community leaders, concerned citizens, arts and arts education organizations, and corporate partners to ensure Florida's students receive a complete education that includes the arts.

ACE/FAAE is a statewide alliance of more than 35 state arts and arts education associations/organizations and 24 local ACE coalitions, all of which work in partnership with local arts agencies and community representatives at local school and district levels to promote and improve education in and through the arts.

ACE/FAAE a community of students, arts educators, local schools and school districts, state coalition members, and cultural agencies throughout the state, representing dance, theatre, visual arts, music, and film. More than 125,000 students are directly impacted on an annual basis.

ACE/FAAE improves arts education by:

- Serving as a catalyst for advancing the quality of student instruction in arts education programs;
- Identifying needs and opportunities;
- Providing teacher training and recognition programs;
- Facilitating networking opportunities; and
- Disseminating resources to improve education through the arts.

ACE/FAAE offers programs aimed at improving arts education and are centered on the theme: "Arts Education: Part of the Solution"

ACE/FAAE programs have been grouped into three important areas of arts education:

- Connecting Florida Arts, Schools, and Communities
- Providing Models of Excellence
- Promoting Awareness of the Benefits of Arts Education

Connecting Florida Arts, Schools, and Communities

Florida History through Art

Also known as the Murals Project, is centered on Christopher Still's ten murals, which surround the Chamber of the Florida House of Representatives. The murals offer curricular inspiration for middle-school students to research Florida history and create associated works of art.

K-20 Arts Education Visioning

The Florida Higher Education Arts Network (FHEAN), in collaboration with ACE/FAAE, will host regional meetings around the state that will serve to provide networking opportunities and an arts education vision for the state.

Providing Models of Excellence

Teacher Incentive Program

Recognizes innovative arts education curricula that work toward promoting literacy through the arts or providing strategies for FCAT improvement.

Florida First Lady's Arts Initiative: Arts for Life!

Through a variety of programs and activities, Arts for Life! focuses on raising the statewide importance of the arts in schools and communities.

Arts Achieve!

Provides arts educators and classroom teachers the means to address the needs of schools that have not yet met the requirements and standards of No Child Left Behind and Adequate Yearly Progress.

Annual Leadership Summit

Annual two-day statewide conference for arts educators, administrators, business leaders, and members of arts coalitions to address current issues in arts education.

We believe...

Promoting Awareness of Arts Education Benefits

Public Awareness Program

Providing information on the importance of arts education

ACE Coalitions

Local ACE Coalitions act as networks of support for arts education in schools and communities. ACE Coalitions are currently at work in 26 counties throughout Florida to promote community engagement in education through the arts.

... the arts are basic to a complete education.

Stasi



Thomas



Wilmoth



ACE/FAAE Partners



Primary

Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs
Florida Department of Education
Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network

Statewide

Florida Association of Theatre Education
Florida Association of District School Superintendents
Florida Parent Teacher Association
Florida Association of School Administrators
Florida Higher Education Arts Network
Florida Association of Museums
Florida Music Educators' Association
Florida Art Education Association
Florida Cultural Alliance
Florida Museum Directors Association
Florida Dance Education Organization
Florida Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance
Florida School Board Association
National Foundation for the Advancement for the Arts
Florida State Music Teachers Association
VSA arts of Florida
Florida Learning Alliance

Host University

University of Central Florida

ACE/FAAE Staff

Linda T. Lovins, Program Director
Lisa K. Kammel, Assistant Program Director,
Liaison to the First Lady's Arts Initiative:
Arts for Life!
Seth Johnson, Administrative Assistant
Mary Palmer, ACE Co-Founder

