

epiphany

The community magazine for The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, published by HSPVA Friends
2012-2013



HSPVA awarded \$80.1M for downtown campus
Creative Writing Department launches a new generation of Houston writers
Matt Mullenweg '02 named 2013 Distinguished Alumnus

Dear Students, Parents, Alumni, Teachers, Artists, and Art Patrons,

The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts is fortunate to be a part of the great city of Houston! In May, *The Atlantic* called Houston “unstoppable” and *Business Insider* called it “the best city in America.” One reason for the high praise is our city’s thriving arts community, in which HSPVA plays a vibrant role. Now, HSPVA is poised to join its fellow arts organizations downtown! As you’ll read on page 8, in November, Houstonians voted on a record-breaking \$1.89 billion bond referendum to rebuild public schools. The bond passed with more than 66% voter approval and HSPVA was allotted more than \$80 million to build a state-of-the-art facility, just blocks from the Theater District.

Already, we have initiated discussions with major arts organizations in the city regarding the innovative collaborations that will be possible for future students with the convenient downtown location. These organizations are aware that HSPVA has a 41-year history of active partnerships, and the 2012-2013 school year was no exception! HSPVA jazz students performed with alumnus and 2013 GRAMMY winner Robert Glasper at Discovery Green; vocalists entertained donors at a



Alene Haehl
Executive Director, HSPVA Friends

Jean Brackendorff
Board President, HSPVA Friends

Dr. R. Scott Allen
Principal, HSPVA

dinner for the United Way of Greater Houston at the Wortham Center; visual artists’ work was showcased at the Contemporary Arts Museum; creative writers brought their literary magazine, *Octopus Ink*, to the Indie Book Festival in Menil Park; theatre students wrote and produced *Marvin’s Microwave*, a children’s show that toured in schools and children’s hospitals; and dancers toured with Young Audiences of Houston. This list is just a start! Even more student achievements are mentioned on pages 4-6.

One of the many responsibilities of HSPVA Friends is to cultivate partnerships like the ones listed above, which stimulate students’ artistic achievement, academic excellence, and community involvement, but that is just one piece of our mission. As you’ll see on page 15, thanks to many generous donors, HSPVA Friends is able to provide extraordinary educational tools and opportunities for HSPVA’s gifted young artists. Although they come to us from all walks of life, HSPVA students all have one thing in common—the drive to discover, to create, and to make positive contributions to the world. Our mission is to make sure they have everything they need to be able do just that.

In Houston and at HSPVA, anything is possible!



Epiphany
2012-2013

Epiphany is published annually by HSPVA Friends and distributed free of charge to alumni, parents and supporters of HSPVA and HSPVA Friends.

ON THE COVER Gregory Goedecke ‘14, Emanuel Tucker ‘13, Kevon Johnson Bradford ‘14, Jordan Gonsalves ‘13, Jarred McKinzie ‘14, Robert Claveria ‘13



The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts exists because the arts are a central and vital component of the human experience. The mission of this unique school is to educate and inspire artistically gifted and talented students in specific disciplines while maintaining an equal focus on academic, social and personal growth in a diverse environment.

Dr. R. Scott Allen, Principal
HSPVA
4001 Stanford
Houston, Texas 77006
(713) 942-1960
www.houstonisd.org/hspvarts



HSPVA Friends, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has cultivated support for HSPVA since 1979.

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HSPVA FRIENDS
4119 Montrose Boulevard, Suite 210
Houston, Texas 77006
(713) 874-0087
www.hspvafriends.org
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“The Light in Her Hair” (above)
Danielle Kao ‘14
black and white dry-point print with a watercolor wash and stamped patterns

“With this piece, I was inspired by the idea of bringing an aspect of fantasy to real life that would result in a cheering and uplifting feeling. Through the patterns in each woman’s hair, I juxtapose playfulness and color with the sharpness and lack of color of their bodies (which represent real life).”

Danielle plans to use the summer before her senior year to rest, to work on her art and to start multiple new pieces.

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HSPVA NEWS

‘Paper Engineer’ Bruce Foster Wows Visual Artists during Master Class

Visual Arts Department Chair Eileen Montgomery has always had a personal interest in pop-up books and illustration. When she realized that pop-up artist/paper engineer Bruce Foster lived in Houston, she sent him an email and invited him to HSPVA to give a master class to HSPVA visual artists.

Mr. Foster has designed nearly 40 pop-up books for publishers, museums and companies. His clients include Simon and Schuster; Random House; Little, Brown and Company and Insight Editions. Mr. Foster designed *Harry Potter: The Pop-Up Book* as well as the pop-ups for Disney’s *Enchanted* seen in the opening scenes and throughout the movie.

Every student in the Visual Arts Department sat spellbound as Mr. Foster talked about his experiences freelancing as a pop-up artist, getting into the business as a beginner and working with other illustrators and designers. He showed examples of his work and photos from the factories that produce his books. He led students through a hands-on project, step by step, so that they could create their own pop-ups from his template of Harry Potter’s dragon.

