“I learned excellence at HSPVA!”

This is just one of the many comments made by HSPVA alumni who participated in a recent national arts alumni survey. At a time when Texas public education and the Houston Independent School District are in financial crisis modes, and the threat of closing magnet schools has been discussed, it is interesting timing that this survey of HSPVA’s alumni regarding their arts education experiences at HSPVA has been released. What better testimony to the effectiveness and quality of education at Houston’s remarkable HSPVA than the experiences shared by its alumni!

After several years of planning, the Strategic National Arts Alumni Project (SNAAP) is in its third year and is administered by Indiana University. The project, funded by the Surdna Foundation and the Houston Endowment, was designed to isolate and define ideas, trends and needs of arts high schools across the country. Houston’s HSPVA was invited to participate in the national survey of its alumni with nine other leading arts schools, including the Interlochen Arts Academy, Idyllwild Arts Academy, and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts — as well as art schools in New York, Boston, Chicago, and Baltimore.

In the survey, a random sample of HSPVA alumni from eight graduating classes, (1988, 1989, 1993, 1994, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004) responded to questions about their arts education, ensuing work experience, and their overall sense of art engagement in other areas of their lives. Here are a few noteworthy comments from the randomly selected HSPVA alumni who opted to participate in the SNAAP survey:

- I learned excellence at HSPVA!
- I now have three children and ensuring that they have an education in the arts is paramount!
- I work entirely outside the arts sector. However, I am grateful every day for the focus and discipline I learned through my artistic training at HSPVA!

The extraordinary forty-year track record of excellence at HSPVA is fortified from many directions: the expressed pride of its alumni, the outstanding leadership of its staff and faculty, the pro-active efforts of articulate parents and students, and the exceptional loyalty of supportive community leaders. At a recent Encore for Excellence Luncheon, Annisse Parker, Mayor of the City of Houston, stated “Houston’s HSPVA is one of the nation’s best public schools, and all of us need to do our part in ensuring its bright future.” HSPVA Friends is proud to support the tradition of excellence at Houston’s premiere High School For The Performing And Visual Arts, and we are committed to ensuring its bright future!

Mary Martha Lappe
Executive Director
HSPVA Friends

Cover Artist

Ava Barrett is a senior at The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA). She is a conceptual artist who has a passion for experimentation. In addition to having her pieces exhibited in 15 shows in HSPVA’s own gallery, Ava has had work shown in many other venues outside of HSPVA such as the Contemporary Arts Museum of Houston, the Bayou City Art Festival, Lawndale Art Center, G Gallery, the Margulies Collection in Miami, Florida and the University of Texas Visual Art Center. She is also the art director of HSPVA’s monthly school newspaper, paper* and plans on attending an art school in the fall.

“My work is an exploration of the concept of change over time. I understand the world as a process. I use time as an element; change drives my work and dissolves it.”
Enter darkness, enter silence
Enter stars, and moon, and sun
Enter life, and trees, and ocean
A fruitless battle has begun
Enter men and mortal glories
He seeks the answers of the end
Enter God, an elaborate story
Telling men what is wished by men
Enter popes, and saints, and angels
Enter a million heavens and hells
Now men, from any point or angle
Can, in some good faith, their stories tell
Enter new worlds, conflicted ideals
This world cannot be shared by men
Now this world alone can fell
Exactly how its life must end
For all the lies and stories and tales
Have no answers to be gained
And as we leave this world alone
Only darkness will remain

The above poem was published in Collected Whispers
when this student was a 9th grader
Copyright © 2008 by the International Library of Poetry as a compilation
Three HSPVA Students Named YoungArts Finalists

Visual Arts seniors Valeria Villanueva and Ava Barrett and Theatre senior Veronica Long have been selected YoungArts finalists in the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts annual competition. Finalists, who were selected from more than 5,000 applicants in the visual, literary, and performing arts, attended YoungArts Week in Miami in January. While there, they attended master classes conducted by well-known artists and performers and participated in performances and exhibitions.

As finalists in the YoungArts program, students are eligible to be selected as Presidential Scholars in the Arts. Only 20 Presidential Scholars are named each year, and they are chosen not only for excellence in their art areas, but also for academic achievement. Those who are named Presidential Scholars attend an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., during the spring. Visual artists and writers show their work in an exhibition at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and the performing artists display their talents at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Students who are finalists and/or Presidential Scholars receive college scholarships as well. The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts has produced more Presidential Scholars in the Arts than any other school in the history of the program.

“Untitled” by Jesus Hinojosa, 12th grade, Visual Arts

“Seperate 1” by Ellen Phillips, 12th grade, Visual Arts

Valeria Villanueva, Ava Barrett, and Veronica Long, three HSPVA seniors, were selected as finalists in the national YoungArts program held in Miami.
The Bridge Society Provides for Future Needs of Students and Programs

Created in 2010, The Bridge Society is the Planned Giving Program for HSPVA Friends. Administered by the Friends Board of Trustees and staff, the Bridge Society enables HSPVA supporters to help students and programs at The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts through wills, trusts, insurance, and life income gifts, as well as scholarship endowments, planned annual gifts of $5000 or more, and other forms of deferred planned giving.

