It's an exciting time to be part of VCUarts. Our students, alumni and faculty continue to perform and present their creative and scholarly work garnering attention at the highest levels. In the last two years alone, four of our faculty members have received prestigious Guggenheim Fellowships. This push for excellence is not lost on our students, who understand how high the bar is set and relish the challenge to meet their potential.

VCUarts students are taking their collaborative ideas and running full speed ahead with support from our Undergraduate and Graduate Research Grants; their projects show the diversity and complexity of VCU student endeavors. In the spring, 20 of our students flew to our campus in Doha, Qatar to join 150 other students from 65 countries at the Tasmeem International Design Conference presented by our sister campus, VCUQatar. 20 music students joined an exchange program with South African student musicians. The international experience continues with programs in Italy, Peru, England, Uruguay and more.

We look not only to the world stage, but across disciplines to expand our reach. Our faculty and students take full advantage of the unique opportunity we have as an art school embedded within a Carnegie research university. Interdisciplinary projects are now in full swing with the College of Humanities and Sciences and the Schools of Business, Engineering and Medicine.

Our heralded VCU Institute for Contemporary Art designed by Steven Holl and Associates will soon begin construction at the corner of Broad and Belvidere. It is in this magnificent piece of contemporary architecture that the magic will happen and cutting-edge art and ideas from around the world will expose students and the community to entirely new thinking.

Our students form tight-knit bonds with other students and faculty in their departments, across the university and even around the world. We continue to be pleased with our national ranking, but no less proud of the people who compose this special place we call VCUarts.

Joe Seipel
Dean, School of the Arts

THE VALUE OF UNCERTAINTY & DOUBT IN THE ARTS

VCUarts is proud to host the 41st Annual Gathering of the National Council of Arts Administrators
Sept 25-28, 2013 • arts.vcu.edu/ncaa

Keynote address & Windmueller Lecture - FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC -
ADAM GOPNIK
Art Critic for The New Yorker
Thursday, September 26 at 5:00 pm
W.E. Singleton Center for Performing Arts

ON THE COVER: STUDENT SOLUTION SELECTED BY GOOGLE

In the Spring semester, a team of students participating in the VCUarts Creative CoLab, in collaboration with the School of Medicine and Computer Science department, conceptualized a solution that utilizes new Google Glass technology.

Their solution displays real-time information such as alerts and critical patient data, as well as live video from remote caregiver sites to a medical decision-maker in a hospital. The goal: increase information exchange and reduce response time, resulting in improved patient care. They submitted their solution to Google’s “If I Had Glass” competition and were selected into the Glass Explorer program.

The VCUarts CoLab is an interdisciplinary internship program mentored by Matthew Woolman and Andrew Ilnicki that provides students the opportunity to develop career-ready skills and creative value through innovative, team-based projects. Interns also work with university faculty and community professionals. Google launched Project Glass in the Spring of 2013 to selectively beta-test their hands-free augmented reality eyewear not currently available to the public.

Pictured left: student team Kathryn Stern (also on cover), Alex Kreher (at Google in New York City) and Desiree Williams. Photo by Tim Chumley.
TWO GUGGENHEIM FELLOWSHIPS TO VCUARTS FACULTY, AGAIN.

For the second time in two years, a pair of VCUArts faculty has been awarded Guggenheim Fellowships. Congratulations to Sonali Gulati, associate professor in the Department of Photography and Film, and Siemon Allen, assistant professor in Sculpture + Extended Media, on this prestigious award. Eleven VCUArts Guggenheim Fellows in eleven years!

“I speak for the entire School of the Arts when I say how proud we are to have two of our faculty reach one of the most prestigious markers of success in their fields,” said Joseph Seipel, dean. “The filmmaker Sonali Gulati and artist Siemon Allen, through their research and creative expression, are emblematic of the quality and high expectations of the School of the Arts.”

Gulati is a filmmaker and educator who grew up in New Delhi, India, and has made films that have screened at more than 300 film festivals worldwide.

Allen, a South African artist, documents South African historical artifacts and explores issues of identity and branding.

Other VCUArts faculty and alumni who have received Guggenheim Fellowships since 2002 include Brian Ulrich, Assistant Professor of Photography (2009); Elizabeth King, Professor of Sculpture (2002); Teresita Fernández (2003) and Bonnie Collura (2005), both alumni of the Sculpture Department; Hilary Wilder, Assistant Professor in the Department of Painting + Printmaking (2006); Michael Jones McKean, Assistant Professor of Sculpture (2010); Corin Hewitt, Assistant Professor of Sculpture (2010); Stephen Vitiello, Associate Professor of Kinetic Imaging (2011); and our new Chair of Painting + Printmaking, Arnold J. Kemp (2012).

