

STATE OF THE ARTS

THE LATEST NEWS FROM NKU SCHOOL OF THE ARTS // SUMMER 2018

Hello and welcome to our first SOTA newsletter! We are going to periodically highlight some of the amazing things going on here in NKU's School of the Arts. With so many talented faculty, staff, and students, each newsletter edition could easily be 50 pages long! I am thrilled to be the second Director of SOTA working with Ron Shaw, the newly appointed Associate Director. Ron and I have the pleasure of working with three new program heads this year as well: Brad McCombs in Music, Michael Hatton in Theatre and Dance, and Lisa Jameson in Visual Arts. SOTA is the creative engine of NKU. Please find our events schedule at the end of this newsletter and come see what we are driving!

-Matthew Albritton, SOTA Director

IN THIS ISSUE

[Program Highlights](#)

[Faculty Success](#)

[Student Spotlight](#)

[Event Calendar](#)



PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA TOURS IRELAND //

In June 2018, 41 NKU Philharmonic Orchestra members spent one week on a musical performance tour in southern Ireland. As part of an invitation to perform on the American Celebration of Music in Ireland Concert Series, the Philharmonic performed concerts in St. Andrew's Church in downtown Dublin, historic St. Canice Cathedral in Kilkenny, and Mount St. Alphonsus Church in Limerick. Chamber groups were also featured in a special Church of Ireland service at St.

Canice Cathedral. In addition to concertizing, students had the opportunity to study traditional Irish tin flute at the University of Limerick and other highlights including experiencing Taylor's Irish Night (a dinner show of traditional Irish music and dance), viewing the Book of Kells (a florid and colorful early edition of the Bible), tour historic Trinity College in Dublin, walk the grounds of Blarney (including kissing the famous stone!), climb Bunratty Castle, and visit the coast at the beautiful seaside town of Kinsale.



DINNER AND A SHOW //

For over three decades, summertime has meant dinner-theatre entertainment with NKU's Commonwealth Theatre Company comprised of professional actors, alumni, and students. This season featured *Life Could Be A Dream* (directed by faculty member Dee Anne Bryll), a musical about a fledgling doo-wop group wanting to make it big, and the comedy classic *The Odd Couple* (directed by faculty member Mike King). Both shows had nearly sold-out runs with many SOTA alumni on cast and crew including MacKenzie Boyd, Jeffery Bunch, Kyle Gaskin, Mindy Heithaus, A. James Jones, Matt Krieg, Allysun Mellick, Rachel Perin, Jacob Priddy, and Spenser Smith. Faculty members Ken Jones and Charlie Roetting portrayed "Felix" and "Murray" respectively in *The Odd Couple*.



PHOTOGRAPHY AREA HOSTS LIGHTING WORKSHOP //

The Photography Area hosted the BIGGEST LITTLE LIGHTING WORKSHOP with internationally known photographer Robert Hanashiro and USA Today Photographer Jack Gruber. Michael Keating, Director of the Clyde N. Day foundation, and longtime supporter of the photography area in SOTA was also involved. About 30 participants attended the workshop.

Robert Hanashiro visited Boyd's Station on Friday, June 22 working directly with Reinke Grant for Visual Storytelling photographers Arden Barnes from the University of Kentucky and Michael Swensen from Ohio University showing the versatility and power of the Nikon Speedlights. Hanashiro took the Nikon Speedlight show on the road the following day for a workshop hosted at Northern Kentucky University School of the Arts on Saturday, June 23.

Thanks Nikon, Northern Kentucky University School of the Arts and The Clyde N Day Foundation for making the workshop a huge success.



