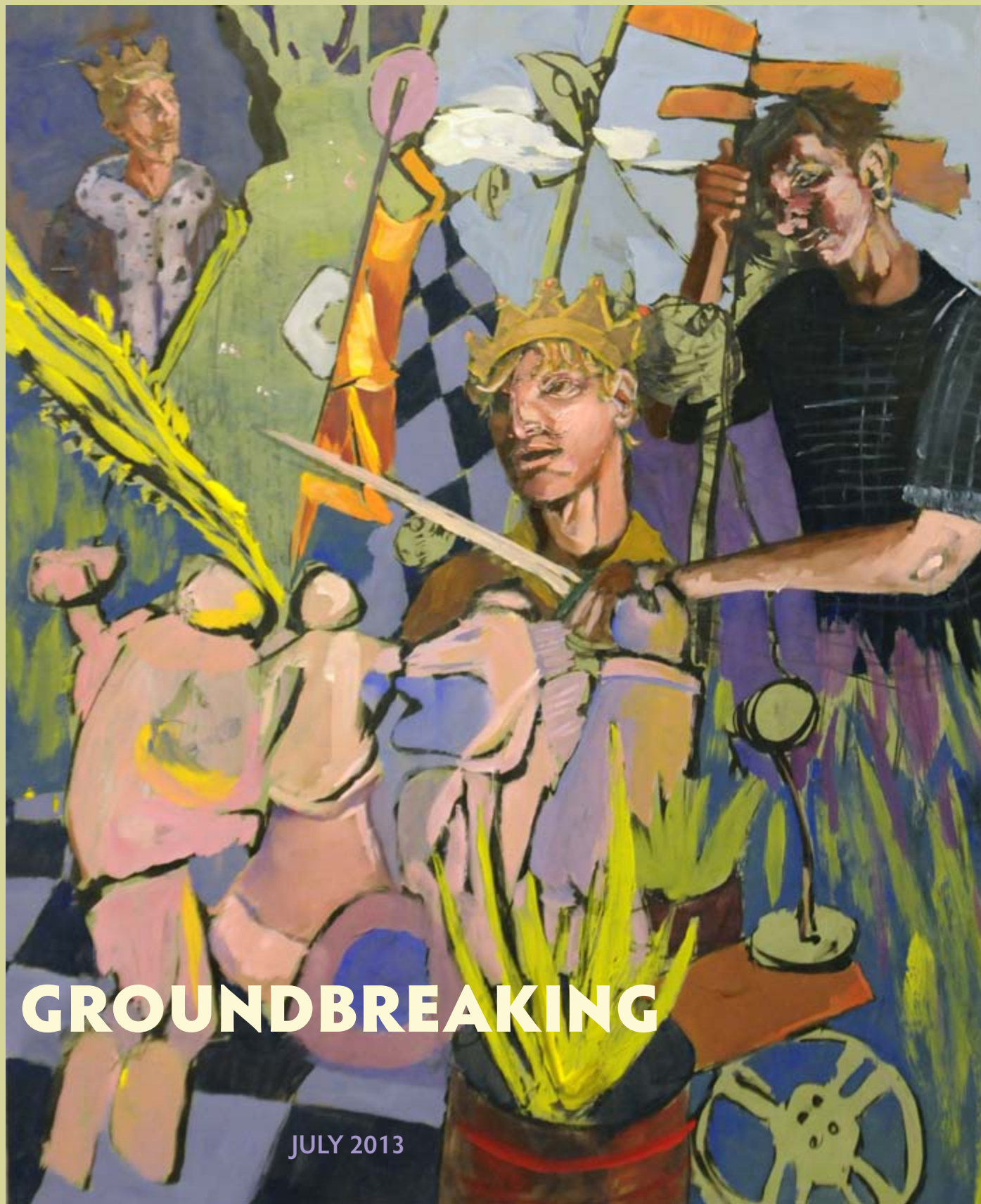


# ASPIRATIONS



A publication of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts Institute, the non-profit partner organization with the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts



## GROUNDBREAKING

JULY 2013



Dear Friends of NOCCA,

We are thrilled to announce the start of construction of the NOCCA Forum and the Press Street Gardens, two of four new projects planned to transform Press Street into a creative and pedestrian corridor serving NOCCA as well as the community.



Our goal has been to strategically implement an expansion plan that meets NOCCA’s needs while also providing more opportunities for the public to experience NOCCA first-hand.

We are also excited that in the long-term, we will be providing more opportunities for NOCCA alumni to come home to lead these ventures as well as invent next-generation industries.