CALLING ALL VCUARTS ALUMNI: LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

You will soon be receiving an email invitation to take part in a national survey where alumni let us know what their educational experience has meant to their lives and careers. SNAAP (Strategic National Arts Alumni Project) findings from our last survey:

• Over 90% of VCUArts alumni rated their experience as “Excellent” or “Good” and would recommend VCUArts to others.
• Nearly 75% of alumni are currently or have been self-employed.
• Nearly 50% of alumni graduated without debt.
• 87% of alumni obtain work within a year, with another 10% going on to graduate school.
• 34% of alumni have their first job before leaving VCUArts.

Your feedback is important to us. To verify that we have your current contact information, please visit: vcualumni.org/alumni/update

Thank you.

STUDENTS DESIGN MASKS FOR MASSEY CANCER CENTER

VCUArts students from the MoB (Middle of Broad) studio, which consists of Fashion, Graphic and Interior Design students, were assigned the VCU Massey Cancer Center as one of their community design projects.

The students designed a prototype for a shirt made of breathable fabric with invisible snaps to allow for easy access for patients with port catheters. They also created hospital masks made with fabrics that would add a playful and unique look. Students worked with Massey board members Shally Arthur, Becky Massey and Terrell Harrigan as well as MoB faculty Kristin Caskey, John Mallonksi and Camden Whitehead. MoB students will continue working with Massey Cancer Center during the 2013–14 school year to develop prototypes and support cancer patient care with good design.

MoB partners with Storefront for Community Design and shares studio space together at 205 East Broad Street in Richmond.
VCUARTS REPRESENTS AT TEDxRVA

Volunteers worked tirelessly for months. Tickets sold out immediately. On March 22nd, the old power plant building by the river was transformed, and VCUarts was everywhere you turned.

TED, a globally-recognized platform to share ideas, offers the opportunity for locally organized events. The Richmond version, appropriately named TEDxRVA, brought several passionate Richmond speakers as well as international guests to the stage. Speakers from several VCUarts departments shared their ideas and talents based on the theme Create.

Communication Arts Chair Bob Meganck and Associate Professor Matt Wallin spoke about the logic of a universal color system. Graphic Design MFA student James Walker, new to Richmond, took notice of bicycles missing wheels and started a banner project for Dead Bikes. VCU Music student Eric Stanley and Communication Arts student (now an alumnus) Rob Gibson wowed the crowd with their combination of spoken word and violin. Fashion Design alumnus Michael Birch-Pierce gave us insight into his creative process as he sewed a portrait of an audience member. “Art cannot be contained in the classroom,” is what Art Education alumna Julie Crowder told and showed the crowd. And Noah Kim, son of our own Sarah Kim, assistant director of development, was the youngest speaker and made us all proud. The event was a huge success by all accounts and the city looks forward to future TEDxRVA events.

Clockwise from top: Rob Gibson and Eric Stanley; James Walker; Michael Birch-Pierce. Photos are courtesy of TEDxRVA.

CINEMA ALUMNA’S FIRST Sundance Entry Wins Award

yosserabouchtia.com

Skinningrove, the first documentary that 2011 Cinema alumna Yossera Bouchtia worked on as editor, has received the Best Non-Fiction Short award at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival. Congratulations, Yossera!

ARNOLD J. KEMP, NEW PAINTING + PRINTMAKING CHAIR

Artist, educator, and administrator Arnold J. Kemp has joined VCUarts as the Department of Painting + Printmaking chair. He brings a record of excellence that will further enhance the national profile of the department and promote a superior educational experience for undergraduate and graduate students. Kemp holds an MFA from Stanford University, and a BA/BFA in English Literature/Studio Art from Tufts University and School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. His 20-year professional career embraces studio and curatorial practice, writing, and teaching. He most recently served as chair of the MFA in Visual Studies at the Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland and has had numerous solo exhibitions in San Francisco, Portland, and New York City. Kemp’s work has been recognized by a Guggenheim Fellowship, Pollock Krasner Grant, Joan Mitchell Fellowship, Cité International des Arts Paris Residency, and Pen Writers Grant.

“It is a real honor to join VCUarts. I envision my role at VCU as leading a dynamic Painting + Printmaking department in engaging with advanced ideas of art education and contemporary art practice. The students at VCU will be leaders in their chosen fields, and I hope that I can bring an attitude, a vision, and ideas that will help them to remember their VCUarts family,” Kemp says.
WELCOME LISA FREIMAN
DIRECTOR, VCU INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART
ica.vcu.edu

We’ve told you about the architect, the building and the fundraising efforts. Now, we’re excited to introduce Dr. Lisa Freiman as the director of the forthcoming VCU Institute for Contemporary Art.

