Greetings,

Here in Richmond and beyond, our faculty and students continue to break down the academic silos that, in the past, have separated the talents of our 16 departments and programs within VCUarts. A prime example of this integrated approach to learning is seen on this cover.

Back in November, just after you received the fall Studio newsletter, Angus Macfadyen (Braveheart, AMC’s Turn) signed a deal with VCUarts to produce his feature-length, modern adaptation of Macbeth. Initiated by Macfadyen (read more on page 10 to hear from the director, writer and actor, himself), this project was an all hands on deck effort by our Cinema program, with support from faculty, staff and students from other departments within the school. Producing a feature film with professional actors is one thing, bringing to life a strong vision while taking a full course load is unheard of. But our students did it.

Another collaborative event that took place at the Depot building, a hub for all things interdisciplinary, was the second annual Emerging Creatives Conference, through the Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru). After a successful conference last year at Stanford, VCUarts was chosen to host the 2015 national conference. In an unprecedented partnership with 11 units across the VCU campus, this two-day conference featured speakers from all over the country and sparked a fire in the 130 student participants. Attendees came from major universities, including Carnegie Mellon, Stanford, the University of Michigan, MIT and 26 others. These brilliant young scholars, artists and designers were able to workshop ideas and present their visions of the “mega city,” the central theme of the event.

VCUarts is proud to be part of a University that cares deeply about the arts and integrating arts practice throughout the campus. Our collaborations are getting serious attention. As stated in the New York Times article, On Elite Campuses, an Arts Race, November 2014 “(VCU is) that rare public research institution that has put the arts front and center.” Through programs and initiatives such as the VCU Quest for Distinction, VCU Presidential Research Incentive Award, VCUarts Undergraduate Research Grants and the VCUarts Deans Exploratory Grant (among others), some truly amazing projects have come to fruition. You’ll find some of those projects here, but also take a look online at our two new research publications, Arts + Design Research at the University of Yes, and Arts + Health: Groundbreaking Collaborations at Virginia Commonwealth University (arts.vcu.edu/publications).

As you flip through the pages of this issue of Studio, whether you’re an alumnus of a program or a friend of the VCUarts family, I hope you enjoy this glimpse into the creative energy of our students and faculty. We’re so proud of VCUarts and we hope that you find a little bit of yourself as you read through their stories.

Kind regards,

Joseph H. Seipel
Dean, VCU School of the Arts

A DECADE OF SUPPORT FOR VCUarts: THE POLLAK SOCIETY CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

When the vision of Meg Gottwald, Alan Kirshner and the late Bev Reynolds came to fruition as The Pollak Society in 2005, it should come as no surprise that the impact of this organization has affected VCUarts in a major way. In just the last three years, over $100,000 from The Pollak Society has directly impacted students, by way of scholarships, research funding and service opportunities.

The Pollak Society, which supports all 16 programs and departments within VCUarts, is comprised of advocates, enthusiasts and proponents of the arts. This group comes together throughout the year to engage with students and faculty across the school, while gaining access to private receptions and exclusive membership opportunities.

We wish to thank our Pollak Society members for their continued support and enthusiasm for the arts in Richmond and beyond.

Above: Models wear garments designed and crafted by students from the Department of Fashion Design & Merchandising at a Pollak Society event at Try-me in Richmond.
In January, VCU VCUarts hosted the Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru) Emerging Creatives Student Summit. Following last year’s inaugural event at Stanford University, the theme for this year’s VCU-hosted event was PULSE: Creative Collaborations for Cities in Flux. The summit used the arts as a catalyst for connecting seemingly disparate areas of study, with the goal of sparking new research projects between students at member schools.

Over the course of three days, graduate and undergraduate students, administrators and thinkers from more than 30 colleges and universities placed arts, design and creativity at the center of an open collaboration among the over 90 disciplines represented. Students attended presentations and panel discussions, but also had opportunities to engage with the impressive roster of local and national speakers. Dedicated project development time was built into the schedule, giving the self-organized student groups space to put ideas into practice and generate high quality concepts for new research.

Dr. Sarah B. Cunningham, VCUarts executive director of Research and Pulse conference director, recalls that “hosting students from around the country, providing them with an experimental and content-rich experience, demonstrating the quality of education that we provide to our own students at VCUarts — this was a proud moment for us. We have a sense that participants left with a clear sense of our academic ambitions, outgoing hospitality and love for experimentation.” Wrote one participant following the event: “I loved the summit because it gave me a chance to meet and create with a lot of wonderful individuals. Normally, I just associate with individuals in my field because that is who I work and go to school with on a regular basis… I became exposed to different ideas that will help me greatly in my field.”

Students participants get comfortable at the VCUarts Depot building, brainstorming solutions for the future’s megacities.
TURNING WHEELS: VCUarts Generates Apps, Bike Racks and Ideas for the UCI Road World Championships

From September 19–27, the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Road World Championships will take over the city of Richmond—and VCU will be in the center of it all, as an estimated 450,000 on-site spectators gather to see the races. VCUarts is already hard at work, creating solutions and works that tie into the event.

In the upcoming months, bike racks featuring a symbol by Graphic Design sophomore John Sampson will be installed in 30 locations across the city. Sampson was the winner of i.e.*’s Go Bike! Design contest. The i.e.* initiative was launched by the Greater Richmond Chamber to put Richmond on the map for innovative thinking.

The interdisciplinary internship program CoLab, within VCUarts’ Creative Entrepreneurship Program, is developing a special app that will help VCU’s community plan ahead and navigate around the race. According to Director of Academic Technology Andrew Ilnicki, the app will give users an in-depth virtual tour of the areas specifically around VCU. CoLab industry partner NimblePitch gave an in-kind gift of $3,500, by donating its platform to build the app.

At the applied design studio Middle of Broad (mOb), students are working to create low-cost bike racks that can be installed for the event and beyond. For a project called mObjOb5, mOb Professor Camden Whitehead is designing a poster-carrying device for bikes that will patrol the area during the race, in collaboration with MFA graduate Erik Brandt, interim chair at Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Each bike will hold two 36 x 48-inch posters. mOb will also start working on their mObmobile this summer — an innovative pedal-powered vehicle which will promote the studio during the race. With its location at 205 E. Broad Street, mOb is, as Professor Kristin Caskey states, “in the bullseye of the race. We’re going to be a part of it, because we’re here.”

Healthy Baby Project Impacts Community

The Healthy Baby Project is an interdisciplinary collaboration between the Department of Graphic Design, the Institute for Women’s Health and the CenteringPregnancy® Program at the VCU Medical Center. In the greater Richmond area, there is a high rate of pre-term birth and infant mortality among African Americans and the Healthy Baby Project seeks to address this issue.

