GREETINGS FROM DEAN JOSEPH H. SEIPEL

In June, we broke ground on the VCU Institute for Contemporary Art, scheduled to open in 2016. If you’ve been reading Studio these past couple of years, you know that the ICA, designed by Steven Holl Architects, will be a game-changing, non-collecting institution at the corner of Belvidere and Broad Streets. There’s a construction camera on the ICA site (ica.vcu.edu) where you can watch the progress in real time.

Our research efforts have increased dramatically, with the assistance of our tireless research team. I’m pleased to announce that VCUarts will hold the Alliance for the Arts in Research & Innovation (AARI) National Conference in January, where 150 students and faculty from across the country will gather. VCUarts and VCU healthcare leaders have now collaborated in more than a dozen projects and we’re spending the week discussing these innovative efforts. At the VCUarts campus in Qatar, the biannual Tasmeem Design Conference will take place in March 2015.

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Over the last year, VCUarts faculty, students and alumni have been engaged in a conversation about the future of arts and culture at VCU (see page 2). At the VCUarts campus in Qatar, the biannual Tasmeem Design Conference will take place in March 2015.

Our faculty, students and alumni continue to make important contributions to the cultural landscape. On the following pages you will get glimpses of the amazing creative spirit that is the heart and soul of VCUarts… enjoy!

ON THE COVER

Richmond, VA was recently named one of America’s happiest cities by the National Bureau of Economic Research. But RVA is no stranger to accolades. Over the past few years, the city has enjoyed the national spotlight for several things, from hosting the VCU track team through the city (“River Walk Town in America,” Outside Magazine, 2013), to being a historical background for productions like Steven Spielberg’s “Lincoln” (“Most Places to Live and Work on a Marathon,” SmartMoney, 2013), as well as RVA’s ability to create and cultivate talent (“The Most Creative Mid-Sized Cities in America,” Bloomberg Businessweek, “The U.S. Cities,” The Daily Beast, 2013; “Up and Coming Cities for Creative Entrepreneurs,” Forbes, 2013). Oh, and Hampton stations Richmond on one of the top travel destinations for 2015 (the only city in the United States listed).


VCUarts is delighted to have the Depot building open. On the first floor, there is a student-run Depot Gallery and work spaces for the Department of Kinetic Imaging (motion capture studios) and the Department of Dance & Choreography (spring floor dance studio). On the second floor, you’ll find our interdisciplinary studio space and offices and classroom for our Creative Entrepreneurship program. The program consists of courses that provide students with the foundation to operate as entrepreneurs. The open working space is available to any student or faculty member who needs a place to create and create. And, we have locally owned Aikens Coffee at the entrance.

Since the space opened at the beginning of the semester, the Depot has been hosting a weekly gathering Wednesday mornings, called One Million Cups. Both the university and professional communities are invited to attend, enjoy a cup of coffee, meet others and listen to two entrepreneurs tell their story. This event led to a connection between the owner of NimblePitch (nimblepitch.com) and CoLab, which operates in the Depot.

CoLab is an internship program that provides students with experience in hands-on research and innovative problem-solving. Emphasis is on the collaborative development and commercial application of products that focus on emerging technologies. Program founder, Executive Director of Entrepreneurship Matt Woodman and Director of Academic Technology Andrew Haidee have invited the CoLab as an “anti-disciplinary” learning experience, because no project fits neatly within any discipline defined by the university. The program aligns the classroom by inviting industry inside – and the Depot is the perfect venue that can allow that to happen as it is unlike a formal, traditional university building.

ICA BREAKS GROUND WITH PAINT PERFORMANCE


VCUarts is excited about a new VCUarts partnership with In Your Ear recording studio. The Advanced Media Production & Technology Certificate Program is for college graduates seeking additional knowledge in digital audio and video production, and a continuing education opportunity for professionals in the fields of advertising, marketing and entertainment. If you’re interested, please contact In Your Ear (cools@cools.com).

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FORECAST

September 5 – December 7, 2014
Amy Ballatin: Adrienne Colburn; Blane De St. Croix; Mark Dion; Julie Heffernan; Gidon Mendel

Forecast brings together a wide range of recent work by six artists whose creative practices are propelled by keen attention to the insidious effects of human impact on the planet. In light of climate change and escalating environmental degradation, certain participants tap the narrative potential of their respective mediums to relay concerns that resonate at the national and global scales. Others find fertile territory in diaristic, historical and shadowy narratives. The exhibition demonstrates the remarkable ability to transform materials and paradigms and to undertake the inevitable, often wrenching, recontextualizations and reemergences that are necessary to our times. For one thing, it allows us to consider how and what things are; art can express how we are as a society and as individuals feel about that. He said his fellow artists employ irony, humor, metaphor, allegory, and other uniquely artistic tools to probe formidable complex realities.