Freiman is an internationally recognized curator and leader in the contemporary art field. During her ten years at the Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA), she transformed the experience of contemporary art in Indianapolis. Freiman created a widely renowned contemporary art program that has become an influential model for museums. During her tenure, she also helped raise more than $10 million to support contemporary exhibitions, programs, collection development, scholarship, and other initiatives at the IMA. In 2011, she served as commissioner of the U.S. Pavilion in the 54th International Art Exhibition, la Biennale di Venezia, presenting six newly commissioned, site-responsive works by Puerto Rico-based artists Allora & Calzadilla, the first collaborative to be presented in the U.S. Pavilion. Freiman has moved into her Pollak Building office and is busy meeting people and learning about Richmond.

The Steven Holl-designed VCU ICA, which will be located at the intersection of Belvidere and Broad Streets and is slated to open in late 2015, will bring cutting-edge contemporary art exhibitions, including performance and design, to the VCU campus and the city.

The VCU ICA relies on private funds, not tuition dollars. To become involved, visit support.vcu.edu/give/ica

ABOUT THE ICA
ica.vcu.edu

The Virginia Commonwealth University Institute for Contemporary Art (ICA) will be the newest institute for contemporary arts and design in the United States. Unlike a museum with a permanent collection, the ICA will be dedicated to flexible and responsive exhibitions and performances that examine art, design, and performance from multiple interdisciplinary perspectives. It will be a new environment for artists to explore the most critical issues of our time. This dynamic institution, designed by one of the world’s most important living architects, Steven Holl, will engage local, national, and international communities through dynamic and challenging exhibitions, programs, and special projects that encourage critical thinking about the world we inhabit.

Associated with the number one public art school in the country and set within a comprehensive major urban, public research university, the ICA will be the linchpin of a vibrant arts district in Richmond that links VCU’s campuses, serves as a gateway to the city, and provides opportunities for people to investigate the central issues of our time. It is a major initiative for VCU that will enhance the creativity of the entire university and serve as a resource for the city of Richmond and beyond.
HONORS AND EXHIBITIONS CONTINUE FOR GOWER
renigower.com

Painting and Printmaking Professor Reni Gower’s Papercuts was recognized by the Southeastern College Art Conference for the 2012 SECAC Award for Outstanding Exhibition and Catalogue of Contemporary Materials. Papercuts brings a broad range of international perspectives to the contemporary art of paper cutting. Also, last fall, Gower opened her mid-career exhibition, Strange Loops: Thirty Years of Painting, at James Madison University’s Sawhill Gallery. And, she had an exhibition at the Muskegon Museum of Art this winter.

“My intent is to induce a contemplative state of mind that creates a visual respite that mirrors, but also transcends our accelerated tech-saturated culture. While also addressing issues of beauty, I hope my art becomes an intimate vehicle for reflection or reprieve.”

COMPETITION WINNER INSPIRED BY TAO

Another first place award for a VCUarts student. This time, it’s Xuan Liu, an MFA candidate in the Department of Interior Design. She impressed the judges in the Robert Bruce Thompson Annual Student Light Fixture Design National Competition with her XYZ Light concept, inspired by the Tao “The Tao begot one. One begot two. Two begot three. And three begot the ten thousands things.” The XYZ Light provides functional and decorative illumination. The system operates on linear LED elements that are arranged along 3D coordinate axes.

FASHION GRADUATE ON PROJECT RUNWAY
youtube.com/vcuarts

One of TV’s most popular reality shows, Project Runway, selected Angela Bacskocky, 2009 Fashion Design and Merchandising BFA, to compete with 14 other fashion designers for a shot at a prize package worth more than a half million dollars. Angie has lived and worked in London, studied menswear at Central St. Martins College of Art and Design, worked for a London tailor, and interned for designers Felder Felder and Alexander McQueen, where prints she developed for the McQueen Spring/Summer 2009 collection walked the runway in Paris. Her Richmond, Virginia production studio is where she creates her conceptual line of clothing and accessories, which merges the lines between fashion and art.
ZOE GOES RUNNING. ALEX IS FILMING.

zoegoesrunning.com

A Richmond woman decided to run across the United States. Then, she ran the entire Tour de France course a few weeks ahead of the cyclists, covering 2,000 miles in nine weeks. The 26-year-old University of Richmond graduate is the first runner to accomplish this feat. This remarkable woman is Zoë Romano and her boyfriend is VCUarts Photography and Film student Alexander Kreher. He has filmed both long-distance journeys, and the documentary he created for Zoë’s U.S. run, Street Dreams, won the Grand Prize for Multimedia in the most recent PDNedu (Photo District News) competition.

Zoë’s efforts support World Pediatric Project (WPP), an international humanitarian organization that provides access to surgical and diagnostic medical care for children in Central America and the Caribbean. Along with Alex’s films, they hope to not only raise funds, but increase awareness of WPP and the children awaiting life-saving care.

