

OKLAHOMA CENTER FOR ARTS EDUCATION

The mission of the Oklahoma Center for Arts Education is to assure excellence in arts education through professional development, collaboration, and research.

Arts Education at the CENTER

WRITTEN AND EDITED BY INES BURNHAM

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Celebrating Youth Arts Month

The crowds began to gather early on the morning of Tuesday, March 7, 2007, as CreateOK—Oklahoma Arts Education Coalition once again hosted Youth Arts Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol. The purpose of the event is to kick off Youth Arts Month events that are held throughout the month all over the nation. The goal of Youth Arts Month is to bring awareness of the importance of the arts and arts education in the state.

We planned for months by searching the state for young, talented musicians, dancers, actors, artists, and vocalists to represent the best of the best. Every year the event grows stronger and becomes more and more exciting. This year was no exception.

We send invitations to the

legislatures to get them to come and see students perform their talents and show how important their discipline is to them and their education.

This year's emcee was Dr. John Clinton, Dean of the College of Arts, Media & Design at the University of Central Oklahoma. Miss Oklahoma Lindsey Miller



was among the featured speakers and performers at the event.

Guest speakers also included Aaron Jones, Arts Education Director for the Oklahoma Arts Council. Also featured were performances by the

Oklahoma Music Educators' Association Children's Chorus, the Ponca City High School Symphony Orchestra, the Folkloric Dance Company, the Sketchers Art Club, the Chickasaw Nation Children's Chorus, and the Oliver and Childers Middle School Orchestra. Performances by the Fillmore Elementary Mariachi and Patrick Henry Elementary Orchestra were highlighted by guest speakers Rob Davidson from the VH1 Save the Music Foundation, Dave Bialis from Cox Communication, and Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins. These two programs were sponsored by grants from VH1 Save the Music Foundation and Cox Communications which provided the instruments in the schools for these children.

This year the Youth Arts Month Flag Winner, Trevor Crump, was honored at the

event and intermission music was provided by the Silver Strings Orchestra. Guest Artist Patrick Riley drew caricatures for guests.

View additional pictures at www.createok.net.

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Research results presented in DC

In February 2007, Ms. Linda Garrett presented the results of The Arts Education Perception Survey (TAEPS) in Washington, DC to the Kennedy Center Partnership in Education Program's US representatives. From the fall of 2004 through the spring of 2005, Dr. John Clinton, principal investigator, and co-investigators Dr.

Nancy Barry and Ms. Linda Garrett conducted the study within the state of Oklahoma to determine stakeholders' (parents, educators, law makers, and business leaders) perception of what arts education is and how it impacts children at the elementary school level. "From our survey results, it appears parents and teachers have a

significant and positive belief in the importance of arts education," Clinton said. "But the perceptual gap between those who are working daily with students and those who are making policies appears to be very broad."

To-date, participants attending the conference have

been in discussions regarding the potential of conducting the same study in their respective states.

The TAEPS results presentation can be viewed online at www.camd.ucok.edu/ocae at the teacher resources link.

By Linda Garrett

Young Talent in Oklahoma

This March the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond hosted the 47th annual Young Talent in Oklahoma exhibit in the Max Chambers Library. High school students from across Oklahoma are invited to showcase their visual artwork. This year 35 schools participated, 91 senior portfolios were submitted and 1491 total works were judged. 134 total pieces were selected for the show including 12 ranked senior portfolios.

The student reception was held on Saturday, March 31st and the awards ceremony followed. The Center hosted the

reception for the students, parents, teachers, and guests this year. The reception was well received by everyone. Dr. Isolete De Almeida, Art Education professor at the University of Central Oklahoma, assisted in the coordination of the event and reception and stated "this is the best reception ever."

In addition to providing the reception refreshments, the Center also provided the exhibit catalogue and the College of Arts, Media & Design provided a \$500 scholarship for a student planning to attend the University of Central Oklahoma and study art.

"The entire event was so successful that the coordinating project members, from the Oklahoma Arts Education Association (OAEA) made a request to have the Young Talent event hosted at the University this coming year and beyond" said Dr. De Almeida.

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in this year's exhibit.

