
FLORIDA FIRST LADY'S ARTS INITIATIVE

A RETROSPECTIVE ON THE ARTS RECOGNITION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

2000 - 2004



***“The power of the arts to change lives
and to enrich life is evident in schools and
communities throughout our great state.”***

**Columba Bush
First Lady of Florida**

First Lady's Message



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 Scholarship 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 hear their stories and to showcase their talent. To know that this program has helped 120 students continue their studies in the arts thrills me. This Retrospective captures the hopes and achievements of these young people. It is my hope that this Retrospective will motivate our 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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The Arts and Quality of Life

By Mary Palmer, Co-Founder of Arts for a Complete Education

From the nursery to the nursing home, participation in the arts makes life more interesting and meaningful, reduces isolation, and enhances feelings of self-worth. Exhibitions and live performances offer stimulation and entertainment to all age groups and all walks of life. Their availability enhances our quality of life and unites us.

The Arts in Education

When experiences in the arts are enriched through educational opportunities, they become transformative in the lives of participants. A recent plethora of studies on the value of the arts to overall student learning has piqued interest in arts education. Education in the arts is a means, one strategy with potential, to an end: successful student achievement. Recent studies provide clear evidence of what supporters of the arts in education have known for some time:

- The arts help all students to succeed in school and in life.
- Quality arts education programs have a greater likelihood of being a part of school curriculum when school and community leaders have come together to make that goal a reality.
- The arts can provide a way to engage youth who are not being reached through traditional schooling.

Perhaps surprisingly, high-quality instruction alone will not ensure success in arts education. Along with community involvement, leadership at all levels is an essential element to ensure success.

The Challenge for School Administrators

Florida's First Lady Columba Bush challenges Florida school leaders to clarify their arts education outlook. She urges school districts to provide a supportive and stable environment for arts education as an important part of the learning experience of all students.

School leaders can develop and sustain arts education in various ways:

- Stressing the importance of the arts in achieving school district goals
- Providing an infrastructure to support arts education
- Encouraging collaboration of education staff to ensure that district-wide initiatives apply to and include the arts

The Challenge for Community Involvement

Mrs. Bush joins other community members in giving her personal support to education in the arts. She believes, by seeking and creating opportunities within communities, arts education will be enhanced at all levels and in all venues.

A community can sustain a lifelong learning process in the arts when it encourages:

- parent and community involvement in school arts programs
- arts faculty involvement in community arts events
- artists/performers residencies in schools
- student exhibitions and performances for community audiences



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 a 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.

A Note from the Project Director

The Florida First Lady's Arts Initiative, *Arts for Life!*, was born from Mrs. Bush's passion for the arts and her belief that investing in Florida's students is the best investment for our future. One important aspect of the program is the Arts Recognition Scholarship Program in which scholarships are awarded to graduating high school seniors representing the five arts disciplines. Each year since 2000, twenty-four students of great artistic promise have each received a \$1,000 scholarship to support their pursuit of the arts in higher education.

Since the inception of the program, 120 Florida students have received this prestigious award. Recipients undergo a rigorous process of evaluation by exemplary arts educators. Five separate discipline-specific committees are formed to review applicants. The evaluation not only includes analysis of artistic merit, but also of written communication skills.

In gathering information for this publication, it has been my privilege to communicate with many of these students and their families. Repeatedly, I heard that this award boosted students' confidence in themselves as artists; and that this recognition from the State of Florida and from Mrs. Bush gave them the courage to pursue their dreams. For some, the monetary aspects of the award helped them go to college; for others, the prestige of the award helped them to garner additional scholarship monies. Mrs. Bush personally awards these scholarships at a special gala event in the Governor's Mansion in Tallahassee. Receiving the award from Mrs. Bush in the presence of their families and teachers has been a life-changing experience for many students.

The highlight of developing this Retrospective has been hearing the stories of these young people. Their youthful enthusiasm and sense of commitment permeated our conversations. The excitement and pride expressed by parents and other family members was heartwarming. The caliber of performances and exhibitions in which the scholarship recipients have participated is impressive. Equally striking is the caliber of colleges and universities attended by these Florida students. The scholarship recipients are represented from Harvard University to Rhode Island School of Design and from Florida Gulf Coast University to Yale University. Further, the professional positions achieved by the graduates are remarkable. From making art in a parent's garage to producing films in New York City, solid careers in the arts are underway. In addition, scholars are contributing to their communities in a wide variety of ways. Benefit concerts, charity art auctions, and countless other contributions have been provided in schools, hospitals, and community centers.

The information reported herein has been gathered from various sources, including the scholarship recipients, their families, teachers, and Florida high school personnel. Every effort has been made to reach all recipients and to ensure accurate reporting.

Mary Palmer, Ed.D.
Orlando, Florida

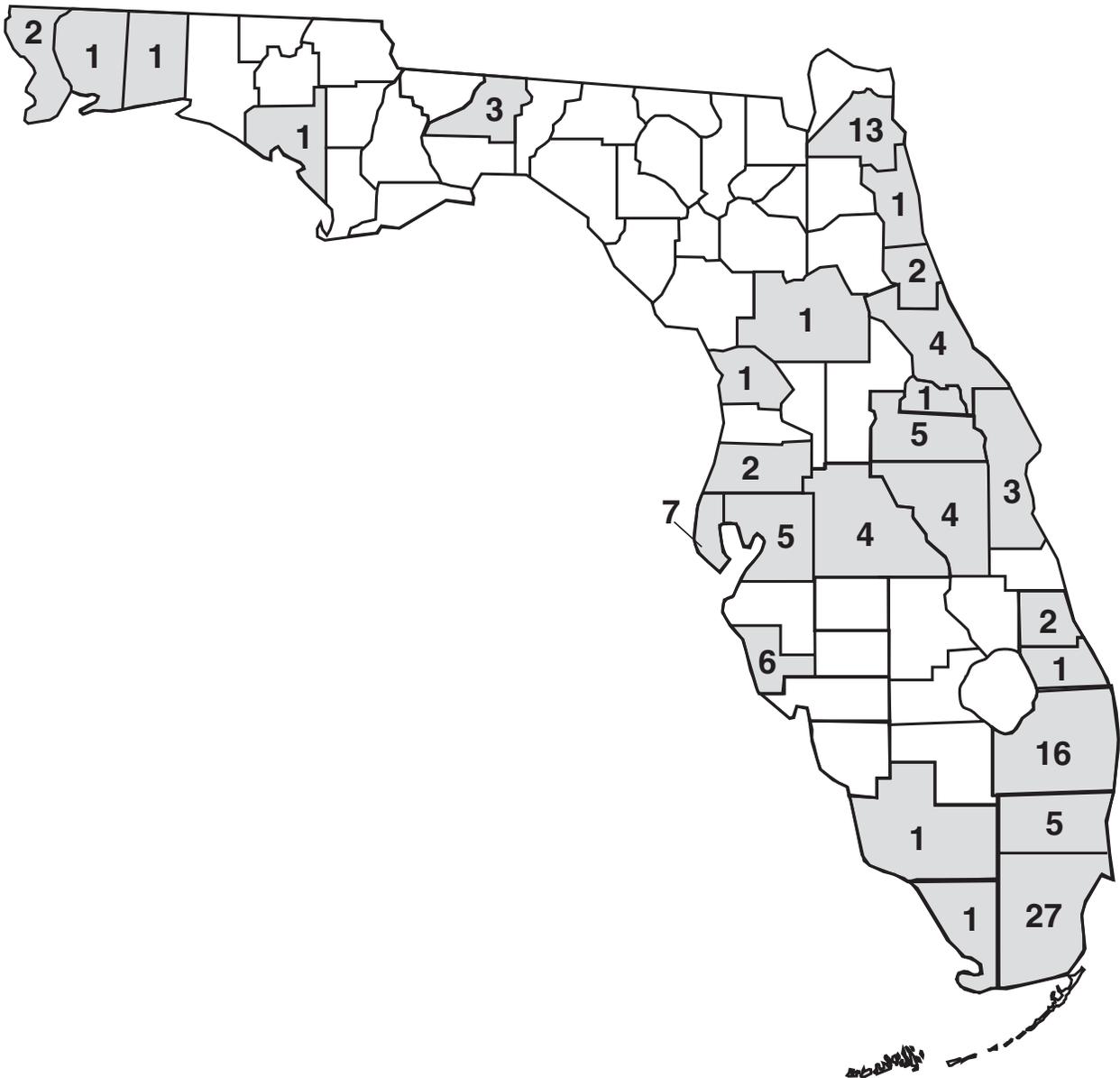


Scholarship Recipients 2000 – 2004: Where did they come from?

County Distribution of High Schools the Scholarship Recipients Attended

From the edge of the panhandle to the rim of the Florida Keys, arts talent permeates Florida. Scholarship recipients hail from 28 different counties in Florida. Miami-Dade County is the greatest producer of young artists, with 27 scholarship recipients overall.

The counties in which the scholarship recipients resided at the time they received their award are highlighted on the map of Florida below. The numbers indicate how many scholarship recipients, from 2000 – 2004, represented each county.