MoMA & SYMPOSIUM FOCUS ON ISLAMIC ART

islamicartdoha.org

Art History’s incoming PhD and MA students attended a two-day event at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City in the fall. This event was a pair of study days in the Museum’s newly-opened galleries of Islamic art led by Sheila Blair and Jonathan Bloom. The pair jointly hold the Hamad bin Khalifa Chair of Islamic Art at VCU, and are world-renowned historians of Islamic art and organizers of the Hamad bin Khalifa Symposium on Islamic Art. This symposium takes place every other year and is a joint effort of VCUarts, VCUQatar and the Qatar Foundation.

This year, the fifth biennial event, entitled God Is the Light of the Heavens and the Earth: Light in Islamic Art and Culture, takes place November 9–11 in Palermo, Sicily.

The Hamad bin Khalifa biennial symposia are designed to address major themes in Islamic art and culture. Past symposia have focused on such subjects as water, color, and the art of the object. The 2013 event investigates light from a range of perspectives, from the imagery of light in the Qur'an and in the literatures of the Islamic lands to light’s role in buildings, paintings, and other works of art. We are delighted that our keynote speaker will be the acclaimed visual artist, Iranian-born Shirin Neshat, whose photographic and videographic work is created with light.
SEMINAR STUDENTS TOUR SPAIN

Michael Schreffler, chair of Art History, along with students enrolled in his undergraduate seminar, Islamic Art of Spain, traveled to Córdoba, Seville, and Granada, Spain, where they visited the buildings, archaeological sites and museum collections that were the subject of the course. The seminar and related travel was offered with the cooperation of the University of Córdoba, one of VCU’s International Partnership Universities. Student travel to Córdoba was funded by a grant from VCU’s Global Education Office.

RON JOHNSON’S WORK IN NEW SCHOOL OF MEDICINE BUILDING

Ron Johnson, assistant professor in the Department of Painting + Printmaking, recently finished a permanent installation at the new VCU School of Medicine building, McGlothlin Medical Education Center, completed by I. M. Pei architectural design firm.

VITIELLO COLLABORATES ON MoMA SOUND EXHIBITION

Stephen Vitiello, associate professor in Kinetic Imaging, and multimedia artist Camille Norment came together in a unique musical performance, created for the Museum of Modern Art in New York, on August 8th. The artists use glass as the main focus for their score and instrumentation for this MoMA Nights series event in honor of the exhibition Soundings: A Contemporary Score. MFA Glass alumnus Alex Hayden created a unique instrument for the performance, consisting of 7 glass bells suspended from a metal frame. Alex’s creation along with glass marimba, glass armonica, sand, water, and associated mediums are used in analog and digital realms. MoMA visitors can also experience Vitiello’s work A Bell for Every Minute in the museum’s Sculpture Garden.
COMMUTE BLOOMS WITH POSSIBILITIES

Why would someone dress in a suit of flowers and walk around downtown Richmond for an hour once a week? Kinetic Imaging student Erika Marshall wanted to create an approachable but enigmatic character to repurpose a daily routine – the commute – and break up a monotonous urban landscape. Her endeavor was part of a combined lecture/studio class, Socially Engaged Media. Much of the class involved discussions about the intersection of media, culture, politics, and society, but also a focused on making work that explored this relationship. The pieces spanned from very literal political art, to artistic activism, to even more esoteric interpretations.

Photos by Katherine Catolina

STUDENT WINS VOICE-OVER COMPETITION

Theatre student Morgan Meadows prevailed amongst 1,000 other voices in Studio Center’s Next Great Voice Talent competition. She has won a $100,000 voice-over contract and her first job was a radio spot for Hooters restaurant. She told The Richmond Times-Dispatch, “I want to be the voice that represents these companies.” A loftier goal, however, is to break into the world of animation — movies and television. For now, “I’m juggling all of these dreams that I have,” she said. “It’s completely surreal.”

ART HELPS CONVEY CLUSTER BOMB ATROCITIES

The Cluster Project is an ongoing web gallery and blog that uses multimedia artwork to explore weapons, war, civilian casualties and pop culture. Animators, designers, musicians and other artists contribute to the The Cluster Project, brainchild of Bob Paris, associate professor, Kinetic Imaging. This web exhibition surveys the physical, social, and historical anatomy of the cluster bomb.
PRESIDENT’S AWARD GOES TO VCUQATAR STUDENT

VCUQatar student Leila Natsheh was one of six exceptional students granted a Hamad bin Khalifa University President’s Award in May in recognition of academic excellence and a commitment to making a difference both on campus and within the wider community. The six winners from HBKU partner universities were honored for their exceptional academic, service leadership and professional achievements during a celebratory ceremony that was held at Qatar National Convention Centre.

His Excellency Sheikh Dr. Abdulla bin Ali Al-Thani, president of Hamad bin Khalifa University and vice president of education at Qatar Foundation said, “We looked at many things, among them their participation on campus and in community development initiatives, their research efforts and what they would like to do in the future. We sought to find well-rounded students, and I am looking forward to them becoming productive members of our community.”

