

About \$20,000 of funding is set aside each year for Undergraduate Research Grants (UGRG). First established in 2006 with the purpose of encouraging curiosity, creativity, risk-taking and scholarly investigation, the UGRG program allows students to dive into a project or subject of interest. These grants fund a wide-range of collaborative, interdisciplinary projects that draw on the expertise of a faculty or community mentors.

For more information on the VCUarts Undergraduate Research Grants program, please contact Nancy Scott at nmscott@vcu.edu.

2016 — 2017 Awards

Coyle, Cummings, & Lowe

We plan to visit and study an abandoned particle accelerator and present our findings in a multimedia installation that will engage the viewer in a conversation of scientific advancement, personal loss, and national unmet potential. Particle accelerators are mile-long, billion dollar instruments that mash parts of atoms at each other in order to forge an understanding of human existence in the eternal scheme of the universe. Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory located in Batavia, Illinois had built the Tevatron particle accelerator that would place us as the global leader in particle physics. Funding was pulled, and thousands of scientists were devastated as they had to continue working near the abandoned remains of the accelerator tunnel where they would have conducted their experiments.

Team:

- Alexandra Coyle, Creative Advertising, Photography + Film, and Product Innovation
- Shannon Lowe, Photography + Film, minor in Art History
- Grace Cummings, VCU Spring 2016 alumna, Physics, PhD candidate in Particle Physics at UVA

Faculty Mentor:

- Jon-Phillip Sheridan, Photography + Film

Award: \$2,535.54

Fundamental Solitude

Based on one of the team member's personal history of incarceration, we will create an installation that explores the phenomena of jail construction. Designed to control behavior, the architectural systems used by jails inform and control inmates daily function. Through rigorous research into the contemporary architecture of incarceration, we will use these functioning institutions to create models and

construct an architectural installation. As part of this installation, we will re-contextualize objects sourced from detention supplies as sculptures, giving them a new context to explore their unique social function and materiality. The culminating exhibition of this installation will be in conjunction with a space hosted for the group Performing Statistics, an advocacy project that connects incarcerated teens with artists and civic leaders in Richmond.

Team:

- Charles Heebner, Painting + Printmaking
- Logan Wyatt, Sculpture + Extended Media

Faculty Mentor:

- Corin Hewitt, Sculpture + Extended Media

Award: \$2,435

Journeys

This endeavor will challenge and develop the way we work as dance artists by collaborating with students in different disciplines to support the process of producing an evening length dance performance. We are collaborating with students from Photography + Film to create promotional materials; Crafts + Material Studies to design and construct a set piece; Painting + Printmaking to create artwork; and Theatre for stage management. Journeys will showcase several artistic voices responding to the dualities in post-adolescent struggles such as grief and loss, ugliness in manufacturing external beauty, contending with one's racial identity, and understanding the line between sexuality and sensuality. In addition, a collection of curated artworks and visuals inspired by our dance pieces will be on display in the theatre lobby. We seek to engage our audience with kinetic storytelling and inquiry to deepen our investigations of ourselves and the systems, societal norms, life choices and personal truths that shape our reality through dance.

Team:

- Christine Wyatt, Dance + Choreography
- Jelani Taylor, Dance + Choreography
- Taylor Black, Dance + Choreography
- Angelique Scott, Craft/Material Studies: Ceramics and Art Education

Faculty Mentors:

- Lea Marshall, Dance + Choreography
- Scott Putman, Dance + Choreography

Award: \$2,730

Capturing the Quadruped in Motion Capture Systems

Motion capture labs provide an invaluable resource to the arts and entertainment industry by allowing for fluid and realistic motion to be used in 3D graphics. VCU currently provides their own motion capture equipment to VCU students in the Depot. This equipment provides the foundation for students to explore countless ways to apply animation in their own artistic and professional practices. We propose to build upon this foundation by adding the capabilities for quadruped motion capture, and documenting our process so that future students can continue to build upon our research and execution.

Team:

- Dawn Carr, Communication Arts
- Virginia Stephenson, Communication Arts
- Morgan Colonna, Communication Arts
- Katelyn O'Leary, Communication Arts
- Katharine Thompson, Communication Arts, Scientific and Preparatory Medical Illustration Concentration
- Belle, Dog

Faculty Mentors:

- Matt Wallin, Communication Arts
- John Henry Blatter, Interdisciplinary Technology and Media, The Depot

Award: \$915

Forgotten News, Forgotten Names

Forgotten News, Forgotten Names boldly presents a short film "Hell You Talmbout," (co-directed by Denzel Boyd, VCUarts Graphic Design '17) that artfully addresses police violence, racial injustice, the Black Lives Matter movement through spoken word, and a tap dance performance from the perspective of our youth. In partnership with Studio 23 and the VCUarts Dance Department, our team proposes a series of events to follow the initial public screening—a screen printing session and a social dance workshop—engaging the community with the themes of the film. Our aim is to not only share the short film but to highlight the convoluted and pressingly urgent matters and activate our bodies through art forms in order to exercise this change. Through these determined modes of movement our community will be left encouraged and charged to understand why we must say their names, see their names, and feel their names. Building this sense of empathy towards our black community will stimulate not just a moment but rather a movement towards radical transformation of ideals and consciousness. Ultimately these initiatives will establish a common ground for diverse audiences to come together and enjoy the art of printing and dance.

Team:

- Denzel Boyd, Graphic Design
Talia Levinas, Graphic Design
- Christina Hairston, Communication Arts
- Maya Jackson, Photography + Film
- Amanda Barnes, Painting + Printmaking

Faculty Mentors:

- David Shields, Chair, Graphic Design
- Sandra Wheeler, Graphic Design

Award: \$2,702

Vmodern Furniture Design

This team seeks to design a suite of handmade, non-traditional stools that provoke playfulness, imagination, and positive social interaction. Turning a critical eye to today's dominant video game subculture, children are being spoon-fed entertainment. These objects will serve both as a toy and a functional piece that encourages the child's natural creative response. The team aims to explore the union of jaunty shapes, spunky colors, and handcrafted joinery to create one-of-a-kind furniture pieces that enhance user concentration and experience. The stools will be designed to be played with, crawled through, swiveled, or rocked; these stools will be built for movement. The collection will be entered in the next Vmodern Furniture Design competition.

Team:

- Esther Cho, Interior Design and Craft/Material Studies
- Yeji Hong, Communication Arts

Faculty Mentors:

- Sterling C. Hundley, Communication Arts
- Bohyun Yoon, Craft/Material Studies

Award: \$1,645

The Fire Fawn

The Fire Fawn is an animated story about adolescence and friendship between a young child and an incandescent deer. The story deals with the loss of parental figures, the trials of adolescence, and overcoming deep-seated phobias. An innovative use of CGI will be employed to present the story, which will screen at the end of the Spring Semester, 2017. Additionally, the piece will be submitted to the SIGGRAPH Computer Animation Festival and other well-known academic, student, and professional film festivals.

Team:

- James Heyes, Kinetic Imaging
- Meredith Brindley, Kinetic Imaging

Faculty Mentors:

- Bob Kaputof, Kinetic Imaging
- Stephanie Thulin, Kinetic Imaging

Award: \$1,850

Edmund the Snail – Stop Motion Animated Short Film

Our team's goal is to produce a stop motion short film titled Edmund the Snail, in which a little girl steps on a snail and is haunted by its ghost. The story focuses on the concept of human versus animal lives by placing a snail looking for revenge in the seat of power over a person. The majority of our team's members are senior level cinema students, all of which have worked in large groups on a minimum of five completed short films (most have worked on more). We will work together under our specific positions on the project to tell the story efficiently and enjoyably, with a goal of submitting a completed product to film festivals and documenting our progress through social media tools such as Instagram and Facebook as well as on the Edmund the Snail website.

Team:

- Lucas Alexander, Cinema, Writing/Media Studies Double Minor
- Zack Rogers, Kinetic Imaging
- Arielle Bryant, Cinema Major, Philosophy/Sociology Double Minor,
- Jesse Hosick, Cinema Major, English/History Double Minor
- Tori Lusik, Cinema Major, Creative Writing/History Minor
- Kyle Brady, Cinema Major, Business/Art History
- Matt Williams, Cinema/Criminal Justice Double Major
- Allen Simmons, Cinema Major, History/Sociology Double Minor

Faculty Mentors:

- Kirk Kjeldsen, Cinema
- Pam Turner, Kinetic Imaging

Award: \$1,500

Lumarium

Lumarium is an interactive sensory environment combining new media and tactility in a non-traditional exhibition experience. One night each month, our team will enhance a space with projected imagery, enveloping surround-soundscapes with

colored lights programmed to respond to frequency and volume, and handcrafted pillows, enabling participants to bathe in the space's atmosphere. While galleries and museums have historically discouraged contact between viewer and work, Lumarium blurs exhibited content with its environment, inviting both active engagement and passive immersion. This project will serve as a new gathering point for community engagement in Richmond, offering media artists a chance to submit work that is an experimental space, and allowing participants removal and repose from their everyday environment.

Team:

- Marin Leong, Kinetic Imaging
- Jackie Lu, Kinetic Imaging
- Roya Sodei, Sculpture + Extended Media

Faculty Mentors:

- Stephen Vitiello, Kinetic Imaging

Award: \$2,443

A Sustainable Digital Art Show

We are an interdisciplinary collective connected by our interest in digital art. Forty-two billion tons of E-waste are shipped illegally to Africa with the hope that they will be recycled. Unfortunately, only a small fraction of waste is reprocessed. The rest rapidly accumulates, polluting the environment with lead and mercury. We will address this problem through an exemplary curated show of digital art that examines the implications of E-waste's dispersion. Our electronic objects, carefully chosen, are meant to be reintegrated into the art world with a minimal environmental footprint.