As NOCCA begins the celebration of its 40th birthday in 2014, we invite you to be a part of NOCCA’s expansion, sharing in the creative environment that inspires our young artists every day.

Sincerely,

*Debbie Marx*

Debbie Marx  
President

*Sally Perry*

Sally Perry  
Executive Director



On the cover: *The Kings of Betrayal*  
by Davin Roberson,  
Visual Arts Level IV  
Mixed Media on Board

Below: *Eve’s Thrall*  
also by David Roberson  
Mixed Media on Board  
2013 NOCCA Institute  
Collection Purchase



*The Press Street Gardens are made possible by the Trafigura Foundation, blue moon fund, The Garden Study Club of New Orleans, Inc. and the Junior League of New Orleans.*



INSTALLATION: SEPTEMBER 2013

Rows of vividly colored vegetables and cut flowers crisscrossed by grass pathways. A mouth-watering menu made with just-picked herbs and produce served at **The Boxcar**, the on-site food truck. Beds for a thousand experiments in biology, physics, chemistry and environmental science. All surrounded by a green fence covered in vining fruits and flowers.

Welcome to the **Press Street Gardens**, the newest addition to learning and mastery at NOCCA. The garden is a half-acre urban farm and outdoor lab designed to serve arts, academics and the community.

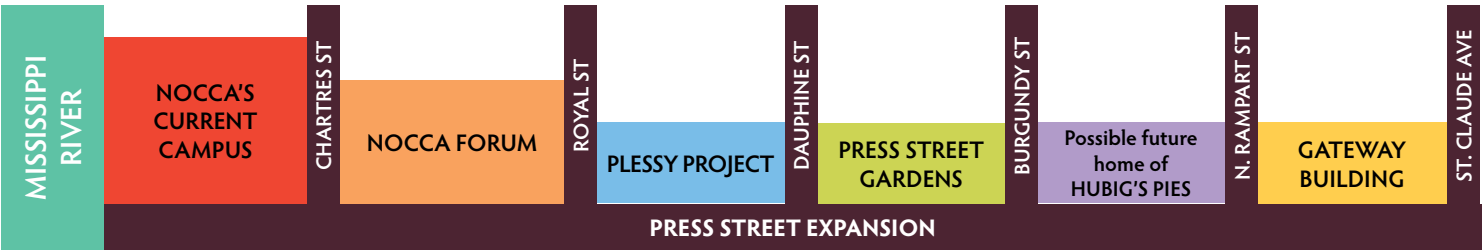
For Academic Studio students studying the consequences of encounter in humanities, the gardens can demonstrate how the Mississippi basin’s abundant ecosystem and the farming practices of so many cultures collided in our port city. They can learn how tomatoes of Mexican origin joined with the Native American practice of planting fish heads six inches below a plant produced the best possible fruit. Then in science classes they can discover the exact chemical processes involved.

For young chefs in the Culinary Arts program, the Press Street Gardens will provide produce, an appreciation for local food systems and rich experiences in cooking and menu design.

And for the community, Press Street Gardens will become a destination. Fresh dining; school field trips; gardening workshops; seed exchanges; programs supporting healthy eating; and sales of produce, herbs, flowers and Culinary Arts-created products will make Press Street Gardens a new NOCCA experience for all to enjoy.

The PRESS STREET GARDENS will feature:

- Beds dedicated to native and culturally significant Louisiana plants
- Extensive vegetable and herb gardens
- Cut flower garden
- Espaliered fruit trees
- Beds for science and humanities study
- Greenhouse and garden retail
- Shaded pergola for an outdoor classroom and events
- Kumquat, cotton and herb-lined fence, with vines of passion fruit, grapes and kiwi on the interior
- And a food truck called The Boxcar to serve diners and support garden operations



The New Orleans Center for Creative Arts Institute is the non-profit partner organization with NOCCA, Louisiana's tuition-free arts conservatory for high school students. Our mission is to provide access to excellence in the arts for students, faculty and the community at large.			
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### CONSTRUCTION: SEPTEMBER 2013

Young, creative and focused energy is about to fill one of the city's oldest architectural structures. Built in the 1830's as part of the historic Levee Steam Cotton Press, the sister warehouse to two on NOCCA's current campus is becoming the **NOCCA Forum**.

A driving goal of the Forum is to meet the essential physical needs of NOCCA's newest offerings: 9th - 12th grade academics and Level I-IV Culinary Arts.

To truly succeed, though, the Forum must nourish the Academic Studio and Culinary Arts' distinct ability to innovate and impact 21st century education.