“Winning the HBKU President’s Award made me most happy for VCUQatar, for being able to educate its design students to attain the level of importance of doctors and engineers at Education City. I am also especially glad that the community in this region is finally beginning to understand what design is, and its essential role in our everyday life. It is just really nice I think, for us designers, to finally be recognized,” Natsheh said.

FASHION SHOW “FINGERPRINT” LEFT ITS MARK

qatar.vcu.edu

VCUQatar presented its fourteenth annual fashion show, to three full houses in April. Fingerprint showcased the work of fashion design sophomores, juniors and five seniors, whose collection was an eclectic mix of day to evening looks. New York-based guest designer Eric Gaskins, whose collection opened the show, featured luxurious evening pieces. For the first time, the 14-member jury did not eliminate any of the garments during the final juried round. The show is part of the annual activities of VCUQatar’s fashion design program, to develop the country’s growing fashion industry, with support from Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. Fingerprint was the culminating academic project for VCUQatar fashion design students, and every aspect — from the jury-selected student designs and model try-outs to show production — reflected their academic and creative efforts while launching senior fashion students from student life into successful careers.

Above: Winner of the Golden Needle Award for Most Outstanding Senior Collection and the W Doha Hotel Fashion Award, Rabab Abdulla, with VCUQatar Fashion Design department Chair Sandra Wilkins and the W Doha Hotel Director of Marketing Clara De Lama.
MFA GRADS SHOW IN NYC

Fifteen recent Painting + Printmaking MFA graduates exhibited their work at New York’s White Box gallery. The exhibition featured the work of Amanda Baldwin, Rachel Leah Cohn, Mayme Donsker, George Gittins, Loie Hollowell, Raewyn Martyn, Andy Merrow, Ander Mikalson, Nikolai Noel, Veronika Pausova, Reid Ramirez, Matthew P. Shelton, Vladislav Smolkin, R. Scott Whipkey and Sam Winks.

Work included photographs, video projections, paintings, prints, and objects. The exhibition was curated by Nigel Rolfe, artist and visiting professor at the Royal College of Art, London.

Rachel Leah Cohn, Sólaence, 2015. Papier-mâché, chipboard, armature wire, balsa wood, acrylic paint, acetate, wood, and hot glue. 46 x 80 x 24 inches; figures each 6 inches.

JAZZ ALUMNI REUNITE AND PERFORM

Since its founding in 1979, VCU Music’s Jazz Studies program has trained some of the top musicians working in jazz today. Graduates are performing with such groups as the Count Basie Big Band and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, touring and recording their own CDs, and backing some of the biggest names in jazz. In the fall, the department held a jazz reunion with more than a dozen alumni for an evening of music.

Artists included: Victor Goines, saxophone; Al Waters, saxophone; Weldon Hill, piano; Ron Jenkins, bass; Alvester Garnett, drums; Rob Holmes, saxophone; Steve Wilson, saxophone; Terri Simpson, vocals; Randall Pharr, bass; Clarence Penn, drums; Mark Shim, saxophone; Alvin Walker, trombone; James Genus, bass; Clarence Seay, bass (former faculty); Tim Pratt, drums.
Every two years, recent MFA graduates from Sculpture + Extended Media show their stuff in a New York gallery. This year, the exhibition got a lot of love from Katarina Hybenova, founder of Bushwick Daily. She writes, “Different from we usually see in Bushwick, recently graduated sculptors from Richmond brought some really good work. The show featured Jon Bobby Benjamin, Ryan Crowley, Sacha Ingber, Jessica Kain, Carl Marin, Melanie McLain, Lior Modan, Jesse Potts, Leslie Rogers, Tom Simon, Rotem Tamir, and Alina Tenser whose work magically complemented the raw space of 299 Meserole... Perhaps the most striking works were presented by Leslie Rogers and Melanie McLain. Rogers created a performative otherworldly piece in which a half man, half hot air balloon figure interacts with a mystical figure approaching and pulling away. Graced by illumination, located in the dark main room of the building, Roger’s piece will likely hypnotize and draw you in. Melanie McLain’s piece titled Damp Gestures created something truly epic. Another performative piece in the sculpture show, it is a complex structure – a massage salon for 2–3 people. After you enter its door, admire the projection above, you are prompted to take a seat, close your eyes, and enjoy a facial massage. The warmth and the sounds make it an almost womb-like experience. I loved how this piece is so surprising and provocative.”

In addition to receiving rave reviews, Melanie McLain has been named one of the 10 Artists to Watch from the 2013 Bushwick Open Studios by Hyperallergic. Her interactive performance installation was dubbed “one of the most slick and impressive installations of the Bushwick Open Studios.”