Team:

- Meredith Brindley, Kinetic Imaging
- Claudine Reyes, Kinetic Imaging, Mathematics
- Illya Lykinin, Kinetic Imaging
- Hannah McKalips, Graphic Design
- Costantino Toth, Kinetic Imaging, Art History
- Marin Leong, Kinetic Imaging, Art History
- Kevin Moun, Kinetic Imaging
- James Heyes, Kinetic Imaging
- Brianna Ondris, Kinetic Imaging

Faculty Mentor:

- Stephanie Thulin, Kinetic Imaging

Award: \$1,900

The Unghosting of Black America: An Exploration of the Black Experience and Racial Relations through Visual Poetic Drama

Through the collaborative development of Visual Poetic Drama in a nontraditional theatre space, this project will investigate the portrayal of the black experience in a variety of forms (theatre, literature, and visual art). Investigating the audience response to an often historically blurred past, the project intends to push the boundary of Black storytelling within the Richmond theatrical aesthetic. In examining the idea that our country has moved past racial divides and social erasure, we seek to understand how to contextualize the continued rise in cultural appropriation, police brutality and the ongoing criminalization of the black community.

Team:

- Mikayla Bartholomew, Theatre
- John Tyler Ludwig, English
- Malik Sparrow, Kinetic Imaging

Faculty Mentor:

- Bostin Christopher, Senior Acting Professor

Award: \$3,000

Shifting Focus on Identity, Community & Inclusivity “By what means do you understand yourself in the world?”

By what means does one understand oneself in the world? I will ask this question directly via interviews to those I connect with in Richmond, Baltimore, New Haven, and NYC. I propose filming interviews to be digitally uploaded and accessed through a public website domain. I seek a more direct investment in the arts and creative communities to explore the sociopolitical relevance critiquing the understanding of ‘myself’ and ‘those surrounding me.’ How is an artist’s praxis reframing social change? The anthological videos ultimately serves the public a multicultural and intersectional lens crucial to explore contemporary society.

Team:

- Tiffany Vander Laan, Sculpture & Extended Media, Art History
- John DiJulio, Photography & Film major

Faculty Mentor:

- Janelle Proulx, Department of Photography & Film

Award: \$530

2015 — 2016 Awards

The Drag Lab

The Drag Lab is a collaborative project extending from Participating Body, a student group formed and named after Hope Ginsburg's socially-engaged art course. With an initial focus on androgyny, fashion, identity, and cooperative art-making, the project seeks to communicate developments in gender performance through the lens of visual art. As a cooperative group, they exchange and build skills necessary to create wardrobes, prepare performances and alter environments. The Drag Lab now aims to expand the project's parameter to a larger arena for visual self-expression that is open to community participation, as well as developing interdisciplinary practices invested in the concept of identity and gender performance.

Team:

- Zachary Stahl – Painting + Printmaking
- Jessica Carey – Photography & Film
- Helen Westergren – Sculpture and Photography & Film
- Ryan Schultz – Communication Arts
- Miranda Wagner – Sculpture
- Chase Keech – Computer Science
- Connor Shumaker – Craft/Material Studies
- Kate Duggan – Painting + Printmaking
- Rhiannon Pyle – Art Education and Sculpture

Faculty Mentors:

- Hope Ginsburg – Art Foundation
- Sonali Gulati - Photography & Film

Award: \$2,679

Frame Your Future

Partnering with Art180, a local non-profit that provides art-related programs to young people living in challenging circumstances, the team will meet with 20 middle school students weekly from February through May. Throughout this time the students will be taught crafting techniques that will be applied to decorate a frame symbolizing their future. They will have lessons on using symbolism in their artwork to convey their predicted futures. The result of the meetings and finished frames will be an exhibition taking place at Art180 and a book documenting their work including artist statements. The exhibit will showcase the individually crafted frames providing motivational work that provides a perspective on their future.

Team:

- Angelique Scott – Art Education and Craft/Material Studies

- Christina Hairston – Communication Arts and Art History
- Sydney Collier – Exercise Science
- Danielle Johnson – Craft/Material Studies

Faculty Mentor: Sonya Clark - Craft/Material Studies

Award: \$1,614

GeOh (mobile app)

The GeOh project will develop and release a mobile app. GeOh will be a social networking application built on mapping technology, GPS and upvote/downvote systems to crowdsource and show users the most relevant events, and features nearby by simply putting photos and text posts on a map at the location they were posted. The goal is to give GeOh's users a tool to engage with their surroundings to the greatest extent possible. With the research and frameworking stages complete, GeOh can now be built and tested on users.

Team:

- Elijah Kennedy – Kinetic Imaging
- Brianna Ondris - Kinetic Imaging
- Rowan Gryder - Kinetic Imaging
- Zach Edwards – Computer Science

Faculty Mentors:

- Andrew Ilnicki – Director of Academic Programming
- Dan Ressler – Engineering
- Manoj Thomas – Information Systems
- Zachary Duer - Kinetic Imaging

Award: \$1,822

Re-examining the Piano Action

Although the mechanics of a piano action are quite simple, it is possible that the subtle physics of the piano action when engaged by a skilled performer may deliver certain desirable characteristics to the sound of a performance. This project will try to understand this phenomenon by using Fourier analysis to identify nuances in the sound produced by a variety of playing techniques. Using high-speed camera footage of the piano action interacting with the strings during a keystroke, this team will look for any mechanism that might cause a discrepancy in the produced tone. They will then use this data to try to identify playing techniques that deliver the most “pleasing” performance -- or dispel the common belief that technique can influence the physical sound produced by the piano.

Team:

- Ian Harris – Music (Jazz Studies)
- Dodwin Ng – Mechanical Engineering

Faculty Mentor: Marilyn Bishop, Ph.D. – Physics

Award: \$2,000

Coding Literacy in the Arts

This project is an outgrowth of the Institute for Procedural Drawing, a student-run maker space focused on the creation of physical computing systems designed for the exploration of mediated drawing. The intent is to form a community around programming in the arts. The award will equip an interdisciplinary arts workshop with the necessary tools to build the systems that will bring algorithmic drawing into the physical world. The goal of the space in the Fine Arts Building is to disseminate programming and computational knowledge to the student body using workshops and mentorships. They intend to bridge the gap between the artistic and the technical maker while promoting coding literacy in the arts.

Team:

- Chelsea Clarke – Painting + Printmaking
- Stephanie Schapowal – Graphic Design

Faculty Mentor: Peter Baldes - Painting + Printmaking

Award: \$2,138

Human vs. Nature Microscopic Exploration

Examination of animals, plants, and other organic material reveal that the intricate machinery of nature mirrors that of man-made objects. This team of scientific illustration students will use a digital dissecting microscope with a camera to examine relationships between specimens, both natural and artificial, gathered from the VCU Monroe Park campus. Microscopic pictures taken will reveal patterns and repeated structures that tie natural and human design together. The culmination of the project will be large-scale paintings inspired by the investigation and a printed process book of the research and sketches done by the team. Use of the specialized microscope by future art students will allow them to personally discover the fascinating connections between art and science, while exploring and contributing to the new media art genre.

Team:

- Lauren Rakes – Communication Arts (Scientific & Preparatory Medical Illustration)
- Emily Rueckert - Communication Arts (Scientific & Preparatory Medical Illustration)

Faculty Mentor: Sarah Faris - Communication Arts (Scientific & Preparatory Medical Illustration)

Award: \$2,550

Adorning the Censored Body

Combating societal censorship of the body, the team will create adornments for various women's nipples and organize a performance exhibition of the work. Inspired by the wearable art of Lauren Kalman, the jewelry will celebrate the nipple as unique and personal for each individual. The group will focus on researching Kalman's use of contemporary craft to investigate themes such as beauty, adornment, body image, value, and consumer culture. The pieces will be designed in collaboration between the artist and model. This project will redefine cultural norms and body politics by eradicating social stigmas and allowing individuals the agency and self-confidence they deserve.

Team:

- Lindsay Hawk – Sculpture, Minor in Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies
- Taylor Dunivan – Craft/Material Studies
- Lindsay Parnell – Sculpture, Minor in Dance & Choreography

Faculty Mentor: Susie Ganch - Craft/Material Studies

Award: \$1,700

A Girl and Her Alpaca: An Animated Short Film

An interdisciplinary team is creating an animated short (3-5 minutes). The protagonists are a girl and her alpaca. The story revolves around the kindness of strangers, the sharing of traditions and the magic encountered through animation. The team will mirror the current industry pipeline of pre-production (script, storyboard, concept art); production (animation); and post-production (soundtrack, visual effects, color correction and lighting) with the intent of submitting the final product to film festivals.

Team:

- Anat Scham – Kinetic Imaging
- Christopher Yeaton - Kinetic Imaging
- Clayton Bontrager – Communication Arts

- Corinne Burr - Kinetic Imaging
- Emily Berkley – Kinetic Imaging
- Inea Clara Tang - Kinetic Imaging
- Kelly Hicks - Kinetic Imaging
- Krysta Thomas – Communication Arts
- Megan James – Communication Arts
- Natalie DeMenthon – Communication Arts
- Thao Nguyen - Kinetic Imaging

Faculty Mentors:

- Orla McHardy - Kinetic Imaging
- Pamela Turner - Kinetic Imaging
- Taylor Barnett – Music
- TyRuben Ellingson – Communication

Award: \$1,760

Marriage of Metals

This team intends to facilitate a conversation about the mediums of printmaking and metalsmithing by breaking traditional barriers and experimenting with the application and integration of their respective techniques such as etching, chasing, and relief. We intend to host a workshop relaying our discoveries within this investigation to the VCUarts community. The outcome is expected to be an exhibition that showcases the benefits of this kind of interdisciplinary cooperation showing the pieces that bridge the gap between art object and wearable object.

