



VIRGINIA  
ART EDUCATION  
ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



FALL 2008



## The VAEA Newsletter

is a publication of the Virginia Art Education Association, and is distributed to members 3 times a year. In addition, the Conference Issue published in the fall, is mailed to every school in the state.

### Articles

are submitted by the Executive Board and Extended Board members. Contact your Region/President, Division Representative, or appropriate Affiliate Liaison to offer news or photographs for inclusion with their reports.

### Contact Information

for the extended board is found on the inside back page.

### Student Art

work is welcome and may be submitted directly to

**Kathy Barclay,**  
Newsletter Editor, at  
[kbarclayart@yahoo.com](mailto:kbarclayart@yahoo.com)

### Vendors

wishing to advertise should contact **Peggy Wood,** Executive Secretary, at [wood\\_vaea@yahoo.com](mailto:wood_vaea@yahoo.com)

### Submission

#### Deadlines:

##### Winter Issue

Nov. 15 for January publication

##### Spring/Summer Issue

March 15 for May publication

##### Fall/Conference Issue

July 15 for Sept. publication

### Mission Statement:

To promote, support and advance visual arts education through leadership, professional development, research and service.

# Calendar

<b>Sept. 15, 2008</b>	<b>Award Nomination Submission DEADLINE</b> <b>Electronic Gallery Entry Form DEADLINE</b>
<b>Sept. 25 - Oct. 5</b>	<b>State Fair of Virginia, Richmond</b> <b>Scholarship Competition for H.S. Students</b>
<b>November 13-15</b>	<b>VAEA Fall Professional Development Conference</b>
<b>December 1</b>	<b>YAM Flag Design DEADLINE</b>
<b>February, 2009</b>	<b>Blue Ridge Region Art Teachers' Show</b> <b>Central Region Mini-Conference</b> <b>Central Region "Educator as Artist" Exhibit</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Youth Art Month</b>
<b>April 17-21</b>	<b>NAEA Conference - Minneapolis, MN</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Blue Ridge Region Mini-Conference,</b> <b>Orkney Springs</b> <b>JMU Art Workshop Day</b>
<b>March 25-29, 2010</b>	<b>NAEA Conference - Washington, D.C.</b>

## Cover Art:

### Front Cover -

*Abstract painting by Kelsey,  
Ocean Lake H.S., Virginia Beach.*  
Art Teacher:  
*Cynthia Moneta Copperthite*

### Back Cover -

*The Conference Logo is comprised of 3 "Picasso" style self-portraits created in Linda Conti's art class at the Hill School in Middleburg by 5th graders Molly, Alex, and Katie. Congratulations to these wonderful young artists! This delightful logo can be seen at the conference printed on a variety of merchandise for your shopping (and wearing) pleasure!*

*The photo of the Westfield Marriott courtesy of the hotel's website.*

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# President's Message

**Welcome back** to a new school year! This may prove to be a challenging year as people and schools adjust their budgets to compensate for the rising cost of transportation. Thankfully we are creative individuals in a creative profession. Innovation and flexibility are not strangers to art teachers. In your efforts to get the most for your travel dollar I encourage you to attend your state art education conference. Nowhere else will you find a better collection of presentations, ideas and resources for energizing your art program. This year we are ideally located close to our nation's capital with its rich cultural resources at our fingertips. Come share in the support of your colleagues and friends as we **renew, reflect and reconnect!**

Plans for our VAEA conference are in full swing to help you make the most of your professional development time and money. We are fortunate to have 2 major key note speakers. We will open the conference on Thursday evening with the dynamic art historian, **Lee Sandstead**. Lee is best known for his TV show "**Art Attack**" currently airing on the travel channel. (see his website linked on our VAEA site). His TV series takes viewers inside the world's greatest art museums where he selects "must see" pieces offering insights into the mystery and history of each. Following his keynote we will open the vendor's hall for the vendor's reception and student award for our conference logo. I urge you not to miss Lee's energetic presentation. Lee will also be conducting guided tours for our members at the National Gallery of art on Friday. This is a valuable added bonus of being in the DC area! Be sure to sign up in advance for participant space in one of his tours.



**Lee Sandstead**



**Dr. Lynell Burmark**

On Friday acclaimed author **Dr. Lynell Burmark** will deliver our morning keynote presentation. Dr. Burmark is well known for her book, **Visual Literacy: Learn to See, See to Learn**. She targets the value of visual literacy instruction within today's educational system and offers insight into the world of visual imagery. Did you know that it has been documented by research conducted by 3M Corporation that informed use of

visual imagery can accelerate comprehension as much as sixty thousand times?! In addition, the use of visuals can increase recall and retention as much as forty percent and boost transfer of learning as much as eighty percent. Dr. Lynell Burmark is ready to deliver practical and replicable strategies based on these and other top research findings to help you and your students bolster their accomplishments.

**NAEA  
Executive  
Director  
Debra Reeve  
with  
Pat Franklin  
at the NAEA  
Southeast  
Regional  
Leaders  
Conference**



The 21<sup>st</sup> century need for visual literacy can be a positive advocacy tool for our art programs. Visual Literacy is the very basic interpreting and use of visual communications. As we all know, art teachers are the natural choice for instructing visual literacy in our schools. Quality art programs nurture six senses in developing visual literacy. These include the ability to interpret, manipulate, appreciate, and create and communicate with images. It is our job as teachers of the visual arts to be sure our students are provided with experiences and tools in conventional art materials and in 20<sup>th</sup> century media to advance their understanding and their ability to communicate visually. I know you have heard the saying "one picture is worth a thousand words", but the truth is that pictures communicate information in a different manner and we are living in a time where what we see is not necessarily what we get. In this age of computer image manipulation programs, what we see may not be what exists at all. Developing skills in perception, decoding and judgment are essential. The combined use of verbal and visual literacy skills are a 21<sup>st</sup> century necessity. Be sure to add Dr. Burmark's key note or one of her workshop sessions to your personal conference schedule. If you are interested in additional information on her exciting work please check out her website linked on our VAEA homepage.

## **NAEA** Southeast Regional Leaders Conference

The NAEA Southeast Region Includes: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia (VAEA), Guatemala and the Virgin Islands. This year the art education association of Mississippi hosted the NAEA Southeast Regional Leadership conference on July 10 through 12. Our treasurer, **Scott Russell**, our VP **Sid Ames** and I attended representing VAEA. Thursday was spent enjoying a "Taste of Mississippi" touring the art highlights and networking with our sister state representatives. We began at the Walter Anderson Museum, visited Shearwater Pottery and proceeded to the temporary location of the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum. Ohr was known as "The Mad Potter of Biloxi". The museum was destroyed with hurricane Katrina along with the new museum in progress. We visited the new museum site to see the symbolic rebuilding of the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art, represented by the shells of the Frank Gehry designed George Ohr Pavilion of

# NAEA

popularly known as the “Ohr Pods” (see photo below). The highlight taste of Mississippi day was a sailboat excursion along the Biloxi coastline where the aftereffects of hurricane Katrina are still visible.

Friday was spent in the Mary C. O’Keefe Cultural Center for Arts and Education in Ocean Springs with NAEA executive director **Debra Reeve** who gave us the national perspective. Saturday we met at the Lynn Meadows Discovery Center and worked on identified NAEA critical issues. This session was led by our current Southeast Vice President, Larry Barnfield. As identified in the NAEA strategic plan, these critical issues include:

- **Learning:** Focus on exemplary professional development initiatives that build member capacity to be effective educators, leaders, and advocates for art education.
- **Community Building:** Focus on building a more cohesive professional community among art educators and museum art educators through enhanced communication strategies.
- **Advocacy:** Focus on communicating the value of visual arts to art educators, policy makers, parents, and the community.
- **Research and Knowledge:** Focus on expanding access to information on current and emerging policy issues

The work we accomplished during this conference will be continued during Delegates Assembly at the NAEA conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. NAEA conference information is now available on the NAEA website.



## Lynell Burmark: background

Lynell earned her Ph.D. from Stanford University, where faculty and students elected her to receive the Walter Gores Award for Excellence in Teaching. After eleven years of classroom teaching (K-graduate school) and nine years in administration, in 1994 Lynell joined the Thornburg Center. She now consults to high tech companies and school districts, and presents at dozens of conferences every year.

Lynell’s book, *Visual Literacy: Learn to See, See to Learn*, a widely-adopted textbook for teacher education and instructional technology programs, won the book of the year award for publisher ASCD in 2002 and is now expanded, updated (2006) and available as an eBook. Lynell is featured in a 30-minute segment on Canter & Associates video for the Masters in Instructional Technology with Walden University. She also produced a 10-minute video on visual literacy which is distributed free to educators through 100% Educational Videos. Energetic, encouraging, often humorous yet serious about her content, Dr. Burmark considers the highest praise to be “You practice what you preach!”



## Lee Sandstead: background

Lee is an art historian with a background in photography and specializes in researching and photographing American monuments. After a nation-wide search, Sandstead was chosen for the show because of his highly-contagious passion for art, his experience in academia, and his love for world travel. He has lectured at over 30 major institutions including Harvard, Yale and Duke. His art-historical photography has been published in numerous books and publications, including: *The New York Times*, *Fortune*, *Ms.*, *Preservation Magazine*, *Style 1900* and *American Cemetery Magazine*. Mr. Sandstead currently lives in South Boston, VA. For more information about him, please visit his website at: [www.sandstead.com](http://www.sandstead.com)

*The Ohr-O’Keefe Museum of Art was destroyed by hurricane Katrina and is being rebuilt. These “Ohr Pods” are the replacement for part of the destroyed museum and are designed by architect Frank Gehry, famous for his fluid style. The pods will house pottery by George E. Ohr and other works of art.*

Look for these workshops by Dr. Burmark in the Conference Information ONLINE:

## Visual Literacy: Equipping Students for a Visual World

Snooze-inducing chalk-and-talk or visually compelling multimedia? Which method engages students? Boosts test scores by 42% and learning by 89%? Speeds up comprehension 60,000 times? Increases willingness to read by 80%? Come get the latest research on images and their critical role in instruction, retention, and application of content. Relish insider tips on creating more memorable, visually rich curriculum. Enjoy replicable classroom activities and an extensive handout including resources for links for free, high-quality images.