The Sculpture Alumni show was held at 299 Meserole in Brooklyn, from May 24 – June 2.
COOK JOINS URBAN BUSH WOMAN AND IS FEATURED IN DOCUMENTARY

We’re happy to report that 2011 Dance alumna, Courtney Cook, has joined the renowned Urban Bush Women as a company member. In the 2010–11 season, Cook worked with Jawole Willa Jo Zollar at VCU, when the company restaged Shelter, which was partially funded by an NEA American Masterpieces grant. Cook is also featured in the documentary Restaging Shelter which was selected for screenings at New York Dance Films Association, Lincoln Center, and was aired on PBS stations across the US.

COMMUNITY TEENS LEARN AND TEACH

Congratulations to Dr. Melanie Buffington, associate professor in Art Education, who was the lead principal investigator on a team that recently won a $19,700 Community Engagement Grant from VCU. Working with Dr. Liz Cramer from the School of Social Work, Art Education graduate student Jess Norris, the Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC), Transitions Day Support Services, and the VMFA, the group will implement a multi-faceted service-learning and art program for teens who attend the NRC. The teens will learn about nutrition and cooking and then teach these skills to adults at Transitions Day Support Services. The teens will create a video and lead a tour of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts for their Transitions partners.

STUDENTS GET DOWN TO BUSINESS

VCU’s da Vinci Center announced the winners of the second Venture Creation Competition (VCC) in April, a business plan competition aimed at sparking the entrepreneurial spirit of all VCU students.

VCUarts student Catherine Gellaty and VCU alumna Christine Stoddard along with engineering student Kathleen Barron, won second place in the undergraduate division for their responsive light technologies. The graduate finalists included team members Owen Duffy, an Art History PhD candidate and his brother, Joseph Duffy, with Artifact, a socially responsible company dedicated to providing retail store consumers with affordable, gallery-quality, cutting edge artwork.

This year, a total of 35 teams comprised of 78 current students, from eight of VCU’s schools, as well as three VCU alumni and four non-VCU individuals, entered the competition. The da Vinci Center for Innovation is a collaboration of VCU’s schools of the Arts, Business, Engineering and Humanities and Sciences.

NEW LIFE FOR HISTORIC TRAIN STATION

The former train depot on Broad Street, and previous home of Richmond Glass just east of the Fine Arts Building, is being renovated for a new arts space. The Depot, as it will be called, and the annex behind it, offer facilities for dance, our Department of Kinetic Imaging, the new Creative Entrepreneurship program, and interdisciplinary collaboration; with a sound stage, motion capture and other state-of-the-art features. The first floor of this historic building is student gallery space, while the entire second floor will allow students and their faculty advisors open studio area and computer labs to work on interdisciplinary projects with colleagues from VCUarts and across the university.
MFA CANDIDATE AWARDED TOBY DEVAN LEWIS FELLOWSHIP

This year’s Toby Devan Lewis Fellowship awardee is Rotem Tamir, graduate student in Sculpture + Extended Media. The fellowship provides a generous one-year $10,000 stipend. The review panel said this about Rotem’s exhibition, “We were impressed by every aspect of her installation, from its conceptual rigor and exceptional craftsmanship to its participatory character. This first-hand investigation of the work, made possible through prior arrangement with the artist, engaged as it also confounded in the best possible way,” said VCUarts Anderson Gallery Director Ashley Kistler.

Toby Lewis is well known for her philanthropy in the arts and this fellowship is granted to the ten best schools of art in the country. MFA students who are poised to graduate from the fine art programs are eligible for this opportunity. VCUarts is delighted to have once again been chosen as a conduit for this award.

THEATRE COMMUNITY RECOGNIZES LEONG

David S. Leong, chair of the Department of Theatre, was inducted in the College of Fellows of the American Theatre in April at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Investiture in the College is one of the highest honors bestowed on educators and professionals of America’s educational and theatre community.

We concur with his nomination citation, which includes, “Leong embodies the true spirit of the artist/educator and for two decades has been a creative and forward-thinking university administrator. He is a leader and an inspiration for those who aspire to match his level of accomplishment.”

HONORS STUDENTS EXPLORE ART WORLDS

Assistant Professor Matt King’s research-based seminar class for first year Art Honor students explores the many overlapping “Art Worlds” with readings, field trips, exhibitions, and art events. Highlights of this Art Foundation class include visits with local artists, gallerists, curators and art patrons. The experience culminated in a three-day field trip to New York City to visit art galleries and museums. The students took in Inventing Abstraction at MoMA, Gutai: Splendid Playground at the Guggenheim, as well as an amazing selection of work in Chelsea and a walk down the Highline. For many students, this trip to New York was their first.
THIS YEAR, TWO SOLD-OUT SHOWS

It’s no secret that our fashion department’s annual juried show sells out in minutes. It’s gotten so popular, that even tickets for the newly added “later in the evening” show are gone in a flash. If you were fortunate enough to attend Catalyst in the atrium of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in May, you saw another impressive event put on by the department. Deidra Arrington’s Advanced Show Production class worked to produce, design and promote the dynamic show.