As in the arts, academic spaces will emphasize the active role of students in the learning process. Overall, studios are designed to facilitate the cross-discipline collaborations critical for connected and meaningful learning.

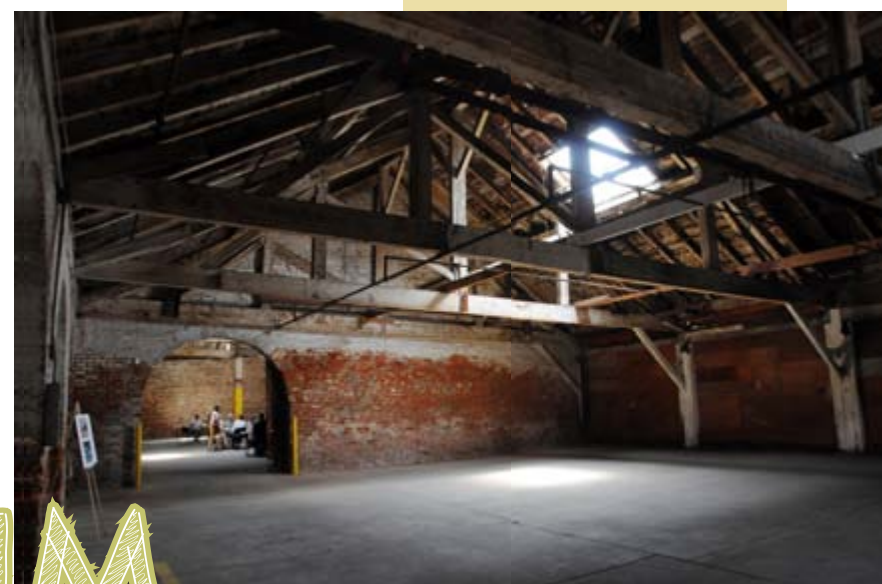
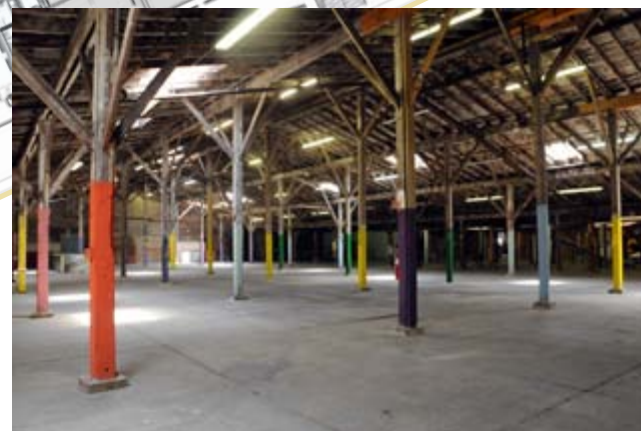
As also in the arts' apprenticeship-model, students will have the opportunity to train on industry-standard equipment. Math/Science will have a fabrication studio for hands-on inquiry, robotics and engineering

projects. Integrated Humanities will have a project lab to support students' work presentations, be they 3-D sets or video. Meanwhile, other classrooms will be as flexible as possible, with the ability to adapt to the rapid changes that define our times.

For Culinary Arts, professional training spaces such as a restaurant kitchen, butchery, bakery and café will enrich and intensify the curriculum. The spaces will provide young chefs with the strongest possible foundation and real world experience to lead their own kitchens one day.

And with the café and art gallery open to the public, a Great Hall for events, labs for science workshops for regional students, a home for a teacher institute and space to offer adult culinary classes, everyone will be able to become part of NOCCA when the NOCCA Forum opens in August 2014.

*The NOCCA Forum is made possible to date by Chevron, Triguera Foundation, Goldring and Woldenberg Family Foundations, Zemurray Foundation, Ella West Freeman Foundation, Emeril Lagasse Foundation, Selley Foundation, and the Ruth U. Fertel Foundation.*



### The NOCCA FORUM will feature:

- Math/Science Labs
- Math Science Fabrication Workshop
- Project Room
- Flexible Classrooms
- Culinary Arts Kitchen, Bakery and Butchery
- Great Hall
- Cafeteria
- Café
- Art Gallery