“We were thrilled to have Bruce at HSPVA,” said Ms. Montgomery, “and we’re hoping he can come back and continue this relationship with our students – he really held their interest and their complete focus during his lecture.”



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Writers Experience VIP Treatment at Texas Book Festival in Austin

HSPVA’s **Creative Writing Department** had a very early morning to start off their adventure at the Texas Book Festival on October 26-27, 2012. Twenty-seven freshmen and sophomores boarded their bus in Houston at 5:00am in order to attend the prestigious kick-off to their Texas Book Festival weekend: an 8:00am Author’s Breakfast at the Governor’s Mansion in Austin.

Donning their ‘VIP’ badges, students sparked conversations with professional writers and listened to readings and presentations throughout their two-day stay. Apropos for the weekend before Halloween, students spent Saturday evening on a Literary Night Crawl, where they enjoyed a reading from popular author Mark Danielewski in the Texas State Cemetery. Danielewski proved to be a favorite among the students, who had over 200 authors to choose from at the Book Festival.

The Texas Book Festival has evolved into one of the premier literary events in the country. More than 40,000 visitors participate annually in a weekend of author readings and presentations, panel discussions, book signings, and musical entertainment at the State Capitol in Austin. Creative Writing Department Chair Judith Switek said of the students’ experience, “This is definitely something we want our writers to

be involved in again. With the help of Andrea White and the Texas Book Festival organizers, our students had a great real-world learning experience among professional writers.”

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CREATIVE WRITING DEPARTMENT

On February 7, 2013, Claudia Heymach ‘15 introduced HSPVA’s new Creative Writing Department at the Encore for Excellence Luncheon. Below is an excerpt from her speech.

I applied to The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts specifically to be a part of the innovative Creative Writing program, and I feel very lucky to be a part of the first class of writers who will graduate from the school. Many of the prominent arts schools across the country offer a writing program, and when I arrived at HSPVA, I heard from many of the older students that they wished it had been available to them. From my very first day at HSPVA, I knew the school was a place for me to grow.

Through my writing classes, I’ve been introduced to styles of writing that I never would have explored by myself. As a freshman, I took short fiction and poetry classes, and this year I am taking playwriting, acting, screenwriting, and digital storytelling.

Throughout the year we go on field trips for inspiration – such as to the Texas Book Festival in Austin or to photography exhibits at the museum. Consultants from the local arts community teach classes twice a week. Writers, including journalists, music critics, and recently a spoken word artist, drop in on a regular basis to share their experiences and give us real-world advice.

This Creative Writing program has given us an opportunity to explore our own voice as our writing evolves. Being exposed to a multitude of published works, collaborating with students from different art areas, and seeing how our peers respond to our work in real time has taught us that writing is not just an expression of a single, static voice. What better environment to craft my talent than a school with other young artists. Thank you all for making it possible for us to take part in the transformative learning experience that is HSPVA.



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Cast and Crew of Sold-Out *RENT* Use Show’s Success to Support AIDS Relief

In April, HSPVA **Theatre Department** students produced the hit Broadway musical *RENT*. Written by Pulitzer Prize winner Jonathan Larson, *RENT* is the story of struggling young artists in New York City and delves heavily into the AIDS crisis of the 1990s. The five-performance run was hugely popular, and all five performances not only sold out but also had waiting lists for available tickets.

In his review of the show, theatre critic David Clarke of *Broadway World* declared, “There is no denying that the students who graduate from HSPVA are the next generation of prominent, well-known artists. I have a feeling we’ll be seeing many of these names in lights and on screens for years to come...I can’t help but imagine that Jonathan Larson is very proud of this talented cast and crew, blessing their show with ear to ear smiles, cheers, and hearty applause.”

Theatre students capitalized on the fantastic audience turn out to raise money and awareness for organizations

whose missions align with *RENT*. Theatre students in the Level 2 Publicity class coordinated with The Names Project which sent two panels of the enormous AIDS Memorial Quilt. The quilt panels were unveiled at the curtain call of *RENT* performances and also displayed in the Commons for seven days during the musical’s run.

HSPVA also partnered with Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS to offer a silent auction of Broadway memorabilia. By the closing night of *RENT*, the Theatre Department had raised more than \$5,000 for the organization. The Executive Director for BC/EFA, Tom Viola, reported that, “The support raised over the course of the run of *RENT* will allow BC/EFA to continue funding the important work of eight social service providers in Houston (including Legacy Community Health Services and AIDS Foundation of Houston) as well as another two dozen organizations across Texas.”

Dancers Stretch Their Skills with the Help of Guest Choreographers

The HSPVA **Dance Department** welcomed a fantastic range of professionals into its studios this year. Dancers had the opportunity to take 19 master classes and learn new, vibrant choreography from five guest choreographers, including two HSPVA alumni, Dorrell Martin ‘88 and Parker Esse ‘95.