MYRON HELFGOTT: AN INVENTORY

January 16 – March 8, 2015

All three floors of the Anderson Gallery will be filled for this retrospective of Myron Helfgott’s work – spanning the early 1970s to today. Helfgott incorporates audio, kinetics, photography, assemblage, projections and traditional sculptural materials to address such diverse subjects as the self-portrait, landscape painting and gender and age transformation. “Trying to harness the diverse content and materials in these sculptures,” he says, “is like trying to organize debts at a party on a windy day.”

A native Chicagoan, Helfgott received undergraduate training in architecture and later switched to sculpture, completing his MFA at Southern Illinois University. He joined the faculty of the VCUarts Sculpture Department in 1968 and has been a creative mainstay of the Richmond arts community ever since, while also exhibiting in numerous venues around the country. Now professor emeritus, he retired from teaching in 2012.

Teresa Fernández’s latest and largest solo show of new work at MASS MoCA, At Above Be Below, is a survey of innovative interdisciplinary collaborations. The 1992 Sculpture + Extended Media MFA student describes the work as a universe in balance. The exhibition demonstrates her remarkable ability to transform materials and to create a universe in balance.

A trio of large-scale, landscape-informed installations is elaborately detailed through exploration of graphite and gold. Alongside these dramatic architecture-driven ventures, the exhibition includes drawings made with India ink on reflective gold-leafed panels from Fernández’s most recent series, Golden. These works continue the artist’s inquiries into landscape-painting, mining, the connections between the cosmos and the subterranean and the cultural significance of gold, and will be on view through April 5, 2015.

Fernández serves on the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and is the youngest artist commissioned by the Snøhetta Art Museum for the Olympic Sculpture Park where her permanently installed work, Sounds Cloud Cover allows visitors to walk under a covered skyway while viewing the city’s skyline through optically shifting multiple lniej glass.

Her exceptional work has earned her a 2015 MacArthur Fellowship in addition to other prestigious awards.

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FERNÁNDEZ SOLO SHOW AT MASS MOCA IS A UNIVERSE IN BALANCE

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VTCUarts faculty members from Richmond and Qatar will be on hand to present a few of their research projects at the 2014 a2ru National Conference. This is an opportunity for faculty, doctors, administrators, head nurses, leaders and students from any discipline who engage in arts-integrative interdisciplinary efforts to converse and share ideas, best practices, research and creative work.

Mapping Color and Envisioning Ecology: These two projects at the 2014 a2ru National Conference. This is an opportunity for faculty, doctors, administrators, head nurses, leaders and students from any discipline who engage in arts-integrative interdisciplinary efforts to converse and share ideas, best practices, research and creative work.

Mapping Color: Robert Megawick/Matt Wallin

Arts + Health Panel chaired by Aaron Anderson; Semi Ryu, Hunt Wolman, Morgan Taylor, Sara Wilson McKey and Kristin Rees

Symposium: Cass Marshall and Judith Steel

Envisioning Ecology: Laura Chessin, Diane Derr, VCUQatar

And, in January, 2015 VCU will be hosting the a2ru Emerging Creatives student conference, which will bring together students from across the country who want to explore creative transdisciplinary collaboration as a means to help make the city of the future. This is a tremendous hosting opportunity, as VCUarts is becoming known as a hotbed of arts research and collaboration.
FACULTY’S ANIMATION GARNERS INTERNATIONAL RECognition

Communications Arts Assistant Professor Ying Tang Shen’s animation Humanuwas, an overview on the history of human communications, has received 15 international awards for excellence including Best Animation, 2017, Short Film Festival, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, and Best Director Award, 2014, Marcon Film Festival, Marcon, Georgia.

POIGNANT PHOTOS DOCUMENT EXPERIENCE IN BOTSWANA

In the summer of 2013, Photography and Film senior Inga Schunn spent two months with Peace Corps volunteers in southern Botswana, helping with various projects and volunteering her services to a local non-government organization called Springboard Humanism. She worked with the group that hosts six girls from remote villages for a year, providing them with free food, shelter and companionship, with the goal of helping the girls pass their exams and offer opportunities to learn about entrepreneurship and instill a sense of confidence.