“When the process of trying to raise a healthy baby becomes ‘institutionalized’ it drives away the families who may need support most,” said Laura Chessin, associate professor in the Department of Graphic Design and one of the faculty advisors with the project. “This is the part of the conundrum behind this project.”

Over a series of three discovery sessions, students and community partners met as students began working on visual ideas for a logo and a poster as the start of a campaign to bring awareness and help build a support network within Richmond’s urban neighborhoods. Community members and invited guests were asked to vote for the solution they found most unique and appropriate. Graphic Design junior Hunter Zachwieja received the most votes and will continue working with community partners to refine a visual identity and collateral materials based on his initial concept.

VMFA Fellowships Awarded to Many with VCUarts Connections

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Fellowship Program has been a vital source of funding for the arts in Virginia, awarding more than $5 million to artists since being established in 1940. This year, the VMFA has given $152,000 to 27 professional and student artists. Congratulations to:

**VCUarts faculty:**
Susie Ganch (Craft/Material Studies)
Sonali Gulati (Photography & Film)
Morgan Herrin (Sculpture • Extended Media)
Ester Partegàs (Sculpture • Extended Media)

**VCUarts alumni:**
Daniel Calder (MFA, Painting • Printmaking)
Mariam Eqbal (BFA, Communication Arts; MFA, Kinetic Imaging)
Will May (MFA, Photography & Film)
Tyler Rhodes (BFA, Kinetic Imaging)

**VCUarts students:**
Cody Huff (Photography & Film)
Sara Joachim (Photography & Film)
Adrienne Puckett (Communications Arts)
Scout Ries (Art Education and Photography & Film)
Out of the Classroom and Into the Creative Economy

depot.vcu.edu/entrepreneurship

Passion. Creativity. Risk-taking. Problem-solving. Thinking on one’s feet. Artists and designers possess so many of the attributes regularly associated with entrepreneurship, says VCUarts Executive Director of Creative Entrepreneurship Matt Woolman, that “it’s a very small step in their educational process for them to start acting like entrepreneurs – disrupting the status quo, asking questions, developing innovative solutions and doing so in a profitable way.”

With this in mind, Woolman and his team have created a series of five interdisciplinary courses with the goal of helping VCUarts students contextualize their creativity. Students can learn about integrating creative ideas with the global economy, piloting their own entrepreneurial enterprise and transforming their ideas into sustainable business models.

Through a handful of affiliate partnerships with local and national organizations, students across disciplines are able to work together on projects they might not have had the opportunity to work on in a traditional classroom setting. For example, Capital One has engaged VCUarts to humanize its call center software through an interface and structural update. Local company Professional Risk Associates has also tasked students with developing an information display system, represented through a web-based interactive dashboard that visualizes complex data sets.

“We would love it if every student would participate in these experiences,” says Woolman. “They would be better equipped to navigate a world of work that is very different than it was 15 years ago. Our graduates have to understand the great value they bring to new situations and, with these skills, will be prepared to take on jobs that did not even exist when they entered college.”

Product Development Initiatives
Spark Entrepreneurial Spirit Among Students

VCUarts + VMFA
From departments across VCUarts, 17 students are taking advantage of an exciting opportunity to develop products to be sold through the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Shop. This extracurricular project called Emerging Artists & Innovators 2015 will give students the opportunity to develop a product concept inspired by the VMFA collection, present their concepts, and if selected, work with the VMFA to flesh out materials, technology and fabrication – and eventually see their realized vision available for purchase in the VMFA’s retail space and featured in a trunk show.

“This is a remarkable opportunity for students to explore ways to commercialize their fine arts practice, while also learning about business and product development in the arts in general,” says Andrea Alvarez, Art History PhD candidate and coordinator for the project.

The Martin Agency and 80amps Incubator
Partnering with the globally recognized advertising firm The Martin Agency, 80amps is a business incubator that among other things helps give life to non-advertising related concepts and ideas that also come from the Agency’s top creative minds. 80amps recently tapped Creative CoLab, the VCUarts interdisciplinary internship program, to have students work on a product concept for the restaurant industry. The product aims to improve communication between guests and service staff via a unique new technology. Students are preparing project concepts, conducting initial research and developing a prototype using a 3-D printer. If 80amps and The Martin Agency choose to put the product into development, students may continue working on the project, with a possible equity stake in the product or company that develops.

Taking place in the Depot building, Catapult is a new event series designed to engage students beyond the classroom, helping them prepare for the professional world. Speakers and workshops will connect students with industry professionals and provide opportunities for feedback, as well as finesse their ‘elevator pitch,’ cover letter and resume. To date, the series has held an International Opportunities fair, a ‘Proposal Pitch’ workshop which helped students translate a great ideas into a great funding proposal; and a Reverse Career Fair where students displayed their work while employers navigated the room asking and answering questions, giving feedback and sharing information for job and internship opportunities.

If you’re interested in speaking at an event that targets our students, or if you have an idea for the series, please contact Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Jody Symula, jlsymula@vcu.edu.

Photo courtesy of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Inaugural VCUarts Career Prep Series
MOMA ACQUIRES A THIRD WORK OF PROFESSOR STEPHEN VITIELLO

A kinetic sound sculpture created by Department of Kinetic Imaging Professor Stephen Vitiello is now part of the Museum of Modern Art’s permanent collection. Originally purchased in 2014 by the American Contemporary gallery, “Frogs in Feedback” was acquired by MoMA in January of this year. In this sculptural sound installation, a suspended, working microphone circles a speaker, which is mounted on the floor. The motion creates sounds that have been compared to the callings of frogs, insects and whales.

According to Vitiello, there are no recordings used in the piece. “There are no sounds of frogs but because of the way the piece creates live feedback and uses an analog audio processor (a ring modulator) to modulate the sound, it often has a kind of organic, natural effect.”

Other Vitiello works in MoMA’s permanent collection include My Blue Sky - Samuel Beckett’s Grave, Paris; Catacombs under Paris; Marfa Mix; Canal Street - Grand Central - Bronxville (2003) and Fear of High Places and Natural Things (2006).

Vitiello’s works are also in the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Pollak Prizes

We are always pleased when members of our VCUarts family are recognized by Richmond Magazine for their Excellence in the Arts. Congratulations to the following VCUarts recipients of 2014 Theresa Pollak Prizes.