Using her significant network in the dance community, Dance Department Chair LuAnne Carter plans for visits from guest artists and choreographers before the school year begins, often organizing week-long guest choreographic residencies as well as week-long technical residencies throughout the year for the artists

to work with both accomplished performers and new students in the Dance program. Dancer Libby Brudner ‘13 said, “Having guest artists and choreographers is the coolest thing – when you’re in class usually, you don’t realize just how much technique you are learning. When a guest artist comes, they throw you into a fast-paced, challenging environment, and that’s when you realize that you have the skill set to keep up and learn at their level. It’s a great confirmation that when we get out and work with professionals, we’ll have a good base to work from.”

- 1 HSPVA creative writers in front of the Capitol Building in Austin.
- 2 Bruce Foster guides Visual Arts students.
- 3 Claudia Heymach (Creative Writing ‘15), addresses guests at the Encore for Excellence Luncheon. Photo by David DeHoyos ‘81.
- 4 Maya Critchlow ‘13 performs “Over the Moon” from *RENT*.
- 5 Dancers Victoria Daylor ‘13, Arianna Ashworth ‘13, Sherah Shipman ‘14, Maggie Conrad ‘14 and Palmer Mills ‘13 perform “Lenore” set to Edgar Allen Poe’s “The Raven,” choreographed by guest choreographer Thang Dao. Photo by Jann Whaley.
- 6 Headshot provided by Thang Dao.



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6

Thang Dao worked with students to choreograph a piece titled “Lenore” (pictured above) for the March 7, 2013 Spring Dance Concert in the Denney Theatre. He received his formal dance education at The Juilliard School and The Boston Conservatory. He holds a BFA in Dance from The Boston Conservatory and an MA from New York University. Thang Dao is the Artistic Director for the Thang Dao Dance Company, based in New York City.

Vocalists Take Their Show on the Road, Performing City-Wide

In addition to performances for the United Way, Saudi Aramco, and Mayor Parker’s Christmas Celebration at City Hall this year, HSPVA vocalists performed a surprise musical finale with HSPVA alumna Tamar Davis (Vocal Music ‘98) for more than 2,000 guests at A Celebration of Reading for the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy on April 18, 2013. The event raised \$2.1 million to help fight illiteracy.

Twelve vocalists from the Young Performers class worked with Ms. Davis, a professional vocalist based in Houston, on a set of three pieces selected by the Foundation.

Vocal Music Department Chair Pat Bonner said the performance was a great opportunity for the Young Performers to work with professional direction, sound and lighting in front of a large, appreciative crowd.



Jazz Combo Selected by the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz to Present ‘Informances’ in Indianapolis



HSPVA was one of two schools nationwide selected by the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz to participate in a national “Peer-to-Peer Education” tour. With lead funding from the National Endowment of the Arts, drummer Jalon Archie, trumpeter Adam DeWalt, guitarist Jeremy Dorsey, pianist James Francies, bassist John Koozin, and saxophonist Jyron Walls presented jazz “informances” in Indianapolis public schools May 20-24, 2013. The **Instrumental Music Department** sextet performed with internationally acclaimed jazz saxophonist and GRAMMY nominee Antonio Hart, vocal sensation and former winner of the Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Vocals Competition Lisa Henry and renowned jazz educator Dr. JB Dyas.

Each school visit included an assembly program featuring a musical performance for all students, followed by workshops for each school’s jazz band and choir with the HSPVA jazz combo.

1 Vocalists surround Barbara Bush and Pat Bonner at the Celebration of Reading event for the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy. Photo by David Schutts.
2 (L-R): Adam DeWalt ‘13, Jyron Walls ‘13, Jalon Archie ‘13, James Francies ‘13, John Koozin ‘14, Jeremy Dorsey ‘14

COMMUNITY NEWS

ART GUILD

The Art Guild Print Show and Silent Auction was held at Heritage Plaza downtown on April 6, 2013 and raised over \$20,000 for the Visual Arts Department.

THEATRE GUILD

The Annual HSPVA Theatre Guild Gala was held at Warehouse Live on April 13, 2013 and raised over \$22,000 for the Theatre Department.



Theatre Department Seniors with Dr. Allen and Mayor Annise Parker at The Annual HSPVA Theatre Guild Gala.

RETIREMENTS

Chris Gibson, English Department

Mike Ciszek, Visual Arts Department

IN MEMORIAM

Marcus Moore (Visual Arts ‘15) 1997 – 2012

Greer Feagin (Theatre ‘95) 1977 – 2013

David Scott Daniels (Instrumental Music ‘87) 1969 – 2013

Scott Vernon Uhrig (Instrumental Music ‘80) 1961 – 2013

CURRENT FACULTY/STUDENTS



HSPVA Principal **Dr. R. Scott Allen** won top honors at the H-E-B Excellence Awards. He was awarded a \$10,000 cash prize and a \$25,000 grant for HSPVA. He plans to use the grant to create a new annual scholarship for an at-risk HSPVA student.

HSPVA’s **Science Olympiad team** was the only HISD team to earn a place in the state competition. The team was also awarded the “Spirit Award,” which the proctors of each event bestow on the team that best embodies the attitude and overall enthusiasm of a true scientist.