# NOCCA FORUM

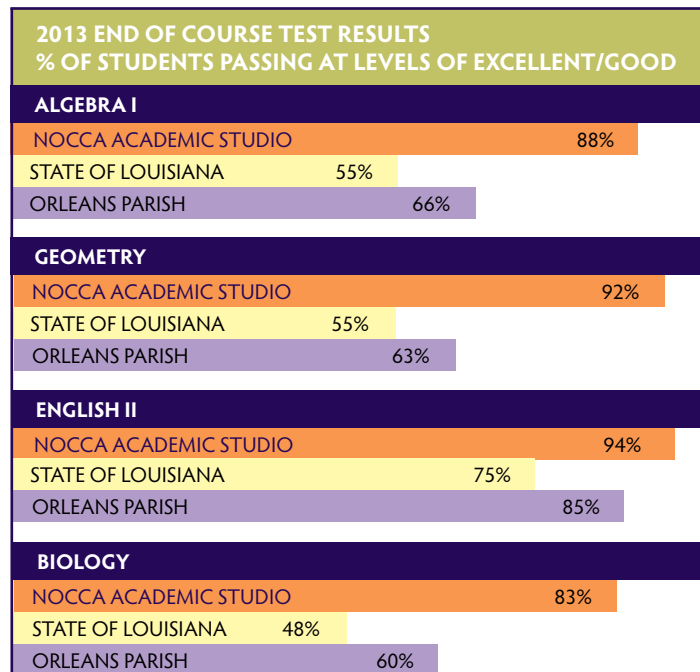


## ACADEMIC STUDIO: YEAR TWO

As the Academic Studio's year-end sciences and humanities projects symposium came to a close in May, every 9th and 10th grade student had something to celebrate. Each student had experienced remarkable double-digit growth in every subject on the ACT's Explore and Plan Tests between August and March. **Moreover, the majority of 10th graders were scoring college-ready.**

Students also passed the four required End of Course Tests at a rate of 99%, with 89% scoring at the two highest levels. These results are among the best in the state. **Most importantly, students who had entered the Academic Studio well below grade in reading, writing and math have caught up in just two years.**

Test results, however, are not NOCCA's goal: ultimately,



we want students to develop the same passion for math, science, and the humanities that they have for the arts. We do not want to just meet state, national and international standards but to help each student reach his or her highest level of success as an artist and as an intellectual.

While year one presented challenges for students as they learned how to deeply analyze and constantly revise work to improve it, "I understand everything now," says 10th grade student Princey Walker. "I find so many connections between humanities and my art, it's crazy. I feel like a genius when that happens." "I've learned how to branch off from any subject and look at it from so many perspectives," added Tori Borja. "The bar was set so high in the first year but we're into the groove now."

## WALKING INTO INTEGRATED LEARNING

One day last fall, students arrived to a topographical map taped to the floor of the breezeway. Their charge: to discover what the oblonglined shapes meant using the measurement systems, geology, biology, scientific data collection and historical research skills they had been learning.

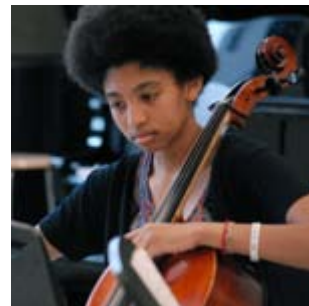
Using observation, most students believed the marks to be footprints. But what more could they deduce? They tried walking in the footsteps but found two modern day teenagers couldn't walk together without bumping the other off course. What did this say about the two beings that made the prints and their relationship? Moreover, what did the distance between the marks say about possible height and speed? What did the depth say about the geology and environment?

At different stations, students measured their own foot length and gait when walking and running, used mathematical formulas to convert gait to height, then applied that knowledge to the graph markings. Their deduction: the markings were made by one adult walking slowly with a child, demonstrating a caring relationship.

Found in Tanzania in 1978 by anthropologist Mary Leaky, the Lateoli footprints became the center of a lesson across the fields of science, math and humanities, engaging students in the excitement of discovery.



ANGELIQUE MONTES  
*Classical Instrumental*



"NOCCA and The NOCCA Institute have played a major role in making my high school years and my journey ahead successful. Over the past four years, my various teachers, performance experiences and guest artist encounters at NOCCA have helped me set clear goals for the type of artist and individual I want to become. Thanks to the Institute's financial support, I had the privilege of attending prestigious music summer programs: Boston University's Tanglewood Institute, Interlochen Summer Arts Camp, and this year The National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America. I'm extremely grateful and all I can say is thank you, thank you, and thank you."