Colleges and Universities Attended by Scholars

Florida:

Public Community Colleges:

Daytona Beach Community College
Miami-Dade College
Palm Beach Community College
Pensacola Junior College
Tallahassee Community College
Valencia Community College

Public Universities:

Florida A & M University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida State University
New World School of the Arts
Public Cooperative (Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Miami-Dade College
and University of Florida)
University of Central Florida
University of Florida
University of North Florida

Private Institutions:

Flagler College
Florida Southern College
Jacksonville University
Lynn University Conservatory of Music
Remington College
Rollins College
Stetson University
University of Miami

Alabama:

Samford University

California:

Chapman University

Connecticut:

Yale University

Georgia:

Atlanta College of Art
Savannah College of Art and Design

Illinois:

University of Illinois

Maryland:

Maryland Institute College of Art

Massachusetts:

Boston Conservatory of Music
Harvard University
School of the Museum of Fine Arts (Boston)
Tufts University

Missouri:

Kansas City Art Institute

New Mexico:

College of Santa Fe

New York:

Cooper Union School of Arts, Architecture and Engineering
Eastman School of Music
New School
New York University
New York University Tisch School of the Arts
Pratt Institute of Art
School of Visual Arts
Skidmore College
Syracuse University
The Juilliard School

Ohio:

Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland Institute of Art

Pennsylvania:

Carnegie Mellon University
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
Swarthmore College

Rhode Island:

Rhode Island School of Design

Texas:

Rice University Shepherd School of Music
Southern Methodist University

Washington, D.C.:

Washington Ballet School





**Scholarship Recipients 2000 – 2004:
Where are they now?**

2000 Arts Recognition Scholarship Program Recipients

Avey Alexandres

Student of Theatre

Attended Osceola High School, Osceola County

Attended Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas

The dual worlds of visual arts and theatre called to Avey as a high school student. The arts helped her feel very confident that she could excel in anything that she aspired to do.

With scholarships in hand, Avey set off for Southern Methodist University. Beginning in her junior year, Avey fell in love with directing and combined her many talents through the creation and performance of visually-oriented performance pieces. In spite of her busy days in the theatre, Avey found time to give back to her community by volunteering to read to children at the Heart House in Dallas. Avey graduated with cum laude honors and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Studies with a minor in Photography.

Avey has since moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she continues her pursuit of a life in the theatre. Currently she is working on a solo performance piece which she will produce in the near future.

Marcus Bickler

Student of Visual Arts

Attended Deerfield Beach High School, Broward County

Attended Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, Maryland

While in high school, Marcus sought to depict day-to-day experiences through his artwork. He focused on social issues facing America.

Marcus continued his artistic development at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. During his summers, Marcus used his developing talents to give back. He sculpted seven large relief panels portraying the seven days of creation as depicted in Genesis. Installed in 2004, these panels hang in Temple Beth Orr in Coral Springs. Marcus earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in General Fine Arts in 2004.

Currently Marcus can be found focusing on ceramics in his own studio in Deerfield Beach. In addition to producing work for two galleries, Marcus is working on large-scale sculpture and relief panels for walls.



Mary Ann Douglas

Student of Music

Attended Spruce Creek High School, Volusia County

Attended Daytona Beach Community College, Daytona Beach, Florida

As a high school senior, Mary Ann stated that “music education has given me the courage and determination to continue with my dreams no matter how difficult the road has been.” Her success as a vocalist was matched by her enthusiasm for living and making a difference.

Mary Ann received her Associate of Arts degree from Daytona Beach Community College. Upon receiving her degree, Mary Ann was accepted into the Orlando Opera Company as a member of the chorus. She is also currently pursuing a degree in Theatrical Interpretation through Sign Language. She plans to work as an interpreter on Broadway or in schools for the hearing-impaired.

In spite of her busy schedule, Mary Ann finds time to serve her community as a volunteer. She constructs games and provides production assistance for the Celebrity Mascot Games, which raises funds for children with life-threatening diseases. She has also served as a spokesperson for Arts for a Complete Education/Florida Alliance for Arts Education and the First Lady's Arts Recognition Scholarship Program.

Christopher G. Gleim

Student of Theatre

Attended Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Duval County

Attended Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

As a senior at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Chris was already an experienced actor with numerous performances in school and local theatre to his credit. He recognized the beauty of the theatre early on: “To imitate life at its best and worst by the means of art is an amazing feat.”

His talent flourished in the nurturing environment of Florida State University. Chris also honed his craft during summers in theatre programs of the Central Piedmont Theatre in Charlotte, North Carolina, and of the Seaside Musical Theatre, Daytona Beach, Florida. In 2004, Chris earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Musical Theatre.

During his senior year at Florida State University, Chris participated in the Senior Showcase in New York City, where he was discovered by an agent. Chris landed the first job for which he auditioned. He is now a member of the Broadway Touring Company of Best Little Whorehouse in Texas. Chris says that he is doing what he always dreamed of doing.

Maritte L. Go

Student of Theatre

Attended Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts, Palm Beach County

Attended Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

As a high school student, Maritte found improvisation to be exhilarating. Her passion was to be an actor, but Maritte thought her Asian heritage would limit her opportunity on the stage. Her experience with Miss Saigon changed her mind.

Upon high school graduation, Maritte entered Florida State University to pursue acting, her heart's desire. Maritte graduated in 2004 and continues to pursue her passion in New York City. She is considering attending graduate school in California to continue her study of theatre.

Noah C. Haeussner

Student of Electronic Media

Attended Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Duval County

Attended the University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida; Tallahassee Community College, Tallahassee, Florida; and Full Sail Real World Education, Orlando, Florida

While in high school, Noah discovered that he had a gift that “could not only entertain but enhance certain emotions of the heart and mind.” He set his sights on a life behind the camera.

Although Noah attended several colleges throughout Florida, he never lost his focus. Study at the University of North Florida as well as Tallahassee Community College led him to Full Sail Real World Education in Orlando. He graduated in November 2003.

Noah is now realizing his dreams in Los Angeles by working in the film division of National Lampoon. He is focusing on short films for television as well as the big screen.

Sarah Catherine Hatch

Student of Music

Attended Bartow High School, Polk County

Attended Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Florida

Music has always been a defining factor in Sarah's life. While in high school, Sarah came to know the power of singing to convey a story and elicit a particular emotional reaction. Sarah pursued a vocal performance degree at Florida Southern College in Lakeland for two years following high school graduation. Singing is still an important part of Sarah's life as she pursues a career in the banking industry in Plant City.



Christy Ann Johnson

Student of Music

Attended International Baccalaureate School of Bartow High School, Polk County

Attended University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida

High school was full of performances for Christy as she developed her piano performance skills. She believed that “performing provides a direct channel between the emotions of the performer and listener” and that “combining technical precision and melodic beauty creates a rare emotional intensity.”

In the fall of 2000, Christy began her Piano Performance degree at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. While an undergraduate, Christy accompanied many performance groups and served as a church musician. To help raise scholarship monies for others, Christy gave benefit performances for local music clubs. In three short years, Christy graduated with a degree in Piano Performance from the University of Central Florida.

As a high school student, Christy started performing for and speaking to groups of young children to emphasize the necessity of practice and the importance of music in their lives. A brief study period at Texas Christian University reinforced Christy’s love of children. In teaching, Christy has found her niche in life. She is currently an adjunct faculty member at Rollins College in Winter Park, where she teaches in the Community School of Music. In addition, she teaches piano in Winter Haven.

Arlicia Dominique Jones

Student of Dance

Attended New World School of the Arts, Miami-Dade County

Attended Florida A & M University, Tallahassee, Florida

As a high school senior, Arlicia stated “the significance of the artistic process in dance has had the effect of shaping me into a diverse and cultured young woman.” In addition, dance taught Arlicia to manage her time and to pursue her dreams.

Arlicia graduated from Florida A & M University with a degree in Nursing. While in Tallahassee, Arlicia danced at Florida State University. Currently a nurse at Broward General Hospital, she is pursuing a graduate degree in Dance at Florida International University.

West Lamy

Student of Visual Arts

Attended South Miami Senior High School, Miami-Dade County

Attended Atlanta College of Art, Atlanta, Georgia, and Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York

As a high school senior, West said, “My life is like an M.C. Escher drawing – a metamorphosis.” West grew up in a home full of love in a neighborhood full of hate. Gunshots echoed around him, yet he overcame his fears by processing his feelings through his art. The dangers of Little Haiti, an area of urban Miami, often filtered from the framework of West’s mind to the canvas of his art.

As a freshman, West entered the Atlanta College of Art as an Art major. He transferred to Syracuse University where he graduated with a degree in Communications. West is now living in Connecticut and working with ESPN, the sports broadcasting company.

Jason Moninger

Student of Visual Arts

Attended New World School of the Arts, Miami-Dade County

Attended Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

Since his childhood, Jason’s restless energy was channeled into his art. The development of realistic art was his expressive vehicle while growing up.

Upon high school graduation, Jason entered Florida State University as an Art major. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in May 2004. Jason currently paints portraits, landscapes, and murals in Tallahassee as he prepares for graduate school in landscape design at the University of Florida.



Daniel Nelson

Student of Visual Arts

Attended Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School, Pinellas County

Attended Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

While in high school, Daniel stated, "I find that art equals my human need for communication and the attainment of information. I inhale life and exhale art." He was encouraged to abandon self-imposed boundaries in his pursuit of artistic excellence.

Daniel worked with many different media while studying at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia. His work earned him top honors when he graduated in 2004.

This year Daniel can be found at the University of Pennsylvania, also in Philadelphia, pursuing a graduate degree in Art History. His combined artistic and academic talents provide an excellent launching pad for his next steps in the professional world.

Daniel Ruiz

Student of Visual Arts

Attended New World School of the Arts, Miami-Dade County

Attended Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island

The possibilities for an artist to help viewers understand and appreciate life drove Daniel in his pursuit of art. He recognized his ability to observe and appreciate the subtleties of life even as a high school student. As a senior, he was honored by the National Art Education Association as a top-performing high school visual artist.

