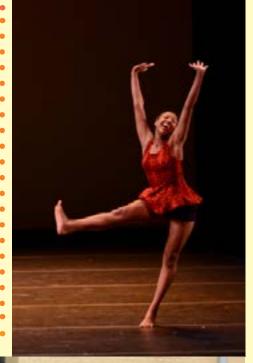
# ASPIRATIONS



A publication of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts Institute, the non-profit partner organization with the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts









-DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY--DEAR FRIENDS

#### Dear Friends of NOCCA,

Theatre Design students have not been the only ones on campus engaged in construction.

In the last four years, the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts

and The NOCCA Institute have built a high school academic curriculum, a high school Culinary Arts program, and an arts and academic facility in a renovated cypress and brick warehouse.

The NOCCA Institute has also built a garden and outdoor learning lab in the Press Street Gardens, an art gallery featuring the work of alumni and faculty, and Press Street Station café to generate long-term support for operations and programs.

Our goal is to provide students and faculty with the tools they need to excel in the best mentorship-based, fully integrated education anywhere in the world.

With a foundation stronger than ever, we cannot wait to see how new programs for students and the community will grow and flourish - joining those built by so many dedicated faculty and students over NOCCA's first 40 years.

This year, visit NOCCA! Student performances, Culinary Arts products, high school arts workshops, special garden and café cooking classes all await. We give special thanks to all in the community who support NOCCA's one-of-a-kind environment.

Gratefully,

Ioel Vilmenav President

Sally Pury

Sally Perry **Executive Director** 

"The artistic foundation that I received at NOCCA helped me open my eyes to something crucial. There is artistry and creativity everywhere. And, it's often needed and found in the least obvious places. "

Gary Solomon, Jr. NOCCA Theatre Design Graduate, 2004 President and Co-Founder, the Solomon Group 2015 Celebration Ceremony Speaker



This mission of The New Orleans Center for Creative Arts Institute is to support the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, Louisiana's arts conservatory for high school students. We invest in young artists, their mentoi and the community through programs that encourage educational and cultural innovatio

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The year started simply. Flashlights, hand-aged two-by-four wood slats, eight metal rails. It ended with 40 digital LED panels and the latest video mapping technology.

The first set Theatre Design students built for Drama's restaging of Se-Pa-Rate in October was no set at all. The minimal production purposely utilized just three props, relying on movement and words to tell Homer Plessy's story.

When Drama's adaptation of Little Women opened in March, Theatre Design students had built the largest single stationary set - based on Louisa May Alcott's attic - that the department had yet attempted.

Big Fish, staged by Musical Theatre in April, was all pieces and parts made of metal and hundreds of digital cues. Theatre Design students first built 20foot tall textured flats from steel frames and aluminum mesh. These were painted to reflect scenes projected from \$30,000 cameras loaned to NOCCA

by Event Producers. The LED panels loaned by the Solomon Group filled the back of the stage.

"This equipment embodied the most sophisticated technology we have ever used for a live production," says Theatre Design Chair Dan Zimmer. "This technology is here and now and Event Producers and Solomon Group generously allowed us to incorporate it into the curriculum to best train young production artists."

Audio, lighting and costume design round out Theatre Design's program. For *Big Fish*, students built or fitted 283 costumes and 87 wigs for the 38-member cast. For Little Women, they built nine period dresses - all fashioned from one basic pattern as historically would have been used by a 19th century family with limited means.

For Dance, design students switched gears again, building fanciful costumes for the ballet Carnival of Animals, and working with multiple choreographers

for ballet, modern and jazz dance performances.

With more students than ever, Theatre Design must balance production of eight to ten major shows per year requiring long after-school hours with classroom fundamentals and the growth of students as artists. The curriculum is always changing because the technology is always evolving.

"In Theatre Design's high-stress environment, it is exciting to see students develop the confidence that they can solve any problem, at any time and calmly," says costume design teacher Chris Arthur.

For the June production of Brothers from the Bottom, brought to NOCCA by alumni Wendell Pierce, students recreated a previously designed off-Broadway set and lighting. Yet another experience to end the year.

### ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE

In May, the first class of Academic Studio students graduated. They were collaborators in developing a new approach to mastering academics as they would master their art. Just as we spoke to them after their first year in the new program, we spoke again as they prepared to move forward. They could not have made us more proud.

# QUESTIONING > CONNECTING ART & ACADEMICS >

"I was challenged to look beyond the surface, to constantly ask questions and to rarely settle," began Mary Frances Candies (Drama). Concurred Payton Smith (Drama), "faculty didn't just deposit information. We turned it upside down."

"Through debates, portfolios, group presentations, we have been able to learn about history, English and sciences not only in an academic medium, but in an artistic one as well," stated John Michael Bradford (Jazz). "Incorporating our art into our learning is crucial because we can truly express our selves."

Prinsey Walker (Musical Theatre), "I realized more than ever how arts and academics complement each other." As Jimmerez Johnson (Drama) explained, "I became passionate about things they taught us in academics. Then I used those topics in my arts."

"By my senior project," concluded

### CRITIQUE ► ARTISTIC VOICE ►

"The real world is subjective. Learning how to be critical and to critique helps hugely in life," led Grayton Newman (Media Arts) as students outlined their path of growth through the last four years. "Everyone is not going to think we are perfect," said Cece Varnado (Culinary Arts). "Learning how to receive and analytically respond to criticism, how to formulate what to say back in a respectful way has been as essential as the hands-on learning."

"Through the process of critique, you find your own voice as an artist," furthered Grayton. "And because we were able to present work in our own voice, in Drama and in academics,"



"Graduates, NOCCA has helped you grow. And you have helped NOCCA grow. Most importantly, you have discovered that true learning is asking the right questions, not simply looking for answers. We trust that your perception of the world and of your careers is a larger one because you have gone through our doors."

Shirley Trusty Corey Founder, NOCCA 2015 Academic Studio Graduation Speaker

believes Payton, "we could bring our own histories to each discussion and discover new perspectives. Through our peers, we got to look through so many different lenses."

### RESPECT ► GROWTH ►

"Broadening our perspectives is invaluable to us as artists," said Mary Frances. And respecting each others' opinions is essential in an environment such as NOCCA's that requires significant risk-taking. "I learned to take risks in my art and in academics," articulated Cece. "I learned to challenge myself because when you do, you grow as a person."

"Here we are taught to invent, to create new things, to build from scratch, not just to replicate, which is easy to do" continued Charis Gullage (Musical Theatre). Payton agreed: "It's easier to keep doing the same thing, but are we looking to do what's easy or what's better?"

## RESPONSIBILITIES AS ARTISTS >

These young artists are prepared to use such knowledge moving forward. "It is our responsibility to take care of our culture," Nick Baquet (Theatre Design)







firmly believes. "There's a element of art in everything," Mary Frances among others articulated. "You cannot sacrifice art and culture. Once it's gone, it won't come back the way it was" supported Charis. "New Orleans is culture."

It's how we know, no matter where these young artists travel, they will always come home.

"You walk into NOCCA and you already feel the happiness and joy. It's like no other school," believes John Michael. Concluded Prinsey, "NOCCA is about finding your best self. It's insane."

In collaboration with Press Street Gardens, 11th grade Integrated Science students began a longterm research project, seeding, growing and transplanting native plants in eastern New Orleans wetlands. Utilizing their creative skills, they designed a plant guide to be expanded with each successive grade. Another Academic Studio and Culinary Arts student and her faculty mentor used the greenhouse to simulate how runoff water from compost and synthetic fertilizer affects low dissolved oxygen levels in the Gulf of Mexico's dead zone - and subsequently our food sources and food culture

# ACADEMIC STUDIO: YEAR FOUR

In October 2014, NOCCA's Academic Studio – which does not screen for academic achievement – earned its second "A" in two years from Louisiana's Department of Education, becoming one of the top programs in the state.