Arts Recognition Program Scholarship Review Committee

Christina Acosta
Hillsborough Community College

Bonnie Bernau
Harn Museum of Art

Debra Beverlin
Olympia High School

Jason Boyette
Full Sail Real World Education

Kay Campbell
Pinellas County Arts Council

Susan Esposito
Buchholz High School

Travis Giddings
Leon High School

Don E. Jones
Theatre Education Consultant

Kelly Little
Chiles High School

Rob Kammel
KMDG Graphic Design

Rick McCullough
Florida State University

Murray Mintz
Florida Association for The-

atre Education
Mike Monello
Haxan Productions

Janet Moore
University of South Florida

Carol Norman
Orange County Public Schools

Jimmy Parker
Retired Band Director

Patricia Phillips
Florida State University

Robert Ponzio
Oak Hall School

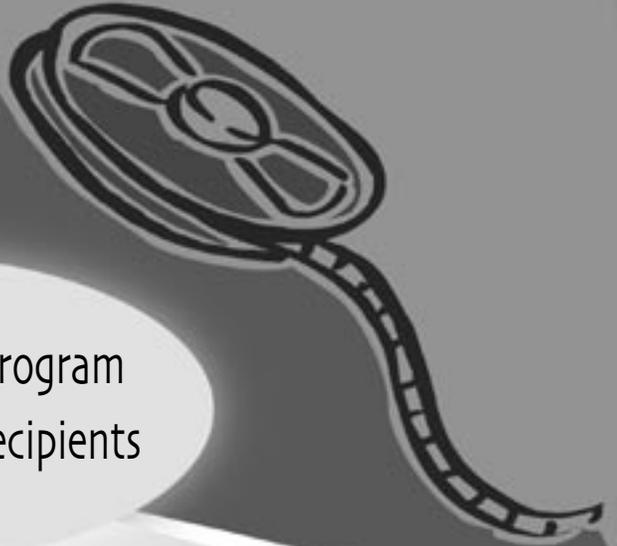
Arthur Pranno
Florida Southern College

Marilyn Proctor
Lincoln High School

Nan Williams
University of Central Florida

Sheila Woodward
University of South Florida

Arts Recognition Program
2005 Scholarship Recipients



Sarah Cook

Student of Dance ■



“Dance has taught me the core values and skills of personal discipline, commitment, self-confidence, social collaboration, and cultural understanding.”

A love of the arts was instilled in me from a very early age. I was exposed to more artistic performances by the age of seven than many people experience in their lifetimes. In preschool, I daily exploited the presence of a balance beam on the school playground to provide an impromptu primitive ballet performance for mesmerized audiences. In fourth grade, my teacher met my needs and perhaps her own, by scheduling a daily dance break just for me. Until just a few years ago, our family’s copy of the American Ballet Theatre’s rendition of *The Nutcracker*, starring Mikhail Baryshnikov and Gelsey Kirkland, was stored in our family room VCR.

I recognized early on my absolute fascination with the art of movement and my calling to dance as a vocation and past-time.

I have pursued formal dance training and many performance opportunities since the age of five. I am now completing my senior year in a four-year performing arts high school. Studying dance has provided excellent technical training in human movement as art form. More importantly, dance has facilitated the development of important aspects of my character and emerging world view.

Harrison School for the Arts
Polk County
Craig Collins, Principal
Susan Olson, Teacher

Amy McClendon

Student of Dance

"I can vividly recall my early years when I used to stand in front of a mirror and dance; twirling, swishing, hopping, and many times falling. I would easily become excited because nothing in the world could make me any happier."



When I opened those doors to the dance studio, I was opening the doors to my future. As I began to learn the basics and techniques of the art my heart grew more and more fond. My teacher declared it amazing how quickly I caught on and how easily I could imitate practically everything she demonstrated to us. I credit her for putting me in a place where the art could influence my life. She took me to see Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre perform, and it was one of the most significant experiences in my life. It was amazing! I sat on the edge of my seat wide-eyed and captivated by their graceful strength. I had seen many dance performances on television and they were good, but seeing the precision and the respect the dancers demanded from the audience was one of the most beautiful things I had ever seen. I

couldn't believe my eyes. It was as if I could feel each and every dancer's energy and passion. I believed that they wanted me to have what they experienced every time they performed, and I gladly received it with an open heart. They inspired me to work hard and to continue to be determined to accomplish my goals in life. After I witnessed such an awesome performance there was no doubt in my mind that I wanted to be a dancer.

Douglas Anderson School of the Arts
Duval County
Jackie Cornelius, Principal
Phyllis Penney, Teacher

Marla Phelan

Student of Dance ■



"Dance has assisted me in bettering my focus in life."

The arts are destined to have an impact on those who embrace them. I have been influenced by the art of dance. Dance is the ultimate expression of the human spirit. As a dancer, I characterize my inner thoughts and desires through movement. Often, it is impossible to eloquently express my ideas verbally. In such instances, my open mind allows movements to surge through my body. As adrenaline rushes out my glands, I am levitated over life's mountains. I escape human aggressions and soar to a sweet place where the knowledge of truth is absolute.

Dance has provided me with aesthetic experiences. I long for the moments when simple dance steps become so internalized that people feel my emotions. The soul of an artist cannot deny the pleasure derived from dancing. A wave of passion washes over me as I step onto the stage. I await the chance to transfer my emotions onto my audience. The beauty of dance is not only in the pleasant spatial designs; it is in the connection one makes with the passion. Dance has given me the maturity to see art in all things. The arts have intensified my discipline.

New World School of the Arts
Miami-Dade County
Ellery Brown, Principal
Freddick Bratcher, Teacher

Candice N. Paparodis

Student of Media

"My love for the arts will surely propel me far into the dreams I plan to pursue, on through college and into a successful career."



Growing up in a city as rich in culture as Sarasota has allowed me to experience the arts from a very young age. Since I was just a little girl I have always retained dreams of a career in the arts, and more recently have discovered that I would like to pursue a career in media studies. The true passion I have for the arts lies in my dedication to broadcast media.