Art Innovator: Morgan Yacoe, BFA alumna from the Department of Sculpture + Extended Media (pictured left)

Visual Arts: Sonya Clark, chair, Department of Craft/Material Studies

Style Weekly’s Women in the Arts

Style Weekly, Richmond’s arts and culture magazine, has named Department of Theatre Associate Professor Dr. Tawnya Pettiford-Wates, pictured left, Department of Painting and Printmaking alumna Heidi Trepanier and arts advocate and philanthropist Maria Thalheimer — VCUarts supporter and ICA Campaign Committee member — recipients of this year’s Women in the Arts award. The designation is bestowed onto women who show vision and dedication while helping to propel the arts forward in Richmond and beyond.

Cinema Faculty J.M. Tyree Authors an NPR Best Book of 2014

Our Secret Life in the Movies, by Michael McGriff and J. M. Tyree, an adjunct professor in the Cinema Program, has been selected as an NPR Best Book of 2014. This prestigious list includes about 250 titles selected by NPR’s staff and critics. McGriff and Tyree were also interviewed by Rachel Martin on NPR’s Weekend Edition. Our Secret Life is a collection of coming-of-age stories, inspired by a year of watching classic and cult films. The Washington Post’s Michael Lindgren gave the book a very positive review, saying, “This beautiful, devastating little book is quite unlike anything else I’ve ever encountered.”

Tyree was awarded an Adjunct Faculty Grant by VCUarts to help cover travel costs associated with the book’s publication. This renowned author and associate editor of the New England Review teaches film studies and film history/criticism in the VCUarts Cinema Program. Along with his connection as an adjunct, Tyree has strong family ties to VCU. He’s the proud brother of former VCU men’s basketball coach Shaka Smart.
National Honor for Art Education’s Melanie Buffington

The National Art Education Association has named Melanie Buffington, PhD, the 2015 National Higher Education Teacher of the Year. Buffington, assistant professor and graduate programs coordinator in the Department of Art Education, has current research interests that include museum education, emerging technologies, culturally responsive pedagogy, contemporary art, service-learning and pre-service teacher preparation.

“We are so very fortunate to benefit from Dr. Buffington’s many talents and commitment to our department,” said Sara Wilson McKay, PhD, department chair and associate professor.

In other news, Professor Pamela Taylor, PhD, received the award for the Higher Education Division from the Virginia Art Education Association at the organization’s annual conference in Richmond. The VAEEA awards give recognition of excellence and achievement of the many outstanding educators at all levels across the state.

Our proud congratulations to Dr. Buffington and Dr. Taylor.

Art History Faculty in Richmond and Doha team up to Receive $542,000 Grant

Faculty members Michael Schreffler from VCUArts and Dina Bangdel and Radha Dalal from VCUQatar have been awarded a Qatar National Priorities Research Program grant of $542,000 over a two-year period.

The project, which includes collaborations with Qatar Museums (QM) and University College London–Qatar, seeks to create open, web-based courses and resources that use Doha-based museum collections to study art history in a global context. These resources, free and available to all, will focus on newly developing paradigms in both art historical and curatorial training that link the local to the global—while building professional capacity in the cultural and museum fields in Qatar.

Says Schreffler of the project, “As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, and as the history of art expands and becomes more inclusive, the ties that bind local artistic resources to their broader, global context become even more fascinating. We’re exploring creative ways to engage students and a broader public in art history.”

CLARK USES HER HEAD — LITERALLY — TO WIN INTERNATIONAL AWARD

By Leila Ugincius; adapted from VCU News

An art project based on the premise that hairstyling is the first textile art form, earned the coveted top award at ArtPrize, an independent, international art competition held annually in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Sonya Clark, chair of the Department of Craft/Material Studies, shared this year’s juried grand prize award with Anila Quayyum Agha. But whereas Agha’s Intersections, an installation piece that takes up an entire room, brings the audience inside the art itself, Clark herself is the canvas for her Hair Craft Project. Or rather, her head is.

Clark enlisted 12 local hairstylists to manipulate her hair into a work of art and create an equivalent piece on a hand-stitched silk canvas using silk thread. The results were a stunning display of talent passed down through generations.

“When I look at these hairstyles,” Clark said, “I know they’re on my body... I thought it was very important to insert my body into this space, to be the canvas for them.”

In addition to her half of the $200,000 grand prize, Clark added the juried ArtPrize 2-D award and the 1858 Prize for Contemporary Southern Art to her robust list of accomplishments. The Hair Craft Project will be on view at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston as a part of the exhibition Crafted: Objects in Flux, August 25, 2015–January 10, 2016. Clark will give a performance at the museum with a Boston hairstylist over Columbus Day weekend.
Assistant Professor has a Super-Sized Vision

Department of Craft/Material Studies Assistant Professor Andréa Keys Connell was awarded a Dean’s Exploratory Grant that has allowed her to expand her study of large-scale ceramics. Connell has used the grant across several projects, allowing her to purchase kiln shelves that support her large pieces and hire studio assistants to help carry the weight (literally).

“Thanks to this grant,” says Connell, “I have been able to accept a public commission for the Cleveland Public Library Eastman Reading Garden. Prior to the grant, I would not have had the appropriate equipment to support the project.”

As she looks ahead, Connell sees her work breaking free of confined viewings. “It is my hope that more doors will be opened for opportunities such as this. I would love for my studio practice to evolve beyond the gallery walls and into the public art spectrum. This support has helped in making this goal a very realistic possibility.”

The Dean’s Exploratory Research Program was established in 2006, providing funds to support research explorations at the development stage where no definite outcomes may be predicted.

Portrayal of Inspiration: Arts Professor Emeritus Milo Russell (1921–2014)

Known for his flamboyant behavior and his excellence as an educator, Richard Newdick, professor emeritus and former chair of the Department of Theatre, was a driving force as the department grew over the years. Newdick has been credited with elevating the Theatre program during his tenure in the 70’s and 80’s and transforming the way VCUarts celebrated commencement.

“Richard’s contributions to the department, the School of the Arts and the University’s community will long be remembered,” says Dean Joseph Seipel. “His infectious laugh and mischievous energy always enlivened any situation. The hundreds of students he taught will carry his spirit throughout their lives.”

Richard Newdick passed away on March 20. He was 83 years old.

Portrait of Inspiration: Arts Professor Emeritus Milo Russell (1921–2014)

Many have said that Milo Russell’s art is a reflection of his personality. Just like the professor himself, his portraits evoke a sense of all-knowing calm. “Milo was a gentleman – and a gentle man,” said Joe Seipel, dean of VCU School of the Arts. “He was a force of quiet professionalism at VCU Arts. Everyone knew him as a brilliant painter and had great respect for his painting and his teaching. Students knew that they would get honest insightful response to their work. Faculty knew they had a loyal and important colleague.”