% of Academic Studio students passing at the levels of Excellent/Good in 2015:

NOCCA STATE

ALGEBRA I (9TH)

90% 54%

BIOLOGY (10TH)

75% 58%

ENGLISH III (10TH)

92% 72%

GEOMETRY (10TH)

79% 59%

ENGLISH III (11TH)

95% 62%

WORLD HISTORY (12TH)

College scholarships earned by Academic Studio students: **\$6,541,084**, a **\$148,661** per student average. Eighty percent of students graduated TOPS-eligible.



**ALUMNI ALUMNI** 



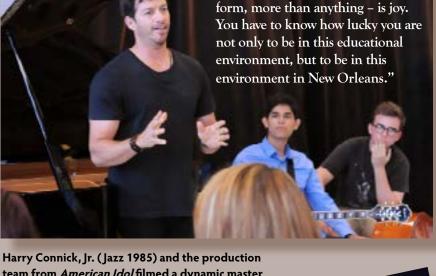
Jonathan Batiste (Jazz, 2004, above left) will be the new bandleader for The Late Show with Stephen Colbert! Jon and his band Stay Human are known for their "Love Riots" - impromptu street concerts featuring infectious music based on jazz and other music forms. In May, Stephen Colbert and Jon filmed a special segment with Music Chair Michael Pellera.



Wendell Pierce (Drama 1981, below & center

Adding to an exceptional 40th anniversary year, alumni came back to NOCCA to share great news, their art and inspiration for the next generation. Jazz alumni including Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews, "Big Sam" Williams, Jonathan Batiste, Glenn Hall, Max Moran, Joey Peebles, Sullivan Fortner, Khris Royal, Calvin Johnson and Michael Ballard returned for a rousing performance at the annual Home for the Holidays fundraiser, celebrating the life of Visual Arts alum Daniel Price at the House of Blues in

sounds.



"First thing about New Orleans music, more than harmony, rhythm,



right) brought the off-Broadway production of Brothers from the Bottom for a four-week run at NOCCA's Lupin Hall in advance of the ten year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. Students teched the play which gives voice to respecting all views when rebuilding community and family bonds after so much is lost.



-OF NOTE -OF NOTE-



THE EMERIL LAGASSE FOUNDATION CULINARY ARTS CENTER "The growth of the culinary program at NOCCA has been remarkable. We're so proud to support such an incredible arts institution in this city and be a part of the bright future of its students." Emeril Lagasse

Students won awards this year in the following prestigious national and regional competitions:

- John Michael Bradford (Jazz) and Nick Ramey (Cinematic Arts) were among 170 young artists selected nationally as winners of the National YoungArts Foundation Award.
- Emma Hoss (Musical Theatre) and Madeline Landry (Visual Arts) were Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Competition.
- Justin Sandoval (Musical Theatre) was recognized by the National Hispanic Recognition Program.
- 29 students received national honors and Gold Key recognition in the Scholastic Arts and Writing Competition.
- John Michael Bradford was selected as one of 32 high school musicians nationwide for the 2015 Grammy Camp - Jazz Session.
- Trad Willman and Richard White (Media Arts) along with Jasper Herrington (Drama) were awarded Honorable Mention in the 2015 White House Student Film Festival from over 1,500 entries.
- Mary Frances Candies (Drama) was one of just four students nationwide selected to the Director's Program at Carnegie Mellon University.
- Ben Mader (Classical I pianist) placed 2nd in the South Central Music Teachers National Association Junior Performance Competition.



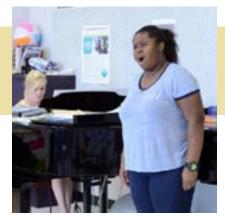
oining Alden and Emeril Lagasse and the Emeril Lagasse Foundation in support of the Capital Campaign for the NOCCA Forum are alumnus Gary Solomon Jr. and his family, standing above in Solomon Family Hall. From left to right, NOCCA President & CEO Kyle Wedberg, EJ Lagasse and his sister Merit, Alden and Emeril Lagasse, TNI Executive Director Sally Perry, Gary Solomon, Sr., Gary Solomon, Jr. Martha Solomon, Sam Mikal Solomon and Conway Solomon.