FACULTY SUCCESS

VISUAL ARTS FACULTY AWARDED FOR DESIGNS //

- Maren Carpenter Fearing's screen print "Gold" (a study in color and pattern perception) was selected and published in UPPERCASE Magazine (Issue 38, July/August/September 2018).
- The SOTA Interior Wayfinding Signage System won a 48th Annual UCDA Design Competition "Award of Excellence" and will be showcased at the 2018 UCDA Design Show and Conference 9/29-10/2 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Credits:
 - Maren Carpenter Fearing, Assistant Professor of Visual Communication Design: Design
 - Brad McCombs, Associate Professor of New Media and Media Informatics: Fabrication and Installation
 - Kristi Dennis, VCD Student (Paid Worker/'16): Fabrication and Installation
 - Katie Veech, VCD Student (Paid Worker/'16): Fabrication and Installation
- Julie Mader-Meersman's third food truck design rolled out late spring (Melissa's Soup Kitchen)
- Maren Carpenter Fearing, Hans Schellhas, and Julie Mader-Meersman applied for the Design Incubation "Communication Design Educators Award" in the Service category for their work on the 2017 in:sight regional design exhibition. The purpose of these awards is to showcase design excellence and ingenuity in the academic study of design.



KEN JONES RECEIVES REGENTS AWARD //

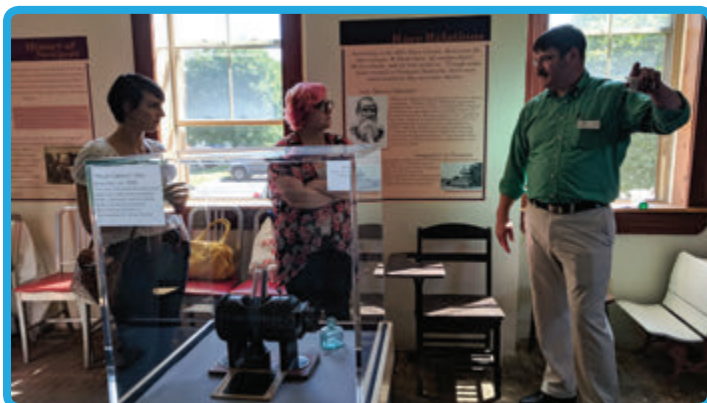
On Monday, August 13, 2018 at President Ashish Vaidya's first Fall Convocation, Provost Sue Ott Rowlands awarded former director of SOTA Ken Jones with the NKU Regents Professorship Award.



NKU SOTA AND SOIL SERIES COLLABORATE IN NEW PROJECT //

This past June/July, the Newport/Bethel Project took place at NKU SOTA's Sculpture and Ceramics Building. The Newport/Bethel Project is a collaboration between Francesca Fiore and Hillary Wagner of SOIL SERIES: A Social Drawing, Steven Finke of Northern Kentucky University, and the Bethel Historical Society. The experimental program used artmaking as a means to promote empathy and understanding among students of varied backgrounds in the Northern Kentucky/Southern Ohio region, as well as heightened critical thinking skills and an increased awareness of history, identity, and place. The project's secondary goal was to offer a comprehensive experience in a university studio setting to students who are interested in pursuing art but lack access to the necessary resources.

What emerged from the experiment was far more nuanced than the initial goals in that the participants came from varied backgrounds and did not, in actuality, understand Newport and Bethel as a binary. Rather, they understood one another's experiences as unique and complex. Students from both sites benefited from visits to the Bethel Historical Society and Museum and the Newport History Museum, and through a series of drawing and performance exercises, began to think deeply and critically about their relationship to history and place. These visits were used as a backdrop to their subsequent work in the studio, which took place in NKU's Sculpture and Ceramics Building over seven sessions. Led by Spatial Arts Professor, Steven Finke, and assisted by current Spatial Arts students, Elizabeth Rachford and Jessica Holtman, participants undertook an in-depth sculpture project that involved modelling and interpreting each other in clay, and then casting their sculptures in plasters using plaster waste molds. The busts were then mounted on school desks, which were further manipulated using found objects. Participants worked with a partner throughout the process, trading stories and sharing skills to complete intricate, evocative work. The work will be shared with the public in the Fall.





STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Joel Knueven (Visual Communication Design BFA 2004) is entering the MA program at Morehead State this fall (2018).

Katie Threet (BA Visual Art and P-12 Education 2018) accepted a teaching position at Holmes Middle School in Covington, KY. She developed a program for 8th graders on Careers in the Arts using area arts professionals as mentors and examples of how the arts provide viable careers in the community.

Conrad Krieger (Music Education 2017) has been hired to teach K-5 music at Klondike Lane Elementary in Louisville, Kentucky. He will continue to be involved with the Harrison High School Marching Band.