The Bridge Society has been modeled after similar legacy programs at universities and major arts organizations that have planned giving programs as a part of their development plans. The stated goal of the Society is to meet the requirements of students and programs at HSPVA both now and in the future, providing planned giving that bridges the gap between HSPVA’s needs and available resources. Funding provided by The Bridge Society is especially necessary in times of public school funding cuts. To date, there have been five bequests made to HSPVA Friends and five endowments donated to and administered by HSPVA Friends.

For further information about HSPVA Friends’ Bridge Society, call 713.847.0087 or email m3lappe@hspvafriends.org

HSPVA Vocal Music Student Receives $5000 Summer Workshop Scholarship from the Guida Foundation

The John E. Guida Foundation presented HSPVA Friends $5000 for the purpose of sponsoring an outstanding 11th grade vocal or instrumental musician at a top summer arts workshop. With summer workshop deadlines pending, the awardee was selected and announced mid-March by the HSPVA Scholarship Committee after members of the music faculty submitted names of possible candidates for consideration for the scholarship. Eleventh grade vocal music major Kirk Murrell is the recipient of the scholarship.
Noted Sculptor Helps HSPVA

Internationally renowned sculptor, John Henry, was in Houston for the opening of his one-man show at Gallery Sonja Roesch on March 22. He is the subject of a new book, John Henry, which showcases his extensive list of sculptures from the past four decades. Henry notified HSPVA Friends Executive Director, Mary Martha Lappe, that the proceeds of this book would be donated to Houston’s High School for the Performing and Visual Arts through HSPVA Friends. The Tennessee-based sculptor is not a stranger to HSPVA. He has visited the school on several occasions. In 1999, a delegation of thirty Houstonians, including several representatives from HSPVA (Dr. Herbert Karpicke, Eileen Montgomery, and Pat Bonner) and HSPVA Friends representatives (Ralph O’Connor, Terri Brown and Mary Martha Lappe), accompanied Mr. Henry to Shen Zhen, China where his 80 foot sculpture Shen Blue was installed in the city square. The sculpture was the City of Houston’s gift to its Sister City in China. John Henry is considered one of America’s most influential and prolific sculptors. His massive steel sculptures are firmly established in the early 20th century Constructivist and Bauhaus traditions. His works are on display in individual collections and in public spaces in major cities on five continents. The book, John Henry can be purchased at the Gallery Sonja Roesch in Houston.

On Lucid Things

by Amy Mattox

I know nothing of this existence. 
I do not know the reasoning of dreams, 
the thoughts that live in blindmen. 
The assumptions of color and deprecating eyes 
unused 
and shuttered, occult movement behind soft lids. 
I work clay on Thursdays. 
It rolls itself, remembers each push and each finger. 

You had better mean what you do. 
You had better mean what you do.

Then watch an older woman strip herself 
of a robe, 
and sit bare on a stool. 
Vulnerability can be a beautiful thing, 
skin pooling at the edges of each line 
and the sag of bones, 
God -
I have never seen anything so beautiful. 
On Thursday night I remember dreams of the skin, 
of the clay and dead eyes- 
I will not know that they are true, 
I do not think I ever can.
Never could someone define happiness
For it has no true definition.
It’s a word made up
Used to describe an emotion,
No one could really explain

For some, they ignore the rest of the world’s issues.
Go on living
In ignorance
Without a care
For the rest of us
Like a pigeon.
They go on flying and will eventually run into a plane.

For some, happiness isn’t enough or
They don’t have
Enough of it.

For others, happiness is substantial
But the overwhelming amount of despair
And ridicule
And the opposite of love,
Whatever that is.
Rejects happiness out of the heart

IN MEMORIAM

Norma Lowder
HSPVA Principal
from 1976-1988

Dr. Stina Merrill
HSPVA Assistant Principal
from 1979-2001

Families of Mrs. Lowder and
Dr. Merrill have requested that
memorial donations to
HSPVA be made to
HSPVA Fiends
Fifth Annual Encore for Excellence Luncheon
Honors HSPVA’s 2011 Distinguished Alumna and
The Immanuel and Helen B. Olshan Foundation