*Breakout Session* (Limited to 30 participants; repeated 3 times)

## Visual Literacy: Learn to See, See to Learn

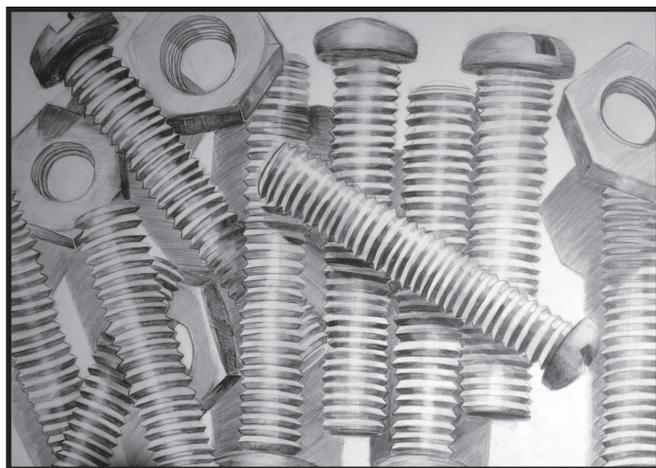
Convinced that image-based instruction is the way to go in your classrooms? Come experience a hands-on strategy you can adapt to your curriculum. Take a whirlwind tour of exemplary websites with lesson plans and image libraries plus other resources and replicable activities you can use tomorrow!

# Conference 2008

## Important Notes about Conference Registration

by Sid Ames

- The conference booklet and reservation forms for both the hotel and the conference are available on the VAEA website, [www.VAEA.org](http://www.VAEA.org). The VAEA accepts checks or cash for conference registration. Purchase orders or credit cards are not accepted.
- Please include your payment with your registration form when you mail it back for processing.
- Be sure to complete the entire form, including your address with zip code and your email address. You will not be mailed a confirmation if your address is incomplete.
- Please note the deadline for pre-registration. Registration forms received postmarked after the registration deadline are mailed back, along with any workshop requests and payments. You will be asked to register at the hotel when you arrive. Hands-on workshops usually fill quickly, so early registration for these activities is recommended. Teachers who have their schools mail in their registration packets have the most problems with this, as we usually receive them after registration is closed, and the only thing we can do is hold the envelope until the teacher arrives at the conference.
- You must be a member of NAEA to pre-register for the conference and have your membership number recorded on the registration form. NAEA membership is included in the VAEA dues, so when you belong to the VAEA, you are automatically a member of NAEA. The Executive Secretary must verify each member and will notify you if your membership has expired. If you are joining or rejoining to attend the conference you may send your completed membership form in with your pre-registration. If you are joining at the conference, please go to the Membership table before coming to the On Site Registration table.
- Refund checks for any fees paid for a filled workshop will be in your registration packet when you arrive.
- Keep in mind that the registration fee covers conference expenses and also provides the VAEA with a portion of its operating expenses for the year.
- Please remember that the conference committee members are all volunteers and have the same busy schedule that you do. If you have suggestions for how to make this event better they would love to hear it, but writing it down on the evaluation form is an even better way to have your voice heard.



*Barrett, James River H.S., Chesterfield Co.  
Art teacher: Laura Wright*

# MONEY, MONEY, MONEY!

by Patsy Parker, Membership

You are not alone...the VAEA has the same dilemma! Our concern is the same as yours...getting our and your money's worth.

## Annual Fall Conference

*Been there and got all the t-shirts.*

- **Transportation** - Carpool to the conference in Chantilly...you'll have way more fun talking and laughing than singing off key by yourself.
- **Roommates** - If everybody claims a corner of the room for their stuff...4 people *can* share...then everybody takes home what they brought and the cool stuff they accumulated.
- **Take ownership!** Check out the sessions and plan your own presentation for next year. There is magic happening out there... share yours with us.
- **Free is not free!** The expense of the "free" break snacks is part of your registration fee. (You can check the prices of individual foods and beverages on the room service menu to get an idea of the cost.) The conference is a huge, expensive event that works only with the efforts of many dedicated members.
- **Annual Business Meeting** - Find out about the inner workings of your association. Check out the VAEA budget. Come see what's going on.
- **THE BOTTOM LINE: Can you afford *not* to go?** You have just realized that your carefully plotted lesson plans have a minor abyss! Argh! Who wants to re-invent, re-format, re-vise, re-vitalize or re-search an art curriculum alone? Where else will you find yourself in the eye of a "brain-hurricane?" Make plans to be in Northern Virginia. Pack a cooler, bring energy bars and your own pillow! No other education association can meet your needs as a professional art educator.

*Samantha, James River H.S.,  
Chesterfield Co.  
Art teacher: Laura Wright*

## The Cost of Communication Our carbon footprint!

The *State Newsletter* is available online.

- Please email [paparker@nps.k12.va.us](mailto:paparker@nps.k12.va.us) if you do *NOT* wish to receive a hard copy of the VAEA newsletter.

Hard copy *Regional Newsletters* have become cost prohibitive.

- Check your current email address with your regional president to facilitate receiving your electronic newsletter at work or home.

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**Region Assignment?** Check the regional map on our web site. Your home or work street address determines your assignment. Some members work in one region and live in another. If you desire a change please email [paparker@nps.k12.va.us](mailto:paparker@nps.k12.va.us) for correction.

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Please be advised that VAEA Board Policy prohibits us from sharing your personal information outside the association membership.



# Conference 2008



## Professional Development Conference

November 13 - 15, 2008

Westfield Marriott, Chantilly, VA

### It's Conference Time: A Time to Renew, Reflect, Reconnect by Sid Ames



Welcome to Northern Virginia! This year our professional development conference is going to be held in the absolutely beautiful Westfield Marriott in Chantilly Virginia! The hotel is physically one of the nicest we have ever been in! The workshop spaces are bright, attractive, and new! The public spaces are large, inviting, and elegant! The sleeping rooms are well appointed, have lots of room, and are beautiful! This hotel is fantastic and promises to offer you a wonderful venue for learning, socializing, and sharing art over the three days of the conference. We have two world class speakers this year, and each speaker will be offering workshops supporting their presentation. On Thursday, **Lee Sandstead**, famous for his television series, "**Art Attack**", will speak. On Friday, he will be hosting two workshops at the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. Friday's speaker is **Lynell Burmark**, who spoke at a recent National Art Education Association convention. She will offer a continuation of her topic through a breakout session (repeated several times) Friday afternoon.

A quick snapshot of the weekend looks like this. Thursday, we open up the registration desks at 10:00 a.m., with breakout sessions beginning at noon. **Lee Sandstead** will give his talk at 4:10 p.m. Later in the evening, our vendors will host the opening reception. During the reception we will honor the students who designed this year's conference logo. Evening sessions start at 8:00 p.m., and run in 50 minute segments. These workshops are very popular, and allow for a relaxed, less pressured time in the day to enjoy making or talking about art.

Friday starts off bright and early at 8:00 a.m. with Regional Meetings where regional award winners and new officers will be announced. This is also an opportunity to learn about planned activities within the region as well as be able to express your own ideas. During the Friday General Session **Pat Franklin** will report on recent actions of the board, present the VAEA budget and announce the Regional Winners. **Lynell Burmark** will present, "Visual Literacy: Equipping Students for a Visual World."

Dr. Burmark will follow up her presentation with three workshops Friday afternoon. In addition, the popular Vendor Focus will provide an opportunity for you to have a chance to win door prizes and have one-on-one time with our fantastic vendors. In order to win you have to be present, so be sure to be there!

Friday evening is the time to be in Northern Virginia! With so many restaurants, theatres, clubs, and art shops in the immediate area, no one will want to stay in the hotel. For those that do, our Friday Cinema will be running showing short art-related and teaching films in the theatre room, complete with free pop-corn. A line-up of Friday evening sessions is also planned. For those who want to go and explore the area, maps and suggested sites will be provided. For those who want to go into Washington, arrangements are currently being finalized for busses to drop off and pick up at special locations. Because this newsletter deadline fell before final arrangements were settled be sure to check the VAEA website for specifics on all of the activities.

Saturday morning we have our delicious Breakfast and Awards Ceremony. Afterwards, the Division Meetings and workshops continue until 2:00 pm when the conference is over.

While all this is going on, our membership table, registrations tables, and merchandise room will be open during all conference hours, and there will be plenty of helpers available to answer any questions you may have. The exhibitors will be with us for extended hours on Friday.

The northern Virginia area is rich in art and exciting places to eat, drink and visit! Fall is the best time to visit, and is so romantic with all the colors and smells! Plan on making your arrangements early to ensure the best workshops and rooms that meet your needs!

Everything you will need to register for the conference will be available on our VAEA website ([www.vaea.org](http://www.vaea.org)). We look forward to seeing you in November!

Conference Registration Info now Online:  
**vaea.org**

*\*Photos courtesy of the Westfield Marriott website.*

# Redefining Advocacy, Second in a Series

by **Barbara Laws**

In the previous article we discussed the value that building relationships with decision makers and stakeholders had in effective advocacy efforts. The challenge to VAEA members was “to develop one new relationship with a key decision maker.” We hope that you have taken advantage of the summer to contact legislators not in session - or others who might be helpful in your efforts.

With the beginning of the school year, new opportunities present themselves to develop relationships at the schoolhouse or district level. Advocacy begins with a strong art instructional program - and surely cannot be effective without it. The next step is effectively communicating the substance of the curriculum in a way that your audience understands and values. One ready-made link is through 21st century workforce skills which include the visual arts as a core subject and which incorporate skills and literacy development supported by art instruction. Many of the following skills and understandings are easily linked to the visual arts.

#### Digital-Age Literacy

- Basic, scientific, economic & technological literacies
- Visual and information literacies
- Multicultural literacy and global awareness

#### Inventive Thinking

- Adaptability/managing complexity
- Self-direction
- Curiosity, creativity, and risktaking
- Higher-order thinking and sound reasoning

#### Effective Communication

- Teaming, collaboration & interpersonal skills
- Personal, social & civic responsibility

#### Interactive Communication

- High Productivity & Quality, State-of-the-Art Results
  - Ability to prioritize, plan & manage for results
  - Effective use of real-world tools
  - The ability to create relevant, high-quality product
- enGauge 21st Century

#### Skills

The list below provides a starting point for making the art - 21st century skill connections - not at the cost of quality art instruction but as an outgrowth of substance.

Visual arts students learn to

- Connect concepts & disciplines through “big ideas.”
- Use language processes to understand art content.
- Develop studio habits of mind (develop craft; engage & persist; envision; express; observe; reflect; stretch & explore; understand art world).
- Learn to tolerate ambiguity, avoid premature closure & understand multiple perspectives.
- Interpret, understand, use & create images (visual literacy).
- Use various means for exploring ideas graphically.
- Use the artistic process to define and solve problems and to self assess.
- Explore, analyze & understand their own & others’ cultures.

