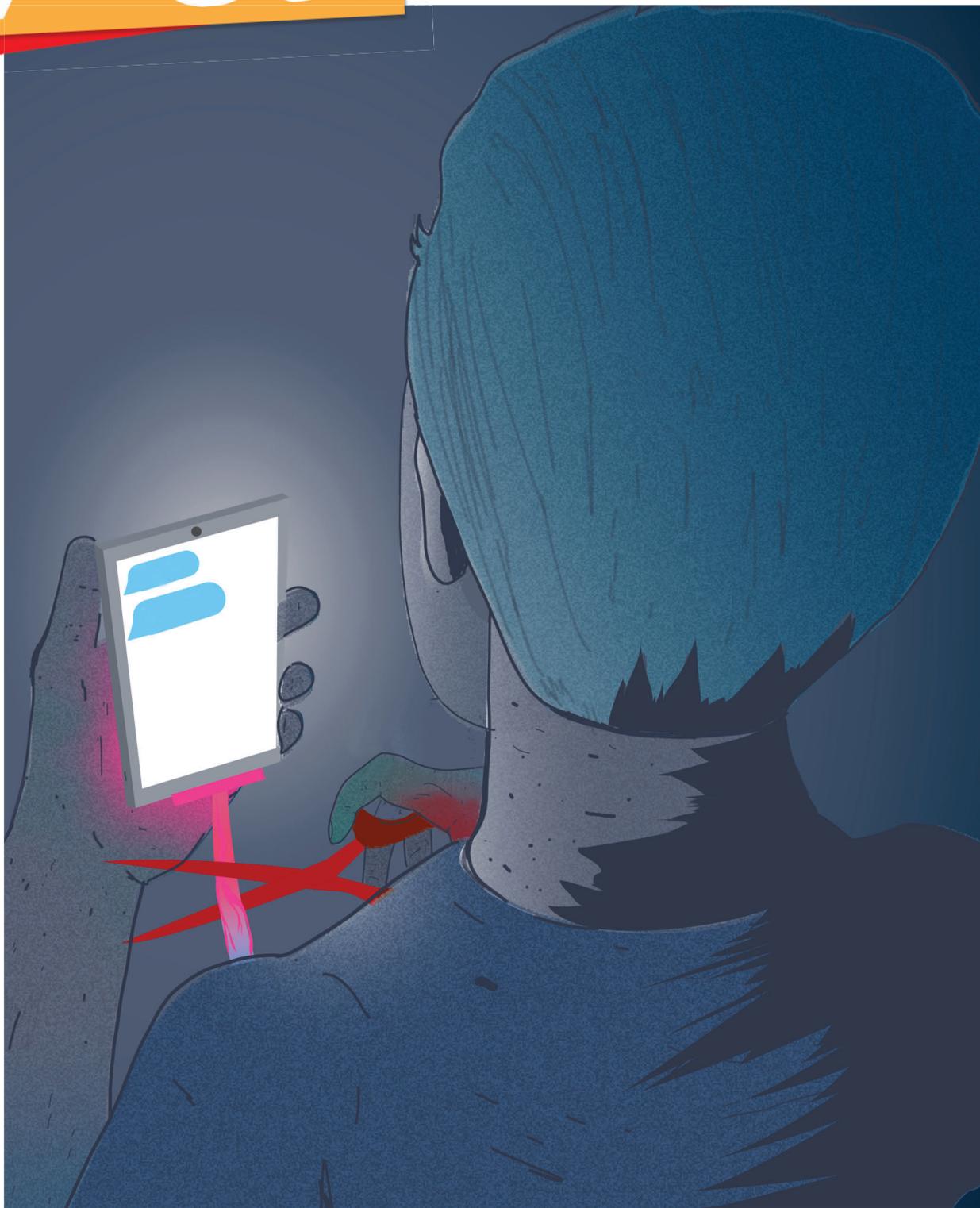


Winter 2020

Virginia **art** Education Association

vaea



Randa, 12th grade, Clover Hill High School, Jamie Barnett

# Connections

# vaea

## Our mission

is to promote, support and advance visual arts education through leadership, professional development and service.

## The VAEA News Magazine

is a publication of the Virginia Art Education Association, and is distributed to members three times a year: January, June and September.

## Articles

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

## Contact Information

See page 26.

## Student Art

Members send submissions directly to Susan Silva, News Magazine Editor at [news magazine.vaea@gmail.com](mailto:news magazine.vaea@gmail.com)

## Vendors

wishing to advertise should contact Peggy Wood, Executive Secretary, at [wood.vaea@gmail.com](mailto:wood.vaea@gmail.com)

## Submission Deadlines

**Winter Issue:** December 15

**Spring/Summer Issue:** March 15

**Fall/Conference Issue:** July 15

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@vaarted



@VAartED



Martina, 10th grade, Riverside High School, Augusta Dadiago

# President's Message

by Linda Conti



Moving toward the end of the calendar year, our theme for this winter newsletter is "Connections". We are fortunate in Virginia to have so many active connections in the art education field. We have support and participation from Virginia's Department of Education, Virginia Commission for the Arts, Virginians for the Arts, Coalition for Fine Arts Education, and more. Our higher education members work with our pre-service members, as do our retirees. The recent conference in Harrisonburg brought us all together to make new connections and leave us inspired to teach others.

As my final article for a VAEA newsletter, I would like to introduce you all to your new president, Holly Bess Kincaid. She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the job, and I know that you will all treasure her as I do. Holly Bess teaches in Harrisonburg Public Schools, at Skyline Middle School. She recently served on the VAEA Board as Middle Division Director and was elected Secretary two years before. Her talent at social media led me to appoint her as Social Media Director for VAEA, a job she has done beautifully. She came to Virginia a long time ago, and even served on the VAEA board as Middle Division Director back in 2004-2006. She left us for Texas and was active with the Texas Art asso-

ciation. She grew up in West Virginia and received her BFA from West Virginia University in 1994.

She continued her studies with time at New York University, Morgantown, WV; George Mason University, Fairfax, VA; Glassell School MFAH, Houston, TX; University of Virginia, Distance Learning; Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN; Radford University, and South Charleston, WV. She attended the NAEA School for Art Leaders in the Class of 2018. Now she is working as a mentor to the SAL Class of 2019.



Holly Bess presents at every Virginia conference with great ideas on how to use technology with students, or classroom management skills. She also presents at the NAEA conferences with the national Middle level team. Holly Bess has been the SE Region's Middle Division Director and has attended the last few SE Leadership conferences. She is a strong team member, a capable leader and a very creative person. We are lucky to have her step to take the helm. Welcome to the Presidency, Holly Bess.

*Victoria, 7th grade, St. Francis Assisi School, Linda Hess*

# Vice-President's Message

by Sarah Warner

Art educators from around the state and beyond came together November 7th through 9th for our annual professional development conference in Harrisonburg, Virginia. "Threads" was an appropriate theme as it represented not only an emphasis on textile art, but also the idea of threads connecting us together as an organization.



the local logistics to make sure each conference attendee would have a conference experience to remember.

As I end my term as vice-president, I would like to thank all the VAEA members who have helped make this time possible. I appreciate all the connections I have made in my last 10 years serving on the regional and state board. The connections I have made professionally and personally are what I will treasure from my experience.

Although I am a "behind the scenes" type of person, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with each region and the VAEA board. I have had the pleasure of working with your new vice-president, Cheryl Miehl when she was the local regional president during our conference in Northern Virginia. Having worked with Cheryl, I know you will be in excellent hands for upcoming conferences.



Mykah, 12, Varina High School, Dawn Vass

Putting together a state conference is a large effort. Much gratitude is to be given to our local conference chair, Karin Tollefson-Hall. Under Karin's leadership, a collaboration between VAEA and James Madison University (years in

the making) culminated in a successful conference. Also, a tremendous thank you to our local region, Blue Ridge. Blue Ridge Region members worked hard on

Check out the  
VAEA Conference  
Photo Gallery  
at

[vaea.org](http://vaea.org)



Blake, 10th grade, Kettle Run High School, Tisha Burke

# Virginia Department of Education

by Kelly A. Bisogno

In March 2019, the Virginia Board of Education approved the timeline and process for the review and revision of the Fine Arts Standards of Learning. Since that time, the Department of Education has worked with committees of teachers and curriculum specialists, as well as external stakeholders to propose revisions to the 2013 Fine Arts Standards of Learning.