“Fourteen seniors each submitted a collection of related garments. The projects represent about seven months of work, from pattern making to construction,” said Assistant Professor Kim Guthrie. The critic’s choice award for seniors’ collections went to Jennifer Gray. Twenty other fashion students received awards and scholarships.

And, for the first time, VCU Fashion will be part of Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in New York! Nine graduates — including one from VCUQatar — will show their designs on September 9th at the Alger House, 45 Downing Street.

New Creative Entrepreneurship Courses

In Fall 2013, VCUarts will launch four brand new innovative courses that provide VCUarts students the foundation to operate as entrepreneurs in the highly connected and complex commercial environments of creative activities. Students who complete these courses develop the ability to combine deep expertise in their major creative discipline with a broad spectrum of entrepreneurship and transferrable enterprise skills and knowledge, across a range of disciplines. These courses will become part of a university-level undergraduate certificate program in venture creation, and a post-baccalaureate graduate certificate in creative entrepreneurship, both to be launched in Fall 2014.
STUDENTS VISIT & STUDY WOOD BLOCK ARCHIVE

In March, eight graduate students in Graphic Design Chair David Shields’s Graduate Seminar traveled to Two Rivers, Wisconsin to spend four days at the Hamilton Wood Type & Printing Museum to study the history and theory of the archive.

Beyond the work investigating a large physical archive directly, the visit was scheduled to coincide with the museum’s move to a new location. The VCUarts contingent helped in the volunteer efforts of packing all of the museum’s holdings in its original 40,000 square foot factory space to a new location in Two Rivers.

The Hamilton Wood Type and Printing Museum is the only museum dedicated to the preservation, study, production and printing of wood type.

COMMONWEALTH SINGERS TOUR TO MONTREAL

In May, student vocalists performed in New York, New Jersey, with a seminal stop in Montreal where they performed with Ensemble Appassionata, directed by VCU’s Daniel Myssyk. “Led by Rebecca Tyree, this superb choir beguiled us with its ethereal voices whose colouring, nuances and unity transported us into a world of watery wonder,” writes blogger Nancy Snipper of Culture Plus.

PAINTING STUDENTS’ WORK FEATURED IN MAGAZINE

If you read issue 105 of New American Paintings, you likely saw the work of two Painting + Printing MFA students, Aaron Koehn and Phillip Hinge. Congratulations to both.

Above: Ravishing Grimness by Phillip Hinge, 70”x72”, acrylic on canvas
John Guthmiller Returns

We welcome John Guthmiller in his new position as senior associate dean for academic affairs. He will be working closely with department chairs and the other assistant and associate deans to strengthen our academic programs and the collaborative ties among departments and with the dean’s office. Previously, Guthmiller was interim associate dean for academic affairs at VCUQatar, and served as the chief academic officer of the University there. Prior to that, he was chair of the VCU Department of Music.

Yoon on Board Full Time

He was so wonderful we couldn’t let him go. Bohyun Yoon held a one-year position in Craft/Material Studies in 2012–13 and is now an assistant professor who specializes in glass and performance. He has won an Excellence Prize, Song Eun Art Space, Seoul Korea, 2013; was in Playing with Fire: 50 Years of Contemporary Glass, Museum of Arts and Design, New York, 2013; and 40 under 40: Craft Futures, Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC, 2012. The 40 under 40 exhibition also included others with Craft ties – Gabriel Craig, MFA alumnus and former Fountainhead Fellows Matt Szosz and LJ Roberts.

GDES Alumni Honored

The annual AIGA (the professional association for design) Grade 7 Awards for Design Excellence were awarded to three MFA alumni from the Department of Graphic Design. Charley Foley with Scout Design, a 2000 alumnus, won a Judge’s choice award and a Best Poster/Flyer award. Recent graduate James Walker received the Best Student Design award (he also spoke at this year’s TEDxRVA) and 2013 alumna Lucia Weilein, brought home a merit award. Congratulations to these very talented alumni!

VCUarts Alumni Now Assistant Dean

We are thrilled to announce Jody Symula as the new VCUarts assistant dean for student affairs. Symula (Painting & Printmaking MFA, 2006) served as the director of student services prior to this position.

“The path I took to this position was non-linear, and I hope to use my experience to show the way to achieving a goal can be ever-changing and divergent. As an alumna, I’ve never felt so supported and look forward to passing that on to students, so they love it here as much as I do.”

Frazier Moves From Dance to Dean’s Office

Dr. James Frazier, former Chair of Dance and Choreography, has been named Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Faculty Affairs. In his new position, Frazier will oversee graduate curricula, recruitment and retention, faculty development and support, as well as promotion and tenure.
**PEOPLE’S LIBRARY**: This project incorporates interactive sculpture, community created ethnographies, and social practice methods to create a library designed, built, and authored by community members.