Team:

- Emily Oldham – Painting + Printmaking
- Tari Holmbeck – Craft/Material Studies

Faculty Mentor: Cara Benedetto – Painting + Printmaking

Award: \$1,700

Stand Up/Break Down

In a spiraling quarter-life crisis, a young woman decides to reinvent herself as a stand up comedian. The problem: no one thinks she's funny. "Louie" meets "Broad City" in this original web series that explores the relationship between comedy, depression, and the occasionally hilarious struggle to find your own voice. Episodic narration has entered into a golden age with increased opportunities for artists to create their own work and stream it almost anywhere. By applying literary analysis to successful models of complex episodic narration, this team hopes to produce a

fresh perspective on the growing pains that inevitably accompany following your dreams.

Team:

- Shelby Marie Smith – Theatre (Performance)
- Erika Bizousky – Photography & Film
- Maudeleora Kaufman - Theatre (Performance)
- Shannon Roulet - Photography & Film

Faculty Mentor: Bostin Christopher – Theatre

Award: \$2,760

Sustainability

This team will research the harmful effects of fast fashion as it relates to sustainability, both on the fashion industry and the environment. Their findings will inform preferred methods to create garments made with sustainable practices as well as inventing new ones for others to employ in their own work. The research would include what natural resources are being drained for the fashion industry and how less sustainable clothing impacts our mental health. An exhibition will present the findings in a way that makes people think about what they are putting on every day and the consequences to the world.

Team:

- Shelby Rider – Fashion Design
- Aaron Bobb – Craft/Material Studies

Faculty Mentor: Kimberly Guthrie – Fashion Design & Merchandising

Award: \$1,645

2014 — 2015 Awards

Ropewalkers Richmond

This team, involving fine arts and engineering students, will be engaging the community through a series of performances using a portable rope-making mechanism modeled after 17th century Ropewalks which are long, narrow paths where ropes are manufactured. Members will be performing at specific locations where a volunteer will activate the mechanism to produce rope. The goal being that rope is a group of strands twisted together to create a stronger form, similar to

individuals in a community coming together to create a more supportive environment. The expected outcome will be a small publication chronicling the volunteers' experience with the Ropewalk, a website, and an exhibition at a local gallery.

Team:

- Michael Amato, Craft/Material Studies
- Skyler Thompson, Sculpture + Extended Media
- Gavin Foster, Painting + Printmaking

Faculty Mentor: Susan Iverson, Professor, Craft/Material Studies

Award: \$1,314

Re:combined

This team will send a werkblad (a fillable form) and handmade object (that resemble office supplies suggesting graphing, recording, measuring, or making a space) to participating studios. A werkblad will prompt the object's use. Studios will respond and return the werkblad which will be incorporated into handmade books. This process requires that bookmaking and content creation will occur simultaneously. A variety of printmaking methods will be combined. The planned outcome is a curated exhibition of the archived documents and a book release that will be submitted to Printed Matter, a leading non-profit source for artist's books distribution.

Team:

- Anna Shcherbakova, Graphic Design, minor in Media Studies
- Gavin Foster, Painting + Printmaking

Faculty mentors:

- John Malinoski, Associate Professor, Graphic Design
- Peter Baldes, Associate Professor, Painting + Printmaking

Award: \$2,530

Interactive Children's Concept Book

This team will develop a children's concept book that incorporates technology to enhance a beginning reader's learning experience. While iPad applications exist for children to learn the alphabet and expand their vocabulary, this book is intended to move away from digital technology to offer meaningful interactions beyond the tap of a screen. Through research of the language and visuals of traditional concept books as well as paper generators, conductive ink, and simple circuitry, a book will be created that delivers tactile and auditory feedback to better assist with reading

development. The book's construction will be a tool for the introduction of basic circuitry.

Team:

- Emma Scarvey, Communication Arts
- Anthony Martin, Interdisciplinary Studies
- Chris Buettner, Engineering
- Sarah Benson, Art Education
- Allie Ayers, Art Education

Faculty Mentor: Matthew Woolman, Associate Professor and Executive Director of Entrepreneurship

Award: \$1,070

Architecture -- Fashion Design

In an attempt to further understand the elements and fundamentals of architecture when applied to fashion design, a student from Interior Design will help a student from Fashion Design understand the core fundamentals such as proportion, scale, rhythm, circulation, and the process behind concept models and sketches. They will then venture to the world of fabric where the knowledge of clothing construction and 3-D modeling is applied to create garments using the basics of architecture and design. The planned outcome is a wearable art collection that will be presented at a local gallery.

Team:

- Manon Loustaunau, Fashion Design
- Miriam Weirich, Interior Design

Faculty Mentor: Kristin Caskey, Associate Professor, Fashion Design and Merchandising

Award: \$2,180

Satirical performance of Seven Brides for Seven Brothers

This team will produce and perform a satirized version of popular musical Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, using comedy to mock and put a modern perspective on the gender insensitivities in the play as a way to explore societal norms at the beginning of the 20th century. They will publish the adapted script online and make it available to secondary schools.

Team:

- Connor Scully, Theatre

- Elliott Duffy, Theatre
- Dixon Cashwell, Theatre
- Mahlon Raoufi, Theatre
- Jared Peyton, Music
- John Quarstein, Gender Studies, English, Creative Advertising

Faculty Mentor: Paul Valley, Theatre

Award: \$2,750

The Urban Forest

Attempting to solve the problem of trees in cities, with roots that break sidewalks and cause property damage by falling limbs and branches during a storm, this project is inspired by Natalie Jeremijenko's 1999 work "Tree Logic." The team proposes to design a system to grow trees upside down on a platform elevated above human height that will blend seamlessly with the urban environment. Three unique designs will be constructed that will illustrate the phototropic effects of the plants and create a way to move freely throughout the canopy of a city that is fully intertwined with nature.

Team:

- Dylan Halpern, Graphic Design
- Sarah Poole, Biomedical Engineering
- Susan Singh, Mechanical Engineering
- Elliott Roth, Biomedical Engineering

Faculty Mentor: Camden Whitehead, Associate Professor, Interior Design

Award: \$3,337

Testing Woodwinds

This project combines the disciplines of music and psychology by studying mindfulness, an enhanced awareness to a present experience that has been found to increase information retention. Using an experimental group and a control group, a study will test undergraduate music students with woodwinds as their primary instrument to determine whether enhanced mindfulness leads to more effective music practice sessions. If their paper is accepted, the expenses include travel to present findings to a music education conference.

Team:

- Julia Lougheed, Music Performance
- Harrison Holland, Psychology
- Kayla Hanvey, Music Performance

- Macon Mann, Jazz Studies

Faculty Mentors:

- Antonio Garcia, Professor, Music
- Kirk Warren Brown, Associate Professor, Psychology

Award: \$3,500

Skateboarding

Over the years, skateboarding has replaced hardwood flooring as the leading cause of maple deforestation throughout northern Canada mainly due to the dominant large scale manufacturing approach of making boards. This team will address the problem by handcrafting a board with less impact on the environment while maintaining the quality of mass produced boards. The members will learn the necessary methods of compound wood bending, lamination and screen printing graphics onto carved surfaces.

Team:

- David Sparace, Painting + Printmaking
- Samuel Jason Adkins, Graphic Design
- Noah Congedo, Painting + Printmaking
- Samuel Morgan, Sculpture

Faculty Mentor: Matthew Spahr, Art Foundation Program

Award: \$3,500

Postmodernism for Kids for Adults

A transdisciplinary art book will be produced that makes the abstract concepts of postmodern/contemporary art relatable and engaging to a wide audience. The book is intended to be an artfully rendered presentation of the various modes of contemporary art as well as making the abstract concepts of postmodernism more understandable. The project is open-ended and subject to change as artistic discovery occurs.

Team:

- Nicholas Seitz, Photography & Film
- John Sampson, Graphic Design
- Brennen Perry, Painting + Printmaking

Faculty Mentors:

- James Justin Reed, Assistant Professor, Photography & Film
- Andrea Alvarez, doctoral student, Art History

Award: \$1,500

Small Living Space

The shell of a short bus will serve as a social laboratory for creative and sustainable housing. This small living space will serve as a template for minimalistic, simplified living. Through problem-solving, the bus interior will be transformed using skills that require welding, woodworking, ceramics, interior design and architecture. It will be exhibited next to the Depot annex in May 2015.

Team:

- Lacey Leonard, Sculpture
- Emma Hadley, Kinetic Imaging
- Andrew Franklin, Sculpture

Faculty mentor: Eric Stepp, Adjunct Faculty, Sculpture + Extended Media

Award: \$3,000

2013 — 2014 Awards

Afghanistan's Rubab - The Lion of Instruments

This project is intended to preserve and expose Afghan Classical Music by creating a smartphone application of Afghanistan's national instrument, the Rubab. With four main strings tuned in fourths, three drone stings, and a dozen or so sympathetic strings, the Rubab is a lute-like instrument that dates back to the 6th Century CE and is called "the lion of instruments" by Afghans. This project is a step towards encouraging growth of a culture which has terribly regressed due to decades of war. Students from Music and Computer Science will collaborate to create a smartphone application which will include the history of music, guides on traditional musical styles, and play-along percussion for improvisations.

Team:

- Sulaiman Popal, Music
- Matthew Hill, Computer Science

Faculty Mentors:

- Antonio Garcia, Music
- Dr. Anton Brinkwirth, World Studies

Award: \$2,500

Richmond Auf Deutsch

Through both visual and historical research, and will reveal the Germanic roots of Richmond to the broader community. Curating a Photographic exhibition and producing a short publication, the team hopes to further the public's awareness of Richmond's German-American cultural history as it translates into contemporary architecture, religion, and tradition.