There were 3 major goals of the review:

- Improve alignment to the 5 Cs that are part of the profile of a Virginia Graduate: Creative thinking skills, critical thinking skills, communication skills, collaboration skills, and citizenship skills.
- Carefully consider ways the standards promote culturally responsive instruction in fine arts.
- Evaluate the impact and evolving role of technology and innovation on the fine arts disciplines.

Here is the timeline of the events that will happen next, as well as several ways to become involved:

On January 23, 2020, the proposed revised Fine Arts Standards of Learning were presented for first review to the Virginia Board of Education (BOE). The drafts of the proposed revised Fine Arts Standards of Learning will be made available on the Department of Education website at [doe.virginia.gov](http://doe.virginia.gov). There will be an opportunity for public comment through Sunday, March 1, 2020. Teachers, students, specialists, and the general public are invited to submit comment on the proposed revised Visual Arts Standards of Learning to [visualartSOL@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:visualartSOL@doe.virginia.gov).

For additional information about the proposed revised Fine Arts Standards of Learning, please contact Kelly A. Bisogno, Coordinator of Fine Arts, by email at [Kelly.Bisogno@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Kelly.Bisogno@doe.virginia.gov).

# Advocacy

by Michael Gettings

## Not A Spectator Sport

The Hunchback of Notre Dame once said, "Life's not a spectator sport. If watchin' is all you're gonna do, then you're gonna watch your life go by without ya".



Because you are reading this, it is clear you are not the Hunchback or a mere spectator. You are a person that is forward looking and action driven.

Act now by making connections with the Virginia General Assembly. They are getting ready to pass a number of laws, some which will directly affect you. Search the proposed laws by going to the Virginia Legislation Information System: <http://bit.ly/VALIS2020>. You can also sign up for alerts using the Legislative Tracking Service

[http://bit.ly/VaLIS\\_SignUp](http://bit.ly/VaLIS_SignUp)

Next, write or email your legislator.

**BE SURE YOU WRITE OR CALL ON YOUR OWN TIME AND NOT USING WORK TIME, EMAIL, PHONE, ETC.**

Check in at [VCFAE.org](http://VCFAE.org) for latest legislative alerts.

- Make connections in your local district; write your mayor and city council.
- Connect to organizations like the PTA/PTSO and local businesses.
- Connect to a colleague who is not a VAEA member and give this magazine to them so they can see the awesome group that is working for them. Encourage them to join the VAEA.
- Give this magazine to your administration and school board members – especially when you have your kids' artwork in the magazine.

*continued on Page 25*

# Archives

Anne-Marie Slinkman



As the New Year approaches, I am preparing to step down as your VAEA Archivist. It has been an honor to serve on this board for the past four years. I am excited to introduce to you your new Archivist, Jessica Beach. Jess is no stranger to the board and is returning to serve in this new role after a two-year absence.

Before I leave, I want to remind you about the VAEA “Legends and Legacies” project. If you have not visited the website recently, I encourage you to explore these interviews published on the site. The “Legends and Legacies” project, organized by the VAEA fellows, has been developed to document the significant contributions of prominent Virginia art educators. Interviews with the following VAEA members can be found on the website.

## Legends and Legacies

- Ann Dearsley-Vernon*
- Barbara Laws*
- Betty Tisinger*
- Chuck Bleick*
- Dennis Winston*
- Kirstie Hein Sadler*
- Michael Gettings*
- Peggy Wood*
- Pam Taylor*
- Pat Franklin*
- Patsy Parker*
- Pearl Quick*
- Ray Yoder*
- Robin Goble*
- Roger Tomhave*
- Sam Banks*
- Sara Joyner*
- Sarah Matthews*
- Terry Adams*
- Tiffany Floyd*

# Awards

by Meghan Hamm



On November 9, 2019, we celebrated with an Awards Brunch to recognize this year’s award winners. We had a wonderful group of nominees this year!

There are many awards recognized by VAEA and NAEA and you can find them in the awards section of each of those websites. We have many people deserving of the many awards honored and I hope you take a look to see if you know someone you can nominate. There is an adjudication process at the regional and state levels using a rubric to assess nominations of all categories. Your Vita is key to this process and I encourage each of you to document all the wonderful things you do with your school, outside organizations, VAEA, and NAEA.

### Art Educator of the Year

This year’s Art Educator of the Year has been deserving of this Award for some time. It shouldn’t be a surprise, but it is amazing Patricia Franklin took time away from NAEA and VAEA leadership roles to receive an honor she earned many years ago. It’s been over 10 years since Pat Franklin has been honored for her work in Virginia and we are honored to have her as this year’s recipient!

As the Newport News Public Schools Visual and Performing Arts Supervisor, Newport News, Virginia, Pat established a districtwide arts festival and summer institutes for students, revised



Linda Conti, Patricia Franklin, Scott Russell

curriculum to enhance art education, and established professional development to support art educators. She works collaboratively with regional and state counterparts to advance the quality of art education.

Pat served as VAEA's President for two terms, NAEA's President-Elect, President, and Past President, and advocated for the arts with organizations at the national level. As VAEA President and Past President, Pat represented VAEA at the NAEA Delegates' Assembly and served on the NAEA committee to review Art Teacher Preparation Standards. She led the charge to align VAEA practices and policy to guide the organization into the future. As NAEA's President, Pat chaired the NAEA Professional Materials Committee, formed the NAEA Leadership Task Force which recommended a number of strategies and leadership development programs, including the School for Art Leaders. As an Arts advocate, Pat has participated in the National Advocacy Day to influence the national leaders of the importance of arts education and worked with other art educators to promote quality arts education in Virginia as part of the Virginia Coalition for Fine Arts Education.

### NAEA Southeastern Region Nominees

I would like to recognize the following VAEA 2018 State Award recipients who have been put forth to represent Virginia in the NAEA Southeastern Region adjudication process. We will let you know the awardees as soon as we know!

- Helena Agnew, Secondary Division
- Michele Kelly, Elementary Division
- Pamela Lawton, COMC J. Eugene Grigsby, Jr. Award
- Scott Russell, SE Art Educator Award
- Justin Sutters, SE Region Higher Education Art Educator
- Courtnie Wolfgang, National Higher Education Art Educator

### Elementary

VAEA applauds each of you for your work with our tiny young artists. Thank you for teaching these students the skills and knowledge to love and appreciate art with every fiber of their being.

The Regional Winners:

- Amanda Dulaney (Southwest)
- Julia Schickel (Northern Virginia)
- Karen Siler (Central)
- Jessica Westman (Blue Ridge)

### Elementary Art Educator of the Year

Julia Schickel is a National Board Certified Teacher with degrees from Calvin College, Kent State University, and George Mason University. She is an active participant in the NAEA and VAEA, serving on the Northern Virginia



Linda Conti, Julia Schickel, Lee Darter

Regional board twice. She also participates by presenting workshops, working on various committees and attending conferences. Julia Schickel is an advocate and leader of the arts for her school and community. In 2017, she was a coordinator of the U.S. Department of Education's Fairfax County Public Schools Art Exhibit, *The World Through My Eyes*. Julia is a Changing Education Through the Arts (CETA) teacher with years of work with the Kennedy Center. She coordinated CETA programs in her school to support other teachers integrate the arts into math, language arts, science, and social studies. She is known as the "Art teacher's teacher" because she supports the advancement of other teachers in the classroom.

### Middle School

The VAEA applauds these art educators for teaching the most challenging population of students how to take ownership in their creative process and encourage critical analysis to prepare them for secondary and life. Honestly, I don't know how you do it!

Middle School Regional Winners:

- Elizabeth O'Neill (Northern Virginia)
- Samantha Ritter (Blue Ridge)
- Elizabeth Tumilty (Tidewater)

# Division News

## ELEMENTARY

Lee Darter

I have served on the VAEA board for the past 4 years; first as the art advocacy chair and now as the elementary chair. I have also participated as a member of the Youth Art Month committee for the last 6 years. I must say the experiences I have had and the people I have met through my time on the VAEA board have been amazing. I would highly recommend spending time on the board if you get the chance. You may have to step out of your comfort zone like I did, but it is well worth the effort. Getting involved within your VAEA regional groups is a great place to start making new and lasting connections.