After graduating from high school, Daniel went to the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence. As an undergraduate there, he was one of two representatives for the school in the prestigious Yale University art competition. In 2004, Daniel earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and graduated with honors.

Now in New York City, Daniel is working in the field of film animation through an internship with Stardust Television. He works in animation and computer animation for film, commercials, and video.

Casey Spindler

Student of Theatre

Attended Dillard Center for the Arts, Broward County

Attended Carnegie Melon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Casey loves learning and has a personal goal to be forever in the process of improving. While in high school, he actively pursued this goal by attending a five-week summer theatre course at Yale University.

Casey attended Carnegie Melon University School of Drama after high school, where he added many more performance credits to his long resume. He graduated with university honors in May 2004. Although he was a Theatre major, Casey also continued with his interest in music.

Now living in New York City, Casey is promoted by two bi-coastal companies, the Paradigm Talent and Literary Agency and the Viking Management Company. He has performed play readings in Cleveland and in New York. He also landed a guest spot on a television show. Casey continues auditioning for roles and performing his own music in clubs throughout New York City.

Shauna Marie Walker

Student of Music

Attended Winter Haven High School, Polk County

Attended Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama

Shauna has emerged from her childhood shyness to become a confident and competent young singer. While in high school, she delighted audiences with her performances.

Upon graduating from high school, Shauna chose to continue her vocal training at Samford University in Birmingham. Her growth as a performer can be measured by her increasing success in the prestigious National Association of Teachers of Singing competition. As a freshman and sophomore, Shauna placed third in the competition; as a junior, second; and as a senior, she took top honors. She graduated from Samford with a degree in Vocal Performance in May 2004.

Shauna is also very interested in helping others and giving back to the community. While at Samford, she began working with children at the Birmingham Ronald McDonald House.

Shauna is now pursuing a career as a vocalist. She is currently finishing recording a CD for Doxology with Michael Card, a contemporary Christian artist. Recently Shauna was a featured soloist at the Alabama Republican Convention. In addition to her pursuit of a singing career, she teaches private voice lessons.



Updated information on the following students was not available:

Christopher Leo Garcia Abueg
Student of Visual Arts
Design and Architecture Senior High School, Miami-Dade County

Heather Lynette Cole
Student of Music
Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Duval County

Brittany Davis
Student of Music
Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Duval County

Nicole LaTrece Ingram
Student of Music
Lincoln Park Academy, St. Lucie County

Adrienne Irving
Student of Theatre
Lincoln High School, Leon County

Jesus John Paul Doplito Minguez, III
Student of Visual Arts
Dr. Phillips High School, Orange County

Jose Angel Ortez
Student of Visual Arts
Design and Architecture Senior High School, Miami-Dade County

Tiffany Lenesse Vann
Student of Dance
Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Duval County

Rachael Theresa Zimmerman
Student of Dance
Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Duval County



2001 Arts Recognition Scholarship Program Recipients

Daniel Andai

Student of Music

Attended New World School of the Arts, Miami-Dade County

Attends Lynn University Conservatory of Music, Boca Raton, Florida

As a high school senior, Daniel was a well-established violinist. He was principal violinist and concert master of his high school orchestra. Daniel was also a member of the Arts String Quartet.

At Lynn University, Daniel is a senior Violin Performance major. He relishes the opportunities that he has to play with the University Philharmonic and String Orchestra. He was the top prize winner of the 2004 Schlem International competition in Italy and has been a featured soloist in the Bahamas, Jamaica, France, Italy, Israel, Canada, and throughout the United States.

Daniel also makes time to serve others. He has organized and presented a benefit concert for Best Buddies International to raise funds for people with disabilities. He started a school for music for children in Miami and inaugurated the Kids Village Young Orchestra.

Rebecca Bell

Student of Music

Attended DeLand High School, Volusia County

Attends Stetson University, DeLand, Florida

Even as a high school student, Rebecca believed that every child should have the opportunity to experience the gift of music as a part of school. She stated, "Through hard work and determination, my musical accomplishments have become my proudest moments."

This focus led her to develop her significant skills as a pianist and as a vocalist.

Upon high school graduation, Rebecca became a Music major at Stetson University. She majors in Vocal Performance with a minor in Piano Performance. Rebecca is pursuing opera studies and has performed major roles both at Stetson and at the Seaside Musical Theatre in Daytona Beach. In addition, she is a successful performer in various vocal competitions. Rebecca credits her success to her passion for the arts and to her dedication to the art of music. Upon graduation from Stetson, she plans to attend graduate school to further her vocal performance career.



Christina Carbone

Student of Visual Arts

Attended Design and Architecture Senior High School, Miami-Dade County

Attends Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, Maryland

Even in high school, Christina tried to make sure that what she created was a reflection of her. Armed with a solid positive attitude, Christina believed that investing maximum effort in quality work would allow her to achieve her goals.

That attitude took her to the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. She will complete her Fine Arts degree in May 2005. She also has expanded her abilities since high school and is now focusing on fashion and film.

Lauren A. Davies

Student of Dance

Attended Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Duval County

Attends Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, Florida

For Lauren, dance gave structure to every aspect of her life. Lauren, as a high school senior, stated, "Dance has always given me an inner drive that I can do it – I will do it."

Now a senior at Jacksonville University, Lauren loves college life. She is a Pre-med Biology major. She has been actively involved as a volunteer at St. Jude's Hospital and in her sorority. Lauren plans to work on various aspects of dance again in the near future.

Caitlin Elliott

Student of Theatre

Attended Flagler Palm Coast High School, Flagler County

Attends Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

Caitlin, a National Honor Society member, felt fortunate to encounter theatre while in school. As a senior, she wished that others could share her good fortune in order to give them the drive to become better people and to look at life from a different angle. She felt that the arts gave a few lucky students the opportunity to experience a fuller life and that we are all better people as a result.

Upon high school graduation, Caitlin entered Florida State University to pursue a major in Theatre. No further information is available.

Cecile Evans

Student of Theatre

Attended Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Duval County

Attends New York University Tisch School of the Arts, New York City, New York

Intelligence and commitment defined Cecile even as a high school student. She sought to use her talents to help others see themselves and their world in new ways. Her dedication to theatre and to humanity was fueled at the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts.

Now a senior at the New York University Tisch School of the Arts, Cecile will graduate with a degree in Theatre in May 2005. Her desire to create has led her off-Broadway, where she has built a project in experimental theatre with the La MaMa Theatre. She has many performances to her credit. She plans to spend the year following graduation in France to continue honing her skills.

Alicia Gill

Student of Music

Attended Coral Reef Senior High School, Miami-Dade County

Attends Miami-Dade College, Miami, Florida

Alicia recognizes that the experiences she had with music, particularly the opera *Carmen*, shaped her life. As a high school senior, her goal was to share with children what she learned through music.

Alicia is now studying Nursing at Miami-Dade College in Miami.

Christina S. LaLog

Student of Music

Attended Flagler Palm Coast High School, Flagler County

Attends Stetson University, DeLand, Florida

Christina began private piano lessons at age five. With her instructor's help, she realized the inherent beauty of music and the lifelong rewards of its pursuit. As a high school senior, Christina summed up her feelings about music, "Realizing that every single note and every phrase holds the power of reaching the heart, I have discovered my life's true passion."

At Stetson University, Christina continues to pursue her passion as a Piano Performance major. Her academic and musical achievements have been recognized in multiple ways. She was awarded the School of Music Freshman and Sophomore of the Year, and membership in the prestigious Pi Kappa Lambda and the Mortar Board societies.

Christina also gives back to her community by serving as a volunteer through the "Into the Streets" program. Upon her graduation from Stetson, she plans to pursue graduate study in the field of collaborative piano.



Jerardo Lindh
Student of Visual Arts
Attended Dr. Phillips High School, Orange County

As a senior, Jerardo said “Art is the ability to transmit a message or an overwhelming emotion of some kind without the use of words.” He gained acclaim for his artistic creations while in high school.

Upon high school graduation, Jerardo returned to his homeland in Chile, South America.

Suzann Y. Martinsen
Student of Visual Arts
Attended Forest High School, Marion County
Attends University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

While in high school, Suzann “Sooki” Martinsen constantly observed life and recorded what she saw with pen and pencil. Her artwork brought her recognition and acclaim.

Sooki, an honor student, is pursuing her Fine Arts degree as a Drawing major at the University of Florida in Gainesville. As a senior, she is breaking her traditional realistic mold to experiment with modern contemporary approaches to art. Her abstract paintings have garnered space, and lots of awards, in various exhibits at the University.

Sooki also enjoys giving back to her community. She is looking forward to continuing her community service through work in the Arts and Medicine program at Shands Hospital. Upon graduation, Sooki will pursue a career in animation at Disney.

Amanda Massicotte
Student of Music
Attended Ridgewood High School, Pasco County
Attended University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, and University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida

Amanda grew up in a musical family, which shared music-making on a regular basis. She believed that to master the art of music, one must be a good listener, know one’s instrument and its capabilities, and invest time to make it work. This was a recipe for Amanda’s success in her many endeavors. Amanda also believed in the importance of giving to her community; she was a popular tutor to elementary school children and youth groups.

Upon high school graduation, Amanda headed to the University of Florida where she majored in Engineering. She continued her marimba performance as a member of the University band. Amanda then attended the University of Central Florida, where she graduated with a Master’s degree in Mathematics Education. Currently Amanda is teaching mathematics in Orlando, Florida.