Russell taught at VCU from 1958 until his retirement in 1985. He later returned as professor emeritus, teaching painting classes well into his 80s. His legacy lives on, especially in those who were fortunate enough to be his student.

Professor Russell passed away December 22 from complications of pneumonia. He was 93 years old.

Spotlight On: David Leong, Professor of Theatre

He’s been inducted into the Kennedy Center College of Fellows of the American Theatre, one of the highest honors in the theatre world today. He’s coached and directed countless fight scenes on Broadway and in film. And here at VCU, he has played a major role in shaping the next generation of performers.

As Chair and Professor of the Department of Theatre for close to 20 years, David Leong’s many accomplishments include working with Dr. Richard Wenzel in the VCU Medical Center to teach clinical empathy to physicians, which helped to start a national trend. He has drawn national attention to the department by attracting high-caliber faculty and brought in new Broadway musicals and plays to be workshopped by students. And the department’s pedagogy program has seen tremendous success, as almost all of Leong’s former VCU graduate students now hold a full-time faculty appointment in a college or university theatre department.

Valerie Accetta, former student and head of Musical Theatre at the University of Alabama at Birmingham says, “David’s teaching inspires me to have the same standard of excellence for my own students.” Says former colleague Janet Wilson, director of the School of Theatre at Illinois State, “His desire to take such an active role in mentoring so many of his students defines who he is as an artist and educator.”

Leong will step down as chair of the department this year, but he’ll continue to be a professor of theatre, the head of the performance pedagogy program — and an inspiration to all.
Stephen Alcorn, an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Arts, created the opening and closing drop curtains and a stunning series of monumental backdrop images for ODETTA, a production by the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Premiering at New York City Center, the production celebrates the life of folk musician and civil rights activist Odetta Holmes. The New York Times listed the production as one of the must-see events of the season. ODETTA premiered on the West Coast in April at The Music Center in Los Angeles.

This semester, Dr. Gaynell Sherrod, chair of the Department of Dance & Choreography, invited Alcorn to be a guest speaker in her class African American Presence in American Dance, Performance, Art and Social Context, regarding the role the African American experience has played in Alcorn’s work as printmaker and illustrator. Alcorn reciprocated the request for Sherrod to speak with his class and in April, the two gave a talk to the broader VCUarts community about the unifying threads of diversity and inclusion.

Assistant Professor’s Work Drops into Alvin Ailey Production

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FOR REX RICHARDSON: RAVE REVIEWS — AND A NEW INTERNATIONAL RECORDING PROJECT

In a recent review of the CD Blue Shift, Downbeat magazine calls Rex Richardson “a standout soloist with the power, tone and flexibility to rival Freddie Hubbard and Woody Shaw.” Recorded in Richmond’s In Your Ear studios, this eight-track CD was co-led by Richardson and alumnus Steve Wilson, with a rhythm section including alumnus Troy Pollard, alumnus/faculty member Randall Pharr and former faculty member Brian Jones. Richardson describes the CD as “an amalgam of several genres, reflecting the variegated backgrounds of the musicians. Post-bop, country, rock, free jazz – all of these genres are represented in some fashion or another.”

Richardson, pictured, is a professor of Trumpet and Jazz Trumpet at VCU. This February, he travelled to Sofia, Bulgaria to record a collection of baroque and classical concertos with the capital city’s FM Classic Radio Orchestra. The project was funded in part by grants from VCUarts, with remaining expenses covered by monies raised through a Kickstarter campaign.
VCU Macbeth Film, at a Glance

Selected cast:

- **Macbeth**: Angus Macfadyen (*Braveheart; Turn: Washington's Spies*)
- **Lady Macbeth**: Taylor Roberts (*Turn: Washington's Spies*)
- **Duncan**: Kevin McNally (*Pirates of the Caribbean franchise*)
- **Banquo**: Harry Lennix (*The Blacklist*)
- **Murderer #1**: Samuel Roukin (*Turn: Washington's Spies*)
- **MacDuff**: Seth Numrich (*Turn: Washington’s Spies*)
- **MacDuff’s Son**: Devin Druid (*Louder than Bombs; Olive Kitteridge*)

Fifty Cinema students crewed Macbeth: 19 first-year, 15 second-year, 12 third-year and four who have finished the program, but are finishing their second majors.

Twelve days spent on set/filming, at 10–12 hours per day.

The production used 34,816 feet of 35mm film, the gold standard for motion picture production. VCUarts Cinema is one of the only undergraduate film programs shooting in this classic format.

The production was partially funded by a grant from the Virginia Film Office.

Communication Arts student Lily Li contributed storyboards for the production.

Theatre student Annabelle Bradstreet was cast as one of the witches.

Sculpture alumna Morgan Yacoe created heads for props.

VCU Music will be performing *The Planets*, which is planned to be used as the score for the film.

Theatre Adjunct Instructor Isabela Tavares de Mel was the Costume Designer. Students Justina Dambrauskaite (Fashion Design) and Lauren Venezia (Theatre) were On Set Costumers.

Dr. Aaron Anderson, associate chair and professor in the Department of Theatre, served as an on-set armorer and provided prop weapons.

Keep up with the project on the web:

- macbethfilm2015.tumblr.com
- facebook.com/macbethfilm2015
- twitter.com/macbethfilm2015
- #keepingupwiththemacbeths
We all felt it on day one, actors, students, professors; the curse of the Scottish Play. I had personally experienced it back in 1998, during the filming of Cradle Will Rock. While filming in a theatre, Vanessa Redgrave asked me “What did you think of Orson’s Macbeth, Angus?” I looked at her aghast. “We’re in a theatre and you just invoked the spirit. She thought about it and shrugged, “You don’t really buy that superstitious nonsense do you?” That day, an entire 12 hours of work was ruined in the lab. We returned the following week and I was compelled to tell Tim Robbins about the event. He went pale as if he’d seen a ghost. We were all immediately made to turn around and curse, throwing salt over our shoulders. Filming proceeded without event.

The students did not start what they could not finish.

“And that which does not kill us makes us stronger.” That had been the daily quote on day 10 of the call sheet. I’ve said it before... making a movie is one of the most insane, toughest trials you can put yourself through. It is often futile, no one ever sees the damn thing, but it all comes back to the self. And what one wants to achieve for oneself. To never quit. To become a part of something larger than oneself which has nothing to do with state sponsored war-mongering, or hatred in any form whatsoever. To create.

And unlike painting, writing or most of the arts, it involves a gargantuan effort on behalf of a collective. A group of hardass lunatics willing to drag themselves out of bed at the crack of dawn and see the midnight hour take them down in a hail of celluloid short ends.