It has been an honor to serve on the board these past few years. The connections I have made with other art teachers and artists from around the state are priceless. Many of the connections I made have turned into close and lasting friendships. I truly value all the people I have met and appreciate the wisdom and advice I have received from each and every one of you. I think the most valuable thing I will take away from this experience is how much we all love teaching art and that our students are our top priorities. As elementary art teachers, I think it is our job to get kids excited about art and help foster their ability to think creatively. We do this not just to create art in the classroom but to have more creative people in world so whatever they choose to do in life will be made better.

When we meet-up at conference each year I can see and feel the excitement we each have for the opportunity to learn and grow together. As we gather and prepare new information to take back to our classrooms, we are at our best when connecting with each other. We bring home to our little artists, new and exciting lessons, mediums and ideas from all our conference connections. All those smiling faces, just waiting for you to return and show them new projects. No matter what else happens during a child's day they will all go home at night and tell their parents and loved ones what they did in art class. You have the power to reach so many young minds and share the importance of art and creative thinking. What a wonderful position we all have, to be able to reach so many who will create so much. Just think how important it is for children to be



creative and express themselves. You have the ability to make that happen. In the

end, you will not remember the times a child was talking while you were giving instructions or that time a student broke his pencil in half, but you will always remember the times when a child showed you they were able to shade correctly or understood the concept of perspective drawing or even when they told you they saw a Monet on an umbrella. I believe that elementary art is about sharing your own personal excitement for painting, drawing and clay and all the other wonderful things we get to show our students every single day. Show up to work and just let your light shine and always work to pull out every ounce of creative expression your students have to offer. You may be the very reason a child comes to school each day. You may even be the spark that guides their future endeavors.

As I move on to other exciting adventures and opportunities, I leave you in the in the most capable hands of Sean Murphy. I know Sean will be an amazing elementary division leader and I am so excited to hear about all the new ideas he will bring to the table.

*Let's all work together on the FIRST FRIDAY OF MARCH to show our legislators, policymakers and the rest of the world art is an important part of education in Virginia.*

*On the first Friday in March take a photo of the art you or your students are working on. Then simply share it with the world*

*#artacrossva20*

*on Instagram, Twitter or Facebook, or on the VAEA Facebook Page.*

*Art Across Virginia Day is for anyone. If you paint, teach, create, work in the art industry or a museum or if you simply just enjoy looking at art. Please join us on March 6, 2020 by taking a photo of the art you are creating.*

*Get others involved as well, all you have to do is post a photo!*

# MIDDLE

Holly Bess Kincaid



Connections to others is vital to our roles as artists, teachers and community members.

I am thankful for all the educators who have shared their knowledge, classroom tricks and innovative ideas with me over the years. Whether gathering together at VAEA or NAEA Conferences or online through social platforms.

I believe each of us strives for excellence in our classrooms, ways to enrich our programs, and how to improve our practice to better reach our students. Over the last few years I have been inspired by so many of you who have shared your tips and tricks along the way. During the winter months, I find it a wonderful time to reflect on the past year and how

*"Art helps us see connections & brings a more coherent meaning to our world."  
- Earnest Boyer, President, Carnegie Foundation*

to make improvements for the year ahead. I encourage each of you to think about your best practices and how you can share those tips with others.

We are fortunate to have many art educators who have served our organization and shared through VAEA. With the new year we are welcoming a few new individuals who are willing to offer their time and expertise in the next few years on our board. With great confidence and enthusiasm I would like to introduce our new VAEA Middle Division Chair Kirstie Hein-Sadler who teaches at Binford Middle School in Richmond,

Virginia. She has over twenty years of experience and has a wealth of experience in arts integration. In 2018 she was recognized as the NAEA Southeastern Middle Division Educator of the Year.

Asked why she thought teaching art in middle school was important she answered: "It is so important because it's a space where they can just relax and be themselves. It gives them opportunity for creative expression which they might not get anywhere else. It exposes them to a bigger world but also where you can see connections about what's going on in society with art. It's rich, and it gives them tools that they're losing with technology- like tactile making." We each have a unique story or response to why we feel the middle school is important. I would love to hear why you CHOOSE the Middle and feel it is important to a child's creative development? Please share your response on Facebook with the VAEA Member Forum or on Instagram/Twitter @vaarted #vaarted



Mia, Clover Hill High School, Meredith Snyder

VAEA LEGENDS  
&  
LEGACIES  
at  
vaea.org

# Division News

continued

## SECONDARY

Meredith Snyder



Our theme for the VAEA winter newsletter is “connections,” which seems very fit considering we just finished with an amazing state conference in Harrisonburg, Virginia, where I know several of us made those good connections and reunited with old art educator buddies from across the state. It was a time to rejuvenate, reconnect, learn new ideas and come back to the classroom feeling refreshed.

The conference was not only a time for us to connect but to also celebrate and recognize great talent and leadership amongst our own. The VAEA was very proud to honor Dr. Matthew Ravenstahl as the Virginia Secondary Division Art Educator of the year. Dr. Ravenstahl teaches at South Lakes High School and is described as “nothing short of a rock star” by his fellow co-worker Susan Silva.

On a personal note I want to thank Helena Agnew for

passing the Secondary Division Leadership torch to me two years ago. I had taken a break from the VAEA for a while for child rearing reasons and was really eager



*Elia, 11, Auburn High School, Dianna Hale*



*Julie, 11, John Champe High School, Regina Butler*

to jump back into a leadership position. I am grateful to the VAEA for always welcoming me back with open arms. I also appreciate that the VAEA is constantly looking for new leadership and ways to connect to the next generation of art educators.

On that note, I'd like to introduce everyone to my successor, Rachel Principe.

Rachel moved here a few years ago from Knoxville, Tennessee, where she got her Master's in Education. She is currently part of the leadership team at Clover Hill High School and just completed her administration degree at the University of Richmond this past Fall. She currently teaches Art I, Art II and Advanced Placement Art History. Rachel is all about making connections with other leaders and educators in Virginia, and I can't think of a better person for this position.

Thanks again for everyone's support. I have really enjoyed being your division leader and I look forward to seeing everyone next Fall in Virginia Beach for the VAEA conference.

# HIGHER EDUCATION

Roger Tomhave



As the Higher Education Division representative to the VAEA Board it is my honor to recognize the newly appointed Higher Education representative to the Board of the VAEA, Dr. Karin Tollefson-Hall, Associate Professor of Art Education at James Madison University.

Professor Tollefson-Hall is the Art Education Area Coordinator at James Madison University. In addition to administrative and assessment duties, Professor Tollefson-Hall teaches a variety of undergraduate and graduate art education courses including secondary methods, art criticism, contemporary issues in art education, studio methods in the schools, practicums, and student teaching supervision. In conjunction with the secondary methods practicum Professor Tollefson-Hall coordinates practicum experiences of secondary art education students at local retirement communities supporting life-long learning and outreach in the arts. She has published an article and book chapter on the experiences of her students work in intergenerational service learning. For VAEA she just completed an appointment as the Blue Ridge Region President and site chair of the 2019 conference in collaboration with JMU. Professor Tollefson-Hall is currently the Southeast Region Higher Education Division Director for NAEA. She previously served on the editorial board of the journal *Art Education*, and is a member of the Professional Learning through Research subcommittee of the Research Council. For six years Professor Tollefson-Hall served as an American Fellowship juror for the American Association of University Women, which provides funding for women completing doctoral research and early career professionals.

Professor Tollefson-Hall's teaching and research interests

focus on contemplative practice, educational philosophy, diverse pedagogies, and teaching practice.

Her research has documented art instruction and educational philosophy at various alternative school settings including homeschooling, Waldorf schools, parochial schools of several denominations and a transcendental meditation school. Other areas of specialization include qualitative research methods and book arts. Professor Tollefson-Hall is co-director of the Book Arts Minor at JMU and co-creator of a limited-edition chapbook commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Furious Flower Poetry Center, *Swaying in Wicked Grace*. The chapbook features handmade paper covers and binding, letter pressed poems from 25 African American poets, and block prints

designed by JMU students and faculty. She has presented over thirty sessions at state, regional, and national level art education conferences. Professor Tollefson-Hall earned her B.A. in Art Education at the University of Northern Iowa, and her M.A. Art Education and in Ph.D. Teaching and Learning at University of Iowa.

It has been my honor and privilege to have served as the Higher Education Representative to the Board since 2011 and I leave with many fond memories, lifelong colleagues and friends, a sense of accomplishments both large and small, and the knowledge that Higher Education across Virginia is in the best of hands with the appointment of my friend and colleague, Dr. Karin Tollefson-Hall.