Media Arts' Marco Colosimo (left) and Nick Ramey (right) traveled to Carnegie Hall to receive National Silver and Gold Medals respectively in Film and Animation at the 2015 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Both students' films were finalists in numerous local, national and international film festivals. Marco also won Downbeat Magazine's Performing Arts High School Outstanding **Engineered Studio Recording.** 



Vocal students swept awards at the women's high school division of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Southern Region Auditions. From left to right, Imani Francis placed first, Lindsey Reynolds second, and **Emily Sheets and Whitney Campbell** tied for third. Emily was also a recipient of the 2015 Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award which included performing on National Public Radio's From the Top.









In May, Jazz artist/teacher Michael Rihner (center left) and the NOCCA Big Band (in rehearsal) premiered Rihner's Battle for New Orleans: Score for Unity marking the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans. It was sponsored by a grant from the National Jazz Historical Park in New Orleans.

THE CHEVRON FORUM AT NOCCA

"Arts transforms STEM into STEAM, and

allows creativity and critical thinking to

student achievement and innovation.

Chevron is proud to play a part in

walk parallel paths that lead to increased

establishing NOCCA's Academic Studio."

Following a record nine-month renovation by MCC

Group, students moved into the new Chevron Forum

in November. In addition to a main kitchen, bake and

butcher shops for Culinary Arts, the 60,000 square-

foot Forum features research-caliber labs and flex-

ible classrooms for the Academic Studio's Integrated

Sciences and Integrated Humanities programs. Above,

Chevron Gulf of Mexico Vice President Mike Illanne

with students at the ribbon-cutting in March.

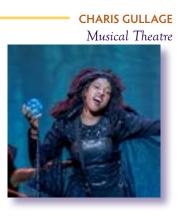




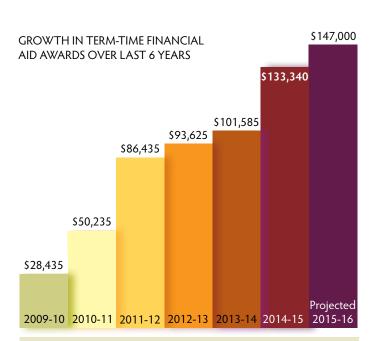
The Chevron Forum at NOCCA is made possible through the support of MCC  $\,$ Real Estate, Emeril Lagasse Foundation, Chevron, Solomon Family, Goldring Family Foundation, Woldenberg Family Foundation, Trafigura Foundation, RosaMary Foundation, Zemurray Foundation, Edward G. Schlieder Foundation, Ella West Freeman Family Foundation, Selley Foundation, Libby-Dufour Fund, Eugenie & Joseph Jones Family Foundation, Gustaf W. McIlhenny Family Foundation, and Ruth U. Fertel Foundation.







**\$214,000** earned in college scholarships Attending Loyola University



The region's creative young people are offered more opportunities than ever at NOCCA. New arts and academic programs as well as record enrollment have significantly impacted Financial Aid. Supporting students' costs, such as department fees that are required to enter, helps launch their journey.

REID WILLIAMS



"Hard work and hard play. I learned at NOCCA that these things go hand in hand. There is nothing more exhilarating. The moment of realization occurred during the production of *Tartuffe*. My drama teacher Mr. Cooper pulled me aside and asked if I was familiar with the cartoon character Pepe Lepew. Instantly I knew where to go. Learning from these moments have made me into the person I am today. Among the unending nuggets of wisdom I've received at NOCCA, the most prominent is this: It's never about you. It's always about the other person. In my case, it is not merely one but many people who have helped me, held me and guided me through this incredibly adventurous turmoil I call my life. I will strive to give that same light back. And I intend to do that the best way I know how: by playing."

\$259,796 earned in college scholarships Attending University of Hartford

#### BRAYDEN TURNER



"NOCCA was a vital part of my development as a musician and the NOCCA Institute helped me so much by enabling me to attend summer programs where I could even further develop my craft and meet new people who were seeking to do the same. My experience there has opened so many doors for me and prepared me to continue studying at my dream school, the Berklee College of Music. Thanks for everything!"