In the last article, we recommended that an issue be examined from others’ points of view and that the preparation of a 5-bullet fact sheet would be helpful prior to contacting your key decision maker. This time, our challenge to all VAEA members is to develop a 5-bullet fact sheet that you can use to communicate with the various audiences in your school or other work environment and to plan strategies for communicating a consistent message.

For further information on 21st century workforce skills, see the following:

<http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/>

<http://www.kn.sbc.com/wired/21stcent/index.html>

[http://www.presentationzen.com/presentationzen/2006/08/from\\_design\\_to\\_.html](http://www.presentationzen.com/presentationzen/2006/08/from_design_to_.html)



*Bailey, James River H.S., Chesterfield Co.  
Art teacher: Laura Wright*

## Beyond Youth Art Month

by Peggy Wood

*There are painters who transform the sun into a yellow spot, but there are others who, thanks to their art and intelligence, transform a yellow spot into the sun. - Pablo Picasso*

March will often generate a collective moan from art teachers as they prepare to “celebrate” Youth Art Month. Art exhibitions and special activities abound, offering the opportunity for students, teachers, parents and administrators to come together to support the visual art program.

Sometimes I fear that “YAM” has become the only art education advocacy tool used within the school. Are we shooting ourselves in the foot? Is this enough? Are we just making a sun into a yellow spot?

### What Youth Art Month IS

What is Youth Art Month anyway? According the Art and Creative Materials Institute, Inc. website, “Youth Art Month is an annual observance each March to emphasize the value of art education for all children and to encourage support for quality school art programs.”

Youth Art Month was created in 1961 by Art & Creative Materials, Inc. (ACMI), a non-profit association of art and craft materials manufacturers, in cooperation with the NAEA. In 1984, ACMI created The Council for Art Education, Inc. (CFAE) to administer the national Youth Art Month program and encourage funding for the program. The current members of the Council include ACMI, NAEA, The SHIP, a group of art materials exhibitors at the annual NAEA Convention, and several other community and volunteer organizations.

Two important items are a tangible result of Youth Art Month observations: A Notebook of activities, proclamations and photographs and a student designed flag.

### *The Youth Art Month Notebook*

If you have ever seen a completed notebook of activities you know what a useful tool the Youth Art Month book can be. System-wide books may become a “coffee table book” in the school board office or individual schools may use the book to show off the art program to parents or potential students. Two counties, Henrico and Chesterfield, recently loaned their books to the VAEA for an exhibition table at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The books provided a wonderful, clear visual record of the types of worthwhile activities that take place in and out of the art room. The YAM notebook IS a competitive endeavor both on the state and national levels managed through the VAEA Youth Art Month Chairs. The national level book is restricted to only those activities that take place in March.

### *The Youth Art Month Flag*

Each year a national student flag design program is held and the completed flags are flown in Washington, DC during March. Funded through the CFAE, an opening ceremony to recognize the student designers is held in our nation’s capital, with families, teachers, and U.S. legislators participating. The Virginia flag design is selected from designs submitted to the Youth Art Month Chairs. Because the flag design is competitive, it is recommended that teachers read the NAEA policy on contests and competitions prior to participating. (See [www.naea-reston.org/pdf/con3.pdf](http://www.naea-reston.org/pdf/con3.pdf)).

The flag design can be an excellent design problem if incorporated into the curriculum but students should be provided with the opportunity to “opt-out” of competing. Following March’s flying of the flags the Virginia flag is returned to the student designer’s school so that it may be flown each March following.

### What Youth Art Month IS NOT

While activities related to Youth Art Month are an important and practical means of showing off a school art program, teachers should NOT consider this as their only art advocacy mechanism. Our focus cannot be only on those activities that will become a part of the YAM book but we must look to changing perceptions and influencing policy—we must transform a yellow spot into the sun.

A wealth of advocacy materials exists online. The NAEA website offers a comprehensive list of kits, articles and other information for teachers to download and use. (See [www.naea-reston.org/research\\_advocacy.html](http://www.naea-reston.org/research_advocacy.html)). One site in particular provides a booklet of advocacy materials for educators. True to its slogan, “We are educators. We know what works. Together we can make a difference.” the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) has developed helpful ways for teachers to take the lead in advocacy, especially to decision-makers beyond the school setting.

Art teachers who believe they were hired for the sole purpose of teaching art to children and then showing examples of student artwork at the annual art festival need to have a reality check. A quality art education program is more critical now than ever to equip children with the ability for self expression and problem-solving skills. “The future belongs to a very different kind of person with a very different kind of mind—creators and empathizers, pattern recognizers, and meaning makers. These people—artists, inventors, designers, storytellers, caregivers, consolers, big picture thinkers—will now reap society’s richest rewards and share its greatest

## Southwest

by Pat Carr

As I write this article in the middle of summer, I'm already getting geared up for a new school year. This is a cycle I have gladly repeated for 38 years! Several of my colleagues in SW Region, and specifically in my immediate school system, have retired this past year and in recent years. And even though I'm far older than them, I'm still here- repeating the cycle, and looking forward with renewed anticipation for one more school year. I know in some ways it won't be quite the same without two of my "partners in crime" - **Sandi D'Alessandro** and **Susan Watson**. I'm sure those of you that have attended the VAEA Fall Professional Development Conferences over the years will remember them for all of their enthusiasm, leadership, fun, and knowledge. I've also enjoyed sharing field trips, hotel rooms, meals, conference planning, workshops, and teaching with them. There are so many knee slapping, teary eyed, great times - I wish they could go on forever! These are the relationships great educators build with their colleagues.

For those of you in SW Region that teach in small school systems with just a few art educators, and/or you're miles apart from anyone with the same common interests and problems, and don't have a "Susan" or "Sandi", I have a "quick fix" for you. By becoming a member of NAEA/VAEA, you'll build friendships, learn from experts in arts education, discover your own potential, and increase your dedication in your chosen career. Being an art teacher is not a job - it's a profession - and one that just not anyone can do. But even with the enthusiasm of a new teacher, when you feel like you're doing it all alone, it makes it hard to feel appreciated or that you're making a difference. Sticking your neck out, becoming involved, and networking with other art educators from your region and state is perhaps the best way I have found in my long career of being a better teacher myself.

As I said before, I've been lucky to have worked with such exemplars as Susan and Sandi. And I have also met many other amazing art teachers in SW region at our meetings, workshops and dinners. Serving on the SW and VAEA board levels has put me in the midst of some of the best art educators in the whole country. I have learned so much and had such great times; I'd love to share these experiences with every one of you. So, the best way to do that is to again extend the invitation to join the only arts organization that is working specifically for YOU and your art teaching situation: NAEA/VAEA.

The Fall Conference in Northern Virginia will give us all the opportunity to see each other, catch up on all the regional news, participate in fabulous workshops, visit the incredible museums and galleries in DC, and share in the camaraderie of our profession. I encourage everyone to car pool, double bunk, bring your own snack food, and whatever it takes to put this in your plans and budget for this year. There have been some years that I have had to sacrifice other things just so I could attend our conference. But I guarantee that it will make a difference in your teaching.

At the SW regional meeting, new officers will be announced, prizes will be presented, outstanding teacher awards will be revealed, and you'll have a great time! If you have questions and want to join in the fun - take a chance, contact one of your SW region officers (listed in this newsletter), or drop me a line ([pcarr@rcs.k12.va.us](mailto:pcarr@rcs.k12.va.us)). We're all in this together. And we're all in this to make our art teaching careers the best possible - for this new year, and for many more!

# Regional News

## Blue Ridge

by Karen Girouard

Welcome back to a new school year.

Come join us as a member of the VAEA. Membership can benefit individuals involved in the arts. Certainly the art teacher will benefit from the support offered by being a member of an organization, but also art students through the National Art Honor Society. Others, including the college art student, the retired art teacher, the associate, (which is someone not engaged in teaching art but is interested) and institutional or departments, also profit from being a member. As a member of the VAEA you also receive your membership to the National Art Education Association which includes discounted resources, insurance, travel opportunities as well as an automatic subscription to Art Education and NAEA News. You will have access to the NAEA Convention, and state conferences, workshops, the award program and other activities. Most of all the kinship you can attain with other members.

Hope to see everyone at the the VAEA Conference; it is always a great experience. The Electronic Gallery is back at the conference. Refer to the summer issue of this newsletter for information. How to photograph your work is also explained - great information! During the conference, at the Blue Ridge Region meeting, our new officers will be introduced, the regional division level awards will be announced, and plans for the coming year will be discussed. Don't miss out; it is very rewarding to be involved!

**Events to mark on your calendar:**  
VAEA Conference, November 13-15  
Art Teachers Show, February  
Orkney Spring Mini Conference, May  
JMU Art workshop Day, May

# Northern Virginia

by Linda Conti

Northern Virginia Regional members have worked hard to help set up a conference to remember. Renew, Reflect, and Reconnect with friends, coworkers, and new contacts in an enjoyable and meaningful way. We hope that the presentations, guest speakers, art displays, gallery trips, and hands-on workshops are stimulating to you both as an artist and as a teacher. This

conference would not have been possible without the dedication of all our amazing Northern Virginia Regional volunteers. Special thanks to **Phyllis Coleman-Lacy, Sarah Philip, Carla Jaranson, Jean-Marie Galing, Julie Cacciola, Kate Sternberg, Eric Scott, Cheryl Miehl, Mary Jo Lorfano, Debbie Barnard, Vicki Burns, Rondall James, Jodi Linkous** and **Vicky Eichler**. It was so pleasant to work together. Your collective energy is unbelievable.

Northern Virginia Region is also proud to unveil our new regional newsletter on the VAEA website. This is a wonderful way to see what we are working on together, and to share ideas for the classroom. Thank you to **Eric Scott** of Stone Bridge High School in Ashburn for setting this up. Please feel free to send ideas and information to Eric for the articles. Share a great tip for the classroom, or even a story. You can reach Eric at [eric.scott@loudon.k12.va.us](mailto:eric.scott@loudon.k12.va.us)

Thank you also to **Cheryl Miehl** and **Mary Jo Lorfano** who served as our nominating committee this summer. You should have received your ballot in August. Please contact us to check your address if you did not. In fact, stop by the Northern Virginia Region information table at the conference to check all of your personal data. We need to have our files as accurate as possible, and with your help will do it.

Looking to the future for Northern Virginia, we now have an active region, filled with interesting art teachers who have much to share. We plan on using our "spare time" after the conference to continue to hold workshops on various techniques, as well as venture out on a few trips such as the Baltimore Craft Show or even NYC. Join in with our regional board and participate in our activities! Offer to host a workshop at your school. Submit ideas to the newsletter. Hang out with fun art people. We want to keep our fabulous energy going into 2009 and beyond!