*Bryce, 12, Christainsburg High School, Carrie Lyons*

# Division News

continued

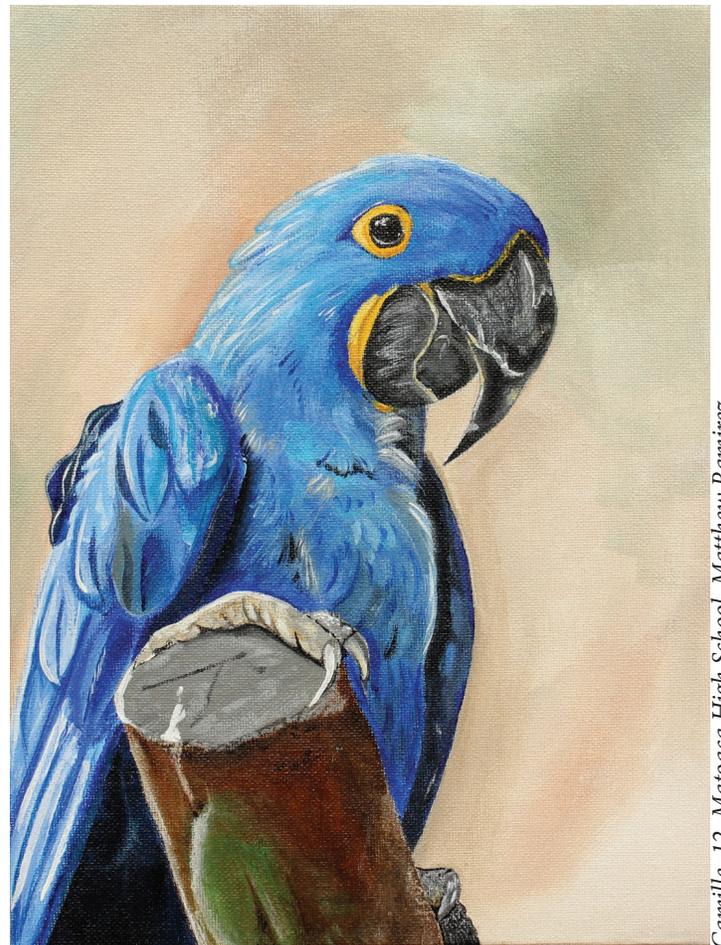
## Museum Education

Truly Matthews

VAEA would like to welcome Cody Long as our new Museum Education Division Director. Cody Long is the School and Teacher Programs Coordinator at the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk, Virginia. As a former teacher and administrator, Cody believes field trips and community partnerships with schools are essential to ensuring student success. Cody is passionate about collecting and using data to improve school and museum partnerships and bolster arts advocacy work, especially in order to reach underserved populations. Through his work at the Chrysler Museum, Cody has worked to explore culturally responsive behavior management outside the classroom and talking about race during school tours. Prior to coming to the Chrysler Museum, Cody was the founding Bilingual Art and Theatre teacher and Director of Student Life at DC International School in Washington, DC. He is a proud Teach for America alumnus.



Collin, 8, Staunton River School, Marine Gobbie Levine



Camille, 12, Matoaca High School, Matthew Ramirez

Surrender, Clover Hill High School, Meredith Snyder



# SUPERVISION

Mike Kalafatis

## Art Teachers Needed Statewide

There is an art teacher shortage in our school divisions, especially in lower socioeconomic areas. Educational leaders at the state and division levels, along with higher education programs, need to continue evaluating and brainstorming better teacher recruitment strategies, and spread the message to student teachers and career switchers as to how they can get hired.

The Department of Education has a list of critical shortage areas that starts with Special Education, Elementary Education PreK-6, and Career and Technical Education. Visual Arts positions are still not on the list of top ten most needed, however the national and statewide shortage has begun to affect the arts, even in areas where there has traditionally been a strong university to K-12 pipeline.

Each year there are not enough licensed graduates coming out of Virginia programs to fill the number of art openings. Even in Northern and Central Virginia, where many university programs have a strong presence, the number of highly qualified candidates has lessened in the past few years.

In Fairfax alone, with 380 art teachers total, they annually hire around 30 art teachers a year.

Andrew Watson shared that the area's difficulty finding strong candidates is partly due to Virginia being a net importer of art teachers and the national shortage effecting states like Pennsylvania and New York, from where they used to hire many teachers.

Chris Buhner notes that there is a lack of licensed and qualified teachers available for interviews now in the tidewater area as well. Recently, Chris met with the lead teacher at the ODU Art Teacher program and they are going to schedule two days where he can visit Virginia Beach's 11 high schools and go to see the upper-level classes for 15 to 20 minutes to promote becoming an art teacher in the area and state.

Universities and the VDOE have begun to streamline requirements and lower educational costs. Many school districts have resorted to long-term substitutes and teachers who are provisionally licensed, meaning they haven't fully completed teacher preparation pro-

grams.

Many higher education programs are looking at strategies that will allow undergraduates to have classroom experiences earlier.

In some areas, students pursuing degrees are placed in classrooms alongside a mentor. Also, universities are exploring ways to shorten their masters' programs, and offer more online opportunities so less debt is incurred. Most universities statewide are continuing to assess how effectively they are preparing teachers to work with students from marginalized communities, including those who may face stress born from poverty.

School divisions are looking more and more outside their region. According to the Washington Post, Fairfax has started recruiting teachers earlier in the year and, to diversify the candidate pool, has extended efforts to historically black colleges and universities, Puerto Rico and states with higher populations of Hispanic residents. Also, general programs like Virginia Teachers for Tomorrow Program, which generally aim to attract students to the field of education could help bolster the supply of teachers.

Each fall, Roger Tomhave from JMU and arts administrators from around the state host a question and answer roundtable at the VAEA Conference. These sessions provide some invaluable hiring tips from district supervisors to prospective candidates.

Chris Buhner: "Candidates should communicate directly with district arts administrators, or HR curriculum representatives in smaller divisions who can offer pre-interviews on the phone, or a screening interview in-person (including district job-fairs). Coordinators in most districts can assist Principals with lists of highly qualified candidates. Developing a relationship with a coordinator or administrator early will help them advocate on your behalf. Dress professionally for the interview. Come prepared to show your artwork, images of student work and lesson plans/units. Be up to speed on national trends in art education. Be prepared to answer questions on classroom management. Be prepared to tell a principal how you can support the