Thank you, VCU students. You all shine. This movie, whatever its fate, could not have been dragged howling and puking into the world without the midwives you all were. Because beyond just showing up to set, you had to actually learn how to care for this grotesque, blood-spattered infant being dragged from the world without the midwives you all were. Because beyond just showing up to set, you had to actually learn how to care for this grotesque, blood-spattered infant being dragged from the safety of the dark. You had to love and think for yourselves and not simply take orders when an order would come too late and the infant would be stillborn. You had to become an instinct, like the action of the tiger, into the breach we flung ourselves.

I would not hesitate to build another pyramid with this force of nature which drew together like a thick darkness to accomplish the impossible. A 90-minute motion picture on 35mm in 12 days.

At the end, as we collectively threw the last pebbles upon the pyramid we had erected, the mood was joyous. Perhaps there had been complaints, confusion, chaos in the beginning, but in the end, we had overcome our individuality and we had become one in the pursuit of excellence. The bar was held high and to stare at it too long engendered paralysis.

That night after everyone had packed up and gone home, Harry Lennix and I walked past the room we used as base camp, in my building, there were easily 30 people in there all day, it was a mess. Harry peered through the glass and pointed, “Look how spotless it is,” he said, “as if we’d never been there.” No wonder the manager of the building let us come back five times to use it all weekend for free.
DEAN ALLYSON VANSTONE ENDS SUCCESSFUL TENURE AT VCUQATAR

By Meike Kaan

In June, we will say goodbye to Allyson Vanstone, dean of VCUQatar since 2007.

During her tenure, Vanstone expanded VCUQatar’s degree programs to include visual arts and art history and introduced the Master of Fine Arts degree to the Gulf region. She championed international and regional awareness of VCUQatar’s critical position as a leader in art and design education in the Middle East through faculty and student research, the university’s public programming, including the Islamic Art Symposium and the biennial art and design conference Tasmeem Doha and the establishment of the Middle East Design Education Association.

Under Vanstone’s leadership, the university established the Qatar House on the VCU Richmond campus, strengthened partnerships with Qatar Foundation, Hamad Bin Khalifa University and fellow branch campuses, Qatar Museums and many other local and regional collaborators, emphasized broadening community programs to welcome children and Arabic learners, and oversaw the doubling of the university facilities and resources to support the expanded programs and future needs of the university.

“The contributions that Dean Vanstone has made to VCUQatar are extraordinary,” says VCUarts Dean Joseph Seipel. “During her tenure the school has emerged as a creative leader in the region and is recognized internationally for its transformative approach to arts education. She leaves having positioned VCUQatar in its rightful place as a creative center where the spirit of imagination and innovation lives on in the lives of the young people she has touched. Her inspired leadership and generous spirit will be missed. We wish her the best as she moves into this next chapter of her life.”

A search is currently underway for a new dean of VCUQatar.

Welcome Louie Correa, Associate Director of Development

We are excited to introduce the dynamic Louie Correa as the newest member of the VCUarts development team. As of this spring, Correa is responsible for connecting alumni and friends with opportunities that will help advance the school.

In Chicago, Louie worked for Campbell & Company, a leading non-profit consulting firm, working with such clients as the Northwestern Memorial Foundation until he was recruited by NFL player Brandon Marshall to be the inaugural chief executive officer of the Brandon Marshall Foundation. In this role, he was instrumental in growing the Foundation’s resources and made his company a leader for positive change in the mental health community.

Of his new position, Correa says, “I couldn’t be more excited to join the fantastic team at VCUarts. I am honored to have been selected and can’t wait to begin working with the award winning faculty and generous supporters.”

Announcing Inaugural ICA Curator Lauren Ross

By Carrie Culpepper for VCU Institute for Contemporary Art

This fall, the VCU Institute for Contemporary Art welcomed Lauren Ross as its inaugural curator. Ross, who will work closely with Director Lisa Freiman to conceptualize the ICA’s dynamic programming, is used to navigating new territory. She joins us from the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, OK, where she was the museum’s first full-time modern and contemporary curator, helping to develop a strategic plan to increase the museum’s contemporary art holdings. She also helped launch Philbrook Downtown, the museum’s satellite space. Prior to that, Ross initiated the arts programming at the High Line in New York City as its first curator.

“I’ve long been impressed with VCU’s School of the Arts, whose renowned faculty and alumni are unparalleled,” says Ross. “I am incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to join the ICA’s staff at such a defining moment in its development.”

During her 18 years in New York, Ross also spent time as a curator at the Brooklyn Museum and the director/chief curator at non-profit space, White Columns. Keep up with the ICA on Facebook (ica.vcu.edu/facebook) for announcements about events and exhibitions.
2014–15 WINNERS OF THE COVETED FOUNTAINHEAD FELLOWSHIP

What is it that an artist who has just received an MFA needs to facilitate their research beyond graduate school? A studio, a residence, a gallery exhibition or public lecture, some teaching experience and a stipend. The Fountainhead Arts Fellowships are structured to provide just this for a few lucky MFA graduates from across the U.S.

Initiated in 2005 as the Plant Zero Fellowship, the program received funding from VCUArts and the Department of Painting + Printmaking and essential apartment and studio space donated by arts supporter and developer Tom Papa. The program later expanded to include the Departments of Sculpture + Extended Media and Craft/Material Studies, and was renamed the Fountainhead Fellowship in honor of Papa, co-founder and Managing Partner of Fountainhead Development LLC.

This residency program is sited in a newly renovated eco-friendly complex which includes artists’ studios, apartments, a café, an outdoor swimming pool, a dog park and other amenities in addition to being near campus, where fellows teach two classes per semester in the School of the Arts.

We are proud to recognize this year’s Fountainhead Fellows: Sarah Nance (MFA University of Oregon) and Heather McCalla (MFA University of Wisconsin) – Craft/Material Studies; Emmy Thelander (MFA Yale University) – Painting + Printmaking and Irvin Morazan (MFA Hunter College) – Sculpture + Extended Media.

Minds Blown by Visiting Artist Brian Bress

This year, the Art Foundation program brought in the first visiting artist whose time at VCUArts was shared between four departments. Los Angeles-based artist Brian Bress first visited the Art Foundation Program in 2010 and, says Director Elissa Armstrong, the experience was so rich that the only solution for his return was to expand opportunities for students to connect with him.