# Central

by Kirstie Hein Sadler and Jacque Minarik

The CRVAEA Board has accomplished many goals we set for ourselves when taking office two years ago. One very important goal focused on establishing a better communication mechanism to reach our large region. To accomplish this we launched "e-news," an effective and paper-saving on-line listserv which connects our members to current art initiatives in the region. **Jen Hampton** deserves many thanks for her time and efforts with this project. She is a true master-mind when it comes to communication and technology and she has spent countless hours getting our e-news up and running.

Communication is not just one way. We also aspire to have you actively share information pertinent to art education because you, as the art teacher, are the pulse of what makes art essential in our schools. There is no better time than now to connect with your colleagues. Additionally, we invite legislators to join our listserv so that they may be kept abreast of all the worthwhile art initiatives happening within Central Virginia. If you have not signed up on our listserv please go to the sign up box on the VAEA website @ <http://vaea.org> and click on CRVAEA under regions and follow the directions in the bright red box that says "join now" to become connected.



*Conference centerpieces in progress at a Northern Virginia Region workshop.*

# Tidewater

by Aimee Sirna

Compare your attitude at the beginning of this school year with your mindset at the end of last year. How many of you, like me, had a tired, anxious outlook last spring? Did you think to yourself, "I can't wait for June!" with visions of relaxation dancing in your head? In my opinion, our brains and emotions can be helpful in making adjustments, starting new things, and creating closure. My excitement for the end of the school year helped me to do the best closing ever, with thoughtful awards for children, a well-organized art room, and help for my principal by checking educational records. This Fall, however, the excitement is not for closure, but for a new school year with potential for positive change and improvement.

As we begin this new endeavor together, I find myself pondering the following questions: How are you going to make this a successful school year? What strategies can you think of now in order to be more effective? Are there any new techniques or approaches you'd like to try? What can you ask a colleague for help with?

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## *Central Region continued*

The Central Region hosts many important art education events during the school year. Below are a few events for you to look forward to this school year. First, we hope you plan to attend VAEA Fall Professional Development Conference 2008 and participate in the Central Region meeting, where your new board members will be announced. The CRVAEA Regional Mini-Conference will be held in February. The annual St. Paul's Educator as Artist Show will be held in the month of February at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in downtown Richmond. This show has grown into such a success as a fantastic opportunity for us as educators to exhibit our own work. Be sure not to miss entering your student's work in the CRVAEA SunTrust Youth Art Month Show, held at the downtown Richmond SunTrust Bank during the month March. We will plan two educators as artist events this year; one for the fall and one for the spring. Keep an eye out for these announcements in our online CRVAEA News!

Please contact the board members if you are interested in volunteering or have any suggestions for future events. Stay informed of CRVAEA happenings with the CRVAEA link on the VAEA website. We hope everyone's school year is full of great joy, happiness and stress free teaching!

## *Tidewater Region continued*

How can you live in the moment and enjoy these teaching days, making them worthwhile and rewarding, rather than just counting the days until Winter Break?

Many of the lessons and techniques I utilize year after year were learned at VAEA Conferences. This is a great opportunity to recharge your batteries in a new environment. Since the Conference is in Northern Virginia this year, it is also a wonderful chance for Tidewater teachers to see a far-off side of the state with a different setting. Northern Virginia is home to many galleries and cultural connections that are different from what is available in our area. I know that the hosting region is planning to show you the very best of their area. I encourage all of you to support their conference by attending and being an active participant. Many folks from up North made the journey to Williamsburg last year to support us. Attending state conferences has been very rewarding for me.

Another aspect to add new perspectives to your school year is to become more involved with our local Tidewater chapter of the VAEA. This year, you can look for new leadership, which will bring about positive change and excitement for the future. Our board members are proactive, involved, and motivated to bring new experiences, but they do need your support. We need people from each city or county in Tidewater to participate more actively in order to be successful. If you are not getting notices via-email, we need you to contact us and let us know. If you've enjoyed opportunities like the Teacher Art Show and Winter Workshop in the past, why not help to plan these things this year? If several people volunteer, the jobs are small and manageable. If you have a new idea, we encourage you to share it, along with some strategies for accomplishment. We can work together and maintain the excitement of a new school year just a little longer!

## **Beyond Youth Art Month,** *continued from page 9*

author of *A Whole New Mind*). Art teachers know this, but art teachers are not juggling system budgets and FTE points (a point system for determining the number of full time employees). Art teachers know that their program does not exist to produce artists, but if we don't communicate what art teaches and why it is important, the program will continue to be misunderstood and under-supported. Art teachers must also educate the public about the complexities of what is learned in the art making process.

On the next page is an art advocacy checklist adapted from "Marketing Art" by Emma Lea Mayton, retired Texas art teacher and Austin Independent School Division Director. Ms. Mayton makes many valid, useful points that should be considered and implemented in Virginia. This fall all art educators should make it a goal to take a leadership role – whenever and wherever the opportunity presents – to convincingly demonstrate to everyone concerned that art is essential. Education in art produces individuals who are better equipped to enter into and understand a cultured society. Art provides the communities in which we teach with a well-rounded and proper educational component appreciated globally by the civilized world and art enables the politicians, administrators, parents and teachers to embrace the reality that art is an indubitably effective educational tool that spans across the curriculum fostering creativity, enthusiastic discussion and a better understanding of other subjects and disciplines.

Clearly, Youth Art Month and Art Advocacy roles are indispensable elements that we as teachers must actively support if we are to ensure that those "little yellow dots" we find in our classrooms have the best opportunities to shine as brightly as the artistic and intelligent "sons" – and daughters – whom Picasso contemplated.



# Youth Art Month

## Growing as YAMS!!!

By Ann Schumm and Michael Collins

As youth art month co-chairs we have certainly been learning and looking for ways to improve and strengthen advocacy for the arts, especially in the month of March. We have quickly become YAMS – Youth Art Month Students – as we are discovering improvements that we feel will strengthen the Youth Art Month celebrations in Virginia.

While reviewing criteria for the annual flag contest we have added some revisions to the flag contest template for 2008. The new template for 2008 can be found on the VAEA website under Resources – Youth Art Month at <http://www.vaea.org/yam.html>. We would like to ask teachers to please print and use the new template for their 2008 entries. Any old templates used will still be eligible for judging in this year's contest. In addition, we feel it important to share with teachers the criteria on which the 2008 Flag Contest will be judged. The 2008 Youth Art Month flag winner will be selected by a panel of art judges, persons with art knowledge and background – however art educators will not be allowed to judge as it may create a conflict of interest. Each judge will use the judging rubrics that are now available for viewing on the VAEA website.

As the YAMS – Youth Art Month Students – we are constantly learning things we think may be improvements and we are hoping to find that these revisions will be beneficial for a stronger Youth Art Month program for Virginia. As teachers though, we continue to strive for ways to learn, grow, and improve and are always anxious to hear your ideas and suggestions. We are excited about the 2008 Youth Art Month Program as a great advocacy tool for the arts in our state. We want to emphasize just how important it is for teachers to support March as Youth Art Month and get involved. While advocating for the arts is a year round event for art educators, we must also remember and use the emphasis placed on March - Youth Art Month – as a time in which we show and teach the world around all of the artists the importance of the ARTS! We need to remember and use Youth Art Month as an instrumental tool for us as art educators to assist in gaining supporters for the arts and building stronger programs for our students' futures!

For more information on ways to implement Youth Art Month – view the VAEA website at <http://www.vaea.org/yam.html> or contact: [Ann\\_Schumm@ccpsnet.net](mailto:Ann_Schumm@ccpsnet.net) or [Michael\\_Collins@ccpsnet.net](mailto:Michael_Collins@ccpsnet.net)



*Kelly, James River H.S., Chesterfield Co.  
Art teacher: Laura Wright*

## Marketing Art

Art Teacher Checklist For Promoting the Visual Arts  
Adapted from *Marketing Art* by Emma Lea Mayton

- Check the internet for specific research which supports art—NAEA, Getty Institute, etc. We must make educationally-sound arguments, not emotional pleas. Developing political skills among art educators who give systematic, continuous dialogue with decision makers is crucial for reform.
- Personally ask 2 or 3 of your most supportive parents if they would be willing to speak at school board meetings. Parents and community leaders are KEY to getting and keeping quality art programs. School board members listen to taxpayers and superintendents listen to the board members who hire them.
- Be willing to speak up yourself and justify the visual arts to administrators, school board members, community leaders, etc. Know the names/addresses of your city council members, local school board members, and state legislators.
- Be pro-active in promoting good things about art.
- Design a visual arts or fine arts brochure to share with parents/others; include goals, rationale for why the arts are important, SOLs/National Standards, quotes, etc.
- Brainstorm pro-art slogans and involve students in designing original bumper stickers to distribute to parents and business partners.
- Get a current media list from your Chamber of Commerce for newspaper, TV & radio contacts, etc. and personally call them for special events/recognitions/exhibits, fine arts festivals, etc. Also send a written press release listing you as the contact person.
- Have high expectations for student work and behavior