**\$253,032** earned in college scholarships  
*Attending Oberlin Conservatory of Music*

ANNIE JEFFERSON  
*Drama*



"I was always told that everything in life happens for a reason. My senior year will always be one to remember. I also remember saying that I wouldn't have the money to follow my dreams. The NOCCA Institute made it possible for me to attend our senior trip to Chicago where I auditioned for over 15 schools. Out of 15 schools, I was accepted into thirteen of them. I received a scholarship to attend Ithaca College in NY to study for a B.F.A in Acting adding up to over \$216,000 for four years. Never give up on what you believe in, even if the price is high. NOCCA has humbled me, and I will be forever grateful to the Institute, my instructors and the NOCCA community."

**\$275,000** earned in college scholarships  
*Attending Ithaca College*

NICHOLAS COSTELLO  
*Musical Theatre*



"With the help of The NOCCA Institute, I was able to attend a summer program at NYU Tisch that changed my life. The program provided unparalleled training and growth for myself as a performer, and I continued on to being accepted into 13 BFA Acting programs across the country. I am incredibly thankful to have had assistance from The NOCCA Institute, as I would not be where I am today without its support."

**\$938,744** earned in college scholarships  
*Attending Southern Methodist University*

MELAINA RICKS  
*Drama*



Four years ago, I walked through the doors of NOCCA as a timid preteen, ready to "learn how to be an actress." Four years later, I walked out of those same doors a young woman, excited and filled with determination to take the next step in my journey. Everything that happened in those four years, I owe to NOCCA and The NOCCA Institute. As a student, NOCCA helped me grow in my art. As a person, NOCCA opened my eyes. They taught me that I had a voice. And that has made all the difference in the world. Without help from The NOCCA Institute, I would not have been able to attend Unified Auditions in Chicago. I would not be heading off to study Directing at Webster University in the fall. Without NOCCA as a whole, I would be half of the person that I am today. I truly cannot express how glad I am that I walked through those doors four years ago."

**\$262,095** earned in college scholarships  
*Attending Webster University*

**The NOCCA Institute awarded over \$150,000 in Term-Time and Summer Study Financial Aid in 2012-13. Students receiving aid from the Institute graduated from NOCCA with almost \$7 million in scholarship offers and aid to college (not including TOPS). Support from foundations, corporations and individuals for this program opened the doors to exciting futures for many students, and we thank you.**





### WYNTON MARSALIS

*Artistic Director, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and trumpeter, NOCCA alumnus*

“My father was always saying — learn about classical music *and* Louis Armstrong. But when I was young, I equated jazz with a gig that no one was at,” Wynton expressed in a master class centered on the two genres. Then, as Wynton explained, he started listening to classical music, including Beethoven’s 5th Symphony. “Someone wrote this in 1802! This dude was bad.”

Over the course of an hour, Wynton delved into his development as a classical musician, the backstory to his early recordings and the decision he made to focus

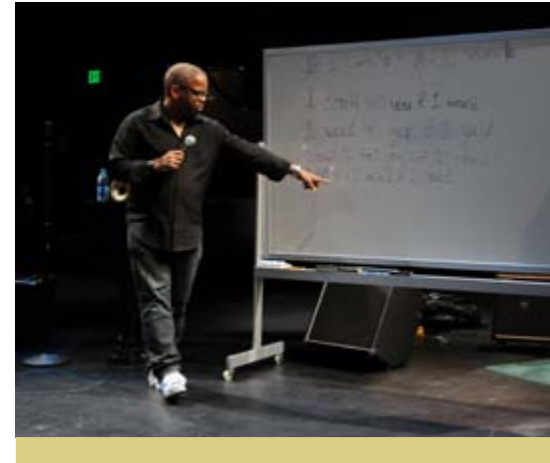
on jazz. “I quit classical music because I realized I couldn’t be really good at both classical and jazz. Classical music, however, is an unbelievable body of music. I still study its orchestration and coach it.”

The lecture turned to critique of upper-level Jazz students’ performance of Charlie Parker’s *Billie’s Bounce* and cellist Angelique Montes’ performance of Bach’s *Cello Suites No. 3 Prelude* – but returned to what performing and creating music will require of these young artists. In the Bach piece, “there is a depth of thought, concentration and sacrifice,” Wynton explained. “This is profound music that has stayed with us.” He turned to Angelique and asked with a smile, “Did you notice how your playing changed the feeling in the room? When a person can touch an audience in that way, that is profound. If you want to be good bad enough, you will practice,” Wynton told students forthright. “The world needs more musicians. But it has to be a choice, because this is too difficult to be forced.”