After graduation, I plan on attending Florida State University in pursuit of my bachelor's degree in Communications. My intended major is media studies, and I would also like to earn a minor in political science. While in college I plan on getting involved with the

campus news program, and attaining an internship at a local news station. Eventually, I would like to either report or anchor for a nationally accredited broadcast. My largest goal in life though is to eventually run for a seat in Congress and dedicate the remainder of my life's work to public service.

Lakewood Ranch
Manatee County
Mike Wilder, Principal
Bryan Stedman, Teacher

Eleanor Covault

Student of Music ■



“There is nothing I enjoy more than sitting in a rehearsal hall, with music on my stand and my flute in my hands, ready to play.”

Imagine being four years old, sitting in a big cozy house in northern Virginia during the middle of winter, surrounded by forests and open sky. Your parents are at home, hosting a party for all of their friends, and your mother puts her London Symphony Orchestra recording of Aaron Copland’s “Fanfare for the Common Man” in the stereo. The deep, booming rumbles of the timpani and the triumphant chords of the antiphonal brass are my earliest memories of the richness of music and the beginning of my passion for the arts.

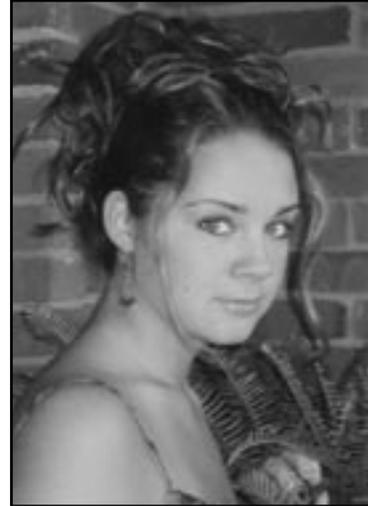
Since those days, my life has revolved around music in all aspects. My parents have always loved classical music, a trait which they passed on to me. While the rest of my fellow classmates were fascinated with Eminem and Britney Spears, I was doing my homework while listening to Debussy and Ravel. I cannot pinpoint an exact reason why I love those Mahler symphonies so much; perhaps it is the complexity, or even the simplicity, in which they are written, or maybe it is the ability of man to write such beautiful music that makes it so interesting.

Satellite High School
Brevard County
Mark Elliott, Principal
Mark Nelson, Teacher

Haley Renee Longino

Student of Music

“Singing is something that requires much poise, self-control and discipline. It’s a constant struggle, but I wouldn’t want to do anything else. It’s my first love, my drive, and my passion.”



Ever since I could speak I was singing. My mother always says that I could sing an entire song back to her after only hearing it once. My parents knew that this gift needed to be nurtured, so I began taking lessons and learning to read music. In tenth grade, I decided to audition for the art school in Jacksonville and I got accepted. I rapidly began to excel in the artistic environment among students as passionate about their arts as me. I always knew that I wanted to be a singer or to teach music someday, but it wasn't until last year, after much training and hard work, that I knew I wanted to pursue a career in opera.

My love for singing has jolted me out of a normal high school life and catapulted me into responsible young adulthood. I have discovered that singing has a way of clandestinely sneaking up on you and tapping you

on the shoulder until you decide to wholly invite it in as a part of your life. Being an artist requires selflessness and determination, whether you are painting a portrait or playing the flute. Many people wonder what I am going to do with this passion I hold, and I would say to them, "I am going to spill it out!" I have accepted that music is a huge part of me, and I look forward to its involvement in my future.

**Douglas Anderson School of the Arts
Duval County
Jackie Cornelius, Principal
Jeffrey Clayton, Teacher**

Meredith McCall

Student of Music ■



"My exposure to different art forms has only furthered my desire to study music. Music is truly my passion and my appreciation for it grows stronger each day."

It wasn't until high school that I truly became exposed to the aesthetic and diverse realm of the art's world. I went into Harrison School for the Arts as a Musical Theatre major, studying the essential elements of dance, theatre, and music. I had to excel in three different areas at once and the exposure I received was amazing! Names like Martha Graham and Agnes DeMille became household names. Stephen Sondheim was my Justin Timberlake. My tan came from the rays of a spotlight rather than the Florida sun, as all of my time was spent in the theatre. I became aware of so many life aspects through the gallery work of visual artists, the piano whispers of orchestras, the qualitative movements of dance, the character convictions of

theatre performances, and the indescribable harmonies in the sound of our Harrison choir. Art has become my method of interpreting life. I breathe it in, making artistic fulfillment as vital as air.