*continued on page 24*

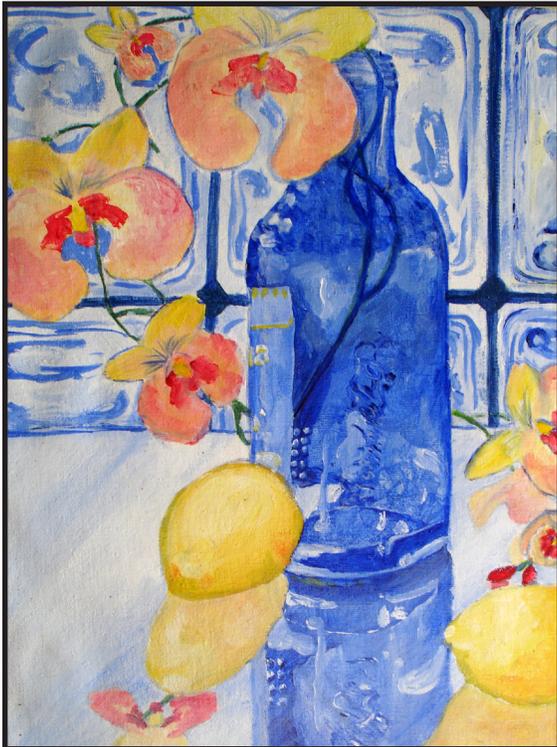
# Student Art Gallery



*Lindsay, James River H.S.,  
Chesterfield Co.  
Art teacher: Laura Wright*



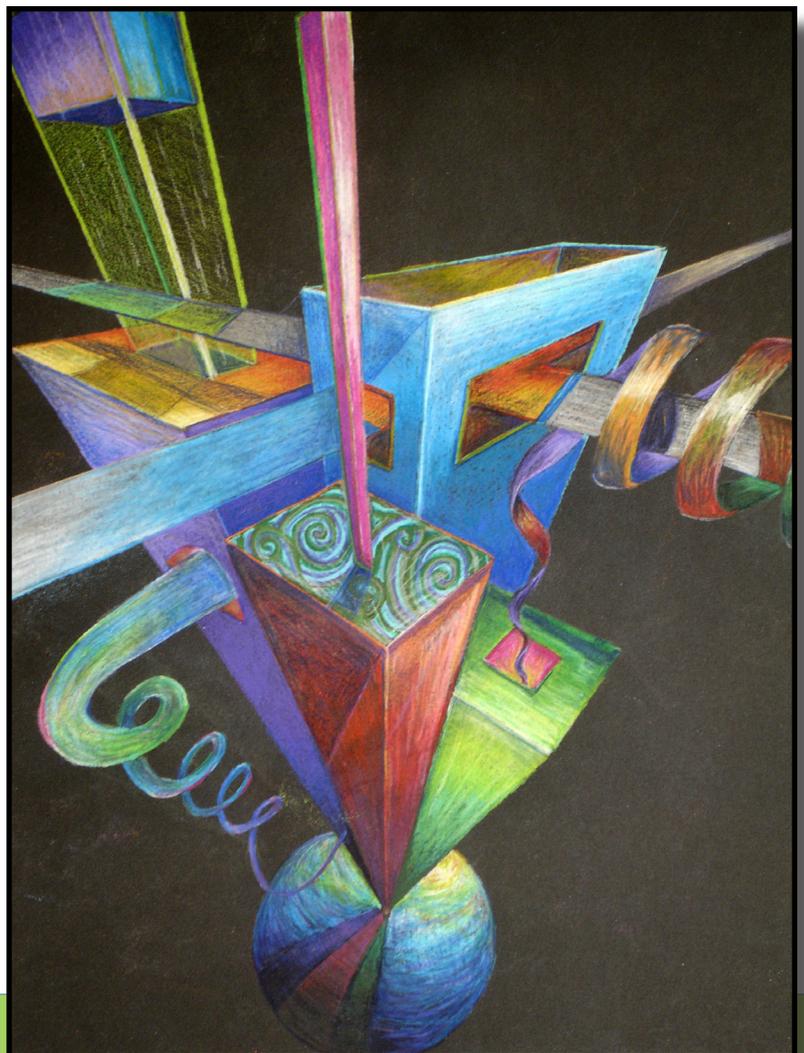
*Katie, Gr.5, The Hill School.  
Art teacher: Linda Conti*



*Bailey, James River H.S., Chesterfield Co.  
Art teacher: Laura Wright*



*Rene, Highland Springs H.S., Henrico Co.  
Art teacher: Sheila Hall*



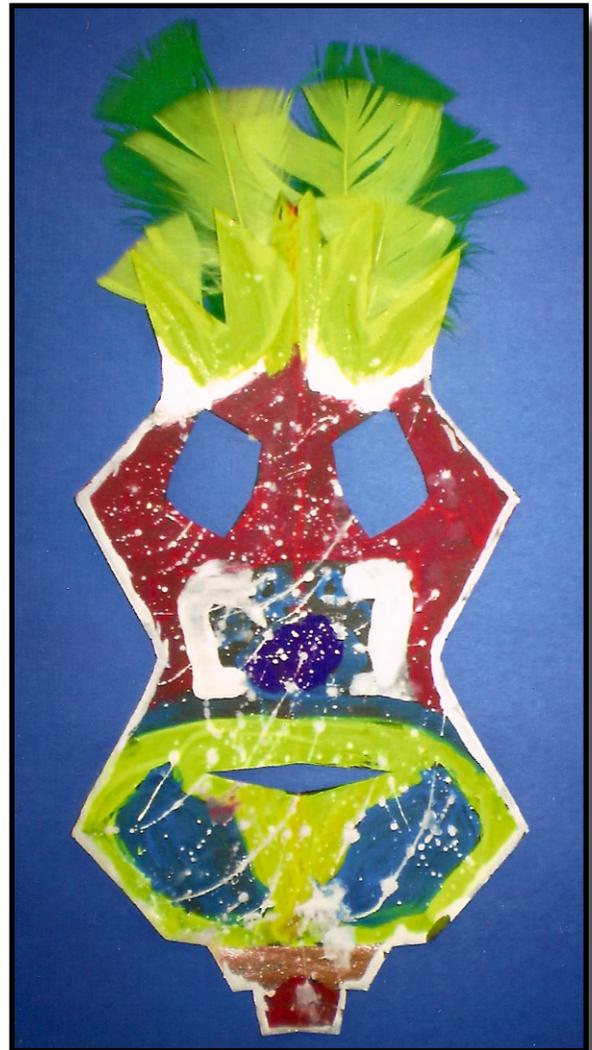
*Ali, James River H.S., Chesterfield Co.  
Art teacher: Laura Wright*



*Gabriella, Swift Creek M.S., Chesterfield Co.  
Art teacher: Naomi Swyers*



*Rachel, James River H.S., Chesterfield Co.  
Art teacher: Laura Wright*



*Donyea, Summer Art Program, Norfolk.  
Art teacher: Angel Jones*



*Lorenzo, Highland Springs H.S., Henrico Co.  
Art teacher: Sheila Hall*

## Elementary

by Maripat Hyatt

Ah summer, always too short! As I gear up for the 2008-2009 school year I have been tweaking my personal "portaportal" site. What is a "portaportal" you ask? For those who do not know, here's what the website has to say: "Portaportal is a web based bookmarking utility that lets you store links to your favorite websites online. Now your bookmarks are no longer limited to any one machine." I was introduced to this tool when I attended the EDTECH conference this past February. Since then I have been creating a list of all my favorite sites and resources. I invite you to visit my portaportal at <http://guest.portaportal.com/mhyatt>. Life, travel, dreams, museums, state and national standards, conference workshops all can provide inspiration for fantastic art lessons. I hope you will find my list of websites helpful in your planning. I invite you to begin creating your own portaportal and share it with your colleagues.

Another way to participate in a collegial community is to sign up for the NAEA Elementary Listserv. As the VAEA and the Southeast NAEA Elementary Representative I would like to encourage you to sign up for this listserv. The listserv is hosted by the NAEA Elementary Division Director Elect, **Bob Reeker**. I met Bob at the NAEA Convention in New Orleans and at the time the listserv was undergoing some growing pains, but these have been worked through and he encourages everyone to join. He will be managing the emails so you will be getting messages that are as brief as necessary. At this time there are two questions on the list: one is asking for input for the National Convention in April in Minneapolis, and also "What project, unit or ideas are you most excited to implement this coming school year?"



*Jaylen, Summer Art Program, Norfolk.  
Art teacher: Angel Jones*

As you can see this could be another great resource so please sign up! Here are the directions to join the NAEA Elementary Listserv:

1. Log in at: <http://www.naea-res-ton.org/bod.html>
2. Scroll down about half way to the purple "National Division Directors" bar.
3. On the left, you will see "Elementary" and under that "Join Elementary Listserv here". Click on "Join Elementary Listserv here".
4. A pop up will take you to an email message for you to SUBSCRIBE. Send it!

It is that easy...and you stay in touch with all elementary art specialists around the world! The communications are limited so your mailbox will not be overwhelmed. You will find, however, that this is an excellent communication mechanism!

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Elementary Division meeting this November in Northern Virginia!

## Middle

by Naomi Swyers

I hope your summer was relaxing, creative and healing. The new school years brings many changes. For me, I am opening a new middle school. As I write this, I am assuming (with some trepidation) it will be ready for occupancy by August, just in time to move in my 100 or so boxes which are taking up needed space in my garage.

I found that spending my summer worrying about this move wasn't getting me anywhere, so I dove into my studio and began cranking out new pieces, using lots of media. I let go of some of my tension and had some thoughtful reflection in the process.

As I was working, I began thinking about multimedia work and its possibilities. I reflected on a time in the late 1980's and early 90's when I was home working as a full time mother. When I returned to teaching, I was placed in an elementary school. I noticed the student work had changed. In various art shows the elementary teachers in my county were showing work where their students layered media in their work. They didn't create just watercolor pieces, or chalk pieces. Watercolor may have been the first layer; oil pastel added on top and then cut paper was added to complete it. Or the piece began with tempera; the painted paper was then torn up to become a cut paper collage with chalk or crayon layered on top. The resulting art work was creative, exciting and vibrant. And the possibilities were endless!

Nine years ago I was hired to teach in a middle school. I found that the art work at the time was one layer; an oil pastel was an oil pastel, a graphite drawing was a graphite drawing. Of course as the students learn a new media, maybe one at a time is the best way to teach it. Or is it? This may lead to an excellent research possibility.

As the 2008-2009 year begins, I challenge you to think outside the box or paper plane. Teach watercolor techniques,

# Division News

tear it up, glue it down on new paper, and create ink patterns around it. You have just taught color theory, watercolor techniques and pen and ink value. Add a bit of art history, the science of color and you will have a lesson packed to the gills. We have so much to teach in middle school (and so little time), why not consider combining media.

I realize most of you already do this but it is always good to renew, reflect and reconnect. One motivational technique is to visit the art galleries in your town. I sat down at my computer and searched for area art shows throughout Virginia. Many towns have art openings all in one evening, some call it Art Walk, First Friday's, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays, Alive at Five, Fourth Fridays; some do it year-around while some are just during the summer months. Whatever your town calls it, stroll through the galleries and use this as your inspiration for future lessons.

