

Welcome Back Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

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The Governor's School for the Arts

Meet Our Staff

Andrea Warren, PhD
Executive Director

Deborah Thorpe
Assistant Director

Todd Rosenlieb
Dance Chair

Jeffrey Phelps
Instrumental Music Chair

Stephen Coxe, PhD
Instrumental Music
Artistic Director

Chip Gallagher
Musical Theatre Chair

Jeffery Warner
Choreographer

Steve Earle
Theatre Chair

Shawn Crawford
Designer/Tech Director

Vic Frailing
Visual Arts Chair

Diana Caramat
Visual Arts
Associate Director

Alan Fischer
Vocal Music Chair

Stephen Z. Cook, PhD
Vocal Music
Choral Director

Office Staff

Becky Byers
Executive Assistant

Michelle LaVigne
Office Associate

Stephanie Outlaw
Part-time Office Associate

Ride the GSA Tide Into a New Year

WOW! It is hard to believe that summer vacation is over. I am so excited to start a new school year; my second year as Executive Director. Last year issued in a "New Dawn." This year we are "Riding the GSA Tide" into a new identity.

There are so many exciting things developing for this school year. For starters, Ms. Sharon Hill, last year's assistant director, resigned in June. I am so excited to have Ms. Deborah Thorpe as our new assistant director. Deborah has been with GSA from its inception and brings a lot of energy and ideas to this position. She has served GSA as the dance chair for the past 23 years and will now share her expertise and talents to GSA at large.

The new leader of the Dance Department is Mr. Todd Rosenlieb. Todd is the founder/creator of the Todd Rosenlieb Dance

Company, located on Granby Street; where the Dance Department conducts classes. Todd has served GSA as a part-time faculty member and Deborah's right hand for several years. We are thrilled to have Todd join us as a new chair.

Last year, Mrs. Patti Watters, Chair of the Instrumental Music Department, retired. Who better to take over but alum and orchestra conductor Mr. Jeffrey Phelps. Joining Jeff as the Artistic Director is Dr. Stephen Coxe who has been a part-time instructor for GSA for the past two years.

Finally, we are so excited to add a one more staff member to our ranks. We join Mr. Vic Frailing in welcoming alum Ms. Diana Caramat to the Visual Arts Department.

New full-time faculty mem-

bers bring enthusiasm, new ideas and energy to the collaborative table and I am thrilled to have them among our ranks.

Finally, the Parents of GSA are working hard to make a difference across GSA. This parent committee unites all of our parents throughout the school, working collaboratively to improve GSA's visibility in our community and assist in our fund-raising efforts. Like your student's home school PTA, this committee has developed several projects and activities throughout the school year. For a minimal membership fee of \$5.00, you can become better connected to the parent body.

On behalf of GSA's faculty and staff, we want to thank you for your continued support!



Congratulations to senior **Jermaine Woodard** (center) who won the gold medal in Classical Voice at the ACT-SO National Finals in Los Angeles during the summer!

Opening Day – Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Opening day is one of the best days of the school year. Like last year, the first day of Governor's School is **Tuesday, September 6, 2011** at the **Roper Performing Arts Center** located on **Granby Street**.

For our new students, the start of a new school year is an exciting time for GSA. Like any opening night, GSA is opening a new season of art exhibitions; dance and instrumental music performances; and opera, musical and theatre productions.

New students, we encourage you to find the location of your GSA bus pick-up prior to the first day of school. Your guidance counselor or gifted resource teacher should be able to assist you. If your lunch and GSA pick-up is

scheduled at the same time, I encourage you to bring your lunch to school...you may not have time to eat before you leave.

So, what happens on opening day? For our first shift students (VB, Norfolk, Portsmouth) you will meet your department chair at TR Dance or The Black Box (Theatre Department), located on Granby Street. During that first hour, you will tour downtown Norfolk with your department. At 2:00 p.m. everyone will move into Roper Theatre for our opening day departmental presentations. The presentation should conclude at 4:00 p.m., in time for 1st shift to catch their city bus home.

Second shift students (Chesapeake, Isle of Wight,

Southampton, Franklin and Suffolk) will report to the Roper Theatre through the **STAGE DOOR**. You will start your day with departmental performances with your tour from 4-5p.m.

Parents, please make sure you know where your student will be dropped off at the end of the day. For example, Chesapeake and Suffolk students should be picked up at their home high school. Virginia Beach and Norfolk students are dropped off at their door step or in their neighborhood. (The above information is subject to change so please check with your school district.)

Just a reminder: instruments, dance clothes or art materials aren't required on the first day of GSA.

The Governor's School for the Arts is a center for innovation that develops excellence, nurtures creativity, inspires artistic vision and builds communities with a passion for the arts.

Dance Department

This year promises to deliver new beginnings, new friendships and a wealth of heartfelt traditions to the Dance Department.

The Dancers will hit the ground running in preparation for our first performance of the academic year with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra on October 2, 2011. This Sunday Matinee will feature four dances from GSA. These works will be created by our illustrious faculty and are a shining example of our belief in the importance of live music with dance.