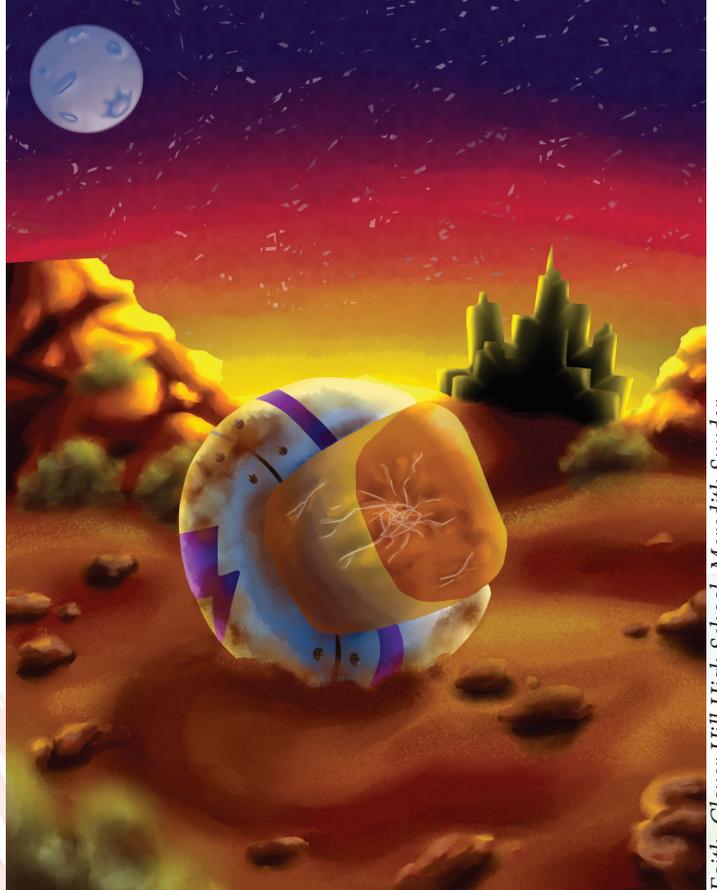


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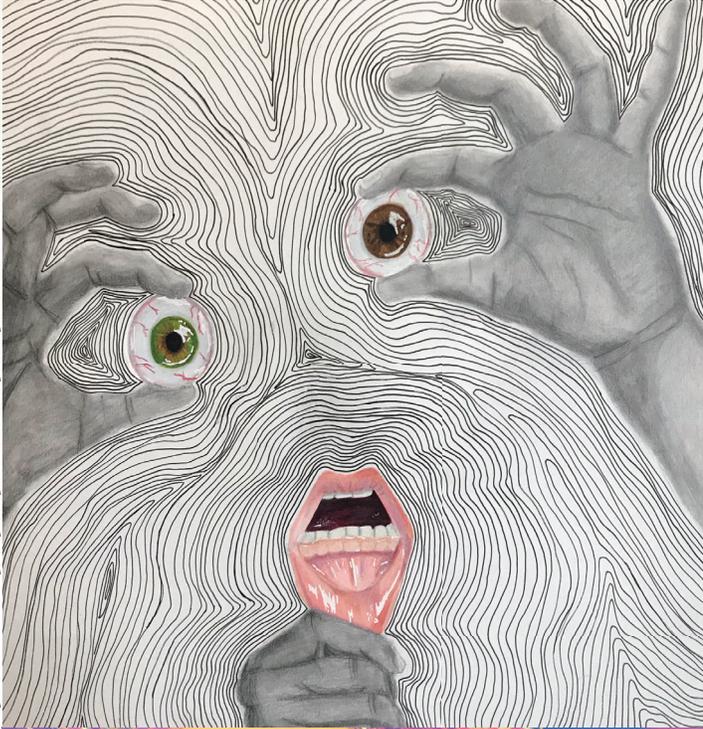
# Connections



Anders, 12, Clover Hill High School, Jaime Barnett



Faith, Clover Hill High School, Meredith Snyder



Lexi, 11, John Champe High School, Regina Butler

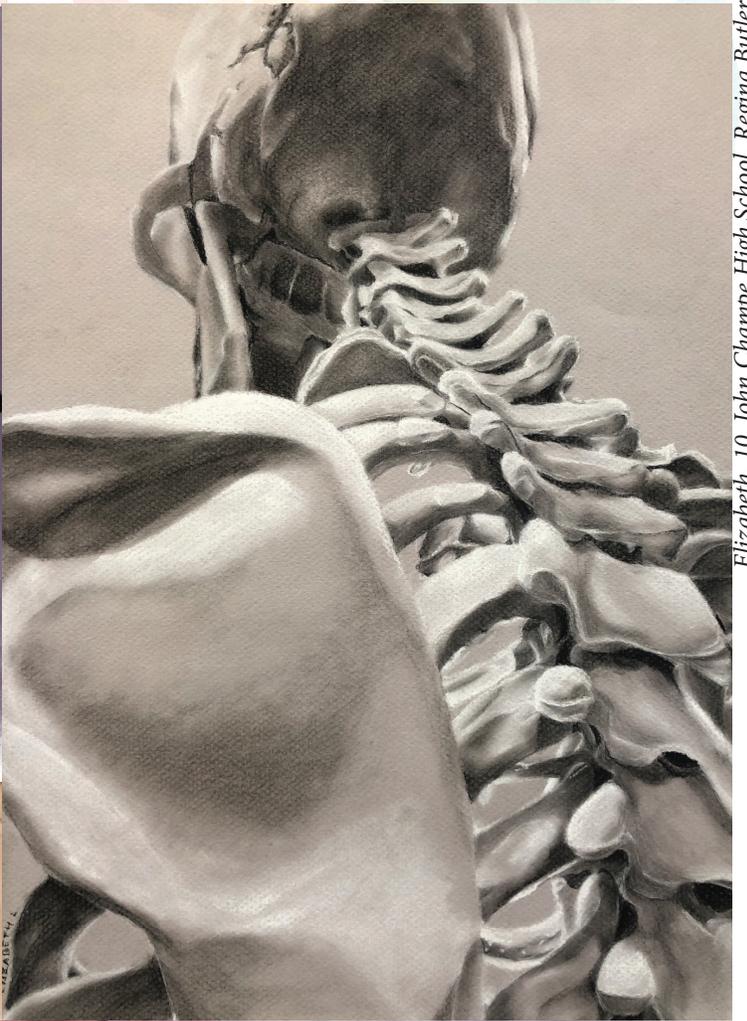


Erika, 12, Burton Center for Arts and Technology, Natalie Strum

Ananti, 11, John Champe High School, Regina Butler

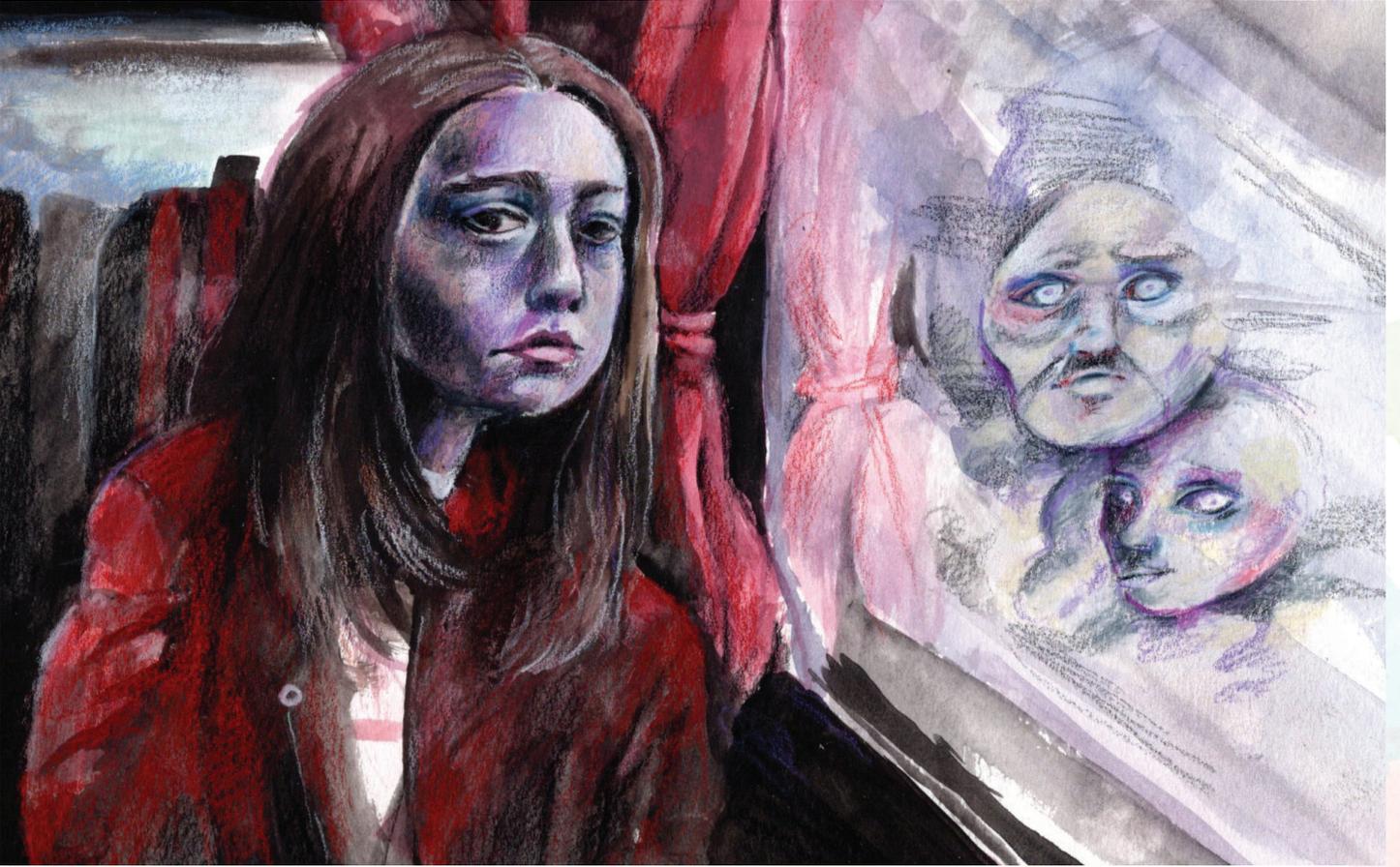


Alex, 12, Varrina High School, Dawn Vass



Elizabeth, 10, John Champe High School, Regina Butler

Peyton, 11, Kettle Run High School, Tisha Burke



# Membership

Patsy Parker



Approximately half of the VAEA membership trekked uphill or downhill to congregate in the gob-smacking Shenandoah Valley for the annual state conference nestled amidst the JMU campus. Blue Ridge Region had been planning our event for two years and the increase in their membership indicates the conference was a good investment for planners and attendees. In my Board Report for September 21, 2019 the Blue Ridge Region had 131 members. Once everything was all packed up and we headed for home, the BRRers attending the conference was an astonishing 127 with 14 new members. For two and a half days, we all reveled in reconnecting with each other from across the state. We have such vibrant kinships that when just meet up once a year, it seems like just last week when we were all together. We greeted each other with joyous hugs and later said our goodbyes with lingering hugs of friendships new, infused or rekindled.