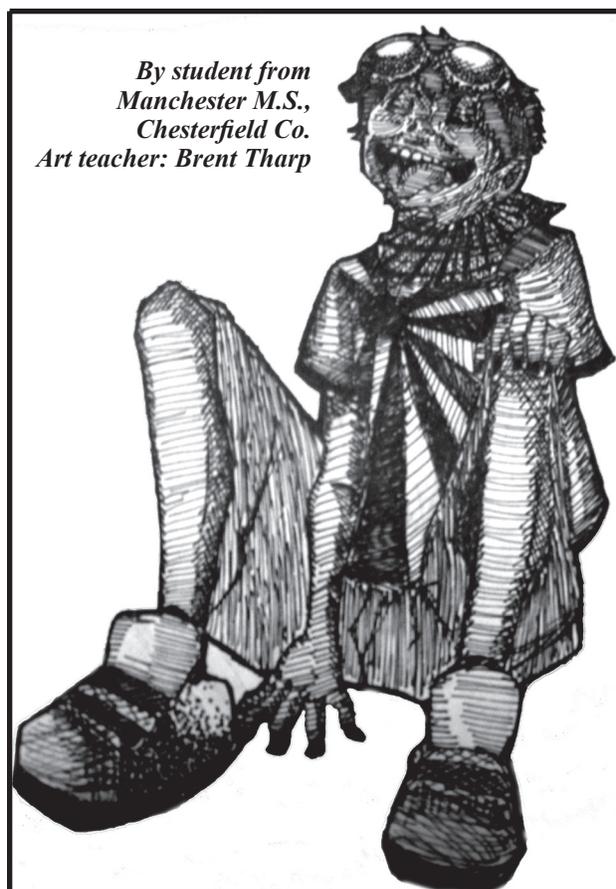
The following are a list of web addresses from various towns. This is just a random selection—feel free to send me others:

- <http://www.firstfridaysrichmond.com/> First Friday's - Richmond, Virginia
- <http://leesburgfirstfriday.com/> Leesburg First Friday - Leesburg, Virginia
- [http://www.artspoint.org/first\\_fridays/index.asp](http://www.artspoint.org/first_fridays/index.asp) First Friday - Fredericksburg, Virginia
- <http://www.virginia.org/site/description.asp?attrID=49996> First Friday Celebration - Historic Main Street Warrenton, Virginia.
- <http://www.roanokeartbynight.com> Art by Night, First Thursday - Roanoke, Virginia
- Charlottesville has a First Friday but I believe it is only in the summer, check.
- <http://www.apalachianspiritgallery.com/artwalk/> Alive after

Five, 2nd Fridays - Marion, VA

- <http://artworksrichmond.com/> Fourth Fridays at Art Works - Richmond, Virginia
- <http://www.shockoebottomarts.com/change/frifrat.html> Friday for the Arts - Petersburg, Virginia
- <http://www.chincoteagueculturalalliance.org/home.html> Saturday Art Stroll - Chincoteague, Virginia
- <http://www.riverviews.net/NewFolder/Programs/FirstFridaymain.htm> First Friday, with An Art Trolley Ride - Lynchburg, Virginia
- <http://valleyarts.org/blog/?p=1301> First Fridays Art Walk- (this site from June) Harrisonburg, Virginia

Continue your reconnection with the VAEA Fall Conference. I sent out an email to all the middle school members to update the list. If you haven't received an email from me, please contact me at [Naomi\\_Swyers@ccpsnet.net](mailto:Naomi_Swyers@ccpsnet.net). Please bring great ideas to share at the Middle School Meeting during the conference. I hope to see all of you there.



*By student from  
Manchester M.S.,  
Chesterfield Co.  
Art teacher: Brent Tharp*

## Secondary

by Cynthia Copperthite

***Creating An Inviting Art Classroom ...there is more to teaching art than aesthetics, art history, production and criticism.***

*“A teacher’s ability to relate to students and to make positive, caring connections with them plays a significant role in cultivating a positive learning environment and promoting student achievement.”* –James H. Stronge Author of ***Qualities of Effective Teachers***

One way we can accomplish a positive learning environment while promoting student achievement is by becoming an “invitational” teacher. When high school students enter our art rooms each day, we can make them feel comfortable and accepted by us as well as by the other students in the classroom. The best way to begin the year is by inviting your students to participate in their learning. Why “invite” them? The invitation is a message that states the person being invited is responsible, able, and valuable. Everyday we need to convey to our art students that “you are important to me as a person.”

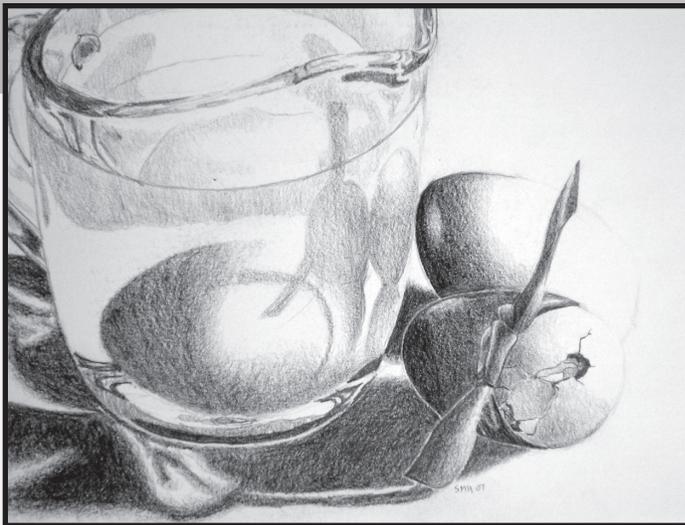
Inviting art teachers call students by name. When we call a student by his or her name pronounced correctly, we are saying to that student, “You are important enough for me to identify you by your name.” I work very hard the first few days of school to learn every name of every student. I create fun games and scenarios to further this cause and also invite the students to learn the names of their classmates. This makes them feel valuable and accepted not only by me but other students as well. Throughout the year students are encouraged to remember and call one another by name. Students soon discover that “the girl in the green t-shirt” or “the boy that sits by the door” are not acceptable ways to identify another student in an inviting art classroom.

*continued next page*

Additionally an invitational teacher establishes an inviting classroom by cultivating kindness. Kindness begins with the word “please” and is used when we ask someone to do something for us. It eliminates a commanding or demeaning attitude of the disinviting teacher. Likewise, “thank you” cultivates kindness and says to your students that you appreciate their efforts. Remember to use the words “please” and “thank you” in conjunction with the student’s name that you are addressing. Invitational teachers smile when cultivating these kindnesses.

Did you know that smiling uses fewer muscles than frowning and is therefore less tiring? When those busses finally head home are you exhausted from frowning your way through the day? Invitational art teachers smile. This universal sign tells your students that you feel good about yourself and about what you do and about your students. How inviting is that? Next time you feel negatively toward a student, try smiling and observe the reaction to your smile. Your positive actions may just alleviate a potentially hazardous situation. A verbal welcome and a smile at the classroom door are invitations to a positive learning environment and to student achievement. Personally, I would rather my face muscles hurt from smiling than be exhausted from frowning.

*“Every day millions of students arrive at American classrooms in search of more than reading and math skills. They are looking for a light in the darkness of their lives, a Good Samaritan who will stop and bandage a burned heart or ego.” - Jim Trelease*



*Seth, James River H.S., Chesterfield Co.  
Art teacher: Laura Wright*

Even when they act otherwise, our high school students are emotionally needy and starved for attention. I recently learned that loneliness is the number one problem reported by high school students. Invitational art teachers are both passionate and compassionate. That is not to say we gush and tell all members of a class that we love them. However it does mean that as inviting art teachers we demonstrate care and love both implicitly and explicitly. Love goes by many names...forgiveness, tolerance, mercy, encouragement, aid, sympathy, affection, friendliness, and cheer. Invitational teachers know and teach their content while enhancing the quality of their students’ lives by healing, protecting, soothing, and strengthening. Invitational teachers create a classroom climate that invites students to talk because we do listen to what they have to tell us albeit sometimes they tell us more than we bargain for.

Cultivating an inviting attitude and thus an inviting classroom is not always easy. Diligence, empathy, and excitement must permeate everything we do. This is the antithesis of my ninth grade art room which was the least inviting place not just at JAHS but on the entire planet. You can only imagine how disinviting my art teacher was, oh unless of course you had some innate talent. Only then were you invited to use real art supplies, receive a smile, or be called by name affectionately. The rest of us, the majority of us, used a number two yellow pencil on sheets of

brittle manila paper and if our name was used, the tone was negative or condescending. I can only imagine how exhausted my art teacher was at the end of each school day.

Unlike my ninth grade art teacher, I choose to be an invitational teacher in an inviting classroom. As such I possess tremendous power to make a student’s life joyous, not miserable. I can be a disinviting tool of torture or an inviting instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal. I can be attentive or disinterested. It is my choice. I choose to be an invitational teacher who creates an inviting art class-

room that cultivates a positive learning environment that promotes student achievement. Four simple ways I can begin include: addressing my students by name, saying “please” and “thank you,” wearing a disarming smile, and making positive caring connections.

What do you choose?

Note: Much of the content in this article was paraphrased from books and workshops by Harry K. Wong, Rosemary T. Wong, and William Purkey.

## *Higher Education* by Bill Wightman

Higher Education faculty members from around our commonwealth have been active in terms of awards, scholarship, and community service initiatives during the spring and summer of 2008.

At Radford University, **Dr. Richard Bay** was the recipient of the Donald N. Dedmon Distinguished Teaching Professor Award, which was officially conferred on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008. This award is the highest recognition of quality teaching at RU. In addition to his strengths as an educator, Dr. Bay had a one person exhibit of his new art work featured at the Perspective Gallery, Squires Student Center, Virginia Tech from June 6-July 23.

# Division News

ODU's **Patty Edwards** was one of only thirty-two artist/educators selected nationally to participate in "The Power of Art" workshop offered through and supported by the Lab School of Washington and the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation. On May 16, 2008, Edwards spent a day with Christopher Rauschenberg at the Lab School of Washington DC designed for art teachers working with learning disabled students. The Lab School of Washington was developed and founded by Sally Smith and praised by Robert Rauschenberg, who both recently passed away. Their legacy lives on through our daily work as arts educators. Patty described the experience as "amazing!"

ODU students under Patty's guidance celebrated Youth Art Month by offering children's art classes at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeast Virginia during the spring 08 semester. In addition, art education students partnered with ODU alumnus Rob Wetherington and ForKids, inc., a community nonprofit organization, to design and implement lessons for children in the community based on the concept: My Home is My Castle. The final artwork was part of their annual ForKids Art Auction, which supports their programs.

Faculty at VCU have been extremely successful in publishing their research interests. **Dr. Melanie Buffington's** chapter "Six themes in the history of museum education" was published in the book *From periphery to center: Art museum education in the 21st century* (edited by Pat Villeneuve and published by NAEA).