Also at the first of the year, our seniors will embark on a creative journey that will result in the Student Works concert on Friday, November 4, 2011. This production will present the final projects from our Dance Composition

course and highlights our young and promising choreographers. This production week will begin with a Dance Department 'Open House', October 31 thru November 2. Come one, come all and learn more about the dance department and its' classes and programs.

The fall includes preparations for "Holidays in the City" (November), Winter Concert (January), "Rhythm Live" (February) and the National High School Dance Festival (March). Spring will bring Festivals and travel. In March, part of our student body will be traveling to Philadelphia's University of the Arts for the National High School Dance Festival where they will perform and take classes with students from around the country. Over Memorial Day weekend (May),

we will travel to the Big Apple (NYC) for classes, dance concerts and a taste of Broadway.

The year culminates with our Spring Concert, which will be enriched by a collaboration with the GSA Orchestra in a celebration of new music and dance.

The year ahead is filled with endless possibilities, artistic growth and the joy of Dance.

Instrumental Music Department

The Instrumental Music Department congratulates Felix Ungar ('03 Viola), recipient of a Fulbright Research grant to study contemporary music in Taiwan. We also recognize Andrew Gonzalez ('10 Viola) who performed on the Barge-music series in Brooklyn this summer, Vena Johnson ('05 Violin) who served as a leader of a musical outreach mission to Palestine and Josh VanDavier (Flute '03) who was appointed to the development staff of Wikimedia in San Francisco.

Current GSA students enjoyed many opportunities this summer: Campbell Shiflett spent his time in Russia studying language and culture, Rachel Moore attended the music festival at Meadowmount, Taylor Pigram

attended the Interlochen Arts Academy and many GSA IM performers were involved in the Tidewater Winds, the Theatrix production of Ragtime, the Regent University production of West Side Story, Suffolk's Terrific Teen Talent series, the dedication of the HRT Light-Rail and many others.

This year, the IM Dept. looks ahead to a great year with debuts at Carnegie Hall (March 30) and Le Poisson Rouge (March 31), Side-By-Side performances with the Roy Muth Big Band (November) and the Virginia Symphony (March 17), a performance with the GSA Dance department (May) and many other opportunities.

After years of searching, we are excited to announce the

Hixon Theater at the Virginia Arts Festival (440 Bank St.) as the new Norfolk downtown home of the GSA Orchestra. In addition, The Hurrah Players building will serve as the full-time space for the Jazz Department.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Stephen Coxe as Artistic Director and welcome both Pavel Ilyashov (VA Symphony violinist) and Patti Watters (recently retired Chair of IM) as the newest additions to our part-time faculty. Finally, we offer a warm welcome to our first-year students and look forward to sharing great music and many adventures in the coming years.



Jazz Combo performing at the Newton Light Rail Station on Saturday, August 20.

GSA encourages and provide opportunities for students to use their talent in service of others.

Musical Theatre Department

This year, GSA has been selected, along with the Make A Wish Foundation, as one of The Neptune Festival's charity designees. The Musical Theatre students and parents will volunteer to help manage the Sand Sculpture in October at the Virginia Beach ocean front.

The MT Department is co-producing HAIR SPRAY with Virginia Musical Theatre at the Sandler Center in April.

MT alumni Van Hughes will star in the first Broadway National tour of AMERICAN IDIOT beginning in January.

We are proud to share that this summer, GSA had alumni in 7 different Broadway shows at once.



2004 Workshop with Broadway composer Frank Wildhorn and casting director Dave Clemmons.



**May 2011
Adventures of Sherlock
Holmes
Adaptation by Steve Earle**

GSA prepares students to engage the arts thoughtfully and creatively while becoming lifelong learners and advocates of the arts.

Theatre Department

The Theatre Department has an exciting year planned! We plan to "hit the ground running" with a brand new student written play developed last year about the damaging effects of bullying: The Unknown Variable, written by GSA Theatre student, Nicholas Biecker, with other scenes written by our Playwriting students, thanks to a generous grant from The Virginia Commission for the Arts. It will tour Hampton Roads middle schools this year. Under the direction of Lead Artist Randy Strawderman, the play centers on a boy who has lost his father, and is carrying on his father's fascination with insects, prompting his classmates to tease him unmercifully.

Randy will also be directing a co-production with the Musical Theatre and Theater Departments on the main stage this fall. He co-wrote the hit show, RED HOT & COLE and directed versions of it in L.A. and New York. Now he brings his considerable talents to stage a GSA production of it in October. Featuring the music of Cole Porter, it promises to be an exciting evening of theatre that you don't want to miss!

GSA Theatre has many other events planned for the year including the side-splitting comedy THE FOREIGNER directed by Department Chair Steve J. Earle; the haunting Irish Play, DANCING AT LUGHNASA directed by visiting artist Ailish Riggs; and a yet-

to-be-determined Shakespeare comedy directed by GSA faculty member Ricardo Melendez. We are also planning another round of our popular 24-HOUR THEATRE and STUDENT DIRECTED ONE ACTS as well as our annual field trips to Washington D.C. and New York City.