Claudia Heymach (Creative Writing ‘15) was featured on KHOU (May 16, 2013) for holding a book drive at HSPVA. Her first collection brought in nearly 400 books. Claudia also hosts events with local kids through the Galveston-based “Smart Family Literacy” group and has started her own literacy club at school. She is planning another book drive and would like to start a mentoring program next year for HSPVA students to work with elementary school students to improve young students’ reading and writing skills.

Andrea Popova (Theatre ‘14) published *Forgetting to Remember*, a book about her volunteer work with Alzheimer’s patients at Colonial Oaks Assisted Living. Quotes from her book were used in a student- produced dance show, “Dance for Thought: The Alzheimer’s Awareness Project,” on April 7, 2013 at the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center, raising almost \$2,000 for the Alzheimer’s Association.

ALUMNI OF THE OOS

Ellen Phillips (Visual Arts ‘11) had her work published on the cover of *Night Moves*, a collection of poetry by Stephanie Barber (Publishing Genius Press).

Lindsey Slavin (Visual Arts ‘07) was featured in a *Houston Chronicle* article (March 28, 2013) for mentoring young artists in the Young Artist Apprenticeship Program (YAAP) at UH’s Blaffer Art Museum. The program grooms high school artists through workshops led by professional artists.



Bit of a Stretch Theatre Company was awarded Best New Theater Company by the *Houston Press*. Company founders **Wiley DeWeese** (Instrumental Music ‘10), **Emma Martinsen** (Theatre ‘10) and **Erin Cressy** (Theatre ‘10) are mounting a production in the HSPVA Black Box August 8-13, 2013. The show, *Myths and Hymns*, is a song cycle by Adam Guettel that mixes Greek mythology with settings of 19th century hymns. Tickets, cast and show information will be posted on www.bitofastretch.org.

Tikia Hudson (Theatre ‘12) and current HSPVA Theatre students **Angela Montante** (Theatre ‘14) and **Natasha Wright** (Theatre ‘14) were accepted to the Alley Theatre’s HYPE program. The HYPE (Houston Young Playwrights Exchange) program is a development program for young playwrights learning about the process of bringing a script to stage. Each year, the Alley chooses six finalists out of a pool of 200+ applicants from across the Houston area who submit original 10-minute plays. The program allows each finalist to work with a dramaturg and a cast of professional actors to workshop his/her play and put it up as a staged reading on the Alley stage.

ALUMNI OF THE 90S

Jazz drummer **Kendrick Scott** (Instrumental Music ‘98) was featured in a profile in the *Houston Chronicle* (March 27, 2013). Kendrick’s band, The Kendrick Scott Oracle, released a new album, *Conviction*, this spring. The album also features guitarist **Mike Moreno** (Instrumental Music ‘98). In the profile, Kendrick talks about studying at HSPVA under **Dr. Robert Morgan**: “He didn’t just expose me to the music but also the culture,” he says, “And the freedom we had at PVA bred a creative culture.”

Robert Glasper (Instrumental Music ‘97) won a GRAMMY award for Best R&B Album for *The Robert Glasper Experiment’s Black Radio*.

Brie Eley (Theatre ‘99) appeared in the season finale of CBS’ *Criminal Minds* (May 22, 2013).

Rachelle Mendez (Theatre ‘94) won an Emmy Award for Outstanding Reality Program for her work as Supervising Producer of CBS’ *Undercover Boss*.

Mario Alberto Zambrano (Dance ‘94) is garnering high praise for his first novel, *Loteria* (HarperCollins). *The New York Post* called it “an original and beautifully written debut.” Mario will hold a book signing at Brazos Bookstore in Houston on September 19, 2013.

ALUMNI OF THE 80S



Tim Guinee (Theatre ‘80) stars as Ben Matheson in NBC’s *Revolution*. Tim is a recurring character on *Homeland*, *Hell on Wheels*, and *The Good Wife*. He just finished a film called *Enemy Way* which was directed by the great French director Rachid Bouchareb, and is producing *Rear Window* on Broadway.

Camille Zamora (Vocal Music ‘88) and her organization Sing for Hope put 88 artist-designed pianos on the streets of New York City for the public to play June 1-16, 2013. After the public residency, the pianos were donated to the community-based organizations that Sing for Hope serves year-round.

Helen Sung (Instrumental Music ‘89) was featured as a ‘rising star in modern jazz piano’ in the *Hartford Courant* (March 15, 2013).

ALUMNI OF THE 70S

Karen Stokes (Dance ‘79) won a *Houston Press* Master-Mind award in January 2013. She was commended for her modern dance company’s use of innovative dance filming as well as for its educational outreach programs for local school children.

John Ferguson (Instrumental Music ‘76) was featured in the *Christian Science Monitor* (June 7, 2013) as a ‘Difference Maker.’ His non-profit group, American Voices, spreads goodwill across developing nations by helping young artists around the world pursue their interest in American jazz, Broadway, break dancing and classical music. John has presented concerts, workshops, and summer youth performing arts academies in 120 countries over the last two decades.

ALL SYSTEMS GO!

HISD PUTS HSPVA ON THE FAST TRACK TO A NEW DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

AUGUST 2012 HISD Trustees approve a \$1.89 billion bond plan that designates \$80.1 million for a state-of-the-art downtown campus for HSPVA at 1300 Capitol Street.