To view the exhibit catalogue, visit www.createok.net

Dr. John Clinton named Dean



For all who know him, Dr. John Clinton has always been a very dedicated and busy man. Well, it is certainly not going to slow down for him any time soon. Dr. Clinton has recently been appointed

Dean of the College of Arts, Media & Design at the University of Central Oklahoma. He served as Interim Dean for ten months prior to the appointment.

Dr. William Radke, provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the

University of Central Oklahoma said, "Dr. Clinton brings a wealth of experience to the position of Dean of the College of Arts, Media & Design."

Dr. Clinton founded the Oklahoma Center for Arts Education in 2001 and has since served as the Executive Director. He brought Oklahoma A+ Schools to Oklahoma in his first year at the Center. He was the Head Investigator for The Arts Education Perception Survey (TAEPS) research project for the Center which has provided valuable information to administrators, parents, community leaders, and legislators around the country. He also continues to serve as a Board of Director for the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic and he con-

tinues to conduct the Oklahoma Youth Orchestra, a position he has held since 1992.

Dr. Clinton has not been a stranger to hard work. He earned his Ph.D. in Music Education from the University of North Texas in 1991. He spent over 30 years in Norman Public Schools as an educator and Fine Arts Director before coming to Edmond. His dedication was recognized in Norman with the new theatre named the John E. Clinton Theatre. He has also been inducted to the Oklahoma Music Educators' Association Hall of Fame. These are just a few of his many prestigious honors.

Center provides grants for University projects

There are so many excellent ideas for arts education but not enough funds to carry them out. It is the same old problem. The Center tries to help alleviate some of these tough problems by providing small grants to support various arts education projects at the University of Central Oklahoma.

Requests for support come from the different departments in the College of Arts, Media & Design via a short application form. The project and funding needs are reviewed by the Executive Director and the Program Manager of

the Center. "In an ideal world, we would be able to support all of the projects, but unfortunately we are unable to," said Ines Burnham, Program Manager for the Center.

This year's funded projects included a symposium, a dance reception, and a summer camp. The symposium with Dr. Kole Kleeman, a communication professor at the University, and Dr. John Osburn, a professor emeritus from the University's history department, was held after the September 21st performance of the play "Heritage". The dance

reception was held on June 8th with guest artist Bill Evans closing out his week long workshop on campus. Finally, the children's drama day camp was provided t-shirts for the campers and counselors as well as marketing materials.

"These events all spread the importance of arts and arts education in Oklahoma and we hope to continue such projects in the future," said Burnham.

To help sponsor Center events, contact Ines Burnham at iburnham@ucok.edu.

CreateOK's work is continuing

The year has flown by quickly and many plans are completed or are in process. This year CreateOK once again coordinated and sponsored Youth Arts Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol for Youth Arts Month and had a great response from the public.

Our website has been updated and continues to add information as it received from members. We have posted pictures from the last two YAM events. We have also updated some valuable web links. Of course, the website is never "done" and will continue to grow. We invite you all to provide comments, suggestions, and information to us on a continuing basis. You can send your information to Ines Burnham at iburnham@ucok.edu.

The CreateOK members met in April to discuss current events in each of their respective groups. We received a boost of energy for arts advocacy from our guest speaker Mr. Denny Senseney.

Mr. Senseney is a great advocate for arts education in schools and has spent a significant amount of time in Washington, D.C. working with congress on this issue. In 1984, Senseney, a former music educator, founded Senseney Music and strives to provide exceptional products and services to students, music teachers, amateur and hobbyist musicians with a staff of over 200 years experience who are committed to music education.

Valuable information and comments

were shared among the group. The next plan of action is to develop the strategic plan for CreateOK. Members James South and Bob Curtis agreed to work with John Clinton on the strategic plan draft over the next few months and then present it to the group for finalization in the fall.

We will post information for the next members meeting on the website at www.createok.net.



The Center is ready to SOAR again

For the past three years the McCurtain County Educational Co-Op has been part of a project called SOAR — Southeastern Oklahoma Arts Reform. The goal of the project is to integrate an arts education program into the framework of an overall school reform effort aimed at improving student academic achievement in the state mandated testing program.