If you were unable to be there, you missed is what I refer to as “The Family Reunion.” What we take for granted is the electricity of who we are...the colorful, creative cousins. We celebrate our unique profession with generosity by sharing our problem-solving capabilities resulting in amazing sessions, spectacular guest speakers and fulfilling workshops.

Next year you will be able to wriggle your toes in the sands of Virginia Beach. We rotate the locations amongst the five VAEA regions to give all the membership the opportunity to attend and present sessions and workshops. If you felt that the 2019 conference program had nothing to offer you...as a veteran art educator, it may be time for you to step up and take a leadership role. Please consider sharing your depth of knowledge, classroom practice and techniques. It is very gratifying experience that you may want / need to revisit each fall. If you

feel timid about presenting at state, please volunteer to lead a regional session / workshop to start. Nowhere is it written that you must do this alone...find a co-presenter.

Contact your regional president listed in the back of this news magazine for details.

Now for the not-so-veteran art educator, making plans to attend professional development opportunities is difficult strategically and financially



for many of us. Please take a moment to go to vaea.org and print the Letter of Encouragement (found in the Conference section) written by Linda Conti for you to utilize the talking points located there when stating your case with your school administrators. By hesitating, you may be too late for professional leave and funding that may have been ear marked for others. Start your plan now for the 2020-2021 school year. Make those relationships!

Kate, 2, Old Donation School, Leigh Drake

# Research

Dr. Pam Lawton



This is my last column as the Research and Curriculum representative for VAEA. I have enjoyed my three years of service connecting with members of the board and the many talented and hardworking members of VAEA. This column serves as an introduction to my VCU colleague and successor, Dr. Yi Wen Wei.

Dr. Wei recently completed her PhD in art education at Florida State University. She conducted her dissertation research with art educators in the Richmond area examining the issue of social class in art education through a comparative case study. In 2017-18 she received an NAEF grant to support her research.

Originally from Taiwan, Dr. Wei is interested in the interplay between Western and Non-Western educational and cultural systems. In her role as the Director of International Affairs in the World Chinese Arts Education Association (WCAEA) she hopes to facilitate the exchange of art education theories and practices between the U.S., China and other Asian countries.

Ironically, I first met Yi Wen during the fall VAEA Board meeting at the Pauley Center at the VMFA! She was interning for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and seeking Richmond area teachers for her research. We met shortly after the Chloe sculpture by artist Jaume Plensa was installed on the grounds of the VMFA.

Please join me in welcoming Yi Wen to the board.



*Pam Lawton, Yi Wen in VMFA Garden*

# Retiree News

GINNA CULLEN



Many of VAEA's retired educators attended The VAEA conference in Harrisonburg this year. Thank you, JMU and everyone on the conference committee for making this one of the best.

For retirees, it is critical to attend the yearly VAEA conference if we want to keep up with what is happening in our profession. So many of us are still involved in the arts and are making significant contributions. We are on various committees, making and exhibiting our artwork, teaching art classes, offering workshops and professional development opportunities, just to mention a few.

Another benefit of attending the conference is the chance to reconnect with old friends. All of us are so busy; living rather far from each other, that meeting at the conference is a gift. Also, unexpected opportunities can occur. While talking with Carla Jaranson at the conference, she agreed to co-chair the retiree position with me next year. With both of us working together, I have high hopes that we will be able to connect and use the talents of more retirees.

I also was able to have a long conversation with Lynn Hilton Conyers. Lynn retired from teaching at Waynesboro High School teaching three-dimensional art and photography in 2007. Since her retirement she has presented programs such as, "Artists in the Schools" using local artists and teaming with art educators (K-12) to run workshops resulting in a student exhibition at the SVAC professional gallery.

She has taught classes at the Governors School of the Fine Arts including raku, photography, fiber arts and metal enameling.

Lynn is a tireless artist/educator, having served multiple times on the boards of the VAEA and BRVAEA, teaching at several colleges and at her studio, making art, and exhibiting constantly in numerous galleries throughout Virginia. Congratulations, Lynn, you make all of us proud.

# Regional Messages

## BLUE RIDGE

Karin Tollefson-Hall



Winter Greetings to the Blue Ridge Region! I am writing with deep gratitude for the hours spent in preparation, execution, and closure of the 2019 VAEA conference in Harrisonburg. “Threads” was highly successful as a result of the collective energy of all who volunteered, donated, and assisted the conference. A special thanks is extended to those who chaired or co-chaired a committee for conference; your leadership was invaluable to ensuring all the elements of the conference went smoothly. (Committee chairs & co-chairs; Jess Beach, Jauan Brooks, Sherri Ciszek, Melissa Combs, Lynn Conyers, Malea Gascho, Jess Herr, Holly Bess Kincaid, Beth Lint, Kate Nesmith, Emily Quesenberry, Cindy Redmon, Liz Reid, Carleigh Rittenhouse, Kelley Shradley-Horst, Andrea Stuart, Roger Tomhave, Sarah Waldrop, and Bill Wightman.)

We were excited to recognize award recipients at all divisions this year. Please congratulate our Blue Ridge Art Educators of the Year; Jessica Westman from Frederick Douglas Elementary School, Samantha Ritter from Montevideo Middle School, and Emily Quesenberry from Stuarts Draft High School. It is never too early to start nominating your colleagues for the 2020 awards.

Only members can be nominated, so if you know an amazing teacher who is not a member of NAEA encourage them to join and be recognized in the future. A short nomination packet listing your teaching and leadership achievements plus two letters of support are all that’s needed.

Please join me in welcoming your new Blue Ridge President, Liz Reid! Liz graciously stepped up as the candidate for special election after my interim term. Lastly, I am sending a special thank you to the BR officers, Beth Lint (Vice-President), Melissa Combs (Secretary), and Lynn Conyers (Treasurer) for all of their work planning and implementing our regional Professional Development workshops as well as chairing conference committees.



# CENTRAL

Julie Crowder



Creating and maintaining connections is half of our job as art teachers and the job of all of us as a Art Education Association members. We work hard to find ways to connect with one another and facilitate more connections for you in our region. This year we are offering art educators in the Central Region three opportunities to make great connections. The three opportunities are: The Art Educator as Artist show, our 2020 mini conference, and our annual Piankatank retreat.

In an effort to show the connection between students, teachers and inspiration, we are changing the format of the Art Educator show to visually demonstrate the

story of mutual inspiration between art educators and their students. The show is at Artworks Studio this year, and runs from January 10-18, with a reception on January 10th. Students and Educators are both invited to the reception. Written descriptions of the ways students inspire us will be shown with the artwork. These descriptions will serve as a bridge between the work of the art teacher and their student's work. I hope you come and check it out.

To further the connection between art teachers and to facilitate our professional growth in the Central Region, we will be holding a Mini Conference on February 22nd at the VMFA. We are inviting people who want to present to sign up via our weebly: <http://cvaea.weebly.com/> and are inviting art teachers to sign up to attend the conference in the same way. I know I will see many familiar faces there, and hopefully a few new ones.

To create personal and creative connections between art teachers, CVAEA will also hold our Piankatank retreat in May. As usual, we begin the weekend by eating Oysters at a local restaurant, right on the Piankatank River. Art teachers are invited to come and bring a bisque-fired work of clay to fire in the Raku kiln, plus any type of fabric item from shirts to shawls to shibori dye while bonding with other art teachers. Singing around the campfire and roasting marshmallows may wind up on the agenda. We do plein air painting, and everyone brings art materials to work on and chat in the evenings before turning in for the night in our camp style beds. It is camp, but for art teachers! Sign up to attend on our weebly <http://cvaea.weebly.com/>

I hope everyone is creating and fostering deep connections with family and friends during your winter break and will come back ready to foster and create connections with CVAEA.