**Dr. Sara Wilson McKay's** article "Education as Installation Art and Other Useful Ideas from the Contemporary Art World: Conversations with Artist Annette Lawrence" was published in the March 2008 issue of *Art Education*. Her article "Cultivating a vision of students who can think and act for themselves: How meaningful art education can help undo homo systematicus" was published in the *Journal of Cultural Research in Art Education*, vol 25, And, her co-written article (with D. Baxter) "Your Kids Say 'Mom.' Your Clothes Say Otherwise: Pregnant Fashion Dolls and Visual Culture" was published in *Visual Culture and Gender*, vol 2.

**Dr. Nancy Lampert's** article "Interactions with Sound: An Interview with Sound Artist Stephen Vitiello" was published in the March issue of *Art Education*.

**Dr. Min Cho's** "Artistically Serving: A Rationale for Arts-Based Service-Learning" was published as a *NAEA Advisory*.

**Dr. Pam Taylor** completed her term as editor of *Art Education* with the November 2008 issue. Pam describes her two-year term as editor as "exciting." In addition, Pam co-authored two articles with **Steve Carpenter** that were published "Hyper-mediated Art Criticism" in the *Journal of Aesthetics Education*, and "Mediating Art Education: Digital Kids, Art and Technology" in *Visual Arts Research*. She also authored an *NAEA Advisory* "Teaching Art with Music Videos", and co wrote (with **Shannon Wilder** and **Katie Helms**) "Walking with a ghost: Music videos and the re-performing body", which was published in the *International Journal of Education and the Arts* (see <http://www.ijea.org/v8n7/index.html>).

All VCU faculty gave presentations at the NAEA convention in New Orleans and on a fun note, take a look at <http://www.jump-because.com> and see what faculty member Sarah Branigan has been up to, along with her featured interview on National Public Radio at [http://weekendamerica.publicradio.org/display/web/2008/04/24/america\\_weekend/](http://weekendamerica.publicradio.org/display/web/2008/04/24/america_weekend/)

Of special note is recognizing VCU's **Dr. David Burton's** 30 years of service as an

educator, scholar, and regular contributor to the field. What an accomplishment, indeed!

**Dr. Kathy Schwartz**, of JMU attended and presented sessions on graduate research and visual journaling at the NAEA convention in New Orleans. She also oversaw our popular community children's summer art program that featured 32 classes taught by certified teachers and enrolled nearly 300 elementary and middle school students. A highlight of the program honored Professor Emeritus **Dr. Phil James** for his role in beginning the program 30 years ago.

As an Assessment Fellow through JMU's center for assessment and research studies, **Dr. Bill Wightman** spent the summer developing new assessment instruments designed for all studio art majors as well as refined the assessment instruments used for evaluating art education students.



*Barrett, James River H.S., Chesterfield Co.*

In terms of graduate education, **Dr. Renee Sandell** is excited to announce new graduate study opportunities available for Fall 2008 at George Mason University ([arteducation.gmu.edu](http://arteducation.gmu.edu)). An 18-credit Art Education Concentration for the Advanced Studies in Teaching and Learning (ASTL)

*continued on page 23*

# Supervision & Administration

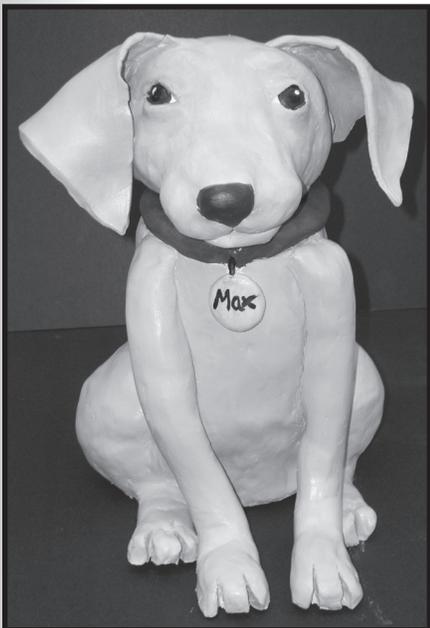
by **Barbara Laws**

Summer is a time for renewal for teachers - in many ways. There's opportunity for classes, travel, teaching in special programs, art making and for all of the other things that refresh and refill and for which there is little or no time during the school year. Summer - while busy for us in administration and supervision - tends to have a different type of rhythm from the hectic pace of the school year. For us, the summer offers us opportunities for having intense content and curriculum discussions with teachers, facilitating collegial planning sessions and offering professional development. Summer is a time for looking backward to assess the past year and looking forward to the next, anticipating all of the possibilities that come with fresh starts built on prior experiences. I hope that your summer allowed for a nice mix of all these activities as well as some time for yourselves.

Finishing a productive year, VAEA Supervision and Administration Division members met in April to draft guiding principles for middle school visual arts programs, a document which was subsequently endorsed as policy by the VAEA board in June and which you can find on the VAEA website. We hope that you will use this document to assist you in your discussions with middle school building administrators. We have also recognized the need for the same type of policy statement for elementary and high school and will be working on those documents shortly.

Our summer meeting, which division members decided should focus on assessment, will be held in September - more information about our discussion in the VAEA winter newsletter.

We will once again be facilitating sessions for university students at the November VAEA conference. All district administrators and supervisors are invited to participate in the informal meet and greet session as well as the round table discussion; both are designed to provide an opportunity to meet future applicants, provide information about school systems, art programs and the application process in a professional setting away from the stress of the interview process - and to provide students with the opportunity to ask questions. More information will follow by email.



*Christina, M.S. Summer Art, Henrico Co.  
Art teacher: Kathy Barclay*

If you are a member of the Supervision and Administration Division and you are not receiving periodic email updates, please contact me at [blaws@nps.k12.va.us](mailto:blaws@nps.k12.va.us).

Finally - welcome to **Michael Gettings** who is joining us in the Administration and Supervision Division as the Art Specialist for Henrico County. He takes the position held by **Kori Mosley** who has decided to return to the classroom. We send best wishes to both!

# Museum Education

by **Twyla Kitts**

On June 25, a warm summer night just after the end of the school year, 278 teachers from across Virginia visited the VAEA booth at the annual Teacher Reception held at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) and hosted by a group of Richmond-area art and educational organizations. The teachers were delighted with the event as you can see from these comments:

“Please pass on my thanks and appreciation to everyone who organized and worked at last night’s teacher’s night out. The whole event was excellent! I had a chance to look over all the information I got from the booths last night and I am amazed and delighted by the opportunities all these wonderful sites offer to our community and schools. Then you all outdid yourselves with the lovely food and beverages, gallery tours and just providing a venue for teachers to gather and celebrate with each other. What a wonderful, fun, and welcoming place you have made of our art museum. Congratulations and thank you!!!”

—Janet Masterson, Fine Art Department Chair, Hermitage High School (e-mail, June 26)

“I would like to thank you for setting the Teacher Reception up. It was truly a wonderful experience. Thank you for thinking about all of us. It was fun to mix and mingle with other teachers from other schools as well as learn about the many opportunities that are out there for us.”

—Carol Urso, Hopkins Road Elementary School (e-mail, June 27)

“I just wanted to say how great last night was!! My friend (who teaches high school art) and I really enjoyed ourselves. What a great turn out on a summer evening!”

—Karen Siler, K-5 art teacher, Glen Allen Elementary School (e-mail, June 26)

“We’d like to thank you for the wonderful teacher’s reception you put on. It was enjoyable, the food was great, and we got to touch base with the culture and arts community of Richmond, which offers such wonderful experiences for all. We



*CRVAEA's Jennifer Bryant Hampton - at right - (Short Pump Elementary School) talks with VAEA member Tiffany Floyd (Blackwell Elementary) in front of the VAEA booth at the annual Teacher Reception at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.*

sociation of Teachers of English, and Virginia Council for the Social Studies to participate in the annual Teacher Reception hosted by Agecroft Hall and Gardens, Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia, Library of Virginia, Maymont, Poe Museum, Richmond Shakespeare, Richmond Symphony, Science Museum of Virginia/Carpenter Science Theatre Company, Theatre

IV, University of Richmond Museums, Virginia Center for Architecture, Virginia Historical Society, Virginia's Department of Historic Resources, and VMFA. What a rich mix of people, organizations—and possibilities!

Again and again, I heard teachers saying that they had no idea so many museums, institutions, and professional organizations offered them support and resources. There were also several museum representatives who were not aware of VAEA and its excellent conference, programs, and networks. Their awareness has been raised! Who could miss those great sunflowers on the VAEA table?

What will come of this confluence of creativity? Time will tell, but we did create a marvelous time and place to begin the discussions. Please let me know if you have additional ideas for spreading our message and making great connections!

# Affiliates

## Retirees

by Lynn Hilton Conyers

### Retired or Rewired

Are you an art teacher contemplating retirement in the next few years? Are you a retired art teacher looking for inspiring ways to use the years of experience earned from your life as a teacher? What are the possibilities presented when you retire or rewire? Join us at the conference to learn about options offered by the Virginia Retirement System, opportunities available through Supplemental Retirement Plans and working as a studio artist or graphic designer.

A power point presentation and literature from the Virginia Retirement System will give retirement options available to Virginia teachers considering retirement. **Sandy Gehr**, a retired art educator from Shenandoah County, began working as a graphic designer for Silver Lake Mills in 2006. She will share her transformation from the classroom to the commercial studio, showing pop-up cards she developed that are now sold in historic Williamsburg. As a participant of a Supplemental Retirement Plan, I will present information about the art-related proposal I made to the Waynesboro Public Schools. With the acceptance of the proposal, opportunities to develop an art program involving the Artisan Center of Virginia, Wayne Theatre Alliance, Shenandoah Valley Art Center and the Virginia Commission of the Arts became possible. I will discuss how the plan allowed me to coordinate a system-wide art program that brought guest artists into the schools involving art teachers and students in a year long project and exhibition opportunities.

You are invited to the **retired teachers' luncheon** to be held on Friday, November 14, from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. in the Fairfax dining room of the Westfield Marriott. This is an informal gathering where we will be able to have a leisurely lunch and catch up on the latest news and life events.

Don't miss the **retired teachers meeting** on Saturday, November 15, in Dominion #6 from 9:40 – 10:40. Plans to keep retired art educators active in the organization will be discussed. Your input would be deeply appreciated.

look forward to next year.”

—Debbie and Gary Bartle, Midlothian High School and Hungary Creek Middle School, respectively (thank-you note, June 30, 2008)

At VAEA board meetings this year we have worked to articulate the critical importance of art curricula in our schools. One of our goals is to carry this message to our governmental representatives, school administrators—and to teachers of other disciplines. Many of our conversations have extolled cross-disciplinary projects that incorporate art skills, processes, and other art and art-history content. We've also discussed the practical obstacles that must be overcome to make these projects happen. We realized that even finding a time and place to talk about such possibilities and to share our message is a rare occurrence.