Project SOAR partners with the Center as well as with the University of Central Oklahoma, the Oklahoma State Department

of Education, the Oklahoma Arts Council, Oklahoma A+ Schools, and the Harcourt Assessment Company.

The Center functions as the facilitation device for arts education integration. We carefully select qualified teachers in Pre-K through 5th grade, secondary math, secondary language, secondary social studies, secondary science, music arts, and visual arts. These teachers are experts in arts education integration.

Each teacher prepares an ITU

(Interdisciplinary Thematic Unit) template for their respective specialty area. The ITU is user friendly and can be accessed via the web for all teachers on the McCurtain County website at www.mccareok.com at the SOAR link.

The Center completed the project's final year last summer, but was called up early this year to continue the project this summer. Dr. John Clinton will be leading 10 arts integration teachers to Idabel at the end of June again this year.

Creativity workshop coming in 2008

In January of 2008, the Center, along with Oklahoma A+ Schools and the Educators' Leadership Academy at the University of Central Oklahoma, will host Dr. Gerard Puccio's creativity workshop on the University campus.



Dr. Puccio is the Director and a Full Professor at the International Center for Studies in Creativity (ICSC) at Buffalo State. Dr. Puccio joined the faculty in 1990 and has taught in

both the undergraduate and graduate programs. He has authored more than 30 articles, chapters and books. He has also provided training and consulting services to more than 200 private and public sector organizations, including Procter & Gamble, 3M, Delphi Thermal Systems and many schools. Gerard has taught creativity courses and workshops around the world, in such countries as England, Spain, Tanzania, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

ICSC, through the process of creative thought, enhances an individual's ability to imagine new ideas by learning to envision that which cannot immediately

be seen. The ICSC is recognized for offering "The Credential in Creativity" for more than 30 years.

The 3 hour workshop will focus on four major points. First, what is creativity and why is it an essential skill in today's world. Second, what is your style of creativity and what are the implications for leading others. Next, creative thinking as a core leadership skill. Finally, tools and principles for enhancing creative thinking.

Look for more information from the Center in the upcoming months.



Oklahoma Center for Arts Education
University of Central Oklahoma
100 North University Drive, Box 1045
Edmond, Oklahoma 73034

Phone: 405-216-2588
Fax: 405-216-2589
E-mail: iburnham@ucok.edu
Website: www.camd.ucok.edu/ocae

Making the "connection" with American Indian students

I am very honored that the Center has given their full support for this important conference each year. This next year in 2008 will be our 4th annual "Connecting to American Indian Learners" conference. The American Indian Committee from the Advisory Board of the Center has collaborated with assistance from the Division of Arts and Humanities of the Chickasaw Nation, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the Choctaw Nation and the Seminole Nation. This committee has seen the importance that the Center has shown through continued support and has been monumental and very much appreciated.

The conference continues to grow as more and more educators find the need to learn more about their American Indian students. Educators are finding that they do not know much about the unique culture of these noble, indigenous people. American Indian customs, art, and practices once realized can help teachers to better understand and relate to these students. Once these

"connections" are improved, personal identity and self value reaches to greater outcomes towards motivation and learning for these students. Their identity through their culture must be preserved, not overcome.

"This conference makes available to all those involved in educating our youth, hands on experiences and vital information about connecting with the American Indian learner and their culture", said Dr. John Clinton, Dean of the College of Arts, Media & Design at the University of Central Oklahoma.

In an article from the "Chickasaw Times," Gov. Bill Anoatubby said, "Those who experience art break down the barriers of stereotypes and share culture, wisdom and a respect for diversity among all peoples."

"The Center recognizes the conference is vital to express the importance of expanding an educators' diversity reach to include and embrace the American

Indian culture," said Ines Burnham, Program Manager for the Center.



At the 3rd annual conference this past March, Oklahoma House Representative and Choctaw Nation American Indian Lisa Billy presented the keynote address to an attentive audience.

If you would like more information regarding the 4th annual Connecting to American Indian conference, contact Ines Burnham at (405) 216-2588 or via email at iburnham@ucok.edu.

We look forward to seeing you there.

By Laura Stewart