### BRANDAN ODUMS, BREEZE MARCUS AND DOUGLAS MILES

*Filmmaker and artists*

“My camera has taken me everywhere,” Brandon Bmike Odums told students as he described his journey since graduating from NOCCA in 2003. That includes travels to San Carlos, AZ where he made a film about Native American artist Douglas Miles, an Apache-Akimel O’odham painter and printmaker. Miles and painter Breeze Marcus, a member of the Tohono O’odham Nation, came to New Orleans to paint several murals as part of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. Brandon, co-founder of 2-Cent Entertainment, invited his fellow artists to NOCCA for a deeply thoughtful master class with students. Breeze and Douglas shared their experiences and stories as members of Native American tribes as part of the process to help students grappling with the essential question Brandon posed for himself back in 2003: “I was trained how to create, but now what do I create?” “Your voice is extremely important. Your voice is about the past, present and future,” Douglas offered students. “The voice comes from doing things. It is already there. Experience builds confidence, and confidence allows you to dig inside to find the voice. Just do you. You are your art.”



### TERENCE BLANCHARD

*GRAMMY Award-winning trumpeter and composer, Artistic Director of Jazz for Mancini Institute at University of Miami Frost School of Music, NOCCA alumnus*

“The thing about finding yourself as an artist is that at some point, you have to make a commitment,” alumnus and award-winning trumpeter and composer

Terence Blanchard told Music and Media Arts students in a composition workshop. Terence, who has released more than 20 albums and composed for 45 films, has also just premiered his first opera, *Champion*, about the life of boxer Emile Griffith commissioned by the Opera Theatre St. Louis.

To begin to grasp compositional techniques, Terence led students in a specific exercise to help them see the infinite ways to create a musical theme, understanding all the while that “the music has to grow. If it stays the same, the audience gets bored. If something’s not working, you have to put yourself into finding out why.”

“The hardest thing to do is to write something that is meaningful. You have to be brave enough to do this. And you have to make a connection between who you are as a person, letting this guide you as an artist.” Terence voiced what he knew students were thinking: “Am I good enough? Does what I do matter? Do you know how many times I, Wynton, or Branford were called corny because we couldn’t wait to get to NOCCA. If I had followed those people, I wouldn’t be doing anything that I’m doing now. You can’t see your career now, but have your own passion. When you walk down that path, you will become a leader.”



### ELLIS MARSALIS

*Jazz pianist, educator*

“When I started, I decided I was going to play as good as I could, even if there were only two people in the audience. I later realized that this was a way of instilling discipline and integrity in what you were doing.”



### COLBY FOYTIK, BRAD WEINSTOCK, JASON KAPPUS

*Jersey Boys*  
“Is the dream all it’s cracked up to be?” a Musical Theatre student asked *Jersey Boys*’ lead actors. “The dream,” said Foytik, “is doing good work wherever you are.”



### CRAIG BLACK

*Aspen Santa Fe Ballet*

“If you take class as if you are performing already, there is no transition when you do.”



### PHILLIP LOPATE

*Essayist, poet, teacher*

“There has got to be a place for introspection in writing. It is hard to be a good writer without knowing yourself.”



### KEN BURNS

*Documentary Filmmaker*

“There is more discovery and growth from failure than success. My profound wish for all of you is that you can say ‘I have the best job in the world.’”



### DELFEAYO MARSALIS

*Trombonist, producer*

“You are leading the audience on an emotional journey. You have to listen to the totality of the music.”



### DIANA WERTS

*Abstract artist*

“Do you feel safer using black or white to add structure?” Werts asks a student as she thinks about both formal issues of composition and freedom.



MARGARET BRAUN  
*Cake designer*





"You always hear that the real world awaits when you get out of school," Academy Award-nominated director **Behn Zeitlin** opened in his remarks at this year's Celebration ceremony for 2013 NOCCA graduates. The 30-year-old filmmaker (*Beasts of the Southern Wild*), composer and animator, offered students succinct advice: "So many

people want to be artists, so work hard. Be nice to your parents – you may have to crash on their couch. Don't be afraid to not have money if you are following your dreams. And these years at NOCCA: these were the real world."



Students won awards this year in the following prestigious national and regional competitions:

- 4 students were recognized by the National Arts Recognition and Talent Search.

- 4 seniors were recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Competition as Finalists, 2 as Semi-Finalists, and 2 were named Commended Students.

- 3 seniors were recognized by the National Achievement Scholarship Program.

- 14 students in Creative Writing, Visual Arts and Media Arts received national honors and Gold Key recognition in the Scholastic Arts and Writing Competition.

- Jazz student **Miles Berry** was selected to the Thelonius Monk National Performing Arts High School All-Star Septet.