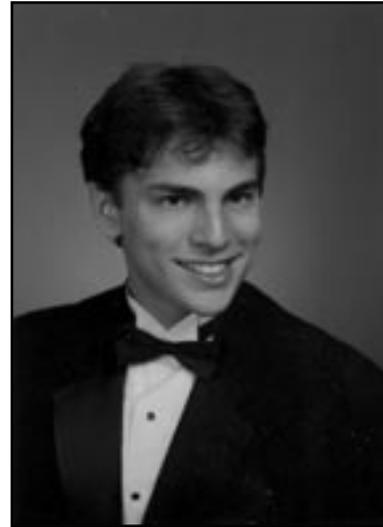
The arts have become teachers of many lessons for me. They've taught me that in life there will be failures. There will be times when a wrong note is hit, an unintentional stroke is brushed, a line is missed and an uncertain leap leads to a fall. Whether good or bad, there will always be shows that must go on. Most importantly, they have taught me that you will never know the magnitude of your potential until it is tested.

Harrison School for the Arts
Polk County
Craig Collins, Principal
Joe Sniegocki, Teacher

Brian Radock

Student of Music

"The arts bring meaning to our lives that nothing else can replace."



The arts have always been a part of my life; they give me a purpose and a passion and inspire me to want to be a better musician, teacher, and listener. The arts also allow me to get to know other musicians who share these experiences. Seeing great performances inspires me to improve myself. The arts also provide many personal rewards. I recently wrote a piece for a local middle school and received a standing ovation at the performance.

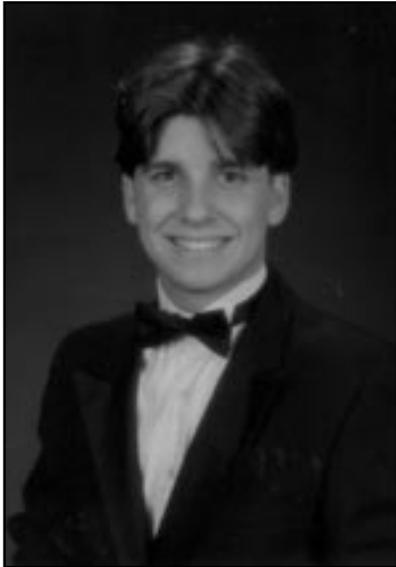
My musical inspiration is my mom. She is a great performer and teacher because she pushes me to be the best. She is always energized about preparing for and presenting performances. Her knowledge of music

has helped me develop an eclectic library of music that I love. As a teacher myself, I also learn from watching her teach others. By teaching we also learn. Music has given me important organizational and leadership skills I use at school. I have my students and to watch them perform and to know that I changed their life is a reward beyond money.

**Dr. Phillips High School
Orange County
Eugene Trochinski, Principal
Beth Gottlieb, Teacher**

Adam Robl

Student of Music ■



"The arts have given me so much and I look ahead knowing there is so much more I still had to learn, so many more people I still have to meet, and so much more I have to experience."

I am a musician and the arts have had a tremendous influence on my life. With the support of my parents, music has always been a part of my life. When I was eleven I studied piano and within a year gravitated to the guitar. My early musical goals were to join a rock band and make millions of dollars. As I and my technical skill matured, so did my goals and music preferences. The arts have taught me to appreciate diversity, be it in music or culture. I continue to study musical styles from metal to jazz, knowing there is so much more to master.

Music has completely influenced my life in these last five years. It has taught me that hard work leads to rewards. I have had great teachers that stressed the "3 P's": Passion, Practice, and Performance, principles that I have incorporated not only into my music, but academic career as well. My hard work and dedicated practice schedule has allowed me to sit in with some of the best musicians in South Florida.

Cardinal Gibbons High School
Broward County
Paul Ott, Principal
Steve Mengersen, Teacher

José Valentino Ruiz

Student of Music

"I thank God for this water for the soul, the gift of music."



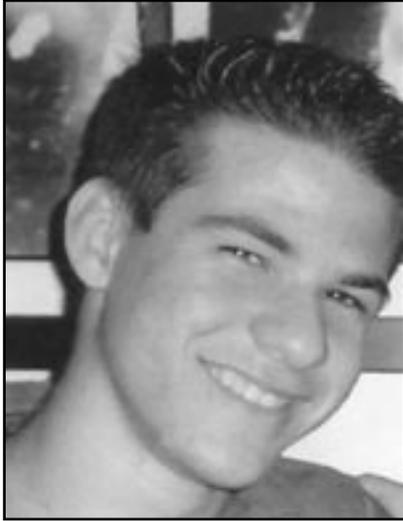
Since I was a young toddler I have taken trips with my family to Puerto Rico, the island where music is like water; it's a necessity. Singing frogs and roosters always caught my attention. In the holidays I listened to the vibrant rhythms played in the streets with percussion instruments. I saw strangers gathering around musicians to improvise along with them. I was so amazed about how much emotion and life was portrayed in their choice of words, notes, and rhythms. What really changed my life was when I heard my dad play his bass along with the music. From then on something hit me and told me, "José, you need to pick up an instrument." Thus, I chose the flute.

I began classical flute lessons early because my parents told me it was the best way to learn and master my instrument. The musical discipline helped me to develop responsibility, leadership, and self-esteem. As time went by, I experienced an infused fervor in my soul for Latin Jazz music. I asked my dad to teach me to improvise so that I could play good enough to join his band. I began to understand what the famous jazz musician Miles Davis said: "Don't play what's there, play what's not there." By then, I knew music was going to play a major role in my future.