Team:

- Inga Schunn, Photography & Film
- Bethany Gingrich, Craft/Material Studies with a minor in Art History

Faculty mentor: Dr. Charles Brownell and other community experts

Award: \$4,500

musicpace.edu: Education re-form through space and creativity

This project will study the effects of the current educational environments on the creative individual. Through research, the team will provide an educational environment that is stimulating and accommodating to the current generation of students. The space will strengthen the music community and foster collaboration between students, while encouraging the learning process and allowing students to be more explorative in their creative endeavors.

Team:

- Chanel Hurt, Music
- Anthony Martin, Interior Design
- Christina Merritt, Psychology

Faculty Mentors:

- Susanna Klein, Music
- Chris Arias, Interior Design

Award: \$5,000

Richmond's Arts & Culture District: Documentary & Community Forums

Students will Investigate successful examples of cities that have transformed their artistic communities. They intend to create a documentary about the changing face of the Richmond arts and culture district in order to connect the district's vibrant past with current efforts in the area promoting diversity within the arts. Team members will investigate the desires and needs of community members and seek inspiration from these successful case studies to envision the district's future. An

environment for introspection and engagement, in the form of several student guided forums with community members, will develop the district's story and provide the framework of the film. Students will conclude the forums with a screening and community discussion of the documentary and follow with submissions to local as well as national and international film festivals.

Team:

- Lauren Cronan, Photography & Film
- Gabby Namm, Film
- David Reisinger, Film
- Kim McNamee, Film
- JiYoon Cha, Graphic Design
- Beverly Ware, Mass Communications
- Rebecca Begans, Anthropology
- Charles Wilson, Urban Planning
- Natalie Moles, Urban Planning

Faculty Mentors:

- Sasha Freyer, Photography & Film
- Ryan Rinn, Director of Storefront for Community Design

Award: \$5,000

Science of Filmmaking

This project will explore the organic nature of photochemical film and the various aesthetic qualities achieved through different processes of filmmaking. The aim is to show young filmmakers the creative potential of photochemical film as a physical medium and the specific, scientific reasons behind the filmmaking process. Three of the students from film and chemistry will join forces to attend the Handmade Filmmaking Camp in Colorado where they will work and study under the guidance of independent filmmaker and educator Robert Schaller. With the help of students in painting/printmaking and art education the team will design an art exhibit to present the research to the Richmond community.

Team:

- Cody Huff, Film
- Alexander Kreher, Film
- Aaron Wilson, Chemistry and Biology
- Christopher Lewis, Painting + Printmaking
- Samantha Correa-, Art Education and Photography

Faculty Mentor: Dana Ollestad, Photography & Film

Award: \$5,000

Kids Curate

Students from Art Education, Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Advertising and Marketing work together with middle schools in the Richmond community to teach what it means to have a visual arts related career. Middle school students will enroll in a month long workshop series held on Saturdays at VCUarts, MoB+Storefront. Alongside faculty and students of VCU, the middle school children will learn new art making techniques, marketing and advertising techniques, and organizational skills implemented in the curating of a gallery. The team of VCU students will use skills from their respective departments to create lesson plans based around each of these ideas and lead the youth of the community to create, advertise and curate an entire art exhibition of their own.

Team:

- Shannon Brady, Art Education
- Jane Taylor, Creative Advertising
- Ally Palmer, Creative Advertising
- Leah Schmidt, Graphic Design

Faculty mentor: Kristin Caskey, Fashion Design

Award: \$3,800

2012 — 2013 Awards

Aerogel Exploration

This project will explore the properties of aerogel, the lightest, lowest density solid and similar in structure to glass, through its application in a sound piece/installation. Students in Sculpture and Physics will collaborate with faculty to create and mold aerogel capable of withstanding pressure and use. The project will involve developing a means for increasing the longevity and stability of aerogels for use in sculptural and other applications. The resulting aerogel will be used to make mechanical parts and sculptures for use in an installation.

Team:

- Ginger Kitchen, Sculpture + Extended Media
- Robert Williams, Physics

Faculty mentors:

- Jesse Burrowes, Adjunct Faculty, Sculpture + Extended Media
- Dr. Massimo Bertino, Physics
- Carlton Newton, Chair, Sculpture + Extended Media

Award:
\$3,584.30

Medical Motion

In order to meet the challenge of making medical science easier for students and professionals to grasp, a team of students from Communication Arts, Kinetic Imaging, and Medicine will develop an informational video clip exploring a complex medical topic—the multiple pathways of lipids in the human body. The team hopes to use the video to show the ways in which different disciplines can work together to make learning more accessible through use of animated technology.

Team:

- William Hernandez, Communication Arts (Team Lead)
- Mary Anne Matel, Kinetic Imaging
- Deborah Me, Medical Student
- Maya Sosa, Communication Arts
- Carlos Valdes, Kinetic Imaging
- Laura Zalles, Medical Student

Faculty mentors:

- Dr. Alan Dow, Assistant VP, Interprofessional Education and Care, School of Medicine
- Matt Wallin, Assistant Professor, Communication Arts
- Dr. Chris Woleben, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, School of Medicine

Award: \$1,924

“...Over”

A Painting + Printmaking student, himself a veteran, will work with a group of veterans to create a collaborative installation that addresses the suppression of emotions related to wartime service. The project will involve conducting a series of interviews in which veterans will unpack their thoughts and feelings concerning their experience of war. Words drawn from these interviews will then be stamped on dog tags that will be hung in a manner that references military campaigns, troop movements, and other features of war. The project aims to explore ways of coping with wartime experience as well as helping families, friends, and the community to support and understand the experience of veterans.

Team:

- Joe Olney, Painting + Printmaking
- Ben Sims, VCU alumnus
- Veterans, Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Faculty mentor: Reni Gower, Professor, Painting + Printmaking

Award: \$1,310

People's Library

People's Library will incorporate interactive sculpture, community created ethnographies, and social practice methods to create a library designed, built, and authored by community members. The project transforms discarded books into blank canvasses for oral histories, self-representation, and intimate reflection. The project team will collaborate with youth programs at the Main Branch of Richmond Public Library to offer public workshops in which repurposed blank books will be created along with an interactive sculpture that will house them. The public will then be able to check out and author their "micro-memoirs" within these books, which will become part of a permanent collection of the Main Branch Library.

Team:

- Courtney Bowles, Anthropology and Environmental Studies
- Riley Duncan, Sculpture + Extended Media
- Mark Strandquist, Photography and Sociology (Team Lead)

Faculty mentor: Hope Ginsburg, Assistant Professor, Art Foundation

Award: \$5,000

A Psychophysiological Model for the Assessment of Chronic Muscle Tension in Trumpet Players

The project seeks to develop a psychophysiological model to assess muscle tension in students who play brass instruments. Common among musicians who play brass instruments intensely for long periods of time, chronic muscular conditions of the neck, facial, and upper back muscles restrict how well players can perform. To facilitate effective performance, students from Music, Biology, and Biomedical Engineering will use surface electromyography and the Mental Health Inventory to determine the causes of, and potential preventive measures for, chronic muscle tension in instrumentalists.

Team:

- Sahil Aggarwal, Biology
- Erin Hobson, Biology
- Jeeyun Park, Biomedical Engineering
- Hannah Rumsey, Music Performance (Team Lead)

Faculty mentor: Dr. Ross Walter, Associate Professor, Music

Award: \$4,692.71

“This Makes Sense”

“This Makes Sense” investigates translating sensory perception using technology in novel ways. The project team will transform a gallery space into a sensory translating device, presenting data from several outdoor locations throughout Richmond during different seasons and hours. Three different installations will translate sight to sound, sound to sight, and sound to touch. Sculpture and Engineering students will collaborate on developing the data-collection devices and using the data to create a multisensory exhibition in a gallery setting, while Cinema students will create a documentary that examines the process of undertaking this interdisciplinary collaboration.

Team:

- Michael Flynn, Electrical Engineering
- Marcus Massok, Mechanical Engineering
- Dillon Meyer, Cinema
- Laura Pretzman, Chemical Engineering/Chemical Science
- Taylor Robinson, Cinema
- Elliot Roth, Biomedical Engineering/Chemical Engineering
- Perrin Turner, Sculpture + Extended Media
- Jihyung Yoon, Sculpture + Extended Media (Team Lead)

Faculty mentor: Michael Jones McKean, Associate Professor, Sculpture and Extended Media

Award: \$5,000

Wood Steamer for VCUarts Wood Shop

Students from Sculpture and Mechanical Engineering will construct a wood steamer to explore the possibilities of wood bending. Students will research how wood bends, including the aesthetic effect produced by different types of curved wood. Construction of the steamer requires engineering skills, pushing the traditional design of a steamer to make it functional for a wide variety of wood types and sizes. This project unites the scientific with the creative, fostering interdisciplinary activity by creating the tool that allows for the study of these sculptural elements.

Team:

- Casey Burkett, Sculpture + Extended Media (Team Lead)
- Matthew Burnette, Mechanical Engineering
- Chuck Meas, Mechanical Engineering
- Jose Ocampo, Mechanical Engineering

Faculty mentor: Mary Eisendrath, Assistant Professor and Administrative Director,
Sculpture + Extended Media

Award: \$5,000

2011 — 2012 Awards

The Leigh Street Armory Project — Uncovery and Revitalization

Located at the corner of St. Peter and Leigh Streets, the Leigh Street Armory is one of only three such armories ever built in the U.S. for African Americans. Erected in 1895, it was an emblem of African American independence and community. The students will provide scholarly documentation outlining the historical importance of this building and the African American militias and document the style of armories and their important place in the architectural record. They will also conduct interviews of community members and local historians and formulate a design packet illustrating the potential use of the structure as an African American military museum and community art center/garden. A community forum will present a proposal for reuse of the building, a documentary of its history, and a theatrical production.