OCTOBER 2012 HSPVA students show their excitement for the bond by forming a zombie flash mob, dancing to Michael Jackson's "Thriller" and encouraging voters to 'Finish the Ballot.'

NOVEMBER 2012 By a margin of nearly 2-1, Houston voters approve the bond! There is now \$80.1 million allocated to the construction of a new HSPVA campus for 750 students, only blocks from the downtown Theater District.

DECEMBER 2012 HSPVA is put in Phase 1 of the bond timeline! Planning commences immediately, with groundbreaking scheduled for mid/late 2014.

JANUARY 2013 HSPVA's Project Advisory Team, comprised of select administrators, faculty, students, parents, and community leaders, begins meeting with HISD to discuss the guiding principles of HSPVA, which will be used in decision making throughout the design process.

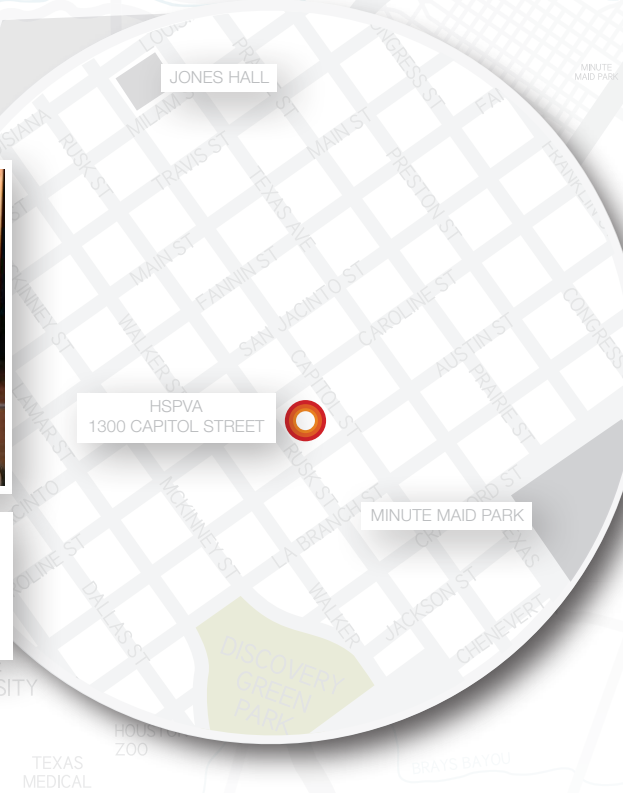
MAY 2013 HISD announces that global design firm Gensler will be contracted for the project, and several Gensler architects hold a public presentation at HSPVA to discuss their vision for the new campus.

Gensler has been active in the HSPVA community since the formation of the Montrose campus in 1981. The new building "will be an incubator for the arts," said Gensler Design Director Lester Yuen (pictured), at the presentation. "It's a collection of spaces that will provide a new community for HSPVA. (The students') impact on downtown Houston will be greater than they realize...They will be a catalyst for the development of Houston arts."

"We need to take time to design a facility that meets the needs of our programs," said HSPVA Principal Dr. R. Scott Allen. "It needs to be a community project so that we are all proud when the doors open."



Photo by Carrie Courtney-Robison



UH ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS PRACTICE DESIGN SKILLS WITH HSPVA PROJECT Led by current HSPVA parent and University of Houston Architecture professor Patrick Peters, UH Architecture students consulted with HSPVA administrators, faculty and students, met with architects and consultants – including former UH professor and noted architect Barry Moore, who had a hand in designing HSPVA's current campus – and toured the current HSPVA campus before submitting their hypothetical designs for the new HSPVA downtown campus. Students' designs were presented for community review in the HSPVA art gallery on May 30, 2013.



HSPVA FRIENDS SCHOLARSHIPS

The HSPVA Friends scholarships are made possible by donors who are committed to reducing the cost of college tuition for graduating HSPVA seniors and to reducing the cost of elite summer programs for HSPVA juniors. The scholarships are listed below, along with the corresponding 2012-2013 winners.

College Scholarships

The Ed and Birdie Dawley Memorial Scholarship
Ebrin Stanley

Rachel Speight Memorial Scholarship
Alexandra 'Sasha' Rasmussen

Amanda May Musical Theatre Scholarship
Ebrin Stanley

Jason Moran Jazz College Scholarship
Jalon Archie

Mary Martha Lappe Dance Scholarship
Cassandra Galindez

Bob Ostrum Jazz Award
Jalon Archie

The Houston Conservatory of Music/Mozart Hammond Vocal Music Scholarship
Kiara Wade

The Houston Conservatory of Music/Mozart Hammond Piano Scholarship
Auburn Lee

The Sylvia Strong Piano Award
Alexandra 'Sasha' Rasmussen

Bob Singleton Theatre Education Scholarship
Jared Pickett

Mark Di Suvero Scholarship
Andrew Flanders

Doug Hattox Social Studies Scholarship
Palmer Mills

Dance Department Award
Camille Collins and Victoria Daylor

Summer Workshop Scholarships

The Dawley Summer Arts Workshop Scholarship – Dance
Sophie Rhines and Kayla Roberts