Freedom High School
Hillsborough County
Richard Bartels, Principal
Christina Frye, Teacher

Etai Ben Shlomo

Student of Theatre ■



“What I do know is that no matter where I am I will be performing. Whether it is on a Broadway stage, in front of a camera, or in a community theatre, I will be performing – sharing myself and my passion with others.”

In eighth grade, I took my first step on the stage as the Tinman in a school production of the Wizard of Oz. Little did I know that this one experience would put my life in a new direction. Since then, I have been heavily involved in theatre, finding honest means of self expression and a means of inspiring others.

The performing arts play an almost spiritual role in my life as well as in society as a whole; they are a channeling of the soul – a manifestation of human emotion. They add flavor and culture to our community, distinguishing men from robots. Before discovering music and theatre, I was no more than a shy and insecure child. Performing has made me into a mature, well-rounded young adult.

I have made life-long friends, learned leadership and responsibility, and found a medium through which to express myself. In every character that I play there is a little bit of me.

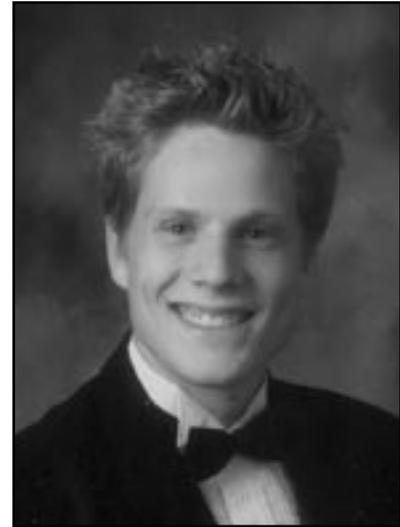
Theatre has also given me a new ambition to inspire others – to be a catalyst for change in people’s lives. I volunteer at a local middle school, directing musical productions and coordinating their Drama Club. Watching my students grow as performers and as people is a most fulfilling experience. Promoting theatre education and helping instill the arts in others is an achievement I take great pride.

**J.P. Taravella High School
Broward County
Shawn Cerra, Principal
Lori Sessions, Teacher**

Lew Wallace

Student of Theatre

"The arts are the vehicle in which I can change the world."



As I've grown as an artist, I have grown as a person as well. My life and everything I do is influenced in some way by the arts. I have become such a fuller, more well rounded person because of the arts. Theatre specifically has been such a big part of my life and literally has become my obsession. My passion for theatre is what drives me.

All my life I have been interested, in some form, in the arts. As small children often do, I sang a lot as a child. I also took dance classes through most of elementary school. I didn't really get interested in acting

until high school. Since I have become an actor I am just a better person. I am in touch with my feelings and in touch with myself and I stand taller and I speak more clearly; all the things actors must do to perfect their craft. In this pursuit of perfection, I have become more of a human being.

Osceola County School for the Arts
Osceola County
Michael Vondracek, Principal
Michael Mauldin, Teacher

Anne Blazejack

Student of Visual Arts ■



"The arts should influence everyone by making us notice and appreciate what we can't understand. I hope my art will preserve people's sense of wonder."

I let my sculptures and paintings react to memories without regurgitating them, so the art finds its own truths instead of falsely copying past truths. If art is separated from memory, memory can keep its dignity, and art is free to wander and discover. This approach to my art helps me understand a part of life I might otherwise ignore. Making art allows me to examine my experiences from another angle. Often, it forces me to step back farther and see big patterns in little events. I don't pretend to be wise because I think and paint. On the contrary, my artwork helps me appreciate how much I can't understand.

**New World School of the Arts
Miami-Dade County
Ellery Brown, Principal
Jim Hunter, Teacher**



One thing that makes people really human is their capacity to wonder. I might help my generation retain our awe through my art. Artists keep us in touch with the magical character of the world. They can glorify all the patterns in nature, like honeycombs or leaf veins. As an artist, I'll keep people a little more surprised, confused, and amazed by life than they might otherwise be.

Alexis Garhammer

Student of Visual Arts

“When asked to describe how the arts have influenced my life, I become short of words. I would have to help someone visualize the doors its opened for me.”



As I entered high school, I unknowingly made the goal of discovering my destiny. I've always known that whatever I did would have to involve creativity and exploration, never a rigid schedule of paperwork, so I could feel complete.

I was just a person before I discovered what I could do with a camera and, in retrospect, a directionless one. I'm no longer just a person. I'm an artist. I have purpose and focus now. Finding a calling in the world, a place where one feels protected and secure, is ultimately what everyone strives for. Some people never find that feeling within themselves, but I am truly blessed to have found it already.