During a whirlwind three-day visit in February, Bress delivered a lecture to a packed house in the VCU Student Commons. He visited graduate studios and met with students in the Departments of Kinetic Imaging, Photography & Film and Sculpture + Extended Media. He also conducted a two-day character building, performance and video workshop with undergrads from Art Foundation and Sculpture, as well as graduate students from Kinetic Imaging, making use of the new cyclorama wall in the Depot building. The workshop included costume design, improvisational exercises, background design, video and editing.

Student Bridget Manown said of the experience, “It was really refreshing to be able to explore performance art in a non-intimidating environment where everyone was just focused on having fun. Making bizarre masks out of found items, making ungodly noises on camera... it was a spectacular adventure.”

VCUArts Leadership Selected for National and International Honors

Associate Director of the Art Foundation program, Elissa Armstrong, was elected onto the Board of Directors of the National Council of Arts Administrators (NCAA).

The American Dance Festival announced that Dr. James Frazier has joined the American Dance Festival Board of Directors. Among other appointments, Frazier also serves as co-chair of the Diversity Task Force of the International Council of Fine Arts Deans, and sits on the board of the American College Dance Association (ACDA).

Former Director of Grant Coordination and Entrepreneurship David Holland received a fellowship to participate in the Salzburg Global Forum for Young Cultural Innovators last October. As of May 1, Holland begins his new position as Program Director for Venture Creation, VCU da Vinci Center.

Senior Associate Dean Susan K. Roth has been re-elected to a second term on the National Association of Schools of Art and Design Commission. NASAD, the national accrediting agency for art, design and related disciplines recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, with more than 320 institutional members.
Students Travel the World with Dean’s International Study Grants

Education isn’t confined to the classroom and VCUarts makes sure its students have the opportunity to stretch their legs and take their studies abroad. This year’s recipients will be using their $2,500 grants to travel the globe to China, Austria, Iceland, the Netherlands and beyond.

Bon voyage to this year’s recipients:

Yushan Sun (Craft/Material Studies)
Kara Robertson (Dance & Choreography)
Aria Roach (Dance & Choreography)
Anna Shcherbakov (Graphic Design)
Michael Walker (Graphic Design)
Danielle Denyes (Interior Design)
Keith Boylan (Kinetic Imaging)
Meredith Brindley (Kinetic Imaging)
Kotone Deguchi (Sculpture + Extended Media)
Lauren Terry (Sculpture + Extended Media)

Interior Design Students give Ippon USA a New Look

Ippon, a French technology company, originally approached VCU to determine what engineering graduates were looking for in a work environment. The company wanted to learn what kind of work space would attract and inspire young professionals. From this connection, an idea was born to allow VCUarts Interior Design students to design a fun, unconventional workspace in the Power Plant at Lucky Strike. The raw space was mostly concrete with graffiti on the walls.

Under the leadership of Associate Professor Rab McClure, seven talented graduate students each came up with three design concepts to present. Ippon CEO Stéphane Nomis happened to be in town and was able to sit in on the presentations, giving valuable feedback to the students. The company ended up by taking one design idea from each student.

Rab explained, “The students’ amalgamated scheme ended up by working well for the company.” Final plans included a group worktable and reception area made of reclaimed wood and welded steel.

Wall of War // No Further Information

Dylan Halpern, an undergraduate graphic design student, created a massive data visualization art installation of the WikiLeaks Iraq and Afghan War Logs. The project began as a complex data set that Halpern deciphered and converted into the symbols he developed. Raising funds on Kickstarter, Halpern produced a 10’ x 85’ banner to symbolize an “information dump” observed in plain sight.

Graphic Design Chair David Shields says, “He’s one of those students that you wish you could take credit for. He is a force of nature.” The massive Wall of War banner, which at over 89’ wide and 10’ tall wrapped around an entire room, was installed in the Gallery at 419 East Broad Street in December 2014. Dylan’s work was also featured on fastcompany.com
Stunning Designs Shine at Textile and Apparel Conference

Four alumni from the Department of Fashion Design and Merchandising exhibited their garments at the International Textile and Apparel Association Conference in Charlotte, NC, last November.

Emilia Hernandez’s design, pictured above, was a Dali-inspired garment featuring seven nude females, with jeweled breasts and braided hair. She was awarded first place for Cotton Incorporated’s Innovation in Design Award.

Jame’t Jackson’s design took inspiration from the fierceness of the black bird and cues from the film, Black Swan. Her quilted skirt and jersey cotton knit bodysuit combination earned her the Undergraduate Alvanon Creative Design Award.

Alice Kim and Tyler O’Neal also presented garments at the event.

COTTON AWARD CHANGES LIVES

What would we do without Cotton, Inc.? Since 2007, Cotton, Inc. has been a strong supporter of the Department of Fashion Design & Merchandising. It has given young fashion designers a chance to experience first-hand the many uses of cotton and opened doors to new and exciting career paths.

Sophia Li, a Fashion Design & Merchandising alumna, is one of these success stories. She won the Cotton Award in 2011 and it transformed her time at VCU. Her grant money allowed her to study in Florence, Italy, attend fashion shows and museum exhibitions and ultimately helped her make connections on how fashion reveals itself to the public through art and science. A trip to New York for a Cotton University Conference led to a summer internship in the Trend Forecasting Department. Working at Cotton, Sophia learned how mediums like technology in our social environment also affect style. This experience further ignited her passion to be part of the fashion world.

Currently living in New York, Sophia has an exciting position as a Photo Producer for Vogue.com. Her days are filled with creating content for Vogue’s web presence from photo shoots to video and social media. She explains, “Cotton laid the foundation of where I wanted to go. It was a great starting point.”

Communication Arts Senior Sketches McDonnell Trial

VCUarts student Christopher Kindred, pictured left, had a very good excuse for missing the first day of class on August 21, 2014. This VCUarts senior was hired by the Richmond Times-Dispatch to serve as a courtroom sketch artist for the trial of former governor Bob McDonnell and his wife Maureen.

Kindred landed the job by responding to a post on Facebook on August 20th. Within 24 hours, he was sketching the nationally covered case in Richmond’s federal courthouse – and fortunately, he was ready for the challenge. “Communication Arts is, by and large, a drawing-based major,” said Kindred. “Anything we do starts as a drawing or exploration of concept through sketches, so when something like this comes up, we’re already prepared.”

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Made in Church Hill: A Community-Crafted Collaborative Exhibition

arts.vcu.edu/madeinchurchhill

The Made in Church Hill exhibition is the result of a collaboration between students, faculty and staff of VCUarts, University of Richmond and the Church Hill Activities and Tutoring, an organization dedicated to empowering area youth. The exhibition, which inaugurated the Valentine's new community galleries, was intended to spark understanding, preserve history, promote relationships and provide a unique opportunity for all of the students involved.