Kathi McFarland
Student of Visual Arts
Attended Lincoln High School, Leon County
Attends Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, Georgia

The delight of discovery propelled Kathi into the world of visual arts. While at Lincoln High School, her personal artistic development gave her increasing satisfaction and the knowledge that the arts were “right” for her.

Now a senior at Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia, Kathi will complete her degree in Graphic Design in May 2005. She has been included in exhibits in Savannah and recently had her work featured at the Savannah/Hilton Head Airport. Kathi continues to give back to her community by donating her artwork to the Tallahassee organization Big Bend Hospice.

Christin Ripley
Student of Visual Arts
Attended Gibbs High School, Pinellas County
Attends Cooper Union School of Arts, Architecture and Engineering, New York City, New York

Christin seeks to make art that is more than entertainment or house decoration. Even as a high school senior, she acknowledged the power of art and observation to enhance the appreciation of all people.

In New York City, Christin is in her senior year at Cooper Union School of Arts, Architecture and Engineering. As an Art major, Christin is sculpting and working on her senior show. Her paintings have been met with great acceptance. Christin “consumes life and loves everything about it.”

Kathleen Simonds
Student of Visual Arts
Attended Riverview High School, Sarasota County
Attends Atlanta College of Art, Atlanta, Georgia

Art has provided Kathleen with direction in her life. As a founding member of the International Baccalaureate program at Riverview High School, Kathleen received the highest possible score on her required portfolio. She also pursued other interests during high school such as school leadership activities and volunteering in her community.

Kathleen is now in her senior year at the Atlanta College of Art where she will graduate in May 2005. She is majoring in Painting with a minor in Drawing. She also has participated in collective gallery showings. For Kathleen, being an artist is of utmost importance. Painting, for her, provides an emotional and spiritual release that protects her from ever dwelling on the possibility of failure.



Chad Smith

Student of Music

Attended Astronaut High School, Brevard County

Attended Boston Conservatory of Music, Boston, Massachusetts; Brevard Community College, Cocoa, Florida; and Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

Musical theatre gave Chad a vehicle for dealing with shyness and the unexpected. While in high school, he experienced the power of communicating with his audience and he was committed to developing his talents.

Chad began his undergraduate studies at the Boston Conservatory of Music. He returned to Florida, where he earned his Associate of Arts degree from Brevard Community College. He is currently in his senior year majoring in Theatre at Florida State University.

In his pursuit of a Bachelor's degree in Musical Theatre, Chad has performed in numerous plays, including the role of Che Guevara in *Evita*. Chad believes that theatre is a way to examine his own life through the stories of others. He knows that these stories reflect the universal longings of an entire race and make us all part of a universal consciousness.

His passion for theatre also fuels his desire to give back to his home community. He wrote and directed a Musical Theatre Review for the Brevard Community Theatre and he also teaches classes for young children.

Michael Vasquez

Student of Visual Arts

Attended Gibbs High School, Pinellas County

Attends New World School of the Arts, Miami, Florida

Michael sees his life in the context of his art. As a high school senior, he said "My art is my escape and at the same time, my identity – a representation of me." The artistic environment of Gibbs High School nurtured Michael's artistic talent.

The New World School of the Arts recognized Michael's talent with a complete tuition scholarship. Now a senior, Michael is pursuing a Fine Arts degree in computer art. At New World School of the Arts, Michael has formed a student group in which students employ their artistic talents to serve the community. The group produced a recent Social Clash art exhibit, which explored life from different angles.

Dien Vo

Student of Media

Attended Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts, Palm Beach County

Attends New York City University, New York City, New York

While in high school, Dien began amassing awards for his video production. The Palm Beach International Film Festival awarded him first place for his student work.

Dien began New York City University as a student of independent study. He has fused Economics, International policy, and Sociology into a major. His second major is in Integrated Media Arts. He continues to work creatively with film and is currently completing an experimental electronic music album. In addition, Dien is developing an Internet-archival library of contemporary culture as seen through new media. Somehow he makes time to be an active volunteer both at the University and at his former high school in West Palm Beach.

Updated information on the following students was not available:

Jennifer L. Bowles

Student of Visual Arts

Riverview High School, Sarasota County

Victoria J. Murray

Student of Theatre

Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Duval County

Mylene A. Quiachon

Student of Dance

Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Duval County

Susanne Rankis

Student of Visual Arts

Coral Reef Senior High School, Miami-Dade County

Megan Sadd

Student of Visual Arts

Howard W. Blake High School, Hillsborough County

Alicia Totman

Student of Visual Arts

Pine Ridge High School, Volusia County

Karina Wroble

Student of Visual Arts

Lecanto High School, Citrus County



2002 Arts Recognition Scholarship Program Recipients

Christopher Adkins

Student of Music

Attended St. Augustine High School, St. Johns County

Attends University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida

The endless fascination of musical improvisation captured Christopher at an early age. To him, "Improvising is like telling a story. It conveys emotion, sadness, happiness, being fired up, and feeling laid back." Throughout high school, Christopher used his talent for music in various jazz bands and ensembles.

Besides being awarded an Arts Recognition Program scholarship, Christopher was also one of the First Lady's Youth Arts Ambassadors. He had the opportunity to join Mrs. Bush on her tour to Japan in 2002.

Now a junior at the University of North Florida, Christopher is studying jazz guitar in pursuit of a Bachelor of Music degree in Jazz Studies. He performs in the University Big Band and in jazz combos. For him, the arts are "a deep passion that drives life and gives a reason for living." Music has created in Christopher a desire to work harder and more diligently while at the same time bringing joy to his life.

Jeffrey Ashkin

Student of Theatre

Attended Olympic Heights High School, Palm Beach County

Attends University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida

Jeffrey was recognized early on as a playwright extraordinaire while at Olympic Heights High School. His talent as a writer found him creating believable characters and recognizable scenarios. Jeffrey always made a promise with himself to "never give up" in his pursuit of writing.

As a junior at the University of Central Florida, Jeffrey is studying Film/Theatre. He is a part of the Film Club and uses his skills to assist in craft services in the Film Department.

Jeffrey views the arts as "a form of self-expression, a release of what is inside of you, and a way of connecting with people." Jeffrey will keep his promise of persistence as he continues his pursuit of a career in screenwriting and directing.

Sarah Cimino

Student of Theatre

Attended Satellite High School, Brevard County

Attends New York University Tisch School of the Arts, New York City, New York

Even as a high school student, Sarah was serious in the pursuit of her life's dream: a career in the theatre. Her multiple artistic skills in acting, dancing and singing laid the groundwork for her success. Sarah believes that her view of the world has been broadened by arts participation.

Sarah's dream is becoming a reality as she studies drama/theatre at New York University Tisch School of the Arts. As a junior, she is involved in many aspects of art, including costume design, drawing, ceramics, acting, and choreography.

Along the way to her own success, Sarah continued to think of others. In New York City, she participates in an education outreach program that promotes theatre to inner city children. The arts mean everything to Sarah; she credits her experiences in the arts with teaching her to care and relate to others more deeply. She is considering a future as a drama therapist.

Jonathan Cofino

Student of Music

Attended New World School of the Arts, Miami-Dade County

Attends University of Miami, Miami, Florida

Jonathan was an in-demand musician while in high school. He performed in numerous school groups as well as the Florida All-State Orchestra. Even as a high school senior, Jonathan believed that "The arts allow human beings to find the best and worst of themselves. The arts not only express, but they embody the spirit, emotions, thoughts, and being of the human animal."

Now a junior at the University of Miami, Jonathan is pursuing his dreams through his continued study of music. As a Bassoon major, he performs in many ensembles.

Nicolette Connell

Student of Visual Arts

Attended Sarasota High School, Sarasota County

Attends Flagler College, St. Augustine, Florida

Nicolette attributes her compelling desire to understand the deep relationship of her art to the world to her early exposure to the arts. While in high school, she stated, "I want to create magic that will spark curiosity, promote awareness, and bring smiles to people's faces."

Now in her junior year at Flagler College, Nicolette is majoring in Graphic Design and Advertising. Her passion about anything visual makes her very observant of the world around her and allows her to express herself in creative ways. For Nicolette, the arts are her entire life. She still finds time to give to others and share her art through her volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity.



Amanda Cooley
Student of Music
Attended Bloomingdale High School, Hillsborough County
Attends University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

Amanda credited her discipline and attention in piano and clarinet studies as the motivation that led her to excel in academics. She gathered many academic and music performance awards while in high school.

Her musical abilities led her to the University of Florida. Now a junior, she majors in Piano Performance and minors in Spanish. A member of the University's Jazz Band, Amanda also accompanies other students, teaches piano lessons, and performs throughout the community. In spite of her busy schedule, Amanda makes time to tutor struggling elementary students and to sponsor a child in Bolivia.

Clinton Curtis
Student of Theatre
Attended Key West High School, Monroe County
Attends New York University, New York City, New York

Clinton enjoys rehearsing as much as he enjoys performing. He thrives on the collaborative process of producing a show. As a high school senior, he said, "I will pursue music to any end."

Now a junior at New York University majoring in Musical Theatre, Clinton is pursuing his dream. He performs in clubs, sings with a professional choir, and has a recording contract pending. Clinton also produced and sang in a successful benefit concert for his local arts center back home in Key West. For Clinton, the arts are all encompassing and bring personal success and reward to him on a daily basis.

Daniel Gil
Student of Visual Arts
Attended Design and Architectural Senior High School, Miami-Dade County
Attends Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science in Art, New York City, New York

As a high school senior, Daniel stated, "Art is a way of life. It has become the filter through which I experience the world." In addition to his talent as a visual artist, Daniel excelled academically, earning a perfect 4.0 grade point average in high school.