*Destiny, 11, Matoaca, Matthew Ramirez*

# Regional Messages

continued



communicating. We stretch our 5C skills, and then return home exhausted to recoup in our pajamas until Monday comes!

## NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Julie Galvin

What a great theme to follow the VAEA Conference! Every year we look forward to the VAEA conference as a time to connect with other art educators. We spend time with those like-minded people who “get us” and allow us to strengthen the proverbial fabric of art education.

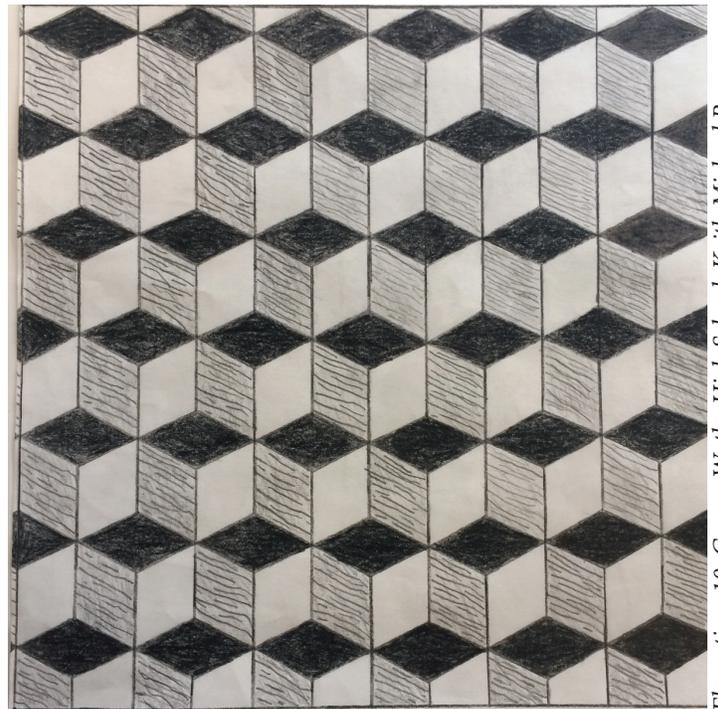
This spring, there will two opportunities to look forward to:

- April 25, 2020 - Our Annual Spring Workshop will occur at the NAEA Headquarters in Alexandria. Hope Hanes will be leading a hands-on Soft Pastels Workshop during the morning session. We are looking for volunteers to teach the afternoon session. If interested, please reach out to the board.
- We are also planning a Spring Museum Meet-Up. Please check the NVAEA Facebook page for more information.

Bryce, 12, Christinburg High School, Carrie Lyons



Recently, across the state, there has been an intensified focus on the 5C's and the Profile of a Graduate. I believe they are important for us, as educators, to succeed as well! So many of us do not share a school with another art teacher and, therefore, lack those daily connections with other art educators. All that we look forward to at conference can be summed up in the 5C's. For three days, we immerse ourselves in creating, contributing, collaborating, thinking critically and



Florentino, 10, George Wythe High School, Keith Michael Browne

To conclude, I would like to thank Melissa Mandak, NVAEA Vice President, Sean Murphy, NVAEA Secretary and Julie Cacciola, NVAEA Treasurer for being such an amazing group to work with. I look forward to another great year!

Join the NVAEA community on Facebook!

<http://www.vaea.org/northern-virginia-region.html>

Mars, 11, Varina High School, Dawn Vass



## SOUTHWEST

Jennifer Fowler



We build connections, it's what we do, it's who we are. We rely on connections in the most basic sense of the term to make art; glue, tape, string, and wire are all connectors. Without them we would certainly find another way to connect, but they certainly make life easier.

As art teachers, we are the connector for our students. We find ways in which to make art connect ways in which to make art connect to... well... everything. After all, how could you teach art without making cultural references? We are often expected to integrate core themes into our art lessons. Although we may complain because art should be for art's sake, it's actually pretty easy to make these connections. I couldn't possibly teach Ceramics without discussing science. What is gridding after all, but math?

My favorite connection is connecting students to the real world, you know the one, it begins on graduation day. My first day lesson involves a discussion on "Why is Art Important?" Following the students telling me their 'why', I give them a challenge: find a career goal in which the arts are not somehow connected or benefited. I win every time.

The irony is, despite our job of making connections, we often feel very disconnected. I'm very fortunate to work with and feed off of four other art teachers every day. Many of you go months without seeing another art teacher. This can make you feel alone and drained. This is where SWVAEA comes in to play. Connect with us. Come to a workshop, volunteer to serve on a committee or the board. Build valuable connections with others who feel the same as you.

This fall we were able to connect the clay buttons we made at the TAB workshop by raku firing them at a raku, shibori, and sketchbook workshop. Several golden volunteers affixed "SWVAEA" ribbons to the buttons. You were able to personalize your button during the SWVAEA meeting at conference. All of this was

## TIDEWATER

Leigh Drake



"Art is universal. It unites mankind in a common brotherhood...art is the connecting link in the chain of great minds." - James Jackson Jarves.

Creative and great minds often seem to find each other. The VAEA conference provided a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends as well as make new ones all in the name of art education. It allowed us to be creative, inspired, and rejuvenated with the wonderful sessions and speakers. We all work together to create a unique and beautiful picture of art education across the state of Virginia, and I am proud to be a part of that. I would also like to congratulate Elizabeth Tumilty as the Tidewater Region's Middle Division Art Educator Award Recipient. She is both a great art educator in our region and has also done some amazing work throughout the VAEA board.

In terms of "connecting" back into the classroom, I feel it is very important for students to gain connections in the assignments that they complete in class. Those connections make the assignments more meaningful. In the most recent assignment that my students completed, students created art inspired by the Museum of Contemporary Art's current exhibit of artist Michael Kagan. Being able to connect and collaborate with MOCA makes every project that we do with them so impactful to our students. From providing us knowledgeable tours, to having the students be able to meet Kagan, it is a wonderful opportunity to utilize our valuable connections within our own community. The essence of the project the students created was their own outer space inspired works that lit up through the construction of circuits - a project that inspired me from a presentation at last year's VAEA conference in Midlothian. The presentation was spectacular and inspired me instantly to want to incorporate circuits it into my own art curriculum. Students combined science, technology, and art to design visually eye-popping creations powered by circuits and lights.

# Continued

Students made strong connections between the importance of incorporating other subject matters into their art and using that knowledge as building blocks.

As a TVAEA board, we have been working hard to schedule some great events and activities for the Tidewater region. Our events are a great place to meet and share creative ideas with fellow art educators throughout our region. This winter we are planning for our annual Winter Workshop to be held at Old Dominion University on Saturday, February 29th, 2020. We will have six amazing sessions offering a variety of different art explorations. Sessions will include fibers, paper pulp construction, center-based teaching, book making, alternative painting techniques, and encaustics. There is sure to be something to interest all art enthusiasts.

Feel free to check out the VAEA website and Tidewater region Facebook page for our up-and-coming activities and workshops.



## Continued from Mike...

School in more than just the arts. Smile and always be positive when answering questions. Never throw a former employer under the bus or speak negatively about a former or current school.”

John Rasky: “Candidates can stand out by being confident, but not entitled. Be knowledgeable in their content and it’s important to listen well before you answer and ask clarifying questions if needed. “

Aaron Eichorst: “It’s very important that candidates research the district, and school student population they’re interested in. Know the community and familiarize yourself with the resources there.”

Andrew Watson: “Candidates need to be flexible and open to learning. Understand assessment, equity, and social-emotional learning. Be able to speak to and demonstrate how art is important both for the non-arts academic areas and for the holistic development of children. We love and value voice and choice, but if you want to talk about TAB be prepared to explain how you balance nurturing voice and choice with exposing students to a comprehensive art education and skills development. Understand the needs of EL, SPED, and TAG students.”

Aaron Stratten: “Apply early. The hiring season starts at the end of winter, and it may take some extra steps to get your application complete. It’s important to pass the Praxis II exam, especially for those on an alternative path to licensure. Leverage your visual literacy by showing something visual (your portfolio) to support your answers. Drive home that it’s not just an answer by telling a specific, student-centered story from your experience. And remember, schools are hiring educators that will support the whole child’s development. Of course, you can be an artist and an art teacher, but speak the language of education in your interview. That principal may not understand the language of art.”