Team:

- Dennis Williams, Art History
- Robert Gibson, Communication Arts and Painting + Printmaking
- Shawn Saharko, Communication Arts and Painting + Printmaking
- Chris Raintree, Theatre
- Cody Richardson, Theatre
- Brittney Weiss, Interior Design
- Isoke Ethel-Miller, Interior Design
- Monina Ingle, Interior Design
- Remi Jeffrey-Coker, Interior Design
- Bayly Ogden, History
- Corey Johnson, History
- Joshua Blount, History
- Ravi Sattuluri, Photography

Faculty mentors:

- Dr. Charles Brownell
- Roberto Ventura, Interior Design

Award: \$5,000

Sew Educated: Keeping African Girls in School

This project focuses on the hygienic health risks of young Sudanese females entering puberty. The girls of Sudan describe this experience as frightening and research shows the acceleration of school drop-out rates. The students plan to design and sew reusable sanitary pads for young women in two communities in Sudan, in hopes that girls might participate more easily in school. In collaboration with a relief team from St. James Episcopal Church, the students have arranged for a six month supply of pads to be transported to a Sudanese school and clinic in March 2012. The students intend to make a training DVD and seek donations for sewing machines so that the sewing processes can be learned and adapted in the community.

Team:

- Meghan Hill, Fashion Design
- Keli Eschenbach, Homeland Security
- Sherkinna Hammond, Information Systems
- Cirstain Myles, Nursing

Faculty mentor: Linda Lee

Award: \$3,000

The Disney Effect: Modern Heroines in Children's Media

This proposal will explore the ways in which popular children's films by Walt Disney can affect children's views on gender roles. The students will study popular Disney films to find patterns of visual and thematic elements that promote antifeminism and misogyny. The students will then use their findings to create a short stop-animated film in which these patterns are reversed to promote gender equality and respect for women. The students will also write a short article detailing the findings of the project as well as ways in which parents and educators can initiate thoughtful dialogue with children about the visual culture they are bombarded with on a daily basis. Through this project, the students hope that the public will be enlightened to what children are being exposed to, encourage filmmakers and artists to promote a healthier visual culture for children, and assist educators in further exploring the ways children interact with the images they see.

Team:

- Melody Milleker, Art Education
- Grace Huddleston, Painting + Printmaking
- Addison Martz, Sculpture + Extended Media
- Hunter Brumfield, Photography & Film
- Victoria Champine, Psychology
- Rachel Ludwig, Sculpture + Extended Media

Faculty mentor: Dr. Melanie Buffington

Award: \$4,900

Life of the Small

In the series “Secrets of The Small”, students in Kinetic Imaging and Bioinformatics will collaborate their knowledge of art and science, to merge them into one. They will compose a series of videos and live installation projection performances through the use of a video microscope. This project will display microscopic life to a large audience, and will be entered into film festivals to stimulate dialogue between art and science.

Team:

- Rachael Glasgow, Kinetic Imaging
- Rachel Walstead, Bioinformatics

Faculty mentor: Robert Kaputof

Award: \$2,900

Art in Translation

A student in Painting + Printmaking will collaborate with a recent Interior Design graduate from VCU in Qatar. Together they will explore the translation of two-dimensional painting into three-dimensional interior design elements; reinterpreting traditional art forms using advanced machinery. The mediums of wood, plexiglas, vinyl and fabric will be manufactured based on the paintings produced to take on forms of furniture, wall installations and lighting.

Team:

- Lili Un, Painting + Printmaking
- Rana Rwaished, Interior Design (graduated VCUQ 2011)

Faculty mentors:

- Thomas Rhys Himsworth, VCUQ Director- Painting + Printmaking
- Sally Bowring, Adjunct Faculty- Painting + Printmaking

Award: \$5,000

Mythicops

A video will be produced to showcase the world from the perspective of a child's imagination. The story chronicles a duo of crime fighting scientists' journey to

develop a respectable privatized security agency—The Mythicops. The catch is that they specialize in the apprehension of imaginary creatures/beings. The Mythicops have developed a new school of science which hypothesizes that imaginary beings can eventually manifest themselves on an invisible plane of existence that overlaps with the material world. In order to make this technology work, they must enlist the help of an extremely powerful imagination which they find in a young boy. The project is intended to test students' skills in multi-media collaboration, practice and display their skills in animation and film direction/production.

Team:

- Ryan Coleman, Cinema
- Lauren Stutzriem, Kinetic Imaging
- Graham Ohmer, Photo & Film
- Mel Kobran, Photo & Film
- Warren Jones, Painting + Printmaking

Faculty mentor: Mary Beth Reed

Award: \$2,500

Teachers Dialogue Project

In order to encourage tolerance and cultural discovery, the Teachers Dialog Project will show current students, with an interest in multicultural education and the arts, how to teach and brainstorm with educators in another culture. This project will lead to a better understanding of how art is interpreted in a different cultural setting. Each teaching group is comprised of a Guatemalan teacher, a local Richmond teacher, and a student researcher. The teaching groups will create five culturally rich lessons that can be practiced in both Guatemala and in Richmond. Many of these lessons will involve exchange that will use creative and artistic steps in order to break the cultural and language boundaries between teachers.

Team:

- Virginia Driggers, Art Education
- Alicia Hagy, Art History
- Emily Herr, Communication Arts
- Cynthia Johns, Art Education
- Catherine Chop, Elementary Education

Faculty mentor: Jan Johnston

Award: \$2,300

Pulse: Checking the Vitals of VCUarts

Pulse will be both an online and biennially printed publication that critically examines current events within the VCUarts community. The online and print design of Pulse will be informed by George Maciunas' Fluxus publications and VCU's Blackbird literary journal. Utilizing resources such as Esterknows.com, the publication will include reviews of VCUarts exhibitions and performances, visiting artist lectures, and exemplary work shown in the context of the studio and classroom—alongside other content that inspires analytical and multifaceted discussion. All content will be solicited across the departments of VCU's School of the Arts, with a student-led editorial staff and submissions accepted from both students and faculty. Through the increased visibility of relevant topics and discussions, Pulse will encourage reflection, foster critical thinking, and stimulate new collaborations and communication among peers.

Team:

- Kelley Lowe, Painting + Printmaking
- Ha Tran, Sculpture + Extended Media

Faculty mentor: Reni Gower

Award: \$2,200

RVA Parklet

After researching feasible sustainable trends around the major cities in the U.S., this student team encountered an initiative that promotes wellness, sustainability, design, and interaction: temporary recreational areas known as Parklets. Considering that many streets are excessively wide and contain large zones of wasted space, especially at intersections, Parklets have become the solution to this problem. They seek to reclaim some unused swathes and quickly and inexpensively turn them into new public plazas and parks. By taking over two parking spots to create this space, the intent is to encourage people to exercise, have somewhere to sit and relax and enjoy the city around them, especially where narrow sidewalks would otherwise preclude such activities. This project also explores different methods of building and construction while taking into consideration limitations posed by real-world situations.

Team:

- Ricardo Hernandez-Perez, Interior Design
- Lauren Versino, Sculpture + Extended Media

Faculty mentor: Rab McClure

Award: \$5,000

Does Your Life Revolve Around Food Too? A Nutrition Rendition

The obesity epidemic sweeping the nation requires us to make a healthy impression on younger generations. This student group will create a 3D animated short that explores modern day nutrition habits prevalent in society. Working in the 3D program, MAYA, they will create cartoon renditions that will be a challenge in their development as animators. The final production will consist of animated food characters that interact with each other in their environment, which is a refrigerator. Local families will be invited to view with the intent to learn more about nutrition in a fun and exciting manner.

Team:

- Jennifer Gilray, Kinetic Imaging
- Mariah Ashenden, Kinetic Imaging and Business minor
- Jasmine Sanders, Physical Education, Health, and Exercise Sciences

Faculty mentor: Robert Kaputof

Award: \$800

Sound + Silk

This project will produce a series of textiles that convert a piece of music, Olivier Messiaen's Quatour pour la fin du temps (Quartet for the End of Time), into pieces of fabric so that the relationship between the two can be seen and heard. Olivier Messiaen perceived colors when he heard music and these colors were important in his own compositional process. The translation of the music will be accomplished through a color rule system devised with special attention to the instruments being played and the instances of loud and soft tones, the length of notes, chord structure, and the rhythm. The music scores will be dissected so parts can be assigned value, line density, and pattern. Ten large textiles pieces will be woven and exist as interpretations of Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time as a whole and its divided components. Together, they will communicate the phenomena of synesthesia from music into dyed and woven fiber.

Team:

- Adah Kanter, Craft/Material Studies
- Catherine Gellatly, Craft/Material Studies
- William Weirich, Pre-Health major, Music minor

Faculty mentor: Susan Iverson

Award: \$3,000

2010 — 2011 Awards

Chasing Forever: Higher Learning through Hip-Hop

A team of three students will explore the musical genre of hip-hop focusing on the investigation of perceptions of hip-hop that show averse or detached feelings towards hip-hop culture. In collaboration with the VCU Student Hip-Hop Organization (SHHO), they will launch a publication that defies negative perceptions towards hip-hop and informs about the worldly and multi-disciplined influence hip-hop has gained over the years.

Team:

- Neil Lopez, Advertising
- Duy Nguyen, Cinema and Philosophy
- Rebecca Rice, Graphic Design

Faculty mentor: Dawn Waters

Award: \$2,100

Remember Me

Two Painting + Printmaking students will create an installation consisting of portraits commemorating family and friends diagnosed with Alzheimer's. There will be an interactive piece that prompts the viewer to contribute a feeling or remembrance. All drawings will be available for sale and donations will be accepted with proceeds going to the Alzheimer's Foundation.