\$230,000 earned in college scholarships Attending Berklee School of Music





"Going to NOCCA is like having a membership to the best gym in the world. Use all the great resources here," Jazz alumnus Joey Peebles (2003) and drummer with Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue shared with music students. "Imagination is as important as knowledge. It is not always about playing music correctly. It's equally important to inject a spirit of love and fun."

## joey peebles ▲



Using ancient techniques and materials, artist and blacksmith Bill Price led a weeklong workshop with Visual Arts students. A professor at Memphis College of Art, Bill showed students how to carve in limestone and wood and to forge metal as humans have practiced for thousands of years.

### bill price ▲



Arts students greatly enjoy meeting all of the local chefs who spend time in NOCCA's kitchens

ulinary

furthering the high level of training – including a special class with La Petite Grocery's Chef Justin Devillier.

### justin devillier ▲

"Helen Gillet's visit with our Media
Arts classes was an eye-opening, interdisciplinary experience," said Level IV student Marco Colosimo.
"Her knowledge of experimental music as well as her mastery of the cello



and loop pedal exposed us to how music performance can cross with the science of audio engineering to create a fascinating art form."

### helen gillet ▲



Meanwhile Todd Maggio helped another group of Visual Arts students explore current technology, leading them on a process from 2-D digital design of objects through 3-D printing, stop action photography, and finally animation of the objects via flip books.

### todd maggio A



"To see someone who was sitting in my place now pursuing her dreams at the Metropolitan Opera was eye-opening!" said Vocal student Lindsey Reynolds of alumna Lori Guilbeau's master class. "We can't wait to have her back."

### lori guilbeau 🛦



"Things I do today, I learned in this classroom," Vocal alumnus (2007) Joshua Stuart told students. Now based in Germany, Joshua is performing in operas across Europe and Asia. He worked extensively with students on their breathing, posture, vocal and performance technique. "Singing needs to feel easy, like you are speaking. The joy the audience gets follows the singer's breath."

### joshua stewart ▲

A third group of Visual Arts students sampled techniques that will be on the market two years hence. Digital artist Chris Willey showed students how to use an Oculus Rift headset and demonstrated a



new software he is alpha testing which allows the user to paint in 3-D.

## chris willey ▲



"What reveals ourselves to ourselves? That's the ultimate question for all of us in this room," Ken Burns told students in a farreaching master class. With upcoming films on Vietnam, Hemmingway, Churchill and more, he encouraged students: "In order to grow you have to bite off more than you can chew."

#### ken burns ▲



-40TH BIRTHDAY -MEDIA ARTS &THEATRE DESIGN-





### **KYLE WEDBERG, PRESIDENT & CEO** THE NEW ORLEANS CENTER FOR CREATIVE ARTS

There have been many great years and great moments in the history of NOCCA, but this past year was one of the best. I could not be more proud of everything that the NOCCA students, faculty and staff accomplished.

From the student performance of the National Anthem at the Saints home opener, to an original adaptation of Little Women performed by Drama Students, to the multi-media production of *Big Fish*, to the record sales at the end of year visual arts show – the year was filled with highlights.

There are extraordinary partnerships with groups that helped us celebrate NOCCA's growth as an institution over the last 40 years and to whom we are deeply grateful: The New Orleans Museum of Art, the Krewe of Orpheus, The Jazz and Heritage Festival and Foundation, and Wendell Pierce and the Billie Holliday Theatre for our repertory summer presentation with an all NOCCA student technical crew.

This was also a year of firsts. NOCCA bestowed its first ever diplomas to the first class of remarkable Academic Studio students to graduate. And we opened the new Chevron Forum and hosted in its Solomon Family Hall our Celebration Ceremony with the largest senior arts class in the history of NOCCA in front of more than 900 family and friends.

To this we add the incredible work of NOCCA alumni this year like Brandan Odums and his Exhibit BE and the announcement of Jon Batiste joining the Colbert Show as Bandleader.

Yet as great as this year has been, with everything I have seen from the NOCCA students, faculty and staff, I truly believe that our best is still ahead of us.

