Schunn learned about traditional Tswana culture, storytelling and the role of women in Botswana’s society. Through interviews and multiple visits, Schunn gained the women’s trust and heard their stories. Many were enthusiastic to participate, stating that they thought it was empowering to be photographed as the VCUarts student discussed openly that she was photographing in hopes of displaying her adoration for their strength, trading her craft for theirs. Others preferred to remain anonymous, but Schunn promised she would somehow send them their photographs.

The women I spoke with were open, showing no hesitation in sharing their sense of family, always welcoming me into their friend groups. I am humbled by the Tswana culture’s ability to trust foreigners, always with a smile and song. The women I spoke with were open, showing no hesitation in sharing their sense of family, always welcoming me into their friend groups. I am humbled by the Tswana culture’s ability to trust foreigners, always with a smile and song. I have combined the portraits and various landscape images into one book. With the help of an Indiegogo campaign, I was able to send a copy of the book in order for the portraits to be seen by the various women who were so gracious as to share their stories with me. - Inga Schunn

RILEY IS WEBBY AWARD HONOREE

Riley Riley, BFA alumnus from the Department of Graphic Design, for recognition of her web-based project on the nuclear destruction of Yucca Flat, The Evolution of Silence. The web-based project is housed in the 2014 Webby Awards category.

On March 23, 1953, fifty mannequins withstood the impact of a nuclear bomb, named Annie. Images of these early test dummies made the force of nuclear explosions visible. The Evolution of Silence attempts to address the scale of damage brought about by 41 years of post-World War II nuclear testing at the Nevada Test Site (from 1951–92). That site is 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas, NV. The Evolution of Silence presents a non-linear map and interpretation of the area’s destruction, and an opportunity to explore this restricted desert landscape.

I have chosen to engage the 828 individual nuclear detonations that occurred in Yucca Flat, in ways that other documentation of the Nevada Test Site does not — the transformation and the nuances and fragments of what occurred. - Riley Riley

FEDERAL GRANT FOR DIGITAL GAME DESIGN PROGRAM

The National Endowment for the Arts recently awarded Art Education Assistant Professor Dr. Ryan Patton, a $20,000 Art Works grant to support Learning from Digital Game Design, a program that will train a group of public school art teachers in Virginia to deliver game design in their classrooms throughout the state. The NEA received 1,515 eligible applications for Art Works grants, and Dr. Patton was one of only 866 grantees nationally. Learning from Digital Game Design builds on a successful game design program for young people that Dr. Patton developed and delivers each summer at the Smithsonian.

CORIN HEWITT TAKES HOME ROME PRIZE

Sculpture + Extended Media Assistant Professor Corin Hewitt, has received the 2014–2015 Chuck Close Rome Prize for Visual Arts. He will be provided with a fellowship that includes a stipend, a studio or office, and room and board for up to two years in Rome, Italy. The Rome Prize is one of the most important and internationally respected opportunities for an arts professional. Congratulations, Corin.
MANY FROM VCU ARTS SPEAK AT TEDxRVA

TED, a platform to share ideas, offers the opportunity for locally organized events. The Richmond version, which took place in the spring, and appropriately named TEDxRVA, brought several passionate Richmond speakers as well as international guests to the stage. Speakers with ties to VCUarts included:

Carmen Jones, shown above, Fashion Design & Merchandising student and VCUarts tour guide: Redesigning the Skin I Am In. (Check out her short talk—It’s amazing.)

Morgan Yacoe, Sculpture + Extended Media alumna: Building Medical Molds to Aid in Surgery. Morgan’s work is featured in the inaugural Depot Gallery exhibition The Tapia Twins: Bringing Together Art & Medicine. See back panel for more information.

Dr. Tawnya Pettiford-Wates, Theatre associate professor and founder/artistic director of The Conciliation Project: The Naked Truth.

Dr. Lisa Freiman, shown at left, VCU Institute for Contemporary Art director: Defending Imagination.