I now have an ambition to stick with for the rest of my life. I can dedicate myself to living and breathing art. I'd like to become an advocate for art awareness. If the opportunity to explore myself had been taken away from my school's electives, I would never know that this is what I was meant to do. For that reason, I plan to make it a personal goal that everyone is aware of the necessity of art in our schools. No one should be denied the chance to discover their own place of release and refuge.

**J.P. Taravella High School
Broward County
Shawn Cerra, Principal
Susan Anderson, Teacher**

Sydney Graham

Student of Visual Arts ■



“Even if I don’t become a visual artist, the arts have established a standard of quality of any work I do.”

I can’t remember a time when the arts were not an integral part of my life. As far back as kindergarten I grew up loving both the mess and freedom of finger paint and the intricate constructions of dioramas or collages. My pride and ambition invested in my art were not only fueled by my teacher’s enthusiastic praise, but by my own need for exploration of the world.; through the years this exploration grew into skill. The passion that I had experience for art in childhood, this intangible need for aesthetics, was tamed and channeled into something that could be studied and perfected. Acquiring skill in the arts has influenced my choices for the

specialized schooling of magnet programs and colleges. This new track would lead me to new and exciting opportunities throughout the rest of my life.

One effect the arts had on my development as an adolescent was that it made me increasingly goal oriented. By excelling in the arts, I have found an inner strength that would otherwise be squandered or misdirected. These goals to achieve greater things overflowed into several aspects of my life including my school work and my relationships with family and friends.



New World School of the Arts
Miami-Dade County
Ellery Brown, Principal
Jim Hunter, Teacher

Erin Heffron

Student of Visual Arts

"I love how art has influenced my life and how its made me, well, me. It gives me purpose and drive and changes the way I see the world around me."



Art not only influences my life, it is my life. Sometimes it seems that I eat, sleep, and breathe art. Just as eating and sleeping are a necessity for living, so is making art a necessity for my life. I hunger for creation and dream of innovation.

Quite often the urge to create artwork takes prevalence over other priorities. For instance, the influence of art has caused me to spend many sleepless nights staying up to paint. Art is unruly and mischievous, awakening me in the midst of my slumber and

distracting me from my schoolwork to scribble ideas and inspirations in my sketchbook. Art causes me the inconvenience of having to take my camera with me everywhere so I don't miss a perfect moment that could have made a perfect painting. Despite how "inconvenient" art makes my existence, I wouldn't have it any other way.



Cypress Lake High School
Center for the Arts
Lee County
Tracy Perkins, Principal
Ava Roeder, Teacher

Lesley A. Hernandez

Student of Visual Arts ■



"I once asked my father what he thought about me giving up art and moving in another direction. He answered, "Art isn't something you can just give up Lesley. Art has made you who you are today."

It all started when I was in preschool..... My best friend Paul and I were sitting in class when we began to draw pictures of the sun, the sky, the playground, and several other things that were familiar to us. Our teacher Mrs. Killan was fascinated by our drawings and the next thing I knew, we were transferred to Perrine Elementary, the only visual and performing arts school around for kids our age. I didn't realize it then, but art would make a significant influence on my life.

**Douglas Anderson School of the Arts
Duval County
Jackie Cornelius, Principal
Hillary Hogue, Teacher**



In the beginning, my interest in arts placed me in a school where all of my dreams could come true. There, I had loving teachers that helped establish the morals and principles I live by today. As a teenager art gave me a hobby, something to pursue and perfect. In defining my character it has made me resourceful, perseverant, creative, and most of all patient. As a young adult it has served as a form of communication and expression, allowing me to make contact with amazing individuals that I would otherwise be oblivious to. I would have never imagined all the doors of opportunity it would open nor the different roles the arts would play in my life.

Alexander B. Hibbs

Student of Visual Arts

"Art has truly opened many doors and offered many opportunities in my life."



Ever since I was a child, artistic abilities came naturally. I always seemed to enjoy school projects that involved some sort of artistic process. My mother, having been in art school before, had some of her works hanging in the house and would often take me to art shows when they came to town. Having been around so much art as a child it was hard for me not to pursue it.

In middle school, I took some art classes at Artists Unlimited located near Ybor City and I also took a painting class that was offered after school. With what I had learned, I was accepted to H.W. Blake High School for the Arts.



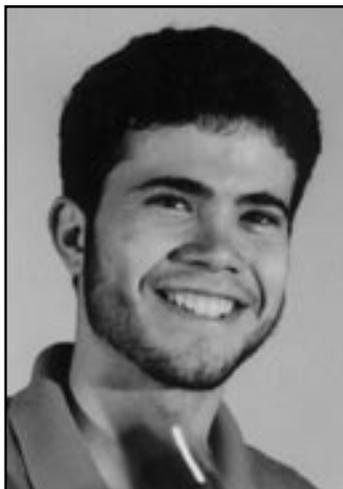
Blake High School has really given me the opportunity to find my talents that I would not have discovered while attending any other school. I would definitely have to say the experiences that I have had while at Blake truly influenced my life. From the basics of art, such as the principles and elements of design, I have learned to always view things in the world with a

more artistic eye. While someone might not even pay attention to something, I might look at it and realize what a good picture it would make, or how I could incorporate some aspect of it into my work.