The Dawley Summer Arts Workshop Scholarship – Instrumental Music
Peter Jalbert and Stephen Perkyns

The Dawley Summer Arts Workshop Scholarship – Vocal Music
Lewis McAdow and Renée Piper

The Dawley Summer Arts Workshop Scholarship – Theatre
Fernando Grimaldo and Victoria Politte

The Dawley Summer Arts Workshop Scholarship – Visual Arts
Zoie Brown

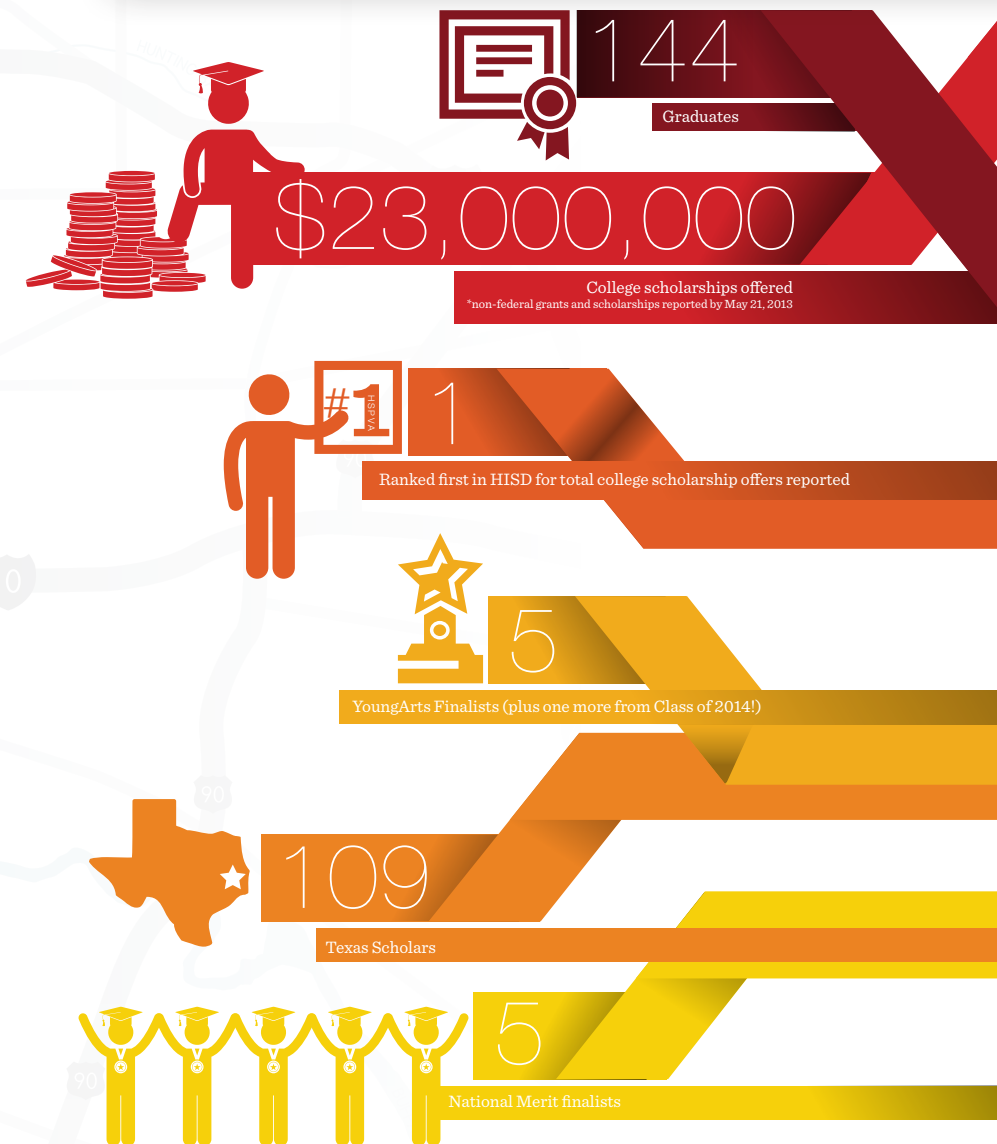
The John E. Guida Foundation Music Scholarship
Gabriel Maffuz-Anker and Charles Seo

Art Department/Art Guild Scholarship
Chris Guidotti, Ivy Johnson, James Kerley, Chi Leong, Caitlin Rhoades, Brittany Warren, Maya Williams

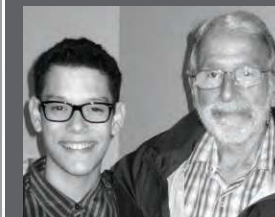
Jason Moran Jazz Summer Program Scholarship
Jeremy Dorsey