Upon high school graduation, Daniel traveled to New York City to enter Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art.

Manuela Gonzalez

Student of Visual Arts

Attended Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts, Palm Beach County

Attends Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island

While still in high school, Manuela recognized that “Art by itself is another way to laugh, another way to cry, and another way to sing.” Her fascination with history coupled with her love of art has led her to consider the heightened sensibilities of artists.

Now a junior at the Rhode Island School of Design, Manuela is majoring in Painting. To further her artistic training and understanding, Manuela is traveling to Italy this year to study painting. Upon graduation, she will pursue a career in teaching.

Kyra Green

Student of Dance

Attended Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts, Palm Beach County

Attends Juilliard School, New York City, New York

For Kyra, dance is more than just an important influence in her life. For her, dance is life. When her mother was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, dance was Kyra’s means of escape. Even as a high school senior, she recognized that the arts distract people from the negative and focus them on the positive aspects of life.

Now in her third year as a Dance major at Juilliard, Kyra dances every day. She shares her love of dance through a Community Service Fellowship in which she performs at hospitals, schools and nursing homes. She feels fortunate that she has the opportunity to dance in her community.

Hillary Jacks

Student of Visual Arts

Attended New World School of the Arts, Miami-Dade County

Attends School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts

Even as a high school senior, Hillary understood that her extensive participation in volunteer work was her pleasure and her responsibility. She believes, “Once one has discovered the arts, they become an independent tool for expression, independence, and life. The arts have a profound effect on life.”

Currently Hillary is a junior at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston studying General Fine Arts. She has found her niche with printmaking and has had the opportunity to intern with a master printmaker and serve as a teaching assistant in various classes.

Hillary views the world through her artist’s lens and sees everything in relationship to the arts. She knows that without the arts, she would not have attended college. Now she looks forward to a career as a master printer.



Lauren Jasinski

Student of Dance

Attended St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Broward County

Attends Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

At a young age, Lauren recognized the central role of dance in her life. "Dance fills my heart and nurtures my soul," she said as a high school senior. For Lauren, dance was a vehicle for self-expression. She knew that dance required her physical strength, full concentration, and musicality. She also knew that her dancing brought the arts into the lives of her family.

Lauren, now a junior year Dance major at Florida State University, dances every day. She now believes in herself and knows that she can achieve her goals through dedication and perseverance. Lauren is looking forward to a career in dance or physical therapy upon graduation.

Mark A. Jones

Student of Visual Arts

Attended Pine View School, Sarasota County

Attended Pratt Institute, New York City, New York

Attends School of Visual Arts, New York City, New York

Mark observes life in detail and expresses his appreciation through his art. While in high school, he actively gave his talents to the Drama League as a set designer and painter.

After two years at the Pratt Institute in New York City, Mark transferred to the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan, where he is a junior majoring in Illustration. During the summers, he shares his love of the arts by coordinating arts and crafts for children at a Sarasota church. In addition, he donates his art works to various charities for auction. For Mark, the arts are a conduit for his creativity. His artistic talent has brought him positive recognition throughout his life.

Cathy Lu

Student of Visual Arts

Attended New World School of the Arts, Miami-Dade County

Attends Tufts University, Medford/Somerville, Massachusetts

Art helped Cathy to make connections and bring relevance to all of her learning while in high school. She excelled academically and also as a community volunteer while at the New World School of the Arts.

Now a junior at Tufts University, Cathy is pursuing a double major in Art and Chinese. Cathy spent fall 2004 studying in China.

Virginia Munday
Student of Dance
Attended Harrison Arts Center, Polk County
Attends University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

While a high school senior, Virginia credited dance with giving her “grace, self-esteem, discipline, respect, focus, and self-confidence.” She realized early on that she would live her life in the context of dance.

Besides being awarded an Arts Recognition Program scholarship, Virginia was also one of the First Lady’s Youth Arts Ambassadors. She danced her way to Japan with Mrs. Columba Bush in 2002. She believes that was the best experience of her life.

Virginia is currently a junior at the University of Illinois studying Dance. She not only performs but choreographs her own projects as well. Amidst all of the rehearsals and performances, Virginia also finds time to share her passion for dance through volunteering. She participates in HUBBS-Bringing Dance to the Masses, a program on the University campus, which brings free performances to those who haven’t experienced dance. For Virginia, the arts are her life; she sees the arts in everything she does.

Julianne Marie Odahowski
Student of Music
Attended Winter Park High School, Orange County
Attends Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

Julianne excelled in music early on, having been selected as a Florida All-State Orchestra member for five years and concert mistress for the Florida Youth Orchestra. She was also part of her high school’s symphonic orchestra and formed her own popular string quartet. The recipient of Walt Disney World’s coveted “Dreamers and Doers” award, Julianne clearly emphasizes the “doer.”

Julianne is now a junior at Florida State University, where she majors in Violin Performance. Dividing her time between major orchestras and chamber music ensembles, Julianne states that the arts are “practically my whole life.” Somehow she still finds time to volunteer by providing performances with her chamber ensemble for those less fortunate.

Lauren Perkins
Student of Visual Arts
Attended Wellington High School, Palm Beach County
Attends Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

While in high school, Lauren began her love affair with photography. She was an active student leader, community volunteer, and athlete. Her academic excellence was recognized with membership in both the National Honor Society and the National Art Honor Society.

Upon graduation, Lauren entered Florida State University.



A RETROSPECTIVE ON THE ARTS RECOGNITION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Keren Pilinger

Student of Visual Arts

Attended Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School, Miami-Dade County

Attends Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York

Keren discovered art early in her life. She views her art as a “direct way to get people to understand me: art is a visual window into my heart and mind.” While in high school, Keren not only pursued her art but also nurtured her commitment to giving back to her community through numerous volunteer services.

Now a junior at Skidmore College in New York, Keren majors in Art with a focus on painting. She also continues to serve her community through numerous volunteer activities.

David Shingler

Student of Visual Arts

Attended Leon High School, Leon County

Attends Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland, Ohio

While in high school, David used his art to show his thoughts, feelings, and ideas. He states, “Like the process of art itself, I see raw talent, basic elements, and emerging emotions coming together in an attempt to create things that communicate beauty and truth.”

David is now a junior at the Cleveland Institute of Art majoring in Sculpture. His landscape portraits were recently featured in two summer shows in the Bahamas and China. He says that to him, “making art and the process of art is more important than the name ‘artist’.”

Andrea Willson

Student of Theatre

Attended Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts, Palm Beach County

Attends College of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Even in high school, Andrea believed that she would “discover the essence and truths of humanity and life” through her work in theatre. She amassed an extensive resume of study and performance as she studied dance, voice, and acting.

Andrea was accepted into the theatre program at the College of Santa Fe, where she currently studies. She was able to design her own major, which allowed her to tailor her education to what she wanted to learn. Her interest in performing for a purpose led her to create her self-designed program in Performance for Social Change. During the fall 2004 semester, Andrea studied physical theatre, the aerial and acrobatic side, at Circomedia in Bristol, England.

Andrea also takes time out of performing and studying to give back to her community. She recently organized a March Against Violence on Women and Girls.

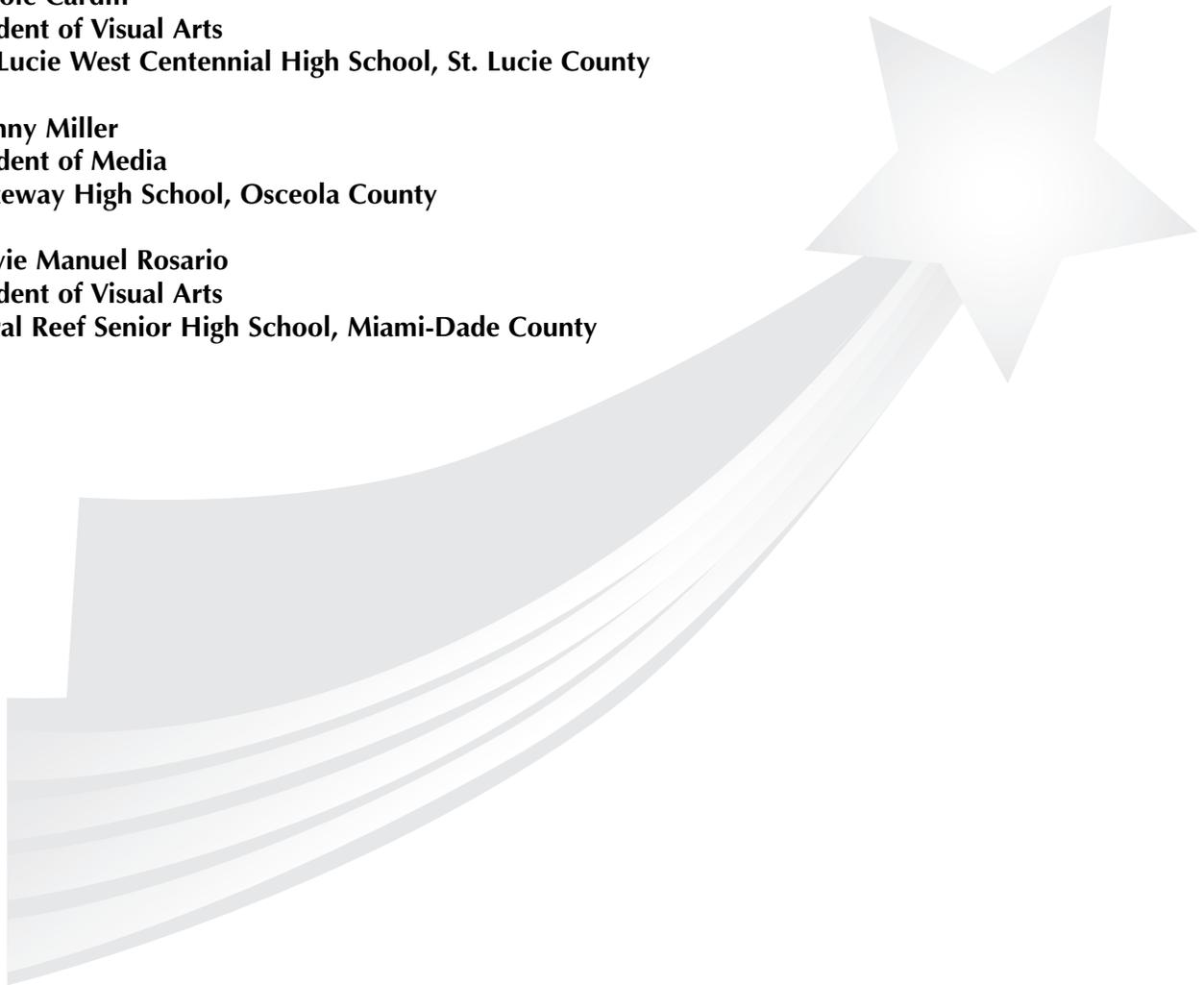
Updated information on the following students was not available:

Priscilla Adams
Student of Music
Tarpon Springs High School, Pinellas County

Nicole Cardiff
Student of Visual Arts
St. Lucie West Centennial High School, St. Lucie County

Danny Miller
Student of Media
Gateway High School, Osceola County

Davie Manuel Rosario
Student of Visual Arts
Coral Reef Senior High School, Miami-Dade County



2003 Arts Recognition Scholarship Program Recipients

Monty Bloom

Student of Music

Attended New World School of the Arts, Miami-Dade County

Attends Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York

When he began playing the violin, Monty knew that he wanted to pursue a career in music. His life has been dominated by musical activities, including serving as concert master and soloist with the Florida Youth Orchestra. Monty, through his community service, was able to provide performances for varied audiences.

Monty is making his dreams come true at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. As a sophomore, he is a Violin Performance major. Monty performs in numerous ensembles, including the prestigious Opera Orchestra.

Randy Burd

Student of Dance

Attended New World School of the Arts, Miami-Dade County

Attends New World School of the Arts, Miami, Florida

Dance taught Randy how to move, use his mind, and to respect himself and others. Even in high school, Randy understood the power of dance to create a world in which viewers could escape their worries. He enjoyed both dance and choreography while in high school.

As a college junior at the New World School of the Arts, Randy continues his study of dance and choreography. Amidst his rehearsals and performances, he still makes time to volunteer for the Dancing with Disabilities organization in Miami.

Joseph Danza

Student of Visual Arts

Attended Marchman Technical Education Center, Pasco County

Attends Remington College, Tampa, Florida

For Joseph, art has been his life. A family trip to the world-famous Louvre Museum in Paris inspired him to study master artists and aspire to their level of accomplishment.

Now a senior at Remington College in Tampa, Joseph majors in Digital Graphic Arts. He plans to start a graphic arts company, as well as a custom-tattoo business, when he graduates.

Kimberly Duong
Student of Visual Arts
Attended Deerfield Beach High School, Broward County
Attends University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

As an elementary school student in a conservative Asian family, Kimberly focused only on academic subjects. Her love of art grew as she experienced art and visited the Museum of Art in Fort Lauderdale. While in high school, Kimberly learned that art helps to nurture feelings and profound thoughts.

Now a sophomore at the University of Florida, Kimberly is majoring in Digital Arts and Sciences. Although she is busy in classes from digital to fine arts and from science to music, Kimberly makes time to continue her commitment to community service. She has used her artistic skill to design a pamphlet cover for “Each One Teach One” and has engraved a memorial for a football scholarship. Kimberly looks forward to a career in computer graphics.

Michelle Furlow
Student of Dance
Attended Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Duval County
Attends New World School of the Arts, Miami, Florida

As a high school senior, Michelle recognized that “People express themselves in various ways in order to deal with life. When I dance, I feel that I can accomplish anything.” Dance has been a defining factor in her life and has taught her respect and humility. Michelle has been reinforced and guided by outstanding dance teachers since she was two years old.

Michelle is currently a sophomore at the New World School of the Arts. As a Dance major, she studies both dance and choreography. She has taken advantage of summer opportunities with the Dance Theatre of Harlem and with the Black Ballet Company in New York City. One day Michelle plans to start her own ballet company back home in Jacksonville, Florida.

Christopher Hine
Student in Music
Attended Seminole High School, Seminole County
Attends Rice University Shepherd School of Music, Houston, Texas

In high school, Christopher learned that his analytical approach to the study of music would help him be successful in other subjects as well. He performed, studied, and listened to music at every turn.

His love of music took him to Rice University Shepherd School of Music. As a sophomore, he is a Horn Performance major. His goal is to perform with a major orchestra.



Emory Hsu

Student of Music

Attended Winter Springs High School, Seminole County

Attends Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

At the age of 12, Emory had to face his panic and perform the “Beethoven Piano Concerto in B Major” with the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra. The thunderous applause which greeted his performance built Emory’s confidence in his ability to perform and emphasized the role of the audience in music. While in high school, he successfully juggled academics, sports, and practicing both the piano and the violin. As a high school senior, Emory began to recognize his role as a future leader in the arts.

Although only sixteen years old, Emory is a sophomore at Harvard University. He is first violinist and Arts Director of the Harvard Mozart Society Orchestra and a member of MUSE, a string quartet. Emory is continuing his piano studies at the neighboring Longy School of Music at the New England Conservatory of Music. He volunteers through Music in Hospitals and Nursing Homes Using Entertainment as Therapy (MIHNUET).

Emory believes that the arts have challenged him to allocate his time efficiently and have forced him to consider what he does and how his actions impact society. He aspires to be a leader not only in academics, but also in the arts and in community service.

Swati Kapila

Student of Media

Attended Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts, Palm Beach County

Attends New York University Tisch School of the Arts, New York City, New York

When she’s at a loss for words, film is the language of choice for Swati. She is a first-generation American and an avid traveler who enjoys pursuing a variety of activities and interests.

High school graduation led Swati to the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, where she is majoring in Film. As a sophomore, she has already produced various short film projects. She is also honored as a member of the University Scholars Program. She will travel with the Scholars to Viet Nam during the spring of 2005. As she learns about new cultures, she will be recording them through her developing filmmaking skills.

Jack McKee

Student of Media

Attended Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts, Palm Beach County

Attended Chapman University, Orange, California

Even in high school, Jack believed that “Film is my reason, my purpose.” He recognized the power of communication through his interest in film. He sought to push the limits of modern cinema and continually create new phenomenon.

Jack attended Chapman University in California. The lore of filmmaking then drew him to EUE Screen Gems in New York City, where he enjoys making films.

Carrie McKnelly
Student of Visual Arts
Attended Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Duval County
Attends Pratt Institute of Art, New York City, New York

Always passionate about school, Carrie knew that Douglas Anderson School of the Arts would be a life-changing experience for her. There she learned to put her full heart and concentration into her artwork. Over time, her work began to resemble something deep within her. She found that her artwork required her to apply skills attained in mathematics, the sciences, and history.

The Pratt Institute of Art recognized Carrie's excellent preparation and ability with a full tuition scholarship. As a sophomore, she is majoring in Architecture. Carrie also finds time to give back to her community. During the summer of 2004, she painted a large mural for her local church. In New York, she makes time to read to children in inner city schools.

Abigail Nichols
Student of Visual Arts
Attended South Fork High School, Martin County
Attended Palm Beach Community College, Palm Beach, Florida
Attends University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida

Abigail discovered her ability to draw with pencils and crayons while in elementary school. She exercised and refined that ability throughout her school years. In addition to innumerable smaller pieces, she has created large murals as part of her contribution to Martin County. She believes that an understanding of art can be applied to anything.

In December of 2004, Abigail received her Associate of Arts degree from Palm Beach Community College. While there, she continued her independent art work and murals, which include a contract to provide illustrations for a children's book and creating nature signage for a local park in Martin County.

In January 2005, Abigail began her studies in graphic design at the University of Central Florida. She plans to continue to "eat, sleep, breathe, and do art."

Armando Perez Segura
Student of Music
Attended Coral Reef Senior High School, Miami-Dade County
Attends Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

Armando credits the arts with giving him "an edge in the academic world." Music has provided him tranquility, peace, and comfort in times of turmoil as well as happiness, bliss, satisfaction, and pride. His high school success in orchestras led Armando to love playing his viola.

Armando is in his sophomore year in the School of Music at Florida State University, where he is a Viola Performance major. He continues to add to his credits by performing with the University's Philharmonic Orchestra, Quartet, Trio, and Albany's Community Orchestra.



Michael Pettey
Student of Theatre
Attended J.M. Tate High School, Escambia County
Attends University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida

When his performance provoked tears in an audience member, Michael knew that he made an emotional connection through his acting. In that moment, he knew what he wanted to do with his life. Michael set out to touch as many lives as possible during his senior year in high school.

Michael spent a year at Pensacola Community College, and is now studying at the University of Central Florida. He is a sophomore seeking a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre and has participated in the One Act Festival.