Team:

- Mandy Fitzgerald, Painting + Printmaking
- Virginia Wood, Painting + Printmaking

Faculty mentor: Reni Gower

Award: \$1,430

Revelations of Feminism in the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

A Painting + Printmaking student will cross-examine twenty-five paintings of nude women created by male artists from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The objective will be to study the shifting visual presentation of women in different periods and better understand the evolution of representations of the female body in art. Five paintings that investigate this topic will be produced and exhibited. Women's Studies majors will be invited to participate in a group dialogue.

Recipient: Allison Jones, Painting + Printmaking

Faculty mentor: Ruth Bolduan

Award: \$743

Breathing in the Performing Arts

Three Performing Arts students will coordinate a series of presentations by breathing specialists in each of the performing arts (Music, Dance and Theatre) as well as a medical specialist in respiratory therapy. The presentations will educate students on the mechanics of breathing, the development of breathing, and different perspectives on breathing from other performing arts. All presentations will be video-recorded, produced into DVD form, and housed at the Media Resource Center of Cabell library to be used as a resource for students.

Team:

- Greyson Goodenow, Theatre Performance
- Pace Short, Dance and Choreography
- Joshua Wright, Music Education

Faculty mentor: Dr. Ross Walter

Award: \$3,000

Glass Eye Prosthetics

A Craft/Material Studies student will travel to Luascha, Germany to learn the art of glass eye blowing, an art used to make medical prosthetics and realistic eyes for taxidermy animals in museums. A video will be made documenting the teachings of Walter Hellbach (3rd generation glass blower) to share with students in the glass program. Students at VCUarts will have access to learn a lost art that is not taught in the United States.

Recipient: Sean Donlon, Craft/Material Studies

Faculty mentor: Emilio Santini

Award: \$3000

The Imaginauts

Five students from various disciplines will create a series of short films aimed at children who have graduated from the ABCs and 123s and seek a program that continues to foster their curiosity and creativity. The series revolves around the

adventures of the Imaginauts, a team of dimension-hopping, time-traveling muses who stimulate the imaginations of the creatively blocked. Using stop-motion animation, puppets, and music, the Imaginauts will make art theory and history accessible to post-elementary school children, building their confidence in their ability to learn and create.

Team:

- Kirsten Cohen, Cinema
- Emily Herr, Communication Arts
- Allie Smith, Kinetic Imaging
- Ha Tran, Sculpture + Extended Media and Craft/Material Studies
- Jonathan Tune, Communication Arts

Faculty mentor: Matt King

Award: \$3,000

Artistry and Athleticism through Capoeira

Capoeira, a Brazilian martial art, will serve as artistic inspiration for five students from Fashion Design, Art History, Cinema, Graphic Design, and Communication Arts. The students will combine the skills of each of their artistic trades to explore how artistry can meet athleticism through Capoeira. The students will learn the foundations of each discipline, incorporate their own skills and perspectives, and explore the ways in which art forms interact to create one cohesive gallery exhibition revealing the relationship between artistry and athleticism.

Team:

- Christine Billard, Fashion Design
- Cory Holm, Cinema
- Corey Martin, Art History
- Allison Simes, Graphic Design
- Seth Ylitalo-Ward, Communication Arts

Faculty mentor: Henry Swartz

Award: \$2,550

Chronicling Urbanism in-between: There/Here

One Interior Design major and one Architectural History major will combine their enthusiasm for their respective majors to draw attention to and document several vacant buildings on the iconic strips of East Broad Street and East Grace Street in Richmond. They will create a web site for a public database and interactive map of

vacant properties to be used as a tool for the community of designers, historians, and prospective developers.

Team:

- R. Tyler King, Art History (Architectural History)
- Andrea Manrique, Interior Design

Faculty mentors: Camden Whitehead and Dr. Charles Brownell

Award: \$2,960

NICA Initiative: Nicaraguan International Collaborative Arts

Three students will travel to Nicaragua for a two-week-long art education program, aimed at discovering the benefits of teaching art across international borders and socioeconomic levels. In partnership with Orphanetwork, a program that does mission work and educates orphans, the students will promote the implementation of art education programs in Nicaragua, incorporating elements and principles of conceptual art-making to initiate exploration of self-expression through different disciplines and mediums. The program will culminate in a gallery of student work at the orphanage and video documentation of the trip to be brought to VCU.

Team:

- Amanda Hitchcock, Sculpture + Extended Media
- Aissatou Barry, Kinetic Imaging
- Rachel Schneider, Art Education

Faculty mentor: Sara Wilson McKay

Award: \$5,000

Nonesuch

Students in Photography and Film, Kinetic Imaging, Communication Arts and History will explore something that we can't tell you about right now or it could ruin their project. We will post their summary at a later date, after their anonymity is no longer necessary.

Team:

- Anonymous, Photography and Film
- Anonymous, Kinetic Imaging
- Anonymous, Communication Arts
- Anonymous, Photography and Film and Creative Advertising
- Anonymous, History

Faculty mentors:

- Stephen Vitiello
- Jacob Dodd
- Dr. James Watkinson

Award: \$2,950

Visualizing Sound

One Painting + Printmaking student along with one Engineering student will create a piece that combines painting and electrical engineering by converting sound into a visual display. The core of this project will use the fractal patterns detected in sound to convert into fractal images that constantly grow, develop, and change in real time, creating a piece of art that is constantly evolving. The outcome of this project will create art that is solely dependent on its environment.

Team:

- Nathan Hilbish, Graduate Electrical Engineering
- Theresa Painter, Painting + Printmaking

Faculty mentors:

- Ronald Johnson
- Dr. Afoditi Vennie Filippas

Award: \$650

The Whole Truth Museum

The Whole Truth Museum will represent a collaboration of VCUarts students, two from Sculpture+Extended Media and two majoring in Painting + Printmaking. Through the lens of modern feminism and institutional critique, these four women will create a museum aimed at opening the ideas of history to question. The goal will not only be to point out the weaknesses of the current museum system but to make a meaningful connection with surroundings through research and exploration. The WTM will establish a place in which we can react to our environment (downtown Richmond), its history and its community through a series of fabricated galleries containing artifacts-both real and handmade.

Team:

- Brianna Gribben, Sculpture + Extended Media
- Elise Isom, Painting + Printmaking
- Jaimie McKay, Sculpture + Extended Media

- Cameron Robinson, Sculpture + Extended Media

Faculty mentor: Hope Ginsburg

Award: \$2,500

A Dance through the Decades

Students from Cinema, Fashion Design and Interior design will use lyrics to tell a love story through decades on film. Each segment of the film, and each room in the house, will depict a different decade to tell the story of a sixty-year relationship between a man and a woman. The short film will be one consecutive shot of the couple from childhood to old age dancing from room to room, and from decade to decade.

Team:

- Danny Caporaletti, Cinema
- Jacqueline Ferrer, Fashion Design
- Mona Bonnot, Interior Design

Faculty mentor: Mary Beth Reed

Award: \$1,800

Fluxscape

Three students from Kinetic Imaging, Communication Arts and Music will create a live kinetic performance-based installation. In a process known as urban mapping, they will utilize a venue projector to transpose images onto the façade of a building. The installation will be reactive and improvisational, a shifting visual and sonic landscape entirely dependent on its audience. The piece will be promoted as an event in a space downtown and entered in the 2011 InLight Festival.

Team:

- Liz Baker, Kinetic Imaging
- Devonne Harris, Music (Jazz)
- Ginna Lambert, Communication Arts

Faculty mentor: Bob Paris

Award: \$3,000

2009 — 2010 Awards

Technologically Charged Modern Dance Event

Four students will create a full evening-length multimedia modern dance event to be held at the newly renovated Dogtown Dance Theatre. The theme for the piece is the study of the human subconscious. The starting point will be the investigation from *Quadrifrons*, a complete collaborative dance work based on hypnosis and the human subconscious.

Team:

- Amy Kaeberle, Interdisciplinary Studies (Dance and Choreography and Kinetic Imaging)
Alyssa Gregory, Dance and Choreography
Amanda Patterson, Kinetic Imaging
- Nathan Altice, Media, Art + Text

Faculty Mentor: N/A

Award: \$3,000

Eco-Chic: Recycled Fashion

One Sculpture + Extended Media and one Craft/Material Studies student will marry their love affair with fabric in *Eco-Chic*. The central theme of this project is to take pre-existing fabrics such as curtains, upholstery or sheets from second-hand shops and transform them into new and original fabrics which will then be used to create a collection of one-of-a-kind clothing. A series of unique garments will be created drawing inspiration from the lines and shapes of intricate furniture.

Team:

- Grace Johnston, Sculpture + Extended Media
- Anne Douglas Shaw, Craft/Material Studies

Faculty Mentor: N/A

Award: \$1,800

Kinetic Reactions to Sounds of Public Spaces

In an ongoing Kinetic Imaging and Sculpture + Extended Media collaboration, two students will create a kinetic sculpture, which visually reacts to the sonic landscapes of public spaces in Richmond. Using audio-sensitive technology, programming, and robotics, parts of the sculpture will react to city noises. The piece will have a form suggestive of organic life and its sensitivity to our environment. Through this reaction, the project will increase awareness of the prevalence of sound and the importance of silence. Students will build on knowledge acquired in their separate

robotics and sound classes, to learn about Richmond and interactive public art installations.