Andrea Guenther Piano Scholarship
Conny Egozi and Kayelee Ellis

CLASS OF 2013 BY THE NUMBERS

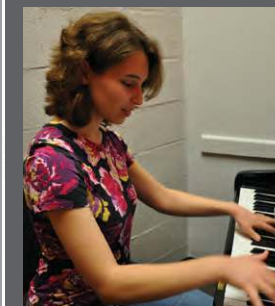


HSPVA FRIENDS SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHTS



Gabriel Maffuz-Anker and John E. Guida

GABRIEL MAFFUZ-ANKER '14 won The John E. Guida Foundation Music Scholarship. Gabriel, a violinist, spent his summer at the Madeline Island Chamber Music Camp in La Pointe, Wisconsin, and at the Le Domaine Forget International Music and Dance Academy in Quebec. Gabriel thanked Mr. Guida saying, "You have lightened my financial burden and allowed me to focus on the most important aspect of music, learning. Everything I learn at Madeline Island and Domaine I will apply in my remaining time at HSPVA and continue to work for the good of my peers and school. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their dreams, just as you have helped me."



SASHA RASMUSSEN '13 won both the Rachel Speight Memorial Scholarship and The Sylvia Strong Piano Award. Sasha plans to study piano performance at the Eastman School of Music, working towards her goal of becoming a professional classical pianist. In her winning essay, Sasha wrote her prescription for becoming a professional musician: "You have to make every day count, every hour of practice matter, and seize every opportunity to learn...striving to become a musician involves taking risks. Intensity, concentration and overcoming fear are necessary ingredients for performing onstage, as well as for success off the stage."



The 7th Annual —
ENCORE FOR EXCELLENCE LUNCHEON
 set a new record by raising more than \$135,000!



Honorary Chairs Lisa and Jerry Simon and Event Chairs Melinda and Howard Speight welcomed more than 350 guests and 40 HSPVA students to River Oaks Country Club on February 7th for the triumphant event. In addition to our Chairs, we thank the following underwriters for their generosity: The Boblitt Family, Tim and Cathy Goff, The Immanuel and Helen B. Olshan Foundation, Jean and Bo Brackendorff, Gensler, Northern Trust, Becky and Ralph S. O'Connor, and Silver Eagle Distributors.

It was an afternoon to remember! HSPVA seniors Hannah Griffith and Ebrin Stanley emceed the festivities, which included a performance of "Seasons of Love" from the Theatre Department's acclaimed cast of *RENT* followed by remarks from senior Glenn Grace Davis, the 2012 winner of the HSPVA Friends Dawley Summer Program Scholarship for Visual Arts. Sophomore Claudia Heymach shared one of her poems and introduced HSPVA's new Creative Writing Department. Additional student participation included performances by a string quartet and jazz trio, a ballerina-led raffle, and more than 20 pieces of visual art lining the entrance to the ballroom.

Perhaps the most captivating moment of the luncheon was the keynote speech delivered by HSPVA's 2013 Distinguished Alumnus, Matt Mullenweg (Instrumental Music '02). Matt shared how the innovation, cross-disciplinary study, and teamwork inherent at HSPVA impacted his entrepreneurial ventures.



- 1 Marit Doucet, Camille Collins (Dance '13), Elisa Klein
- 2 HSPVA Friends Board Treasurer Bob Boblitt, Janet Battarbee
- 3 Jim and Sherry Smith
- 4 Distinguished Alumnus Matt Mullenweg with Event Chairs Howard and Melinda Speight
- 5 Deborah Keyser, Amanda Chambers, Felicia Ziegler
- 6 Student Emcees Ebrin Stanley (Theatre '13) and Hannah Griffith (Theatre '13)
- 7 HSPVA Principal Dr. R. Scott Allen with Jim and Jo Furr
- 8 Bob and Gayle Eury
- 9 Class of 2002 Alumni: Emily Bernate, Rene Ornelas, Lyndsay Bloom, Distinguished Alumnus Matt Mullenweg, Georgia McBride, Stacey Thomas, Sheera Winn and Brittane Lewis
- 10 Phoebe Tudor, HSPVA Friends Board President Jean Brackendorff
- 11 Honorary Chairs Lisa and Jerry Simon with HSPVA Friends Executive Director Alene Haehl
- 12 Dr. Robert Morgan, Judith Switek, Willy Kuehn
- 13 Joanne Piper, Pat Bonner



2013 Distinguished Alumnus
MATT MULLENWEG

Matt Mullenweg (Instrumental Music '02) is the co-founder of WordPress, the most popular blogging platform on the web. Nearly one in five of the web's top million sites run on WordPress software. He has been recognized for his leadership and success by *BusinessInsider*, *Businessweek*, *INC.*, *PC World*, *Forbes* and *Vanity Fair*. In addition to speaking at the Encore for Excellence Luncheon, Matt visited HSPVA on February 8th for a talk-back with current students. The students eagerly questioned Matt about his rapid, non-traditional rise from high school entrepreneur to Silicon Valley tech leader.

When asked by student newspaper columnist Chandler Dean if going to HSPVA made a difference to his career, Matt said, 'It was huge. I attribute my success far more to my time at HSPVA than everything I've done since then.'

DONOR LIST

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS 2012-2013 DONORS!

You have helped give HSPVA students an exemplary artistic experience.