KI ALUMNUS SHOWS WORK IN VIENNA

Ali Miharbi, 2010 Kinetic Imaging MFA alumnus, just completed an exhibition at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna as part of his residency at Quartier21. The piece, Stroke, is a continuation of recent works where machines carry out repetitive actions, such as whipping or tickling the walls of the exhibition space. The anthropomorphic approach towards the architecture of the exhibition space in previous works has been eliminated in favor of focusing on the sounds of glass in contact with other objects. This way, the emphasis is shifted from the boundaries of the space to the transparent layer between the viewer and the piece. The exhibition is in the framework of MQ Summer of Sounds 2014 in collaboration with the exhibition project Connecting Sound.Etc. Cable Sounds, Cable Works, Cables Everywhere curated by Georg Weckwerth.

HUGE IMPACT BY MUSIC EXCHANGE STUDENT

The VCU jazz and classical programs had a special participant this year. Vasilije Gagovic (pictured center), a gifted bass player from Montenegro, won the VCU Symphony Concerto Competition! Gagovic was one of two students this year sponsored by the Global UGRAD program, which is supported by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and provides emerging student leaders with scholarships to attend U.S. colleges and universities for up to one-year. Vasilije chose, as part of his community service requirement, to teach double bass and assist with orchestra at Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School.

PAINTING MFA AWARDED TOBY DEVAN LEWIS FELLOWSHIP

We are pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2013-2014, Toby Devan Lewis Fellowship Award is Adriane Connectorton, a Painting + Printmaking MFA graduate. The fellowship provides a generous one-year $10,000 stipend. The review panel provided the following commentary about Adriane’s exhibition:

“A painter who began experimenting with digital media only a year ago, Adriane Connectorton masterfully combines multiple channels of video in two large projections and across six monitors to create a truly immersive environment for her 2013 thesis exhibition. Connectorton’s complex, yet seemingly effortless choreography of images and audio enchants even as it deeply ennuiates, activating the entire space with one seductive view after another. Toby Lewis is well known for her philanthropy in the arts, and this fellowship is granted to the two best schools of art in the county. MFA students who are poised to graduate from fine art programs are eligible.

ILLUSTRATOR’S FIRST BOOK GARNERS AWARD

We’re proud to report that 2008 Communication Arts alumnus, Theodore Taylor, III, won the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe Book Award, for When The Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip-Hop. In his first illustrated book, Teddy was able to combine his love of music with his love of art. Teddy commented, “I think it’s a good starting point for kids to learn about the history of hip-hop, a music and culture that has become a huge part of people’s lives around the world. I’m hoping this will open the door to creating more books.”

CINEMA STUDENTS LEARN FROM ACTOR BURN GORMAN

On the final day of the 2014 Summer Intensives, VCUarts Cinema students had the opportunity to attend a seminar with actor Burn Gorman (Torchwood, The Dark Knight Rises, Turn, Game of Thrones), shown right talking with Shannon Laribo (left) and Jennifer Heins (center), in which he shared his insights on acting, casting and directing.
SERRA VISITS VCUQATAR

VCUQatar, in association with the Qatar Museums Authority (QMA), welcomed acclaimed American sculptor Richard Serra, to campus for a lecture in April. The lecture focused on Serra’s bodies of work in sculpture and drawing, including his large-scale, site-specific sculptures for architectural, urban, and landscape settings, which have been celebrated around the globe.

Richard Serra’s visit was preceded by an extensive traveling exhibition, Passage of Time, and more than 30 years of Serra’s work. The exhibitions were curated by Alfred Pacquement, honorary director, National Museum of Modern Art, Centre Pompidou, and four large drawings reflected the main stages in the development of Serra’s work. The exhibitions were curated by Alfred Pacquement, honorary director, National Museum of Modern Art, Centre Pompidou, Paris and run from April 10 to July 6, 2014.

Serra was celebrated as a progressive artist, and the first American sculptor to be invited to exhibit at the QMA. The QMA had invited Serra to exhibit in two cultural spaces in Doha, at the QMA Gallery in Katara Cultural Village, where a selection of seven sculptures were displayed, and at the QMA’s Al Riwaq Doha Exhibition space where visitors were able to experience a selection of nine sculptures, including Passage of Time, for architectural, urban and landscape settings, which have been celebrated around the globe.

Students create Arabic and bilingual type

VCUQatar seniors now have the opportunity to take an elective course in Arabic & bilingual type design through the Department of Graphic Design. The course, co-taught by VCUQatar professors Basma Hamdy and Jordan Gushwa, introduced the calligraphic principles of Arabic script. Students developed an understanding of lettering and moved on to draw a full basic Arabic character set, which was then translated into a digital format, which allowed for testing and potential professional use of the original hand-drawn letters as an OpenType font.