Visual Arts Department

Whew, what a summer! The Visual Arts Department has been incredibly busy this summer, between welcoming new faculty, fabricating the Ingleside Light Rail station glass, and finishing the project memory drawing for orphaned children in Mexico.

We welcome alumni Diana Caramat to the position of Associate Chair for the Visual Arts Department. She will be an incredible asset for students and parents, especially in the area of planning for college scholarship applications. We would also like to welcome video instructor Bill Collins, painting instructor Blade Wynne, and drawing instructor Rendez Padgett.

The opening of the public art project at Ingleside station was a resounding success, with lots of kind words from Norfolk Mayor Paul Fraim and lots of attention from the public. The

second design is going to be completed first quarter in our new class "Public Art." We also anxiously await moving into the new world class glass hop shop at the Chrysler Museum in October.

The summer art assignment "Tools of the Trade" will be critiqued on Friday, September 9th. The results will become part of an exhibit at the Hermitage Museum in March, to be followed by an exhibit of the art faculty in response to the students work.

This should be an amazing year!

Vocal Music Department

The Vocal Music Department has an exciting year planned for 2011-12!

Our first concert in December will feature excerpts from Handel's Messiah. Our ever popular Cabaret concert featuring music from the American Popular Songbook and from Musical Theatre will be in January.

This year marks the first time the Department will present one of Gilbert and Sullivan's great operettas as its spring production. The Mikado, which satirizes the society of Victorian England within a "Japanese" setting, will be presented in late April.

Following the success of the student directed Scenes Concert last year, we will again present an evening of Opera Scenes in late May, with many of them directed by students in the Directing class.

Rounding out our performance schedule will be the Senior Recital of the Class of 2012 in early June.

Vocal Music Alum News

Bass Ryan Speedo Green had an exciting 2011, winning the Metropolitan National Council auditions, then being invited to join the company as a member of the Lindemann Young Artists Program. This summer he made his first appearances with the company as part of the Opera's Summer Concert Series, and also sang the Commendatore in Mozart's Don Giovanni with the Martina Arroyo Foundation's Prelude to Performance.

Singing the title role in that same performance was GSA VM Alum baritone Josh Conyers, currently doing graduate studies at Indiana University, where he sang the role of Valentin in Gounod's Faust.

Soprano alum were also very busy. Barbara Quintiliani sang Maria Padilla with Opera Boston, repeating the success she had at the 2009 Wexford Festival in the same role. Aundie Marie Moore was in Norfolk last Spring singing in the world premiere of Ricky

Ian Gordon's Rappahannock County with the Virginia Festival, as well as taking part in the recording.

Danielle Walker recently sang in Carnegie Hall, and soprano Marjorie Owens recently sang Il Trovatore with the Fort Worth Opera, while continuing her contract at the Dresden SemperOper.

VM alum Tiffany Haas is currently performing the role of Galinda in the national tour of Wicked, and will be performing that role when the show comes to Norfolk next year.

Plans for our school year also include a trip to New York to see opera at the Metropolitan Opera, a Broadway show and participate in Master Classes.

GSA prepares and inspires students to meet the most rigorous admission requirements of colleges, universities, conservatories, internships and other career opportunities.



Ingleside Light Rail Station Created by GSA's Visual Arts Department.

The Governor's School for the Arts

Shop and Help GSA

If you shop AMAZON, use the link on our web-page, www.gsarts.net. When you use the link, GSA receives 5% of your total purchase. Even better, if you purchase items that we identify, GSA will receive 15%.

Link your Harris Teeter's VIC card to GSA by logging onto www.harristeeter.com/community/together-in-education/tie.aspx and go to "Link to Your School." Harris Teeter will contribute a percentage of your purchase dollars to GSA.

Help GSA earn cash with your MVP Card. Register your MVP card by going to Foodlion.com-community outreach-MVP Rewards. Our school code is 218778. Every time you use your MVP card GSA will automatically earn credit.



GSA items will be available during Opening Day.

GSA T-shirts \$15

GSA Hooded Sweatshirts \$30

Parents of GSA Membership Form—School Year 2011-2012

\$5 for each membership

Name(s) _____

Number of Members: _____
x \$5/member = \$_____ enclosed

City _____

Please mail membership dues to:
The Governor's School for the Arts
c/o Old Dominion University
Norfolk, VA 23529-0556

Student's Name & Graduation Year _____

GSA Department _____

Home ph: _____ Cell ph: _____ Other: _____

E-mail: _____ 2nd e-mail _____

Preferred Method of contact _____

Please check all that apply:

___ I have minimal time to volunteer, and I am interested in the following area (s)

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| ___ Fundraising | ___ Publicity/PR | ___ Event Planning |
| ___ GSA Admin Support | ___ PGSA activities | ___ Prom |
| ___ PGSA meetings | ___ Other (describe) _____ | |
| ___ any PGSA needs | | |

___ I don't have time to volunteer at the moment, but can offer connections/information/service donations in the following area (s):