Jessica Schummer (Music Education 2018) will begin her teaching career as Music teacher at Three Rivers Elementary School.

Holly Peek (Music Education 2018) will begin her teaching career as Choral Director at Randall K. Cooper High School.

Eden Smock (Music Education 2018) will be returning to her alma mater at Wynford High School as Choir Director for grades 5-12.

SUBMIT YOUR STORIES

Have something newsworthy?

We would love to hear from you.

Send your stories and updates to Rick Endres, Publicity Manager, at endresr1@nku.edu.

FALL 2018 EVENTS

AUGUST 2018

Katie St. Clair "Erractics: Neither Here nor There"
Aug. 20-Sept. 21, Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. | Main Gallery
Gallery Talk & Reception: Thu, Sept. 20, 4-7 p.m.

String Project Preview
Sat, Aug. 25, 10 a.m.-noon | Band Room (FA 126)

SEPTEMBER 2018

Jazz Ensemble
Tue, Sept. 25, 7 p.m. | York Street Café

Jazz Combos
Thu, Sept. 27, 7 p.m. | Band Room (FA 126)

Big Fish
Sept. 27-Oct. 7, Wed-Sat 7:30 p.m.; Sun 2 p.m.
Corbett Theatre

FotoFocus: Record/Off Record
Sept. 28-Oct. 26, Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. | Main Gallery
Panel Discussion & Reception: Thu, Oct. 11, 4-8 p.m.

FotoFocus: 50/50, 50 images of 50 years of NKU
Sept. 28-Oct. 26, Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. | 3rd Floor Gallery
Reception: Thu, Oct. 11, 5:30-8 p.m.

OCTOBER 2018

Vocal Jazz Ensemble
Tue, Oct. 2, 7 p.m. | York Street Café

Orchestra "Star-Crossed"
Tue, Oct. 2, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

Combined Bands
Thu, Oct. 4, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

Marisol
Oct. 23-28, Tue-Sat 7:30 p.m.; Sun 2 p.m.
Stauss Theatre

Fall Choral Concert "Choral Elements"
Thu, Oct. 25, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

NOVEMBER 2018

Fall Keyboard Recital
Mon, Nov. 5, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

String Area Recital
Tue, Nov. 6, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

**Dedication: The Musical Lives of Clara Wieck
Schumann, Robert Schumann and Johannes Brahms**
Thu, Nov. 8, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

Tri-State High School Honor Choir
Fri-Sat, Nov. 9-10 | Greaves Concert Hall

The Secret in the Wings (First Year Show)
Nov. 9-11, Fri-Sat 7:30 p.m.; Sun 2 p.m.
Stauss Theatre

NOVEMBER 2018 (cont.)

Percussion Ensemble
Mon, Nov. 12, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

Brass Choir
Wed, Nov. 14, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

Jazz Ensemble
Thu, Nov. 15, 7 p.m. | York Street Café

BFA Senior Exhibitions
Nov. 15-Dec. 8, Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. | Main Gallery
Reception: Thu, Nov. 15, 5-7 p.m.

Emerging Choreographers' Showcase
Mon, Nov. 19, 6 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

Vocal Jazz Ensemble
Tue, Nov. 27, 7 p.m. | York Street Café

Opera Workshop "All Sondheim"
Tue, Nov. 27, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

Combined Bands
Thu, Nov. 29, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

Pride and Prejudice
Nov. 29-Dec. 9, Wed-Sat 7:30 p.m.; Sun 2 p.m.
Corbett Theatre

DECEMBER 2018

Youth Symphony Orchestra
Sun, Dec. 2, 2:30 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

Steel Band
Mon, Dec. 3, 7 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

Jazz Combos
Tue, Dec. 4, 7 p.m. | York Street Café

Winter Choral Concert
Tue, Dec. 4, 7 p.m. | Mt. Washington Presbyterian
Church

Orchestra "Reel Encounters with Music"
Fri, Dec. 7, 7 p.m. | The Carnegie - Covington, KY

Mainstage Musical Theatre & Dance Showcase
Sat, Dec. 15, 3 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

Winter Private Lesson Recital
Sun, Dec. 16, 2 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall

String Project Winter Concert
Sun, Dec. 16, 4:30 p.m. | Greaves Concert Hall