Students from the VCUarts Departments of Art History and Photography & Film— as part of a service learning course entitled Social Practice in the Museum— worked with high school students to teach photography and descriptive writing skills. Situated in Richmond’s East End, Church Hill is a historically African American neighborhood undergoing gentrification. The community and its residents became the subject matter of the course. Students captured portraits of neighbors, neighborhood landscapes and treasured objects evocative of this storied Richmond neighborhood. Social Practice in Museum was funded largely by a VCU Community Engagement Grant. Undergraduate students from University of Richmond also worked with CHAT youths to conduct community interviews, do archival research at the Valentine and create poems about the Church Hill community.

In addition to the photographs and essays presented, Made in Church Hill featured a sound component created from interviews, field recordings and spoken word performances by local sound artist Vaughn Garland (PhD Media, Art, Text, 2013). An interactive educational activity for children and teens, developed by a VCUarts Art Education graduate student, is also a part of the experience. Made in Church Hill is on view through June 28, 2015.

ANDERSON GALLERY CLOSES AS LEGACY LIVES ON

By Leila Ugincius for VCU News and Ashley Kistler

The Anderson Gallery, a leading venue for contemporary art in the Southeast for more than 40 years, will close in May, following the second round of MFA thesis shows this spring. The VCUarts exhibition facility is well-known for presenting the work of regional, national, and international artists, as well as the annual grad and undergrad student exhibitions.

Two new VCU venues will welcome the gallery’s large following. The Depot on Broad Street, which opened last fall, houses exhibition spaces for student art work, while the ICA will become a showcase for cutting-edge contemporary art and performance from around the world.

As VCUarts continues its remarkable growth, it will partner with VCU Libraries to care for and safeguard the Anderson Gallery’s permanent collection, which will transfer to a new, expanded space in Special Collections and Archives. The improved, climate-controlled housing will ensure the longevity of the collection, which comprises more than 3,100 pieces.

For the first time, items from various artists instrumental in the history of VCUarts will be consolidated in one place. For instance, Special Collections already houses Theresa Pollak’s papers and will now gain as part of this transference the Theresa Pollak reference collection of drawings, prints and paintings.

The Anderson Gallery Collection, as it will continue to be known, will become a more accessible ‘teaching collection’ offering a broad array of research opportunities for all students. VCU Libraries will also display selections from the collection on a rotating basis in its expanded facility, providing greater visibility for these works.

The Anderson Building will continue to serve a vital role for VCUarts as an instructional space combining classrooms and studios. Forthcoming this fall is a book commemorating the significant role that the Anderson Gallery has played in the evolution of VCUarts.
Help-Portrait RVA

Photography & Film student Alexander Kreher always dreamed of using his photography to help people and the national Help-Portrait movement inspired him to take action in his community. With this vision in mind, he organized Help-Portrait RVA to provide photographs for people who couldn’t ordinarily afford the opportunity to capture a memory.

His group gathered 48 photographers, hair stylists, makeup artists and volunteers to give their time and equipment to around 100 folks in the local Richmond community. The attendees had professional photographs taken and received a framed copy of their portrait before they left. A free, hot meal was provided by Mamma J’s, Christians Pizza and Vita Coco.

Kreher recalls, “I loved that it united everyone. There was no separation of race or class or anything. People were there to have fun and connect.”

The energy was positive and Kreher was particularly touched that several homeless men came to share in the experience, sharing their personal stories, telling jokes and, of course, posed for numerous photographs. He says, “It warmed my heart that these men were well-fed, warm and felt connected to the community.”
“Blindfold Test” Success in *Downbeat* Magazine

Clarence Penn, BFA in Music (Jazz)

*Downbeat Magazine* recently selected VCUarts alumnus **Clarence Penn** for a “Blindfold Test” where recordings are presented to prominent artists for identification and discussion. The magazine stated, “Clarence Penn combines massive drumset skills with considerable prowess as a composer and real-time orchestrator.” Penn was drawn to music from a young age, gravitating to a neighbor’s window to listen to the drums. While a student in the Jazz Studies program at VCUarts, Penn was a protegé of Ellis Marsalis and worked as a professional musician. His discography includes hundreds of studio albums and several Grammy-winning recordings. Penn has composed music for films and commercials and produced tracks for numerous singers in pop and alternative genres.

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Community Unites to Create Globally-Inspired “Art Carpet”

Julie Crowder and Kirstie Hein Sadler, Master of Art Education

While student teaching in Antigua, Guatemala as part of their Master of Art Education degree program, **Julie Crowder** and **Kirstie Hein Sadler** were inspired by an artistic cultural phenomenon. In honor of the Catholic celebration of Corpus Christi, a carpet of flowers, pine needles, dyed sawdust, fruits and vegetables is created each year to pave the way for the Holy Week procession to follow through town. Crowder and Sadler were struck by the way the community came together with such conviction to create something so beautiful and temporary. So the colleagues, now art teachers in the Richmond Public School System, decided to create an Art Carpet in Richmond connecting their schools with VCU. The event was so successful that another Art Carpet is scheduled for October 14, 2015.

#GetCovered Comic Strips Commissioned by White House

Carolyn Belefski, BFA Communication Arts & Design

**Carolyn Belefski** was thrilled to be commissioned by the White House Office of Digital Strategy to create a comic strip series to be used for the #GetCovered social media campaign, promoting open enrollment on Healthcare.gov. When Michelle Obama shared one of the strips by Belefski on her Instagram page, pictured above, it quickly received more than 17,000 “likes.” While studying Communication Arts & Design at VCUarts, Belefski’s first comic strip, *Curls*, was published in *The Commonwealth Times*. More than ten years later, Belefski publishes *Curls* online each Monday and she’s working on a Kickstarter campaign to create a retrospective book for fans of the comic strip. Belefski is also the graphic artist for the comic books *Kid Roxy, Black Magic Tales* and *The Legettes*. 

Giants and Gentility at RARE Gallery in New York City

Santiago Cal, MFA in Sculpture + Extended Media

MFA Sculpture alumnus **Santiago Cal** was truly moved to have representatives from VCUarts attend his first solo exhibition in New York City. His series of painted wood sculptures named **Giants and Gentility** was on view at RARE Gallery last fall and explored the intertwining of global events with personal memories and family stories. A Belizean native, Cal moved to the United States in 8th grade and immersed himself in painting and drawing. He began working with clay a few years later, then studied furniture which provided him with woodworking techniques. Sculpture Professor **Carlton Newton** was a close mentor to Cal, helping him establish the confidence to present his work. Today he is a critically-acclaimed and award-winning artist working as an associate professor of Art (Sculpture) at University of Nebraska – Lincoln.
Introducing Friends of Dance

By Lea Marshall

Dance thrives on collaboration — between dancers and choreographers; artists and audience. In that spirit, the Department of Dance & Choreography reached out to supporters old and new for its kickoff of the Friends of Dance initiative.