Establishing students with an appreciation for Arabic type design is a key objective of the Graphic Design curriculum at VCUQatar. “With typographic being the foundation of graphic design, it is crucial that we have more type designers in the region who are trained in Arabic,” says Professor Hamdy. “I believe students with a deep interest in type design can become professionals in the field. This will allow them to contribute to the preservation of its past, but also its contextualization for Qatar’s future.”

Students compiled portfolios of their completed typeface concepts to be reviewed by internationally renowned bilingual type designer, Tash Sultani. The mentorship exercise will enable the students to add potential future development of the concept’s use in the Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup campaign.

A TEACHER’S HOUSE FOR THE MEUN PHEM SCHOOL

Taking advantage of an opportunity to combine learning with service, the Interior Design department at VCUQatar facilitated the construction of teacher accommodations for the Muen hill tribe’s Meun Phem School in the hills north of Chiang Mai, Thailand. The school, which has been in operation for the past 25 years, each focusing on improvement projects for the school and surrounding community. When discussion of the school’s difficulty with teacher retention arose, it became clear to faculty chaperones that an on-campus house would greatly benefit the quality of education at Meun Phem. It would likewise give Interior Design students a chance to hone their skills in design and construction in a hands-on, collaborative way.

The school teamed up with service-learning facilitators Into the Wild, provided funding for construction. Participating VCUQatar students from various departments pitched in on the project, mixing design and construction. It vastly improves the ability to design once you have felt the material and have learnt how to build with it. Inevitably along the way, with teamwork, we create bonds of respect and friendships between students as well as with faculty.

AMERICAN SCULPTOR RICHARD SERRA VISITS VCUQATAR

qatar.vcu.edu

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QMA had invited Serra to exhibit in two cultural spaces in Doha, at the Al Khuweir Doha Exhibition space where visitors were able to appreciate five of Serra’s bodies of work, and at the QMA’s Gallery in Katara Cultural Village where a selection of seven sculptures were displayed, and at the QMA’s Al Riwaq Doha Exhibition space where visitors were able to experience a selection of nine sculptures, including Passage of Time, for architectural, urban and landscape settings, which have been celebrated around the globe.

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VCUQATAR FASHION SHOW CONTINUES COLLABORATION WITH LEADING HIGH-END RETAILER

Salam International Investments hosted VCUQatar’s 15th annual fashion show Center Front, for the second consecutive year, at their upscale Qatar Mall in Doha in April. Center Front showcased the work of VCUqatar fashion design sophomore, juniors and seniors. The show also featured three senior fashion design students: Suzeen L. Jackson, Joseph J. Zuraf and Elshinie Hameed. This – from the VCU Richmond campus as guest designers. Salam, Qatar’s leading up-market retailer, also sponsored the Salam Fashion award, presented at VCUQatar’s annual event, to support a graduate’s transition from student designer to a career in design. The award includes mentorship in the development and design of two collections which are sold exclusively at the prestigious Salam stores in Doha.

The mentorship carries with it the potential for future development of the concepts for use in the Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup campaign.

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Dr. Basma Hamdy
Assistant Professor Graphic Design

vcuqatar.edu
**FIRST-YEAR STUDENT DESIGNS LIMITED EDITION MINI COOPER**

While in her Art Foundation year, Alexandra Coyte—soon to be a Photography and Film and creative advertising student—won the MINI Cooper original design competition, meaning a limited run of 56 are actually for sale on miniusa.com.

Coyte says her design is, “a futuristic embodiment of light. After I went through all the options I had available to customize the car, I went for all the bells and whistles.”

**Photo by Terry Brown**

**LEARN MORE**

michael-hunter.net
Since high school, Rachel McCaulk knew she wanted to become involved with hospitality interior design. Graduating in 2012 with a BFA in Interior Design, she headed to New York and quickly started bringing in honors. She began at hospitality and design firm, HBG, where she has contributed to projects including the Revera Hotel Rooftop Pool Deck in Boston (shown above), The New York Palace Hotel Courtyard and the Marriott Marquis DC. In 2013, she received the New Design Professionals Award, and soon after was a Boutique in bloom, which recognizes the top 18 up-and-coming hospitality designers worldwide. Even more recently, she was the Fresh Fabrics Design winner, allowing her selected design to be developed for the fabric company Valley Forge. As a member of the New York NEWH (hospitality industry networking chapter), McCaulk organized a team for the 2013 NEWH Design Show, which raises money for HIV/AIDS research. All of the table designs were featured in American Design magazine.