This thread of thought inspired me to invite VAEA—and Virginia Association of Museums, Foreign Language Association of Virginia, Virginia As-

*Check the website for current news and information!*  
[www.vaea.org](http://www.vaea.org)



# Attention

## Elementary Art Educators:

framework or enough perspective to develop meaningful interpretations and understandings of works of art or visual culture. This is not to say that the elements and principles of design should be banned from discussions about art and visual culture. Nor should they be replaced by other terms. The fact is that the elements of art and principles of design are not sufficient analytical tools for art and/or visual culture. Interdisciplinary contextual analyses requires more as do the interdisciplinary curricula upon which such analyses are designed. For example, Olivia Gude suggests that we add appropriation, juxtaposition, recontextualization, layering, interaction of text and image, hybridity, gazing, and representation to our artists' toolbox. I offered the following list of artistic devices associated with technology: Transparency in media · Erasure · Hypermediacy · Movement through the space · Reperforming and retelling · Varied perspectives and points of view · Repetitive viewing · Inconsistency · Timebased · Repurposing · Rearrange · Instantaneous relocation · Forever changeable · Redefine identity and perspective · Filter · Choice · Multiple views and realities (Multivocality) · Ambiguity · Acceptable untruths · Immersive technology · Networked self (disguised, impatient, entertained, transported) · Endless possibilities · Interrelated and connected · Collaboration · Representation · Simulation. (Page 340 in *Studies in Art Education*, 45(4)).

Both cases offer additional lenses through which viewers can **RE**xamine works of art and visual culture to **RE**veal content that speaks to contemporary concerns beyond the perspective of formalist ways of attending to art and visual culture. Through such **RE**search, we are developing instructional theories that support the value of what we as art educators do. I hope as you read this, you will **RE**xamine your own **RE**search practices and share them with me for this column. Please stay in touch and **RE**ply to [pgtaylor@vcu.edu](mailto:pgtaylor@vcu.edu)

### *Higher Education...* continued from page 19

Program, specifically designed for art teachers with current licensure in Art PK-12, will focus on 5 professional development content areas in art education: History, Contemporary Issues and Research in Art Education; Creativity and Cognition in the Arts and Media; Critical Response to Art in the Museum and Classroom; Studio and Curricular Explorations; and, Innovative Curriculum Design for Visual Arts Education.

ASTL offers advanced study in art education, cohort classes, an innovative schedule, and the use of technology. The courses, aligned with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org), help teachers think and practice like board-certified teachers. The program develops teacher-leaders who practice reflection through action research, problem-based learning, and self-inquiry, as well as develops teacher expertise in art education that will identify the teacher as a potential leader in that area.

The ASTL program leads to a master of education degree in curriculum and instruction (please see [http://gse.gmu.edu/programs/astl/academics/med\\_arte/](http://gse.gmu.edu/programs/astl/academics/med_arte/)). The Art Education concentration is also available as stand-alone graduate certificate (please see [http://gse.gmu.edu/programs/astl/academics/cert\\_art\\_edu/](http://gse.gmu.edu/programs/astl/academics/cert_art_edu/)).

I remain impressed with the many accomplishments that faculty in Virginia's higher education settings have achieved in the spring and summer of 2008 as well as the quality of our programs and the varied populations that they serve. Note to all higher education faculty, please be sure to update me on your accomplishments prior to the winter newsletter. All members of VAEA are encouraged to share with me the ways in which faculty and/or programs at the higher education level are impacting K12 teaching. You can do so at [wightmwh@jmu.edu](mailto:wightmwh@jmu.edu)

Would you like to take part in an initiative to better understand key components of elementary art instruction at the state level?

As we all know, the importance of art education at the elementary level has been recently challenged by No Child Left Behind policies, tightening budgets, and reductions in instructional time for the visual and performing arts.

To better visualize the current status of elementary-level art education across the Commonwealth of Virginia, an on-line survey specifically aimed at elementary art educators has been developed to capture important aspects of elementary-level teaching that includes, but is not limited to, the number of elementary schools served by art educators, how many art classes are taught by visual art instructors at the elementary level on a daily basis, as well as the times devoted to instruction for each art class. The survey also addresses aspects of allocated classroom space, administrative support for elementary teachers, and the support for visual art study by teachers of other academic disciplines.

Participating in this important survey will create a more accurate view of art education at the elementary-level, which has real significance for future policies, advocacy, and instructional innovation.

An active link to the survey will be available soon on the VAEA website. The results of the survey will be featured in the spring 09 VAEA newsletter and will be shared in a presentation conducted at the Fall 09 VAEA annual conference. All members of the VAEA board welcome and appreciate your participation in this survey.

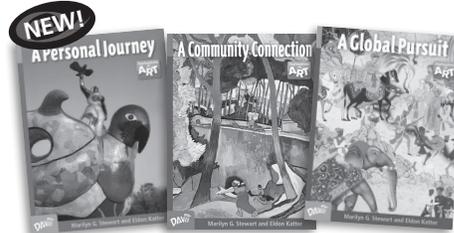
If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Bill Wightman ([wightmwh@jmu.edu](mailto:wightmwh@jmu.edu)) or MariPat Hyatt, ([mghyatt@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:mghyatt@henrico.k12.va.us)).



### Correction:

In the last issue of VAEA News the photographs of the tape figure sculptures by students at Patrick Henry High School in Roanoke incorrectly listed Lauren Williams as the art teacher. The photographs of the work were submitted by Lauren but the instructor was **Jennifer Fowler**.

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## Marketing Art

*continued from page 13*

- Display high-quality student artwork everywhere and often—school, superintendent's office, school board meeting room, branch libraries, business partners' offices, etc. In the exhibition, wall text should state the goals of the lesson, including SOLs/criteria/charts/procedures which remind others that the works provide evidence of understanding.
- Neatly mount work and label appropriately.
- Create an arts space/lab that is visually stimulating, organized and looks like an art room—not messy and chaotic, but colorful with student work, study prints of the masters, vocabulary, etc. Does your room visually say, "Art is important and what we do matters here?"
- Post quotes regarding the importance of art at school, in the art room, in exhibits.
- Teach every minute of every period. Love art and show it!
- Return phone calls; respond to notes/emails from administrators/parents/colleagues the same day.
- Let school staff, custodians and secretaries know you appreciate them.
- When elementary classroom teachers pick up children from your room verbally close the lesson with key questions to students or summary statements about what students learned that day so that you are educating your colleagues, too.

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continued...

- Invite your principal to the art room for a special project...or for no reason!
- Treat visitors like VIPs in your classroom. Be welcoming and receptive no matter how busy you are. One unconcerned or angry art teacher can do permanent damage to art programs everywhere!
- Send “good” notes home with students who deserve special recognition.
- Write your own fall/spring art newsletters to parents and/or write art articles for PTA/PTO newsletters that regularly go home. Highlight different levels and include what you are teaching using SOLs and/or national Standards. List any needed materials, student honors, exhibits, local museum exhibits for families to enjoy, etc. Include photos.
- Make a brief presentation on the importance of art to your PTA/PTO.
- Encourage high school students to write regular “art happenings” for school publications, interview local artists, cover exhibitions and gallery openings.
- Use an empty classroom or teacher lounge to create a student gallery.
- Be involved with your art association and/or community arts organizations.

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I represent that I am the (father, mother, guardian) of \_\_\_\_\_, the above named child. I hereby consent to the foregoing on his/her behalf.

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To be completed by the Art Teacher submitting student art or photographs for publication:

I verify that the student art work was completed in my art class and that the above information is correct.

Art Teacher Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Art work should be based on drawings from life, a student's own photograph, or their own imagination. Copying of other art work or photographs is prohibited.

Please send to: Kathy Barclay, VAEA Newsletter Editor, 7379 Lee Davis Rd., Mechanicsville, VA 23111 or scan and email to: kbarclayart@yahoo.com

## Submitting Student Art Work

by Kathy Barclay, Editor

As in many situations, it is often "feast or famine" when it comes to getting good quality art work for this newsletter. For the last issue I had work from so many different teachers I could only use one or two from each one. For this issue I only received work from a few teachers. Summer vacation? ... or the hassle of getting the release forms which we are now requiring for publication of any work or photograph? Whatever the reason I do want to thank those who did take the time to send me work and get those required forms completed, copied, and sent along with the work. A special thanks to **Laura Wright** who mailed me a packet with not only a CD filled with 59 well photographed images of high quality student work, but also all the forms to go with those images, as well as a printout of all the works with student names and media represented. Each file was labled with the student's name which is a great help to me when it comes time to place them in this document. As a result, I used a lot of the work Laura sent me.

Submissions by others were not always usable. Reiterating reasons stated in the last issue for images that cannot be published: files that are too small and /or too low in resolution, blurry images, wrinkled paper, skewed images, glare from flash photography, distracting backgrounds for 3-D work, or images that appear to be copied directly from commercial photographs or designs.

**Student Art Work must** be accompanied by a copy of the **release form signed by the student and a parent**. Above is an example of the new form we have designed for this purpose. Go to [www.vaea.org](http://www.vaea.org) for the .pdf file of this form. Completed forms may be photocopied and mailed to **Kathy Barclay at 7379 Lee Davis Rd., Mechanicsville, VA, 23111**, or scanned and emailed to [kbarclayart@yahoo.com](mailto:kbarclayart@yahoo.com).

## NAEA/VAEA Membership Application

Mail to: The National Art Education Association, Membership Dept, 1916 Association Dr., Reston, VA 20191

### Membership Categories:

**Active:** Art teachers, directors of art education programs, or those engaged in pursuits closely related to the field. Provides all the benefits of membership.

**First Year Professional:** Recent graduates entering their first year of teaching. Valid for one year. Provides all the benefits of membership, except the right to hold national office.

**Student:** Undergraduates and full-time graduate students. Provides all the benefits of membership, except the right to hold national office.

**Retired:** Retired educator who has been an active NAEA member for a minimum of five years. Includes all the privileges of membership.

**Associate:** School personnel not actively engaged in teaching art and other individuals with a general interest in art education. Provides the basic publication and discount benefits of membership. Members in this category will not receive membership bonuses and do not have the right to hold national office.

**Institutional:** Institutions or departments involved with art education. Provides the basic publication and discount benefits of membership, as well as a subscription to the quarterly Studies in Art Education, eligibility for Art Honor Society sponsorship and one registration to the NAEA

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Membership dues include \$25 for a member subscription to Art Education and \$15 for a member subscription to NAEA News. A separate rate is established for non-member subscriptions.

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