\$50,000+

Kinder Foundation, Inc.

\$25,000-\$49,999

The Brown Foundation, Inc.
H-E-B Foundation

\$10,000-\$24,999

Aramco Services Company
The Boblitt Family
Cathy and Tim Goff
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dance master classes

12 Epiphany // 2012 - 2013

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YOUR GIFT AT WORK:
THE IMPACT OF HSPVA FRIENDS

HSPVA Friends and its parent volunteer groups raise and distribute funds to meet the needs of this unique school and its diverse student body. Below are highlights of our 2012-2013 expenditures.

CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY \$83,000

This year, HSPVA Friends purchased laptops for both the Visual Arts Department and the Theatre Department, which will enable students to learn modern techniques for graphic design, drafting, video, and sound editing. Additional technology included lighting instruments for the Dance Department rehearsal spaces, as well as video equipment for the Creative Writing Department's digital storytelling curriculum.

PRODUCTION SUPPORT \$13,000

HSPVA requires private support to ensure that productions are of a quality befitting our students' hard work and talent. In addition to HSPVA Friends' annual support for various costume improvements, off-campus performance venue fees, and the All-School Musical, this year HSPVA Friends underwrote the Black History Production, *Raisin*.

DAILY CURRICULUM SUPPORT \$29,000

HSPVA Friends ensures that the HSPVA faculty gets the wide range of tools they need on a daily basis: materials for print making classes, dance photography displays, fine art magazine subscriptions, archive maintenance, and so much more! HSPVA Friends also backs dozens of guest artists, master classes, clinicians, lectures, and residencies, which result in some of the most thought-provoking student work of the year.

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS \$31,000

HSPVA Friends subsidizes travel to state-wide, national, and international workshops and conferences. For example, this year five vocalists performed with the American Choral Directors Association's Honors Choir in Dallas and the band toured in San Antonio. With the help of the Theatre Guild, students participated in the annual Thespian Festival where they met and auditioned for college representatives. HSPVA teachers are also able to benefit from professional development opportunities with the Arts Schools Network, the Texas Music Educators Association, and the National YoungArts Foundation.

SCHOLARSHIPS \$32,000

HSPVA Friends distributed \$17,000 in summer program scholarships to juniors and more than \$15,000 in college scholarships to graduating seniors.

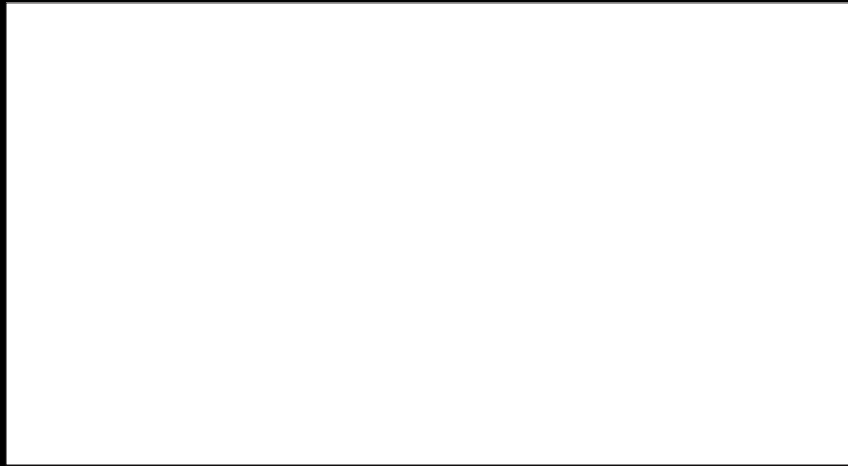
CONNECTING HSPVA TO THE COMMUNITY \$13,000

The HSPVA Friends staff works throughout the year to provide marketing support for HSPVA, as well as alumni and community relations. That work includes the Senior Awards Night at the Hobby Center, printing and design support, hosting visiting arts education experts, and supplying the annual Art Cards featuring work from Visual Arts students.

The exemplary arts education offered at HSPVA would not be possible without donors like you! To give to HSPVA Friends, donate online at www.hspvafriends.org.



GRAMMY won by Robert Glasper (Instrumental Music '97) for Best R&B Album for *The Robert Glasper Experiment's Black Radio*



HSPVA Friends Mission

The mission of HSPVA Friends, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is to cultivate support and appreciation for The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts locally, nationally, and internationally in order to enhance educational, professional, and artistic opportunities for current and future students of HSPVA.

Each year, HSPVA Friends provides college and summer program scholarships as well as crucial art area support, school-wide programs, and collaborations with renowned arts organizations.



"Gravity" (left)
James Perry '13

"I used Photoshop to design this piece. It started as a sketch in my journal but I wasn't satisfied with what I had so I threw a background on it. As we all know, the concept of gravity is that whatever goes up must come back down. What inspired me to make this illustration was a song from hip hop artist Lecrae called "Falling Down" which explains how everything is going to eventually pass away and how people are blinded by their sin and think that they're so high and mighty when really they're going downhill."

Beginning in August 2013, James will study Graphic Design at Santa Fe University of Art and Design.