Team:

- John Dombroski, Kinetic Imaging
- Joshua Bennett, Sculpture + Extended Media

Faculty Mentor: N/A

Award: \$2,400

Color Me Curious

A team of four students will research the concept of using experimental film devices in a feature length narrative film. Adopting an original screenplay as the framework, their execution will include techniques such as multi-layered superimposition, traveling mattes and cut-out animation. Using high definition video and digitally transferred 8mm film and VHS, they will cross different filmmaking mediums.

Team:

- Harrison Colby, Cinema
- John Reaves, English
- Knox Colby, Mass Communications
- Jami Eaton, German

Faculty Mentor: N/A

Award: \$1,550

The Yellow House

Seven students from various disciplines will create an art educational television program titled The Yellow House. Puppets will play a major role in the development of this program designed to teach audiences of all ages about artists and the inspiration found in their work. Vincent van Gogh will be one of the program's reoccurring characters. The title The Yellow House references van Gogh's house in the south of France that became a sanctuary for artists.

Team:

- Kay Milne, Art Education
- Gerry Perez, Art Education
- Warren A. Hamilton II, Kinetic Imaging
- Dennis Williams, Theatre and Art History
- Rebecca Rudolph, Theatre (Scene Design)
- Brian Glass, Kinetic Imaging and Computer Science

- Emily Rosko, Theatre/ Stage Management

Faculty Mentor: N/A

Award: \$2,500

The Persistence of Poe in Richmond, VA

Students from Kinetic Imaging, Communication Arts, Cinema and Theatre will create a thirty minute film, The Persistence of Poe in Richmond, VA. The project will document Poe's accomplishments as a resident of the city and how his presence is still felt by Richmonders today. Through its use of live action, animation, writing, narration, music, dance, and acting, the film will demonstrate the range, power, and ability of interdisciplinary art.

Team:

- Christine Stoddard, Cinema and English
- David Fuchs, Kinetic Imaging
- Nina Stoddard, Communication Arts
- Hilary Stallings, Theatre
- Erica Breig, Theatre

Faculty Mentor: N/A

Award: \$2,250

The Practical Uses of Electronic Aids in French Horn Performance

Two Music majors will discover whether or not electronic aids and multimedia will pave a new frontier for the French horn in solo performance and ensemble performance. By focusing on the use of microphones, click tracks, digital and analog effects, and computers, the students will conduct research that will educate horn players and music educators on the possibilities of non-traditional electro-acoustic and multimedia uses in French horn performance.

Team:

- Benjamin Faught, Music Education
- Jesse Williams, Music Performance

Faculty Mentor: N/A

Award: \$1,200

womanHOODA

womanHOODA's a reaction to archetypes in cultural fairytales and a discourse in the gender politics of the uniform, students from Sculpture + Extended Media and Women's Studies will engage the imagery of Little Red Riding Hood to create an open edition of garments. Pieces will be sent to women across the country and the world who will be encouraged to modify, personalize, and alter their garment in any way they see fit and then send them back to Richmond. Using Little Red Riding Hood as a battleground for restoring the power of femininity to women, and the garment as a public space, the pieces created will function as both wearable art and social research.

Team:

- Rebecca Henderson, Sculpture + Extended Media (major) and Painting + Printmaking (minor)
- Shannon Le Corre, Women's Studies

Faculty Mentor: N/A

Award: \$1,100

Project Persephone

Students from Cinema, Music and Theatre will create Pomegranate, VCU's first musical film based on the Greek myth of Hades and Persephone. Students will compose a visual and musical work exploring sacrifices made for love.

Team:

- Mary Cox, Cinema
- Savannah Berry, Music (Vocal Performance)
- Jennifer Anne Ducharme, Theatre (Costume Design)

Faculty Mentor: N/A

Award: \$2,400

VCU's First African Baptist Church (1876-2010)

A Cultural Crossroads Art History and Cinema students will examine the former Old First African Baptist Church, one of the most historic buildings in Richmond and the first place a black clergyman was able to conduct services without white supervision. The church embodies legacies from most major ancient and medieval cultures, but has never been researched in detail. The project will result in a written report to be deposited at Cabell Library and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

Team:

- Kalitah Crawford, Art History

- Thomas Flanagan, Art History (Architectural History)
- Sophia Minnerly, Cinema

Faculty Mentor: N/A

Award: \$1,950

2008 — 2009 Awards

Multimedia Art Advocacy

Through this interdisciplinary project, students from the Sculpture, Graphic Design, and Music departments will generate one multifunctional art work that personifies a percussion instrument and can take the role of a sculpture. Graphic artist will assist with computerized abstracts to help with construction and lecture/demonstrations. Musicians will play the sculpture as a percussion instrument and visual artists will present it as a sculpture. Each student will participate in every phase of development including design, sculpting, and musical composition. Developing the skill to collaborate with artists of other disciplines will build more opportunities for education and employment as well as enlarge audiences. The completed work will reach out to students through musical performance and visual aesthetics.

Team:

- Kevin Estes, Music Performance
- Peter Soroka, Music Performance
- Brittany Shade, Sculpture + Extended Media
- John Labra, Graphic Design

Faculty Mentors:

- Robert Carter, Graphic Design
- Kris Keeton, Music
- Brian Jones, Music

Award: \$2,500

Magnetic/Jewelry

This Craft-Sculpture team will attend the 2009 Magnetic Conference to learn more about magnetic and diamagnetic metals like bismuth and ferrofluid. Interested in how people fidget with their objects of adornment (rings, necklaces, opening lockets, braiding hair) they will create magnetic and scientific wearable art that the viewer can play with on and off the body. They also plan to integrate glass, metal and fibers into their designs and showcase the series as interactive sculptural pieces on and off the body.

Team:

- Mary E. S. Cox, Craft/Material Studies
- Jessica N. Price, Sculpture + Extended Media

Faculty Mentor: Susie Ganch, Craft/Material Studies

Award: \$2,900

Resurrection of Haute Couture in America

The project team will further practice and expand their knowledge of the Modaris program while creating a line of nine individual looks of women's Haute Couture clothing. This practice of paying high attention to detail in the construction, embellishment, and fit of a garment has died in the American fashion industry. Haute couture embodies the highest quality of craftsmanship, fabrics, seam finishes, and incorporates details such as embroidery, beading, feather work, braiding, et cetera. It is the art of fashion at its best. If selected by the jury, the final collection would be showcased in the VCU fashion show as well and the independent senior fashion show.

Team:

- Amy Galles, Fashion Design
- Carole L. Jones, Fashion Design
- Tonya Mixon, Fashion Design

Faculty Mentor: Holly Alford, Fashion Design & Merchandising

Award: \$2,489

New Zealand Bound: World of Wearable Art

This team will create a spectacular garment that will incorporate their specific mediums: fashion and sculpture. Together they will design, sketch, create and submit their design to the "World of Wearable Art" the world's largest wearable art fashion show held annually in New Zealand. If accepted, they will travel to New Zealand to participate in the two opening nights of the show in September 2009. Together they won Richmond's tenth annual Wearable Art fashion show and opened the SEAMLESS: Computational Couture fashion show in Boston, MA.

Team:

- Grace D. Johnston, Sculpture + Extended Media
- Melanie J. Hearn, Fashion Design

Faculty Mentor: Henry Swartz, Fashion Design & Merchandising

Award: \$3,000

“Rising to the Top: ‘Palladian’ Windows on Richmond Rooftops”

“Palladian window” – an expensive feature used to light grand spaces -- migrated upstairs to become a common feature of American attics (1890-present). VCU not only owns the earliest Richmond example (at Ginter House, 1888-92) but also boasts 13 other historic buildings with this motif. Studying how the influence of these windows traveled widely into the Fan can open up the national story. The first part will summarize findings; the second will provide a catalogue of attic Palladian windows in the Fan, with illustrations of the most significant ones.

Recipient: Allison L. Frew, Art History

Faculty Mentor: Charles Brownell, Art History

Award: \$1,800

Scent Markings: Enfleurage and Intaglio

Investigation of scent by participating in the process of extracting essential oils from gathered natural materials and responding to findings using intaglio as a medium. The choice of intaglio as a medium is due to the similarity between the copper plate and scent in their abilities to hold a sense of memory and history. The opportunity to work with two different scent capturing processes (steam-distillation and enfleurage) will allow the scent to be experienced on a deeper level and with a strong spirit of exploration that will inform a coherent body of work in intaglio. The intended result of this research project will be an exhibition, in the VCU Student Gallery, composed of scent response prints in intaglio as well as an installation of my bottled extractions.

Recipient: Caitlin Shields, Art Education major and Painting + Printmaking Minor

Faculty Mentor: Brooke Inman, Painting + Printmaking

Award: \$1,000

Mobile Gallery Investigation in Contemporary Art Fairs

The participants will examine the function of a conceptual mobile gallery within a contemporary art fair setting. They propose to take their miniature mobile gallery, WORN Gallery (worngallery.blogspot.com), to New York and participate in one of the yearly contemporary art fairs [Armory Show, Pulse NY, Affordable Art Fair]. Most galleries participating in international art fairs are exhibited from stationary booths, but as a traveling gallery affixed to gallery members, they propose to

become a new form of gallery participant as well as spectator, learning about new and upcoming artists. This project will get participants involved in research, collaborative planning, creating presentations for fair administrators, designing exhibition materials, exchanging ideas with other artists, and learning how to maintain professionalism in the contemporary art market.

Team:

- Diana Cavanaugh, Sculpture + Extended Media and Painting + Printmaking
- Cara Frye, Communication Arts
- Derek Cavanaugh, Communication Arts
- Alexa Lester-Frazier, Sculpture and Painting
- Joseph Whitfield, Sculpture + Extended Media

Faculty Mentor: Carlton Newton, Sculpture + Extended Media

Award: \$2,500

2007 — 2008 Awards

Richmond Film Studio Feasibility

The students explored the feasibility and benefits that a film studio may have in the Richmond, Virginia area. This team examined the possibility, practicality, benefits and sustainability of the creation of a film studio in the community from an economic, technical and social perspective.