The NOCCA Institute is honored to recognize the following support, memorials and gifts through June 2015. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

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-IAZZ











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In honor of Kathy and Lee Randall Entergy Services, Inc. Mr. Fred Poitevent

In honor of Richard Read and Matt Hassebrock Mr. George Dansker

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In honor of Marie and Bob Wolf Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Slater

In humor of Nicole Wright Ms. Janet Murry

In honor of Ward and Melanie Hebert Wyatt Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Wyatt





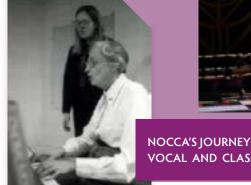
















DESIGNATED SENIOR AWARDS -DRAMA-

#### **Designated Student Awards**

Joe W. and Dorothy D. Brown Foundation Daniel Price Memorial Fund for Aspiring Artists

Ingram Lee Foundation **Denise Germer** Dr. Ellen Golodner ASCAP Foundation/Mrs. Gia Prima Wendell Pierce, The Cinque Group, Inc. **Emeril Lagasse Foundation** Christoph Andersson, Whitney Stewart

Lisa Marie Catalanello Memorial Fund Mark Cortale/Extraordinary Talent

& Hans Andersson

Productions Blodie Entertainment, LLC Milly & George Denegre, Jr. Moses Hogan Award in Classical Music in honor of Willa Slater Freda M. Lupin Memorial Fund Make It Funky! Film Producers Mystic Krewe of Satyricon John A. Otte Memorial Fund Sally Perry Seth Daniel P. Memorial Fund Kathy and Lee Randall Madalyn and Robert Schenk

#### Daniel Price Memorial Scholarship Fund

Crescent Bank & Trust, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Solomon Dr. Andrew Orestano

#### Lisa Marie Catalanello Scholarship Fund

Mr. and Mrs. William Catalanello Blair Floyd Giffin Ransford Richardson Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Spain

#### Seth Daniel P. Memorial Scholarship

Arlene and Ron Poticha Mr. and Mrs. Richard Womack

#### **President Honors**

Michelle and Kyle Wedberg



#### **2014 SENIOR AWARDS**

The Helen A. Mervis Award for artistic and academic achievement and community service - Arieanna R. McKnight

The Lisa Marie Catalanello Memorial Scholarship for visual arts achievement and generosity of spirit - Armand Louis DeLaureal

The Daniel Price Memorial Scholarship for Aspiring Young Artists - Madeline Ann Landry

Seth Daniel P. Memorial Award for multi-disciplinary artistic accomplishment - Alexander Reid

Ellen H. Golodner M.D. Jelly Roll to Jam Scholarship in Jazz - John Michael Bradford

Emeril Lagasse Foundation Scholarship for achievement in Culinary Arts - Chayil A. Johnson

Terri A. Bartlett Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Drama students Mary Frances Candies, Genevieve Taylor Farbe, Jimmeraz Johnson, Ian Morris McCarthy, Lily Madélynn Morét-Kittok, Payton Elizabeth Smith and Alexander Reid Williams

Hurst Recordings Award for Outstanding Accomplishment in Audio Production - Grayton Zande

ASCAP Foundation Louis Prima Award presented by Mrs. Gia Prima - John Michael Bradford

Wendell Pierce Scholarship in Drama - Jada Alston Owens

New Orleans Rotary Club Scholarship - Grayton Zande Newman and Amelia Craver

Mickey Gil Satyricon Award in Musical Theatre - Sarah-Anne Margaret Martinez

Broadway @ NOCCA Scholarship in Musical Theatre was awarded to William Knox Van Horn and Virgina Marion Strauss

John August Otte Memorial Award in Visual Arts - Aly Jeanette Najera

Ingram Lee Foundation Scholarship in Culinary Arts - Arieanna McKnight

Joseph M. Simon Award in Jazz - Roberto José Bravo

Corey & David Rittvo Award of Excellence in Culinary Arts - Cierra Varnado

Blodie Entertainment Scholarship in Classical Music - Hoyt Parquet

Blodie Entertainment Scholarship in Jazz - Brandon Miles Shelton

Lee and Kathy Randall Outstanding Graduate Award in Creative Writing - Alexandra Gracen Hendon