- Vocal students **Garri Paul** and **Whitney Campbell** placed second and third respectively in the women's high school division of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Southern Region Auditions. **Victor Paz** tied for first place in the men's high school division.

- 6 NOCCA students were selected valedictorian or salutatorian at their sending schools.



**NBC** News brought **Education Nation On-The-Road** to New Orleans in April, partnering with its local affiliate WDSU to ignite further dialogue on improving student outcomes in Louisiana and the nation. NOCCA was honored to be the host for the three day event.



Classical Instrumental Level IV student, **Angelique Montes**, was selected to the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America by Carnegie Hall and the Weill Music Institute. Following a residency at Purchase College, the 120-member orchestra embarked on a cultural exchange and tour to Washington, D.C., London, St. Petersburg and Moscow, in performance with maestro Valery Gergiev and violin soloist Joshua Bell. (Left, Wynton Marsalis remarking on a just completed performance by Angelique Montes.)



Jackson Hill



### 2013 SENIOR AWARDS

The Helen A. Mervis Award for artistic and academic achievement and community service was awarded to **Melaina Ricks**.

The Lisa Marie Catalanello Memorial Scholarship for visual arts achievement and generosity of spirit was awarded to **Davin Roberson**.

The Daniel Price Memorial Scholarship for Aspiring Young Artists was awarded to **Jeffrey Nguyen**.

Ellen H. Golodner M.D. Jelly Roll to Jam Scholarship in Jazz was awarded to **Miles Berry**.

Seth Daniel P. Memorial Award for multi-disciplinary artistic accomplishment was awarded to **Sydney Fortune**.

Emeril Lagasse Foundation Scholarship for achievement in Culinary Arts was awarded to **Jessica Hartman**.

ASCAP Foundation Louis Prima Award presented by Mrs. Gia Prima was awarded to **Miles Berry**.

Hurst Recordings Award for Outstanding Accomplishment in Audio Production was awarded to **Emmanuel Chastain**.

Terri A. Bartlett Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Drama student **Melaina Ricks**.

Wendell Pierce Scholarship was awarded to Drama student **Rickey Allen Watson Jr.**

New Orleans Rotary Club Scholarship was awarded to **Nicole Anderson** and **Annie Jefferson**.

Mickey Gil Satyricon Award in Musical Theatre was awarded to **Sarah Clingenpeel**.

Broadway @ NOCCA Scholarship in Musical Theatre was awarded to **Linsey Shubert**.

John August Otte Memorial Award in Visual Arts was awarded to **Harrison Dorsey**.

Ingram Lee Foundation Scholarship in Culinary Arts was awarded to **Alexandra Stadler**.

### OUTSTANDING GRADUATE AWARDS

Lee and Kathy Randall Award in Creative Writing – **Ruth Landry**  
Madalyn and Robert Schenk Award in Culinary Arts – **Anna Gowin**  
Milly and George Denegre Award in Dance – **Malerie Dempster**  
Helen Hill Memorial Award in Media Arts – **Lauren Armantrout**  
*Make It Funky!* Award in Jazz – **Hunter Burgamy**  
Glennadora & James H. Perry Award in Vocal Music – **Elizabeth Ellinghausen**

Moses Hogan Award in Classical Instrumental in honor of Willa Slater – **Angelique Montes**

Freda M. Lupin Award in Musical Theatre – **Elizabeth Carson**

Kuumba-Keener Award in Drama – **Rickey Allen Watson Jr.**

Outstanding Graduate Award in Theatre Design – **Caroline Barham**

The NOCCA Institute Collection Award (Visual Arts Purchase)

– **Davin Roberson** and **Brook Ann Bourgeois**



**Taste of the NFL**  
NOCCA Culinary Arts students worked backstage with master chefs representing the 30 NFL cities during the Super Bowl in New Orleans, benefiting Second Harvest and other food banks.

**Terence Blanchard and Robin Burgess Endowment for Jazz Studies at NOCCA**  
Also during the Superbowl, the **NFL Players Association with the Professional Athletes Foundation (PAF)** contributed a donation to NOCCA in the name of alumnus Terence Blanchard and his wife Robin Burgess (left with the NFLPLA's Andre Collins, NOCCA President and CEO Kyle Wedberg and Jazz Chair Michael Peller.



**Say it ain't so**  
Long-time Drama faculty member and award-winning actress **Janet Shea** retired from NOCCA after nearly two decades of training young actors. Luckily for us, she returns in the fall to direct *Tartuffe*.