FREEMAN SHARES POSITION WITH RICHMOND SYMPHONY

Fellowships Awarded to Arts Students

Department Shares Scruggs Bequest

Recent Alumna Reaping Awards

Congratulations to the 2014–2015 VCUarts Faculty Award Winners

Vdata Studio
The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts was home once again to the riveting, sold-out, Annual VCU Fashion Show on May 4th. This year’s theme, “impact,” was chosen to magnify the accomplishments and hard work of the VCU Department of Fashion Design and Merchandising beyond the Richmond community. The event’s commentator was Michael Fisher, a VCUarts Fashion alumnus, who went on to work with Polo Ralph Lauren and Stylesight.

STUDENTS CELEBRATE FINISH OF FIRST YEAR AT VCUARTS

The first annual Art Foundation parade led students, faculty, family and friends to the Art Foundation student award and annual juried show reception. Approximately 300 students participated, from the Fine Arts Building on Broad Street to the new AFO Annex space on the corner of Bowe and Broad. Students collaborated to make costumes and performances for the end of year celebratory parade, competing for best individual and best group parade- goers. Jurors were Nicola Killian, visiting professor from Graphic Design, and Photography and Film Department Chair Sasha Waters Freyer.

FACULTY MEMBERS SELECTED FOR VCU SERVICE LEARNING FACULTY FELLOWSHIP

Congratulations to Associate Professor and Assistant Chair of the Department of Fashion Design & Merchandising, Kristin Caskey and Associate Professor in the Department of Art Education, Melanie Buffington! They have been selected as two of the 2014–2015 VCU Service-Learning Faculty Fellows from a competitive pool of faculty member applicants. Caskey and Buffington were chosen based on their past involvement in service-learning and community engagement. Their proposed plans will enhance their community-engaged teaching, scholarship and service during the fellowship year.

THEATRE ALUMNUS ON BROADWAY

Just four years after receiving his BFA in Theatre performance, Tidewater native Joshua Boone made it to the Broadway stage this summer in Strike a Pose: Meet Me. The show, which uses the music of rapper and actor Tupac Shakur, is a non-biographical story about friendship, family, revenge, change and hope. Boone plays Grazioso, a fun-loving hothead neighborhood kid, who in many ways is an extension of Tupac’s music. Boone says of his experience, “It’s exciting and a blessing to make my Broadway debut in the first ALL hip-hop musical to be on Broadway, especially with the music of Tupac Shakur. The role of Grazioso allows me to showcase a lot of what I’ve learned and am able to do, and I hope that no matter what happens with the show, the message of the story lives on because it’s the message that’s the most important!”
MUSICSACE.EDU: EDUCATION RE-FORM THROUGH SPACE AND CREATIVITY
This project studies the effects of current educational environments on the creative individual. Through research, the team will create an 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.

TEAM: Chanel Hurt, Music; Rachael Hurst, Interior Design; Christina Morteri, Psychology
FACULTY MENTORS: bananas Klein, Music; Chris Altis, Interior Design
AWARD: $3,000

KIDS CURATE
VCU students will work together with middle schools in Richmond to teach what it means to have a visual arts related career. Alongside VCU faculty and students, the middle school children will learn new art making, marketing and advertising techniques and organizational skills to curate an exhibition. The team of VCU students will create lesson plans based on these ideas and will 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 and Billy Palmer, Creative Advertising; Leah Schmied, Graphic Design
FACULTY MENTOR: Kristin Cazner, Fashion Design
AWARD: $3,000

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. The Rubab is a lute-like instrument that dates back to the 5th Century CE and is called “the lion of instruments” by Afghans. The outcome will include the history of music, guides on traditional musical styles, and play-along percussion for improvisations.

TEAM: Suleiman Pasha, Music; Matthew Hill, Computer Science
FACULTY MENTORS: Antonio Garcia, Music; Dr. Anton Brinkworth, World Studies
AWARD: $2,500

RICHMOND’S ARTS & CULTURE DISTRICT: DOCUMENTARY & COMMUNITY FORUMS
Students will create a documentary about the changing face of the Richmond arts and culture district, connecting the district’s vibrant past with current efforts to maintain its integrity and support the arts. Team members will investigate the desires and needs of community members to envision the district’s future.