Milly and George Denegre Outstanding Graduate Award in Dance – Katherine Lucille Labadie

Helen Hill Memorial Outstanding Graduate Award in Media Arts - Nick Ramey

Make It Funky! Outstanding Graduate Award in Jazz – Brandon Albert Carcamo

Glennadora & James H. Perry Outstanding Award in Vocal Music – Whitney Campbell

Moses Hogan Outstanding Graduate Award in Classical Instrumental in honor of Willa Slater

Freda M. Lupin Outstanding Graduate Award in Musical Theatre - Charis Michelle Gullage

Kuumba-Keener Outstanding Graduate Award in Drama - Payton Elizabeth Smith

Madalyn and Robert Schenk Outstanding Graduate Award in Theatre Design - Victoria Alesandra

The NOCCA Institute Collection Award (Visual Arts Purchase, left)

- Armand Louis DeLaureal, Visual Arts Level IV, Light and Moments, fiber based film photograph

















**NOCCA'S JOURNEY** 



-BIG 4-0H! GALA 2015--MUSICAL THEATRE-

The NOCCA Institute and Friends of NOCCA celebrated the new Chevron Forum at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts and NOCCA's 40th Birthday at this year's Big 4-Oh! Gala, held May 17. Solomon Group provided the special lights and staging for the joyous occasion. Other major sponsors included The New Orleans Advocate, the Arlene & Joseph Meraux Charitable Foundation and the Patrick Family Foundation.

Spectacular food and drinks were prepared by Bacchanal, Bittersweet, Brigtsen's, Commander's Palace, Emeril's, Frankie & Johnny's, La Petite Grocery, Meauxbar, Mondo, Patois, Pralines by Jean, Press Street Station, Swiss Confectionery, Sylvain, The Balcony Ballroom and Willa Jean. Filling Solomon Family Hall and the Press Street Station cafe was entertainment by NOCCA students from the Classical, Jazz, Vocal, Drama, Musical Theatre, Dance and Creative Writing departments; Jee Yeoun Ko and Michael Pellera; the Young Alumni All-Stars; the Alumni All-Stars; and GRAMMY-winners Terence Blanchard and Pedrito Martinez. The silent and live auction featured vacation packages, artwork, and one-of-a-kind experiences. Highlights included a ride in the Orpheus parade, a beautiful set of earrings from Ramsey's Diamond Jewelers and a night of food and music provided by NOCCA faculty members Michael Pellera and Chef Dana D'Anzi Tuohy.

The NOCCA Institute gratefully acknowledges all the sponsors, patrons and guests of this year's Big 4-Oh! Gala, with special thanks to Gala Co-Chairs Robin Burgess and Terence Blanchard, Alumni Committee Co-Chairs Celeste Marshall and Vanessa Van Vrancken, and The NOCCA Institute Board Members.



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### **NOCCA STAGE SPONSORS**

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### **EVENT PRODUCTION SPONSOR**

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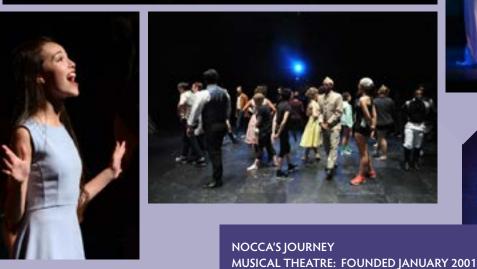


















-CREATIVE WRITING--VISUAL ARTS





























### excerpt from the wind **Elias Carrier**

Creative Writing, Level III

The wind, the wind. One could say it tilted the man. Even worse, for he was having one of his fits. He was at the will and bend of the elements. His fit caused all control that was his own to go inwards, and he was left motionless and voiceless like a still strand of wheat. Until the wind blew, or the wind, well, just was; the wind, the wind. No one could say what caused or even initially triggered these fits of his (he had gone and spoken to many professional people of his fits; he had described the symptoms and emotions, and the guilt he had, always, in hindsight; looking back, an intense pain, and intense nakedness took over, and before long he could no longer think of the matter; he thought of himself as a boy). One thing alone the man was certain of: once under the spell of these fits, and at the mercy of the wind, he was forced to look inward to understand his innards, and he would claim to his professionals that he had seen his own heart beating many times, and that all around, astonishingly, his inside was covered in shadow. He had expected some light, as if from a lamp. He had expected a light hailing from the direction of his head, or his neck. There must be light coming from there.