Chair Dr. Gaynell Sherrod spearheaded the program based on a similar organization at Florida State University. Dr. Sherrod invited Joyce Fausone, the administrator of FSU’s Friends of Dance, to speak to the VCU gathering. Fausone recounted the many ways in which Friends of Dance can support a dance program — fundraising events such as art auctions/live drawing sessions, funding scholarships for students in need, sponsoring receptions as well as through membership dues.

Sherrod sees VCU Friends of Dance as “a group of volunteers committed to raise funds to provide support for the dance department,” with priorities of “building a diverse audience-base and cultivating donors for student scholarships.” The goal for the initiative is to enhance the department’s growth and stability, broadening its base of support. Interested? Contact Dr. Sherrod at egsherrod@vcu.edu.

The Blake Huff Award & The Toni Eddleton Scholarship

“Blake Huff brought so much to the department of sculpture. He had a vocabulary of technical information unsurpassed by anyone I have ever come in contact with. He was an electrician, airplane pilot, mechanic, stock car driver, inventor, innovator and motorcycle racer with an unabashed love of making things. His guidance for students, both undergraduate and graduate was nothing short of spectacular,” recalls Joseph H. Seipel, dean, School of the Arts. D. Blake Huff (1956–2015) came to the Department of Sculpture + Extended Media in 1985, working his way from technical supervisor to assistant professor before he retired in 2009.

Dean Seipel says, “Blake had the amazing ability to find humor in the most unusual circumstances. When Blake was around, work got done, problems got solved and students learned even when at times we were doubled over in laughter.” The Blake Huff Award has been established in his honor. It will go to an undergraduate student who demonstrates selflessness and generosity in the studio. Blake Huff wanted each recipient to receive a tangible object, chosen specifically to meet the needs of the student.

VCUarts student Toni Eddleton (1987–2014) passed away unexpectedly in April 2014. Her dedication and enthusiasm are missed. Toni loved to be in the studio day and night—making art was her passion. She was extremely generous to other students with her time and resources.

The Avenging Angel. Charlton Heston in Gods and Generals. His company, CH Harris Production Services, has provided movie equipment, lighting and superior outcomes to movie makers since 1986. Charles is considered one of the best riggers on the East Coast. He teaches workshops and helps instruct film students on the proper way to use equipment, such as 20-foot cranes and car rigs.

VCUarts Cinema Professor Dr. Robert L. Tregenza, adds, “This professorship will put the Cinema Program on the map, so to speak. I would like to thank the Harris family for their generosity over the years. They have done so much for us. If you are going to be a top ranked research University, we need to attract the best and the brightest to elevate the whole discourse in cinema. I am grateful to both of them and their vision.”

Charles Harris, a VCU graduate in Mass Communications, has been involved in VCU’s Cinema program since its inception. Having received a Masters in Film from Boston University, he went on to successfully provide technical services and work with such celebrities as Robert Duvall in Gods and Generals and Charlton Heston in The Avenging Angel. His company, CH Harris Production Services, has provided movie equipment, lighting and superior outcomes to movie makers since 1986. Charles is considered one of the best riggers on the East Coast. He teaches workshops and helps instruct film students on the proper way to use equipment, such as 20-foot cranes and car rigs.

VCU’S FIRST ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP IN CINEMA!

“VCU has been in our lives for 40 years and we want to continue this legacy,” says Dr. Louis Harris, who along with his son, Charles Harris, has endowed a Professorship in Cinema. Dr. Harris would like to see the position go to someone who is well known in major motion pictures with a national and international body of work. He adds, “The individual must have leadership capability and understand commercial cinema.”

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Her family, in conjunction with the department, has established a scholarship that will go toward a student’s tuition. The goal is that the gift continue past the memories of those who knew her.

To make your gift, a check can be mailed to:
VCUarts Development
325 N. Harrison Street, Richmond, VA 23284-2519

Phone in a credit card gift or ask a question:
Jessica Sorensen, Development Coordinator, 804-828-3592
END OF THE YEAR CULMINATION: 2015 STUDENT EXHIBITIONS

One of the most exciting times of the year is the end of the spring semester when undergraduate and graduate students get to put their works on display. This year’s exhibitions, held at the VCUarts Anderson Gallery and the new Depot Gallery, showed work ranging across disciplines and included the following student artists:

**Undergraduate Juried Fine Arts, Design & Kinetic Imaging Exhibition**
- **Dean’s Award**: Dominque Munoz, Senior, Photography & Film
- **Juror’s Choice**: Jessie Lipsett, Junior, Sculpture + Extended Media
- **Art Education Jumping Fences Award**: Malcolm Peacock, Junior, Painting & Printmaking
- **Art Foundation Award**: Kyle Falzone, Freshman, Art Foundation
- **Craft/Material Studies**: Patrick McMichael, Senior, Craft/Material Studies
- **Painting and Printmaking**: Collin Ward, Junior, Painting and Printmaking
- **Photography and Film**: Cristina O’Connell, Senior, Photography & Film
- **Sculpture + Extended Media**: Danya Smith, Senior, Sculpture + Extended Media

**MFA Exhibitors**
- **Craft/Material Studies**: Lucy Derickson, Hillary Waters, Kelley Morrison, Evan Pomerantz, Amber Smith, Leigh Suggs, Chris White
- **Graphic Design**: Sarah Baugh, Alex Bruno, Stephanie Clark, Xi Lu, Yaeyoung Park
- **Interior Design**: Erin Casey, Roy Abdun-Nur, Rose Peck, Yvonne LeFrancois, Laura Wilson, Michael Radar, Michael Rosenthal-Mix
- **Kinetic Imaging**: Marta Finkelstein
- **Painting & Printmaking**: Annie Albargli, Grace Weaver, Harris Johnson, Jason Rood, Lee Piechocki, Matthew Yaeger
- **Photography/Film**: Antony Smith, Alex Arzt, Josh Thorud
- **Sculpture + Extended Media**: Adam Collignon, Andrew Francis, Noa Glazer, Stephen Fuller, Becky Sellingler, Shawn Taylor
- **Theatre**: Emily Atkins

*Work shown from the 2015 Undergraduate Juried exhibition: 25-2, detail, Anna Tregurtha, Kinetic Imaging
Photo by Terry Brown*