Katelyn Potochney
Student of Visual Art
Attended Gateway High School, Osceola County
Attends Pratt Institute of Art, Brooklyn, New York

Through her artistic sensitivities, Katelyn, an inquisitive and observant person, values the essential beauty of the world around her. In high school, Katelyn's artistic talent opened many doors of opportunity for her and became a treasured part of her life.

As a Presidential Scholar at Pratt Institute of Art in Brooklyn, New York, Katelyn is an enthusiastic and appreciative sophomore. She is a student in the Communication Design Department, with particular emphasis on advertising art. She views art as a great communicator and a great persuader. Through her study of advertising, she will connect art and communication.

Zachary Redler
Student of Music
Attended J.P. Taravella High School, Broward County
Attends New York University, New York City, New York

While in high school, Zachary learned to take his life experiences and emotions and put them into his music in order to give it life. He decided to dedicate his life to helping others experience the power of music.

Besides receiving an Arts Recognition Program scholarship, Zachary was also one of the First Lady's Youth Arts Ambassadors. He had the opportunity to perform in the historic Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Zach is now a junior at New York University, where he is studying percussion as a Music Performance major. He also serves his community through public performances in various venues. Zach is already looking ahead to graduate study in musicology; he plans to specialize in music from Terezin (Concentration Camp) and Politics in Music and in Law.

Donald Rupe
Student of Theatre
Attended Gateway High School, Osceola County
Attends Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

It seems that Donald has loved all aspects of the theatre, from making the music to acting the scenes to directing the characters. With myriad performances both as actor and director, his high school days were filled with activity.

As the first member of his family to attend college, Donald is a sophomore at Florida State University. He is a Theatre major and has already dedicated his life to the preservation and promotion of everything artistic in order to serve people. The theatrical organization he founded in Kissimmee, Nothin' Productions, staged its first production in December 2004. Perhaps his experience putting on a production with fifteen students at an alternative high school in Tallahassee led him to make plans for graduate study in educational theatre.

Dawn Smith
Student of Music
Attended New World School of the Arts, Miami-Dade County
Attends Juilliard School, New York City, New York

From the early age of four, Dawn played the violin to drown out the sounds of gunfire which surrounded her in Liberty City. She used her violin as a tool to figure out math and spelling and other complicated life lessons. At age nine, Dawn found her love in the viola. Throughout high school, she performed endlessly and knew that she wanted to be a professional musician. Through her scholarship from Mrs. Bush, Dawn felt that the arts were being recognized as an integral part of life and of education.

Now a sophomore Viola Performance major at the prestigious Juilliard School in New York City, Dawn is making her dreams come true. At Juilliard, she is one of two violists in The Young Eight, a professional African-American string octet. With the octet, Dawn tours the country and hosts a summer chamber music string seminar program for sixteen African-American string players from throughout the country. She is also performing with The Soulful Symphony, a branch of The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

Dawn also finds time to give back to the community. She works with the National AIDS Foundation for the Turks and Caicos Islands. She provides private string instruction to underprivileged students in New York City and teaches inner city Miami students through Project String Connection.



Chat Travieso

Student of Visual Arts

Attended New World School of the Arts, Miami-Dade County

Attends Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, Maryland

As a high school senior, Chat concluded that “art should be unpredictable, and unrestricted to classifications.” He planned then that he would push the boundaries and question society’s definitions of art.

Chat is a sophomore at Maryland Institute College of Art. As a Presidential Scholar, he is an Art major.

Laura Layne Tyler

Student of Visual Arts

Attended Dr. Phillips High School, Orange County

Attends Valencia Community College, Orlando, Florida

Laura started drawing in pre-school; she was known as “that girl who does the nice drawings.” Her eyes were opened to special effects make-up as a high school freshman. While in high school, she learned the necessity of setting and achieving high goals for herself.

As a sophomore at Valencia Community College in Orlando, Laura studies sculpture, film, scriptwriting, and painting...all in pursuit of her goal of owning her own special effects company and winning Oscars with her work one day. She currently practices her developing craft through work as a special effects makeup artist at Universal Studios Florida.

Rob VanLandingham

Student of Music

Attended Rutherford High School, Bay County

Attends Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

At the age of four, Rob had his first piano lesson. Unwittingly, his Dad taught him to play “Bridge Over Troubled Water” through imitation. In high school, he despised the nail-biting experience of public performance. He learned, though, that his performances were a gift to his listeners. This thought led him to develop the presence of mind, perseverance, and composure necessary to master performance.

At the Florida State University School of Music, Rob is a Piano Performance major. As a sophomore, he is participating in many music-related community service projects. Rob says, “Music is what I do and love.”

Jenny Wang
Student of Visual Arts
Attended Atlantic Community High School, Palm Beach County
Attends Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio

As a high school senior, Jenny stated, “Art deals with issues unanswerable by science. The artistic process is overwhelming in its unique ability to provide infinite possibility of expression.” She earned an International Baccalaureate diploma in high school.

Now a sophomore at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Jenny is majoring in Biomedics. She continues to pursue her love of the arts through coursework in the arts. She also does volunteer work with children in the University’s Health Center.

Updated information on the following students was not available:

Ashley Leland
Student of Music
Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts, Palm Beach County

Katherine Middleton
Student of Theatre
Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts, Palm Beach County

Kristin Seiger
Student of Visual Arts
Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Duval County

2004 Arts Recognition Scholarship Program Recipients

Kathryn Adams

Student of Theatre

Attended J.M. Tate High School, Escambia County

Attends Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

Through the performing arts, Kathryn developed high self-esteem, an assertive personality, and a great love for performing. She believes that acting is her destiny.

Kathryn is a freshman at Florida State University and is majoring in Pre-law. She also plans to become involved in the arts at the University.

Sarah Asprinio

Student of Dance

Attended Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts, Palm Beach County

Attends Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

Sarah credits dance with making her more open-minded. For her, dance is life. Since she was little, she has been happy to make sacrifices in order to make time for dance.

Now a freshman at Florida State University, Sarah is a Dance major. She is helping to audition dance students for various University productions.

Clarissa Bonet

Student of Visual Arts

Attended Howard W. Blake High School, Hillsborough County

Attends Daytona Beach Community College, Daytona Beach, Florida

As a high school senior, Clarissa saw the arts as a therapeutic method for releasing feelings. She was influenced by her school experiences as well as arts opportunities in the community. Her artwork helped her through troubled times and changed her whole outlook on life.

Now a freshman at Daytona Beach Community College, Clarissa is a student in the photography program. She plans to earn her Bachelor's degree and hopes to become a fashion photographer.

Clarissa has also spoken on behalf of the Arts Recognition Scholarship Program at the Statewide Prevention Conference that was held in November 2004. Clarissa spoke at the closing session about how the arts have had a positive affect on her life. Her artwork was also on display during the event.

Colby Charnin

Student of Music

Attended Coral Reef Senior High School, Miami-Dade County

Attends Manhattan School of Music, New York City, New York

Colby's life has been influenced greatly by the arts. As a young child he was diagnosed with attention deficit disorder. Colby found himself in special education classes in elementary school. When he turned eight years old, he discovered he had an interest and a hidden talent which was playing the piano. After taking lessons for about a year, his grades began to improve and his level of concentration in school had increased dramatically. By the time he started middle school, Colby was no longer in special education classes, but instead he was in advanced classes making the honor roll. Colby states, "Without music I don't feel I would have accomplished as much as I have."

Upon graduating from high school, Colby set out to reach his goal of becoming a concert pianist. He attends the Manhattan School of Music pursuing a degree in Piano Performance. Colby has been fortunate to work with Marc Silverman for one semester and is currently studying with Nina Svetlanova, a pupil of the great piano Pedagog Heinrich Neuhaus.

Colby also has a desire to teach music. He wants to show others what he has learned and watch them enjoy music, and perhaps even piano. For Colby, the piano has given him confidence, focus, and clarity of purpose. He believes his passion for music will show through and help him show others how wonderful music is.

Joy Devore

Student of Media

Attended Barron Collier High School, Collier County

Attends Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, Florida

All of the arts have influenced Joy's life. As the child of church musicians, she appreciates the use of the arts in sacred as well as secular society. Joy brings her arts interests together in the form of media.

Joy began her undergraduate study at Florida Gulf Coast University in January 2005. She is studying theatre and singing in the University choir. Joy views the arts as a blessing to other people.



A RETROSPECTIVE ON THE ARTS RECOGNITION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Rachael Ellam

Student of Dance

Attended Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts, Palm Beach County

Attended American Ballet Theatre, New York City, New York

Attends Washington Ballet School, Washington, D.C.

For Rachael, dance built confidence as well as the motivation to achieve excellence in school. She struggled with a learning disability during her early years. Dance has helped her to focus in order to be a high academic and dance achiever.

After a summer 2004 program with the American Ballet Theatre in New York City, Rachael enrolled in the Washington Ballet School in January 2005.

Anna González

Student of Visual Arts

Attended New World School of the Arts, Miami-Dade County

Attends Swarthmore College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

In high school, Anna experienced “an innate desire to create and an inescapable need to translate feelings and emotions into visual language.” She knows that through her art she will become a more aware member of our society and of humankind. Anna is now a freshman majoring in Art at Swarthmore College in Philadelphia.

Shawen Ilaria

Student of Music

Attended Cypress Creek High School, Orange County

Attends the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

Shawen began playing the piano at age four and began playing percussion instruments in middle school. As a high school senior, she knew that life would be incomplete and undefined without the profound influence of the arts. She participated in every musical and theatre event that she could fit into her high school years.