**Howard W. Blake High School
Hillsborough County
Jacqueline Haynes, Principal
Teresa Winston, Teacher**

Ramon Lopez

Student of Visual Arts ■



"The arts are a large part of who I am and who I aspire to become."

The arts have influenced my desire to achieve success through my artistic talents. The cartoons I watched as a child inclined my view of how to express an idea; the picture books, the action figures, the commercials, the happy meal toys are all aspects of my development. When I look at a painting I see more than just colors, I see inspiration and a desire to create my own ideas. The artist cannot exist without influences from the world around them. Our specific interpretations of our experiences influence how we translate visual images into our beliefs.

**New World School of the Arts
Miami-Dade County
Ellery Brown, Principal
Jim Hunter, Teacher**



A future without art is a future without meaning. Art is the gatekeeper to my success and the foundation to my journey. I cannot see myself in a career that does not involve art in some way. I know that to reach our goals we must acknowledge our natural inclinations and utilize them to benefit ourselves. I believe art to be a talent I was born with and it is my duty to use art to reach my full potential. For nothing is great if it only belongs to the past and nothing has a future if it weren't first molded into reality.

Bruna Mayer

Student of Visual Arts

"If I had never been introduced to the arts, I wouldn't be the person I am right now."



The arts have been a part of my life for a very long time. If I had never been introduced to the arts, I wouldn't be the person I am right now. When I'm working I connect to my art in a way in which I become one with it. I think that my spirit disconnects from the rest of the world and flows into an ecstasy of emotions, and everything else seems not so important. The energy just flows all around leaving no space for emptiness. It's a feeling that has no name, color, or way to describe it. You experience freedom.



You feel you have so much power and strength that you could do anything at that moment. It's such an incredible moment that has changed my whole entire life around.

If I had never felt that, I would not see the meaning in things. I want to show people this feeling through my artwork. I want people to understand and feel the same way I do.

**New World School of the Arts
Miami-Dade County
Ellery Brown, Principal
Jim Hunter, Teacher
Tom Wyroba, Teacher**

Jeein Shin

Student of Visual Arts



"Creating art throughout my high school career has influenced and developed me into a more mature and experienced person, who can take on challenges and new endeavors."

Einstein once said, "Art is a universal language." When I came to the United States from South Korea at the age of twelve I didn't speak any English, so art was the only way I was able to make friends and really connect with them. In Korea, it's typical for students to go to an after school art class, but I found out that is not the case in America.



There are many things that make someone feel confident. Maybe it's the way they look, the way they are dressed, or the person they are with. For me, I can proudly say that it is art that makes me feel confident and proud about myself. I've learned things from art that I haven't learned from my parents, friends, or even teachers. Art has taught me the simplest things like valuing and managing time to more complex things, including how to define and be true to myself.

Lake Brantley High School
Seminole County
Darvin Boothe, Principal
Katy Farmer, Teacher

Amanda A. Stasi

Student of Visual Arts

"Yes, I am going to be an artist when I grow up. This has forever been my life dream."



My fascination with life's little artistic details began when I was a baby. My parents lovingly tell the story about when I was a little toe-head girl, strolling around in my walker and, picked up a tiny piece of fuzz and rolled it in-between my thumb and index finger, staring at it transfixed by its complexities.

My parents looked at me in amazement. This is when they first noticed my fondness in the small details in life. In elementary school, I preferred staying in my art classroom to work on paintings or sculptures than going outside during recess with the other kids. I was smitten with the love of art.



I have long believed that art changes lives. I believe this because it has changed mine. Henry Moore, a famous sculptor, once said, "To be an artist is to believe in life." I am truly living when I am painting. As I paint, I let go of myself to pour myself into the paintings I

create and speak the language only forms can speak. I let the pictures strongly speak for me. I always try to let the pictures be an expression of my feelings on all kinds of different subjects. I take solace in the artistic freedom to express myself.

**Douglas Anderson School of the Arts
Duval County
Jackie Cornelius, Principal
Hillary Hogue, Teacher**

Jena A. Thomas

Student of Visual Arts ■



"I would like to become part of a culturally diverse environment, and submerge myself in my art and my studies."

I have always felt that the journey and the experience is more important than the outcome of the event. It is important to learn everything possible about all that you can. I am an aspiring artist, which in my opinion is unique in itself. I continue to pick up and drop many hobbies and interests, whether they are fun, athletic, artistic, or intellectual. I have found that whatever I choose to do in life has in some way affected my choices as an artist. This is what I love about art. Art is ongoing, forever changing, and can never be mastered.

Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr
School of the Arts
Palm Beach County
Ellen VanArsdale, Principal
Jane Grandusky, Teacher

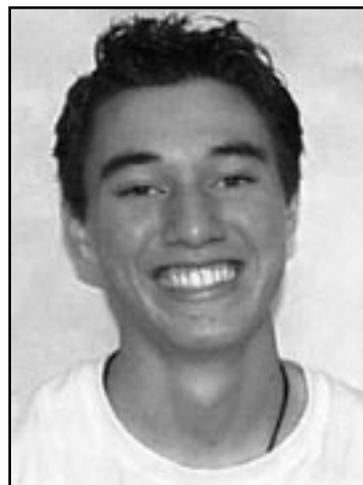


I began at a very young age, watching my mother make art. Later I started in children's art classes, and then I advanced to adult classes. Currently, I am a seventeen year old senior, visual art major at an arts magnet school and I now tutor children in art. I love attending an arts magnet school; the balance of art and academics keeps me sane. It has been a journey and I can only look forward to the experiences still to come.

Joshua Wilmoth

Student of Visual Arts

"The visual arts have been one of the most influential and powerful driving forces of my life since childhood."



Always appreciative of the talents that I have been blessed with, I've worked hard to pursue the study of the visual arts. I've integrated my art into my academics, my other love. I've worked hard to incorporate them both in my education, determined not to leave one behind since they are both subjects that I am equally passionate about.

I am still amazed at the transformation my art has taken, and how quickly it has evolved into what it is today. I have worked so hard and have come so



far, but there is still a considerable amount of distance I have yet to cover. In this I am truly inspired. One of the reasons I love art as much as I do is that there is no end.

You can never reach a certain level and determine that you're done; you've progressed as much as you can. There is no bar to reach. This drives me more than anything else. I know I can never be wrong and can never be completed. It is such a stark opposite of math and science that I find it a refreshing change. With art, there is no bar to reach.

Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr
School of the Arts
Palm Beach County
Ellen VanArsdale, Principal
Jane Grandusky, Teacher

National Recognition For Florida's Student Artists

The College Board Advanced Placement Studio Art Program

The College Board's AP Studio Art Program, which began in 1971, makes it possible for highly motivated students to participate in college-level study of art while still in high school. With the encouragement and guidance of committed AP teachers, these students produce paintings, sculpture, drawings, and photos throughout the school year that challenge their artistic perceptions and develop their intentions, both in concept and execution. At the end of the school year, students submit portfolios of their work for evaluation. The thousands of portfolios submitted each year are reviewed by college, university, and secondary school art instructors using rigorous standards. Their evaluations enable colleges to acknowledge and encourage students' accomplishments by granting appropriate college credit and placement.

Every year the College Board selects exemplary artwork from the AP Studio Art Program for display in a traveling exhibition to celebrate the extraordinary works created by high school students. For the 2004-2005 academic year, the artwork of 31 students was chosen from approximately 21,000 portfolios submitted during the AP Exam administration. The exhibition displays the best artwork by students who participated in the AP Studio Art program. The pieces, chosen purely on merit without regard for geography, represent 17 U.S. states and Scotland. This year the exhibition appeared at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts in Nashville, Tennessee and the David J. Brodsky Gallery in Princeton, New Jersey. Florida students created four of the 31 pieces selected for this year's exhibition, and those four pieces are currently on exhibition at the Capitol Rotunda in Tallahassee, Florida. These four students from Florida are:

Tyrone Jarelle Brown
Dillard High School
Fort Lauderdale, FL

André A. Jones
Dillard High School
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Ryan Michael Panco
Seminole Senior High School
Seminole, FL

Benjamin David Rupp
Orangewood Christian School
Maitland, FL

National Foundation for Advancement In the Arts

Art Recognition and Talent Search (ARTS) 2005 Presidential Scholars in the Arts Nominees

The National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts' (NFAA), through its Arts Recognition and Talent Search (ARTS) program, is the exclusive nominating organization to the Presidential Scholars program sponsored by the White House. The Presidential Scholars Program is a national recognition program administered by the U.S. Department of Education to honor some of the nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. At the request of the Commission on Presidential Scholars, NFAA nominates up to fifty ARTS Finalists each year. From this exclusive pool of fifty nominees, the commission selects twenty to be named Presidential Scholars in the Arts.

The Presidential Scholars are honored at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. in June. Performing scholars are featured in a performance at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Non-performing scholars have their work exhibited professionally at a museum in Washington, D.C. This year NFAA nominated five ARTS Finalists from Florida for the Presidential Scholars Program. These Florida artists are:

Anne Blazejack
New World School of the Arts
Miami, FL

Amy McClendon
Douglas Anderson School of the Arts
Jacksonville, FL

Candice Mitchell
Phillips Academy
Gainesville, FL

Marla Phelan
New World School of the Arts
Miami, FL

Leila Wagner
Douglas Anderson School of the Arts
Jacksonville, FL



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