TEAM: Lauren Cranen, Photography & Film; Gabby Mason, David Reitinger and Kim McIlwaine, Film; Yiwen Cho, Graphic Design; Beverly Wise, Mass Communications; Rebecca Begun, Anthropology; Charles Wilson and Nancy Molin, Urban Planning
FACULTY MENTOR: Basha Waters Freyer, Photography & Film, community mentor
Ryan Rino, Director of Storefront for Community Design
AWARD: $5,000

SCIENCE OF FILMMAKING
This project explores the organization of photo-chemical film and the various aesthetic qualities achieved through different processes of filmmaking. The aim is to show young filmmakers the creative potential of photo-chemical film as a physical medium and the scientific reasons behind the filmmaking process. Students will attend the Handmade Filmaking Camp in Colin, and use the experience to make films based on the guidance of independent filmmaker and educator Robert Schallie. The team will then design an art exhibition presenting their research to the Richmond community.

TEAM: Cole Hatfield and Alexander Kraker, Film; Aaron Wilson, Chemistry and Biology; Christopher Lewis, Painting; Printmaking; Samantha Cortez, Art Education and Photography & Film
FACULTY MENTOR: Dana Gillbert, Photography & Film
AWARD: $3,000

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2013–2014 WINNERS
OF VCUarts UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH GRANTS
Congratulations to the students and their faculty mentors whose creative ideas have been awarded funding for the 2013-2014 grants season. Panel reviewers evaluated projects for their creativity, risk-taking and the quality of proposed collaborations.

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THE COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
The Commonwealth Society, once under the university umbrella, is now part of VCUarts. This program is for all ages and offers short courses, a lecture series, a book group, as well as domestic and international travel. The Commonwealth Society promotes and supports the connection between learning and life, with classes now underway.

WE WILL TRAVEL TO ART BASEL MIAMI BEACH, DECEMBER 2-5, 2014.
If you are in the area, meet up with VCUarts Dean Jim Steipel and fellow Alumni.
For more information email carrj@vcu.edu

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?
We want to hear your story! Please upload your picture and bio to Esteer, who knows all things VCUarts.
esternows.com/where-are-you-now
You can also browse fellow alumni profiles and see what your classmates are up to.
esternows.com/where-are-they-now
To receive periodic updates and find out about show travel and events with VCUarts in your area, be sure to update your contact information:
vcualumni.org/alumni/update

ALUMNI
For more information email:
carrj@vcu.edu

THE POLLAK SOCIETY
arts.vcu.edu/pollaksociety
Join: The Pollak Society, named for our founder Theresa Pollak. Pollak Society members represent alumni and arts patrons who have behind-the-scenes access to one of the country’s best art schools through private parties with visiting artists and, collector’s homes, preferred seating for VCUarts performances, advance previews of exhibitions and more. Members also have unique travel opportunities that connect them with VCU artists around the country and the world.
For more information about The Pollak Society, contact Julia Carr, carrj@vcu.edu

CUSTOM DESIGN MERCH
T-shirts, hoodies, mugs, bags, patches, stickers and more!
vcualumni.org/vcuartsbrand

vcuartsbrandgoods.com
In November of 2011, after twenty hours of surgery, doctors from VCU’s Children’s Hospital of Richmond successfully separated Maria and Teresa Tapia, nineteen-month-old conjoined twins from the Dominican Republic, who have since led healthy, independent lives. Essential to the project’s success were collaborations between Dr. Jennifer Rhodes, a pediatric plastic surgeon at the VCU Center for Craniofacial Care; Morgan Yacoe, a 2011 graduate from the Department of Sculpture + Extended Media; Kristin Caskey, associate professor of Fashion Design, and her students; and other volunteers. The Tapia Twins: Bringing Together Art & Medicine presented objects and documentation from the twins’ incredible journey, as well as a bronze sculpture by Yacoe, which invited viewers to consider the productive potential when art and medicine are integrated.

This was the inaugural exhibition in VCUArts’ new Depot building, the former trolley station on Broad Street, just east of the Fine Arts Building, and just west of the forthcoming VCU Institute for Contemporary Art. The first floor features a student gallery space, and upstairs are facilities for our Department of Kinetic Imaging, the new Creative Entrepreneurship Program, a sound stage, and much more, including an impressive dance studio behind the building.

This exhibition was organized by Owen Duffy, a PhD student in the Department of Art History.