## looking for god

Felicity Lartique, Creative Writing, Level IV

You are large, cold.

I used to understand what made you such a mountain.

I used to carve myself with thick blades atop altars for you,

deeming myself a sacrifice to please you.

You deserved that then.

I prayed in dark wood churches for you,

filled up my lungs with smoke for you.

Summer came, and the snow on your peaks melted,

you, barren and hard, began to fall into other mountain ranges.

I was determined to keep you holy,

but you were fiendish and difficult to hold on to.

I crumbled for weeks,

thought maybe I was the one made of rock.

I considered that you were not the One I thought I knew,

but no,

you are exactly the serpent I expected.









**NOCCA'S JOURNEY** 









Come visit one of New Orleans' newest eateries! At Press Street Station, Chef James Cullen serves seasonal, hearty meals in a sunlit dining room, using ingredients hand-picked from Press Street Gardens, one block away.

Press Street Station is designed to generate longterm financial support for programs as well as further learning experiences for Culinary Arts' young chefs.

Come by for our all-day breakfast, lunch, weekend jazz brunch featuring alumni, special pop-up dinners and adult cooking classes!

For more information and the seasonal menu visit:

PressStreetStation.com + Facebook.com/ PressStreetStation + Twitter.com/PressStStation

**5 Press Street** 8 am - 4 pm, seven days a week 504 249 5622



5 PRESS GALLERY

Also shop NOCCA Marketplace at Press Street Station for art and student-crafted sweets and savories such as jams, sauces, vinegars and dog treats in our NOCCA Marketplace.

Visit NOCCAInstitute.com for special holiday treats and Pie of the Month Club!

> Next door to the cafe is 5 Press Gallery, a professional art gallery with a special focus on work by NOCCA alumni and faculty. The gallery features original works of art, as well as prints, bowls, vases, and other items that make great, affordable gifts. Stop in during our regular business hours or during the St. Claude Avenue Art Walk, held 6pm to 9pm on the second Saturday of every month.

•

5PressGallery.com + Facebook.com/ PressStreetStation + Twitter.com/PressStStation

**5 Press Street** 10am - 4pm, Tuesday - Saturday 504 249 5624

scale events, or to book the Boxcar Food Truck for off-site catering, contact Katrina Weschler at 504 940 2851 or kweschler@noccainstitute.com.

Looking for a venue for small gatherings to large-





Press Street Gardens is open! Visit our new half-acre urban farm and outdoor learning lab designed to serve Culinary Arts, arts, academics and the community. While culinary students gain extensive growing experience, science students design hands-on experiments and arts disciplines enhance skill development, the gardens also offer produce, workshops and weekend programming for the public. Check out workshops on:

propagation

Be a builder of educational opportunities for creative young people by becoming a Friend of NOCCA today.

growing tropical foods

- cut flower growing & arranging
   outdoor cooking preserving
- dye-making from plants
  - seed saving

 natural fertilizer production For hours, information or to volunteer visit:

□ \$50 □ \$100 □ \$250 □ \$500 □ Other

Call me with further information on the programs marked above.

#### PressStreetGardens.com + Facebook.com/PressStreetGardens + Twitter.com/PressStGardens

Press Street Gardens are made possible through the support of blue moon fund, Trafigura Foundation, Coypu Foundation, Garden Study Club of New Orleans Inc., New Orleans Town Gardeners, Edward Wisner Donation, Keller Family Foundation, New Orleans Wine & Food Experience, United Healthcare and Whole Foods 5% Day.

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For more information on auditions and applying to NOCCA, go to NOCCA.com.