Team:

- Ian Edwards, Cinema
- Nathaniel Mollick, Cinema
- John Charles Schneider, Cinema
- Zach Snowden, Cinema

Faculty Mentor: Rob Tregenza, Cinema

Award: \$1,450

VCU/Public Recycling Enhancement

VCU's current recycling program only occurs within its buildings. Research involved analysis of critical high density pathways on campus in order to accommodate the need for recycling activity that occurs between buildings. VCU construction parameters, sustainable material specification options, and examples of successful institutional precedents were examined. Analysis of this information was

synthesized for the design and manufacturing of a prototype recycling bin appropriate for utilitarian outdoor use.

Team:

- Zachary Becker, Interior Design
- Chase Cochran, Interior Design
- David Choe, Craft/Material Studies
- Matthew Brett, Sculpture + Extended Media
- Carlton Morgan, Sculpture + Extended Media and Craft/Material Studies

Faculty Mentor: Camden Whitehead, Interior Design

Award: \$4,250

The Abaya as Inspiration for Fashion Design

VCU Fashion Design juniors collaborated with six Fashion Design seniors from VCU School of the Arts in Qatar on a project that used the abaya (robe worn by Muslim women) as inspiration. The designs were critiqued by the VCU Qatar students and produced by tailors in Qatar. The experience tested how well ideas are communicated and received. The finished garments were included in both the VCU and VCU Qatar annual fashion shows spring 2008. This project was the first cross-campus and cross-cultural collaboration between VCU and VCU Qatar fashion design departments.

Team:

- Natalie Hakim
- Kelli Green
- Nicole Osborne
- Ra-Yeon Jang
- Audrey Leon
- Shanna Shin
- Shelby Day
- Jessica Goodspeed
- Corey Stewart
- Lindsey French
- Amy Galles
- Holly Sullivan
- Kendra Palin
- Cara Hodge
- Kathleen Gary
- Darryl Schneider
- Brittany Monteith

Faculty Mentors:

- Kim Guthrie, Fashion Design (VCU)
- Sandra Wilkins, Fashion Design (VCUQatar)

Award: \$2,000

Postmodern Narrative in Cinema

The team researched aspects of postmodern works of literature that have been used to a film's benefit. The students also examined previous attempts at adapting postmodern novels into films. They applied this research to the creation of a multimedia art installation the centerpiece of which was a short film that contains elements of postmodern narrative and visual interpretations of the literary techniques used in postmodern literature. The project's investigation and application of research points toward a way in which postmodern novels could be better adapted into films.

Team:

- Michael Bryant, Cinema
- Stephen Farris, Cinema
- Dominic Butchello, Art Foundation Program
- Cole Sullivan, Art Foundation Program

Faculty Mentor: Rob Tregenza, Cinema

Award: \$3,700

Terranet - Microsoft's 2008 Imagine Cup

The team created a multi-player real time strategy game for the 2008 Imagine Cup competition theme "Imagine a world where technology enables a sustainable environment." Players were faced with the choice of using renewable energy sources or fossil fuels and other non-renewable energy sources to create a stable futuristic society. The goal was to make a digital experience that is fun and visually compelling while still having a prominent theme of environment conservation.

Team:

- Cody Wright, Kinetic Imaging
- Matt Taylor, Communication Arts
- Francis Yaconiello, Business/Information Systems
- Chris Bradford, Business/Information Systems

Faculty Mentors:

- Cody Wright, Kinetic Imaging
- Francis Yaconiello, Business/Information Systems

Award: \$5,000

Deconstruction-Reconstruction

Garments and accessories were created using various construction, fabric manipulation, surface design, and stitching techniques in order to recycle and reuse the fabric scraps. Muslin and scrap metal were used in the construction of accessories and custom hardware for the pieces. One-of-a-kind garments and accessories will be entered into multiple design competitions.

Team:

- Casey Bianco, Fashion Design
- Sarah Holden, Craft/Material Studies
- Brittany Felter, Craft/Material Studies
- Jessica Lee, Fashion Design
- Soo Kim, Fashion Design
- Josefina Stephens, Fashion Design

Faculty Mentors:

- Kristin Caskey, Fashion Design
- Linda Lee, Fashion Design
- Sonya Clark, Craft/Material Studies
- Susie Ganch, Craft/Material Studies
- Julia Pfaff, Craft/Material Studies
- Dr. Cindy Kissel-Ito, School of World Studies

Award: \$3,600

2006 — 2007 Awards

Kakuma Kenya - African Refugee Art Club

This group will travel to Kenya to produce a video documentary about the African Refugee Art Club. The Art Club was founded by Awer Bul and other Sudanese artists who fled their country seeking safety. The group provides a rare artistic outlet for the “Lost Boys of Sudan.” Gabriel and Awer intend to build an identity for Sudanese refugees worldwide. The grant will fund travel to Kenya, lodging and video supplies.

Team:

- Gabriel Williams, Kinetic Imaging
- Awer Bul, Kinetic Imaging and Painting & Printmaking

Faculty mentor: Robert Paris, Assistant Professor, Kinetic Imaging

Award: \$5,000

FroshArt.com

Two Graphic Design students have teamed up with engineering student Clint Titsworth to create a web site that will provide free space for upcoming and professional artists to display their work. The software will be designed and coded from scratch and will allow for commenting and tagging, fan/friend/patron communication, artwork viewing and sales, and rankings. The grant will fund dedicated hosting and advertising

Team:

- Michael Garrett, Graphic Design
- Eric Wolinsky, Graphic Design

Faculty mentor: N/A

Award: \$3,250

Slow Brown Dinner

A diverse group of students will employ absurd techniques to create humorous and “somewhat meaningless” films. Three of these will utilize mad libs, meaning selected words of a phrase are replaced with others as their point of departure. The project explores the narrative possibilities of pattern, texture, gesture, and non-sync sound to produce work that is more complex than would be possible individually. The grant will fund fabric, ink and sewing supplies for costumes and film festival entry fees.

Team:

- Sharon Moon, Sculpture + Extended Media
- Ashley Pridmore, Sculpture + Extended Media
- Cecelia Dailey, Photography & Film and Philosophy
- Kevin Blow, Fashion Design & Merchandising
- Genevieve Kammel, Religious Studies

Faculty mentor: Kristin Caskey, Fashion Design and Merchandising

Award: \$2,500

Identity in Urban Environments

This group will examine why we see so many examples of extreme identities in urban settings such as Richmond. They will produce a documentary about those in

the urban environment who choose to make radical changes in their personal representation. The goal is for the viewers to form a better understanding of the impact of urbanization on identity formation. The grant will fund supplies.

Team:

- Sera Tabb, Communication Arts
- Jon Headlee, Philosophy and Psychology

Faculty mentor: Robert Meganck, Communication Arts

Award: \$5,000

TechNouveau

These students will create a collection of women's apparel and fashion jewelry inspired by Art Nouveau and technology. They will explore the relationship between these two vastly different ideas by combining old techniques, including traditional draping and embroidery, with modern fabric printing methods. The grant will fund a New York trip to visit the Art Nouveau collection at the Met and the purchase of fabric, precious metals, jewelry supplies, fabric printing and photography.

Team:

- Michael Birch-Pierce, Fashion Design & Merchandising
- Andrea Harriman, Craft/Material Studies

Faculty mentors:

- Susie Ganch, Craft/Material Studies
- Kristin Caskey, Fashion Design and Merchandising

Award: \$2,000

A Study of Time and Reality

This student investigates the effects of technology on performance. She will explore the time-controlled manipulated environment of a machine and its association with a moving body. Through the use of computer-generated images, pre-recorded and live feed video footage, the work will incorporate audience interaction to create numerous outcomes. The grant will fund costumes and equipment.

Recipient: Courtney Cooke, Dance

Faculty mentor: Scott Putman, Assistant Professor, Dance and Choreography

Award: \$2,100

The Swap Meet

This student will solicit artistic proposals from an eclectic group of participants in a variety of mediums, who will anonymously swap proposals with others. The new owner is charged with fulfilling the creative vision of a stranger. The emerging outcome crosses minds and cultures. The resulting work will be displayed at Ephemeroptera Gallery in Brooklyn. The grant will cover travel, printing, shipping and exhibition costs.

Recipient: Macon Reed, Sculpture + Extended Media

Faculty mentor: Robert Paris, Assistant Professor, Kinetic Imaging

Award: \$3,050

Insiders/Outsiders

Through the study of portraiture, this student will examine the notion that an identity or community is the belief that something or someone lies outside of it, and that the construction of self is inherently "othering." A group of large-scale oil paintings will be created which will describe the research and its relevance to contemporary art. The student plans a solo exhibition at a VCU student gallery space. The grant will fund two trips to the National Portrait Gallery, paint materials and framing.

Recipient: Douglas Colie, Painting + Printmaking

Faculty mentor: Ruth Bolduan, Associate Professor, Painting + Printmaking

Award: \$900

Untangling the Arabesque

This student will examine an accurate account of the purely Islamic architectural elements within Richmond's Monroe Park District. The result will be a two-part catalogue to be deposited in the Special Collections at VCU's Cabell Library. The grant will fund travel to DC to visit libraries and galleries, selected books, cost of images, supplies, stationery and printing.

Recipient: Leila Prasertwaitaya, Art History

Faculty mentors:

- Dr. Charles Brownell, Art History
- Sheila Blair and Dr. Jonathan Bloom, Hamad bin Khalifa Co-Chairs in Islamic Art

Award: \$1,200