The NOCCA Institute is honored to recognize the following support, memorials and gifts for 2012-13. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

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Ruth U. Fertel Foundation

#### ACADEMIC STUDIO

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#### PRESS STREET GARDENS

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In honor of Kathy and Lee Randall  
Mr. Fred Poitevent



Jackson Hill



Jackson Hill





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The NOCCA Institute gratefully acknowledges the sponsors, patrons and guests of this year's Art & Soul Gala, with special thanks to co- chairs Greg Morey and Hartley Casbon! Performers included the NOCCA Alumni All-Stars, Alexis and the Samurai, NOCCA faculty Jee Yeoun Ko and Michael Peller, and students from Classical, Jazz, Musical Theatre, and Vocal Music departments. Culinary Arts students provided the hors d'oeuvres for the Patron Party, followed by catering from the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, specialty drinks by Plum Street SnoBalls, and spirits by Bill Goldring. This year's auction went digital thanks to AuctionsByCellular, allowing guests to bid on their cell phones from anywhere on campus! The evening closed with a virtual walkthrough of NOCCA's campus expansion. The digital presentation, lighting and décor was created by Solomon Group. We are honored to recognize their support and sponsors at the \$900 level and above.

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#### Dish That Makes A Difference

##### Participating Restaurants:

Bacchanal Fine Wine and Spirits  
Barcadia Bar and Grill  
Bayona  
Brightsen's Restaurant  
Eat New Orleans  
Emeril's Delmonico  
Emeril's New Orleans  
Grand Isle  
Louisiana Pizza Kitchen Uptown  
Mahony's Po-Boy Shop  
Maurepas Foods  
NOLA Restaurant  
Red Fish Grill  
Taceaux Loceaux  
Vacherie





## SHE

Brianna Breaux, Creative Writing, Level II

Assume the gulf's wide mouth, a sharp outcrop  
of rock licked with sea-slicked lichen. Assume:  
alone, dawn. I beat my bones on the sand  
and run, tight-skinned, not she but all body

and all outside, all hoping animal.  
A mile out, I swim out to the rocks and out  
stretch across the water, stretch out and sun  
salute. From the jetty just opposite

a youngish fisherman also alone  
in his body's sunrise sees and wades waist

deep to ask for bait. Closer, we each see  
clearly: he almost all bird, arms held up

to still smoke in the high tide, I answer.  
Assume damp flannel, conscious skintight cling:  
none and sorry, and assume, saying so  
tamely, she.

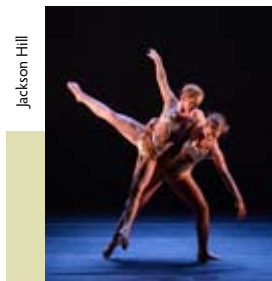
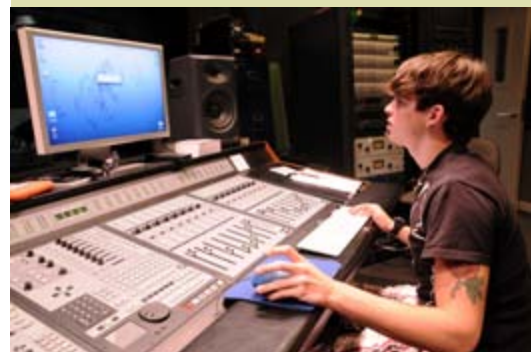
## TECHNICAL REFLUX

Tyler Despenza, Creative Writing, Level III

highsound talisman  
sing us the horn how  
the soul threads,  
how it hums the doubletongued  
pith of it

| |: oh mercy, mercy: | |

pragmatic as a horsefly  
too blue to be beguiling  
watered mouth when the watermelon split



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NOCCA's first classes launched in January 1974, with its first graduation ceremony taking place in May 1975. To mark the occasion, from January 2014 through May 2015, we'll host events large and small acknowledging the many contributions that NOCCA and its alumni have made to the city, the state, the nation, and the world. We'll announce a full slate of activities soon, but in the meantime, there are plenty of ways for you to become involved:

- ☐ Join our list of volunteers who'll help make these events happen.
- ☐ Sponsor an event.
- ☐ If you're an alum, we need your contact information.
- ☐ And join our mailing list to receive updates on all events.

*Just go to [NOCCAInstitute.com](http://NOCCAInstitute.com) to sign on.*

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For more information on auditions and  
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**Believe it or not,  
NOCCA is about to  
make the big 4-0!**

See page 19 to join in the  
celebration!



**\$14,500,000**  
in college scholarships earned  
by NOCCA graduates in 2013,  
a \$115,000 per student average