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**Additional Resource:**

Debbie Truong, “Amid teacher shortages, Virginia takes steps to lure students into the profession.”

The Washington Post. July 20, 2019.

**Continued from Michael...**

As Karen Lamb said, “A Year from Now You Will Wish You Had Started Today.”

Continue to be more than a spectator. Make connections, look forward and take action.

Finally, it has been my extreme honor to serve you as the Advocacy Chair. I am very proud to announce the next chair is Jimi Herd. Jimi is a gifted educator and advocate for the arts. Welcome aboard Jimi!

**Continued from Jennifer.**

possible because of you and your connections. I would like to thank everyone who assisted in the fall workshop, button making, and SWVAEA meeting. Special recognition goes to Amanda Dulaney our Elementary Teacher of the Year. Please, connect with us.



Top: Mike Kalafatis, Michael Gettings, Aaron Stratten, Chris Buhner  
Bottom: Julie Galvin, Georganna Fello, Jasmine Hawkins

# Y.A.M.

Jauan Brooks  
& Kelley Shradley-Horst



For those fortunate to make it to the most recent conference in Harrisonburg you undoubtedly walked away refreshed, re-charged, motivated and connected to your people.

Several school systems were recognized for their contributions to the state Youth Art Month portfolio. Henrico - Bronze, Harrisonburg - Silver, and the 2019 Gold Award - Fauquier County for connecting all of the pieces in their compilation of endorsements/proclamations, events, community support, exhibits, and created materials documented through imagery and report.



Linda Conti, Some Body, Kelley Shradley-Horst, Jauan Brooks

Connection is such a strong word with great importance in the art world. We as artists and people strive to complete that basic human need to connect and be seen by one another. Using our art to tell a story and the realization that our story is similar to others creates an irrefutable bond.

The 2020 Youth Art Month theme is asking our students to Take a Journey Through Art. They can make a connection to others in many ways. Why not virtually travel to another country to see works of art? Create imaginary worlds that transport the viewer. Create maps of fantastical worlds, create designs for vehicles of the future, study migration, share their interpretation of a trip or describe a destination. All these examples allow our students to imagine, create, visualize and communicate their place in the world. More examples of how to explore the idea of a journey

can be found on [VAEA.org](http://VAEA.org)>Advocacy>Youth Art Month - YAM 2020 ideas.

As we look ahead to YAM, we should find ways to document what happens in our schools on a daily basis as well as find ways to incorporate the theme Take a

Journey Through Art. We travel through our school hallways often filled with student art, past and present. Are there questions that you can ask students about their immediate surroundings? Please remember to document your efforts - visit the bottom of the VAEA YAM webpage for forms, instructions and logos.

We can't wait to see how you help your students Take a Journey Through Art.



Kathryn, 10, Kettle Run High School, Michelle Alongi

Linda Conti, Elizabeth Tumilty, Holly Bess Kincaid



### Middle School Art Educator of the Year

Elizabeth Tumilty is an art educator from Virginia Beach City Public Schools who earned her B.F.A. from Old Dominion University in 2008. She continues Post Graduate studies at Virginia Commonwealth University.

She is an active participant in the NAEA and VAEA, serving on both the Tidewater Regional board and the VAEA state board as the Tidewater Regional President. She also participates by presenting workshops, working on various committees and attending conferences. Elizabeth has been active in her community by working with The Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Team Bank of America, Junior Achievement, The United Way, and Organizing for America. She has also been able to create a secondary career as a working artist, showing her work in collections in North Carolina, Michigan, and Virginia. Elizabeth has an innovative approach about her teaching, which she shares with her colleagues to help others succeed in education. She lives and breathes art education, and this is seen in her work and her teaching.

### Secondary

The VAEA applauds these art educators for teaching our young adults to think critically and creatively, collaborate, communicate and be citizens in our world.

Secondary Regional Award Winners:

- Dr. Matthew Ravenstahl (Northern Virginia)
- Emily Quesenberry (Blue Ridge)

### Secondary Art Educator of the Year

Dr. Matthew Ravenstahl is an art educator from Fairfax County Public Schools with a Doctorate in Education from the University of Durham in the UK. His thesis title; “Bringing the Apple and Holding up the Mirror: A Qualitative Study of Student Engagement in Visual

Art and the Navigation of Liminal Space and Transformation.” He also earned degrees from University of Maryland and Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He recently received Fairfax County’s SEPTA Outstanding Secondary Educator Award in June 2019 by the Special Education Parent Teacher Association. He is an active participant in the NAEA and the VAEA by presenting workshops and attending both at state and national conferences. He regularly presents his IB work and research regarding art making as a vehicle for navigating the liminal space. He is dedicated to teaching and challenging other teachers so they can flourish in the classroom and invest the time to cultivate relationships with his students to create authentic and meaningful work.



Linda Conti, Meredith Ose, Dr. Matthew Ravenstahl, Susan Silva

### Higher Education Art Educator of the Year

(written by Roger Tomhave)

As the Higher Education Division representative to the VAEA Board it is my honor to recognize the 2019 recipient of the VAEA Higher Education Art Educator of the Year, Dr. Courtnie N. Wolfgang of Virginia Commonwealth University.

Dr. Wolfgang’s current and ongoing service to the NAEA and VAEA is impressive. She currently is a Reviewer for Studies in Art Education, the Journal of Social Theory in Art Education, the Journal of Cultural Research in Art Education, and is on the Editorial Board of Visual Arts Research. She served as our Interim Research Board member for the VAEA, and of course has presented at numerous VAEA and NAEA conferences as well as assisted her students in preparing for their presentations. Dr. Wolfgang models for her students what it means to be involved in the community, university, and State and National association work. VCU has recognized her for her service as the 2017 VCUarts Distinguished Achievement in Service awardee.

But we all know that what makes a good educator is

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**NEXT NEWS MAGAZINE DEADLINE: April 1, 2020**

Send reports and articles to Peggy Wood, Executive Secretary, at wood.vaea@gmail.com

Send photos and student artwork to Susan Silva, News Magazine Editor, at newsmagazine.vaea@gmail.com

Send address changes to Patsy Parker, Membership Chair, at p2artkrt@gmail.com

Linda Conti, Dr. Courtnie Wolfgang, Dr. Roger Tomhave



the way that they treat and push their students. It is often said that students do not care what you know, until they know that you care. And Courtnie cares deeply for her students. According to nominator, Dr. Melanie

Buffington, “students continuously share how their worldviews have expanded as a result of their coursework with Courtnie.” Dr. Sara Wilson McKay quotes numerous students in her letter of recommendation, reporting their descriptions of Courtnie as “extremely kind, perceptive, inclusive, funny, creates a classroom where people can laugh and be relaxed while also still thriving and expanding...” They report Courtnie as a “hero,” “extremely gifted educator,” or simply stated as, “the best teacher I have ever had, period.”

On the behalf of her colleagues in Higher Education, we are honored to award VAEA Higher Education Art Educator of the Year to Dr. Courtnie Wolfgang.

### Outstanding Service outside of the Organization Award

David Taylor has gone above and beyond in his service of art educators. David represents Davis Publications, a company that has often sponsored our organization during conferences. He welcomes every educator to the Davis booth and is generous with products for our members. David goes out of his way to encourage new art educators in their work with children. He attends every reception for VAEA art awards and is the most supportive fan of the awardees. He encourages our educators to write for School Arts Magazine, a Davis Publication that has specific ideas for lessons in the art room across all levels. He makes connections between the business and the educators by recommending quality speakers for our conferences and helping to cover the cost of them attending. Most recently, he brought in Marilyn Stewart, a top-notch curriculum developer and educator to speak to our members. This fall

he stepped up to fill a JMU computer lab with digital classes showing members how to use digital tools available. David has been involved and supportive of the VAEA for many years as an exhibitor, collaborator, helper and friend.



Linda Conti, David Taylor

# Calendar

March 1, 2020

#artsacrossvirginiaday

March 26 - 28, 2020

NAEA Conference  
Minneapolis, MN

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Erin, 9, Kettle Run High School, Michelle Alongi

Sarah, 9, Sherando High School, Alanna Toler



Joan, 11, Riverside High School, Augusta Dadiago