**TEAM**: Courtney Bowles, Anthropology and Environmental Studies; Riley Duncan, Sculpture + Extended Media; Mark Strandquist, Photography and Sociology

**FACULTY MENTOR**: Hope Ginsburg, Assistant Professor, Art Foundation

**AWARD**: $5,000

**MEDICAL MOTION**: With the goal of making medical science easier for students and professionals to grasp, students will develop an informational video clip exploring a complex medical topic — the multiple pathways of lipids in the human body.

**TEAM**: William Hernandez and Maya Sosa, Communication Arts; Mary Anne Matel and Carlos Valdes, Kinetic Imaging; Deborah Me and Laura Zalles, Medicine

**FACULTY MENTORS**: Dr. Alan Dow, Assistant VP, Interprofessional Education and Care, School of Medicine; Matt Wallin, Assistant Professor, Communications Arts; Dr. Chris Woleben, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, School of Medicine

**AWARD**: $1,924

**THIS MAKES SENSE**: This project investigates translating sensory perception using technology in novel ways. The team will transform a gallery space into a sensory translating device, presenting data from several outdoor locations throughout Richmond during different seasons and hours.

**TEAM**: Michael Flynn and Marcus Massok, Electrical Engineering; Dillon Meyer and Taylor Robinson, Cinema; Laura Pretzman, Chemical Engineering/Chemical Science; Elliot Roth, Biomedical Engineering/Chemical Engineering; Perrin Turner and Jibyung Yoon, Sculpture + Extended Media

**FACULTY MENTOR**: Michael Jones McKean, Associate Professor, Sculpture + Extended Media

**AWARD**: $5,000

**STEAMER FOR VCUarts WOOD SHOP**: Students will construct a wood steamer to explore the possibilities of wood bending, and research the aesthetic effect produced by different types of curved wood.

**TEAM**: Casey Burkett, Sculpture + Extended Media; Matthew Burnette, Chuck Meas and Jose Ocampo, Mechanical Engineering

**FACULTY MENTOR**: Mary Eisdreth, Assistant Professor and Administrative Director, Sculpture + Extended Media

**AWARD**: $5,000

**AEROGEL EXPLORATION**: This project explores the properties of aerogel, the lightest, lowest density solid and similar in structure to glass, through its application in a sound piece/installation. Students collaborate with faculty to create and mold aerogel capable of withstanding pressure and use.

**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**: $3,585

**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.

**TEAM**: Sahil Aggarwal and Erin Hobson, Biology; Jeeyun Park, Biomedical Engineering; Hannah Rumsey, Music Performance

**FACULTY MENTOR**: Dr. Ross Walter, Associate Professor, Music

**AWARD**: $4,693

**OVER**: A Painting + Printmaking student who is a veteran, will work with other veterans to create a collaborative installation addressing the suppression of emotions related to wartime service.

**TEAM**: Joe Olney, Painting + Printmaking; Ben Sims, VCU alumnus; Veterans from the Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center

**FACULTY MENTOR**: Reni Gower, Professor, Painting + Printmaking

**AWARD**: $1,310
HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED WITH VCUARTS?

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 in 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.

We will travel to Art Basel Miami Beach, December 3–6, 2013. VCUarts Dean, Joe Seipel and VCU President, Michael Rao will host a special VCUarts alumni gathering on December 5 in Miami and in conjunction with Art Basel.

Join us! For more information contact Sarah Kim, VCUarts Assistant Director of Development, at (804)828-4692 or smkim@vcu.edu.

Pollak Society members at the studio of Isabel and Ruben Toledo in New York City, Spring 2013.

THE COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

arts.vcu.edu/commonwealthsociety

The Commonwealth Society, once under the university umbrella, is now part of VCUarts. This program is for adults of 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.


ALUMNI: WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

We want to hear your story! Please upload your picture and bio to Ester, who knows all things VCUarts:
esterknows.com/where-are-you-now

You can also browse fellow alumni profiles and see what your classmates are up to:
esterknows.com/where-are-they-now

To receive periodic updates and find out about travel and events with VCUarts in your area, be sure to update your contact information:
vccualumni.org/alumni/update
The fall season brings an array of exhibitions to the Anderson Gallery, representing diverse approaches to material, form, and content. Visitors will encounter works on paper by the groundbreaking feminist artist and anti-war activist Nancy Spero, and works by Bohyun Yoon, a newly appointed professor in the glass program of the Craft/Material Studies department, and Hilary Wilder, associate professor in Painting + Printmaking. An international selection of videos by 35 artists will also be screened. We hope you’ll join us.

Bohyun Yoon, Neighbors, 2012; silkscreen on glass, steel, and lamp, 6 x 10 x 10 feet (structure); photograph by the artist.