Now a freshman at the University of Florida, Shawen is majoring in Microbiology and Cell Science and minoring in Music Performance with an emphasis in percussion. She was chosen for the University Symphonic Band and Percussion Ensemble.

As a student, Shawen is in the University Honors program, striving to maintain her 4.0 grade point average. In spite of her heavy academic schedule, Shawen makes time to serve others. She is already a leader in the American Medical Students Association and serves as chair of the Arts in Medicine Music Committee. Shawen organizes students to perform in nursing homes, children's hospitals, and talent shows. She looks forward to becoming a medical doctor.

Jimmy Jackson, Jr.

Student of Theatre

Attended Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School, Miami-Dade County

Attends the University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida

The lure of the theatre overpowered the roads to “skip school, joy ride, loot and steal” for Jimmy. To Jimmy, theatre was the road to success and happiness. The words and actions of his characters are an inspiration to others.

Now a freshman at the University of Central Florida, Jimmy is pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Performance Theatre. He has already been involved in campus productions. Theatre is the driving force of his life.

Jinda Janwatanagool

Student of Music

Attended New World School of the Arts, Miami-Dade County

University of Miami, Miami, Florida

Jinda began playing the violin at an early age and was already an accomplished performer by middle school. Due to a conflict, she was unable to schedule Advanced Orchestra in middle school. In Beginning Orchestra, Jinda assisted in teaching and discovered that teaching, too, takes practice and mastery. These experiences helped Jinda to appreciate education and have taught her to be patient and understanding.

Now a freshman at the University of Miami, Jinda is majoring in Neuroscience. She is working as a research assistant to two professors. Jinda is contemplating adding music as a major as well. She continues her study of piano and is performing in two ensembles. In addition, she is teaching beginning violinists. Jinda also makes time to give back through her work with the Cancer Awareness Program.

Matthew Kearney

Student of Visual Arts

Attended Booker High School, Sarasota County

Attends Stetson University, DeLand, Florida

Matthew views art as the greatest influence, the driving force, in his life. He supplemented his full schedule of arts courses in high school with private ceramics lessons by a Korean master potter. He is dedicated to continuing to develop his skill as an artist.

Now a freshman at Stetson University, Matthew is an Art major. His focus is on ceramics.



Jennifer Kindell

Student of Visual Arts

Attended Venice High School, Sarasota County

Attends Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island

Jennifer was encouraged by her high school teachers to pursue a career in art. Summer art school in New York City further fueled her passion for art. While in high school, Jennifer painted a mural in a hospital rehabilitation ward as well as for a city waterway park. These opportunities helped Jennifer to realize the importance of the arts to our society. Art gave Jennifer the opportunity to stand out among her peers.

Now a freshman at Rhode Island School of Design, Jennifer spends 30 hours each week in art classes. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, possibly in Illustration.

Jay Martin

Student of Visual Arts

Attended Pace High School, Santa Rosa County

Attends Pensacola Junior College, Pensacola, Florida

As a result of drawing killer whales in second grade, Jay realized that he could become very skilled at drawing if he applied himself each time he encountered a problem. That sense of accomplishment brought him joy. He competed in shows and won prestigious awards such as the Florida State Youth Art Fair and the National Congressional Art Competition. In his school and community, Jay was an active contributor of his art and himself.

As a freshman at Pensacola Junior College, Jay says that art is what makes him who he is and gives him a sense of worth. As an Art major, Jay is pursuing figure drawing and painting. He plans to study in Florence, Italy, during the fall of 2005.

Thomas Morrill

Student of Visual Arts

Attended Melbourne High School, Brevard County

Attends Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island

Throughout his life, the act of creating visual representation has enthralled Thomas. He examines each new idea as a specific design problem that must be solved to please the eye most completely. He recognizes that in the arts there are multiple solutions and the ability to convey a range of emotions.

Thomas is a freshman at his "first choice" school, the Rhode Island School of Design. He is majoring in Art.

Caroline Ogle

Student of Music

Attended Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School, Pinellas County

Attends Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida

Although she grew up in a rural area, Caroline's teachers and family ensured that she was exposed to a variety of arts experiences. Through these opportunities, Caroline learned that she wanted to be a participant in the arts, not simply a spectator.

Now a freshman in Music at Rollins College in Winter Park, Caroline is already planning graduate study in Ethnomusicology, or Music Therapy. A vocalist, she plans to provide volunteer performances at senior citizens centers in the near future.

Caroline has also performed on behalf of the Arts Recognition Scholarship Program. In January 2005, she provided a vocal performance at the Florida Music Educators' Association conference in Tampa.

Bailey Quillin

Student of Visual Arts

Attended Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School, Pinellas County

Attends Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, Georgia

Bailey's dream of becoming an illustrator has never wavered. She appreciated her opportunities to attend magnet arts schools from second grade through high school graduation because she was encouraged to express herself.

As a freshman at the Savannah College of Art and Design, Bailey is studying Illustration.

Jennifer Sanon

Student of Music

Attended New World School of the Arts, Miami-Dade County

Attends The New School, New York City, New York

As a high school senior, Jennifer said, "If blood is the lifeline of a creature, then it's music that flows through my veins." Music drew her up from a deep personal depression into an understanding of the positive possibilities of life. She hopes to nourish others with her music in the same way that music has nurtured her.

As a recent high school graduate, Jennifer is studying Vocal Jazz at the New School in New York City. She has already toured Europe and performed at the Lincoln Center with her mentor Wynton Marsalis. She will enter the Juilliard School in the fall of 2005 as a student in a new program, Vocal Jazz.



Alexandra Silva

Student of Visual Arts

Attended New World School of the Arts, Miami-Dade County

Attends Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, Missouri

While still in high school, Alexandra learned to think beyond society's conventional boundaries in contemplating life. As a result, she creates art that often uses exaggeration to portray her view of the world. Through her artwork, she strives to leave a lasting impression on the viewer.

Alexandra is now an Art major at the Kansas City Art Institute.

Gregory Smith

Student of Visual Arts

Attended Choctawhatchee High School, Okaloosa County

Attends Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, Georgia

As a high school senior, Gregory wrote, "The arts consume most all of my money, take up all my time, govern my visual perception, and put passion in my life." Gregory strives to use his photography as a vehicle for social change.

It is believed that Gregory enrolled in the Savannah College of Art and Design following his high school graduation.

Julie Tucker

Student of Music

Attended Spruce Creek High School, Volusia County

Attends Stetson University, DeLand, Florida

Julie was inspired to musical excellence by her high school choral director. She found that performing with a group of singers is a satisfying experience. For Julie, the special bonds formed with her choral classmates were as important as the amazing music they produced.

Now a freshman at Stetson University, Julie has undertaken a double major in Vocal Performance and Music Education. She currently performs throughout central Florida.

Wenjing Zeng
Student of Visual Arts
Attended Coral Reef Senior High School, Miami-Dade County
Attends Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

As a high school senior, Wenjing lived for photography. Through photography, she developed patience and determination which she applies to every task that comes her way. Wenjing credits her photography with keeping her open-minded and receptive to new ideas.

Now a freshman at Yale University, Wenjing is majoring in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry. She is continuing her pursuit of photography. At 8:30 every Sunday morning, she gets her assignment from the *Yale Herald*, the student newspaper. Since she arrived at Yale, one of Wenjing's photos has appeared in every issue of the student newspaper. She also participates in GAZE, an undergraduate photography club dedicated to high-quality publications.

Updated information on the following students was not available:

Chelsea Lovett
Student of Theatre
Riverview High School, Hillsborough County

Molly O'Connell
Student of Visual Arts
Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts, Palm Beach County

Crystal Swift
Student of Visual Arts
Howard W. Blake High School, Hillsborough County

Youth Arts Ambassadors

The purpose of the Youth Arts Ambassadors Program is:

- to provide opportunities to showcase the artistic talents of scholarship recipients through performance and exhibition; and
- to provide opportunities for scholarship recipients to share their learning journey life stories.

Scholarship recipients have been invited to perform at the ACE/FAAE Leadership Summit and at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Students have also been invited to travel internationally with Mrs. Bush to Japan for a cultural exchange.

In 2002, two scholarship recipients joined Mrs. Bush on a goodwill exchange to Japan. The two students stayed with Japanese host families; interacted with Japanese students; visited Japan's National Treasure, the Koya Mountains; and went sightseeing in Kyoto with a group of Japanese high school students. The students also had the opportunity to perform in various locations.

In 2003, scholarship recipients were showcased in the Library of Congress as the Florida House celebrated its 30th Anniversary in Washington, D.C.

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

We believe...

The arts are basic to a complete education.

ACE/FAAE is a statewide alliance of more than 35 state cultural associations and organizations and 24 ACE coalitions working 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 serves a community of state coalition members, arts educators, cultural agencies, school districts, and local schools throughout the state, representing dance, theatre, visual arts, music, and film. More than 125,000 students are directly impacted on an annual basis.

Our Mission is to promote, improve, and enhance arts education in Florida.

Our Vision is 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.

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

This presentation, known as the Murals Project, is centered around 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

This 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!

This was created to provide 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

The purpose of this annual two-day statewide conference is for arts educators, administrators, business leaders, and members of arts coalitions to address current issues in arts education.

Promoting Awareness of Arts Education Benefits

Public Awareness Program

This program provides 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.

ACE/FAAE Partners

Primary:

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

Statewide:

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

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 Founder



Arts  life!

Program managed by:



Retrospective developed by:



Scholarships sponsored by:



*Florida Governor's
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