On February 3rd, 300 HSPVA Friends of HSPVA
gathered at the 5th Annual Encore for Excellence
Luncheon at River Oaks Country Club to celebrate
Arts Day in Houston and the many successes of
Houston’s respected arts school, The High School
for the Performing and Visual Arts. ABC Good Morning America
News Anchor, Bianna Golodryga, was honored as The HSPVA 2011
Distinguished Alumna. Also honored at the event was the Immanuel
and Helen B. Olshan Foundation for its extraordinary philanthropy
and support of the arts. Proceeds of the luncheon benefits HSPVA
student needs and projects at the school.
1. Former HSPVA faculty member, James Boyce with Honoree, Bianna Golodryga  
2. Mayor Annisse Parker flanked by Marty and Dr. Bob Stein  
3. Luncheon Co-Chairs, Cece Fowler and Frank Hood  
4. Emcee Linda Lorelle  
5. Becky and Ralph O’Connor and Andrew Abendshein  
6. Jerry Simon, Harvin Moore, and Bob Eury  
7. Dr. Martha Salazar Zamora and Dr. Scott Allen  
8. The HSPVA Inferno Quartet  
10. Sharona Koret and Vitaly and Zhanna Golodryga  
11. Herb Pasternak, Elizabeth Sheppard, David Guidry, Sally Reynolds  
12. State Representative Ellen Cohen and Samantha Barlow Martinez  
14. Seated: Sandra Goodwin, Bette Tiag, Kathryn Priest, Agelia Perez Marquez and Eileen Montgomery  
15. Back row: Rhoda Ferris, Joan Murrin, Caroline Neuhaus, and Kris Stockberger  
16. Dr. Michele Pola, Joe Nelson, and Lorraine Wulfe
1. Cheryl and Bob Boblitt with Janie Carothers and LuAnne Carter  
2. Pete and Patrice McKinney with Howard Speight
3. HSPVA Dancers, Lenaa Escandon and Dana Thompson  
4. Janie Alderman, Linda Lorelle, Sharon Ferranti, and Bob Singleton
5. Trish Eramo and Roxanne Stanley  
6. HSPVA Luncheon Committee members: Shirley Colona, Sally Feist, Shannon Bohny, Blair Adams, Amani Escandon, and Kelley Self  
7. Dr. Cathy Mincberg and Linda Walter
HSPVA Alumna Receives GRAMMY®

By Barbara Haverkamp

Jessica Bodner (Class of 2001 - Instrumental) and her music group, the Parker Quartet, won a GRAMMY® for their CD in the Chamber Music category at the 52nd annual Grammy Awards. She attended Parker Elementary, where she studied violin, Lanier Middle School, where she switched to viola study, and the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, where she continued performing viola with the orchestra. From there she went on to study at the New England Conservatory, where she earned her undergraduate degree and two masters in musical performance in 2005. While at the Conservatory, Jessica and fellow classmates Daniel Chong, Karen Kim, both violinists, and cellist Kee-Hyun Kim formed a quartet. The Parker Quartet has won many competitions internationally. It has been the Quartet-in-Residence with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra (Minnesota) and the Artists-in-Residence with the Minnesota Public Radio and American Public Media. The quartet has performed in venues around the world.

According to her mother, Jennifer Bodner, the group named itself after Dorothy Parker, American poet and satirist and founding member of the Algonquin Roundtable in the 1920s.

“Untitled” by Avery Davidson, 12th grade, Visual Arts

Jessica Bodner, left, Karen Kim and Daniel Chong of the Parker Quartet won the GRAMMY® for Best Chamber Music Performance for Ligeti String Quartets Nos. 1 and 2.
HSPVA Friends Fund for the Future
2010-2011

HSPVA FRIENDS supports a wide array of needs at HSPVA. Over the past ten years, HSPVA FRIENDS and the HSPVA Office of Development have generated almost 7 million dollars to assist the school with a variety of projects including:

- Electronic marque for front of school
- Theatre sound and lighting equipment
- Computers, art supplies, and specialized equipment
- Support for school radio station equipment
- Alumni art exhibits and alumni relations
- Support for tours to Toronto, Boston, New York, and China
- Art publications, newsletters, and event mail-outs

- Summer arts workshops for underclassmen
- Annual college scholarships
- Master classes by professional artists
- Support for musical theatre productions
- The Office of Development to raise and coordinate private support
- Support for school and faculty participation in national programs
- Faculty seminar on art facility design and construction

Our sincere thanks to the following individuals, corporations, and foundations that have provided support for the unique needs of Houston’s internationally renowned High School For The Performing And Visual Arts from March 1, 2010 to our publication deadline, March 31, 2011.

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- Ed and Birdie Dawley
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  For Summer arts workshops and College scholarships
  William F. Carleton
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  In honor of Mary Martha Lappe
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Continued on page 14
Over a Million Dollars in Scholarships for HSPVA

In 1979 a Houston philanthropic organization called Musicfest began holding a yearly gala to raise scholarship money for outstanding students in each of HSPVA’s art areas. That started a long lasting and vigorous relationship benefiting the gifted seniors of Houston’s respected arts school. To date, more than one million dollars in scholarships have been awarded to deserving students.

In 1997, Musicfest morphed into what is now today HSPVA Friends, a nonprofit organization whose mission has expanded well beyond the initial once-yearly support of scholarships for graduating seniors. In recent years HSPVA Friends has raised almost seven million to support a wide variety of programs and projects that serve all HSPVA students from the Greater Houston area. However, a broad range and growing list of scholarships and memorial funds still remain at the core of its support. Donations toward specific endowed scholarships, memorial funds, and art disciplines are most welcome and may be sent to HSPVA Friends.

Among the scholarships given this year are:

- Dawley College Scholarship ($4000)
- Dawley Summer Arts Scholarships in Music, Dance, Theatre, and Visual Arts (five at $1000 each)
- DiSuvero Sculpture Scholarship ($1000)
- Danny Frank Music Fund (on-going support of guest artists and master classes)
- The John E. Guida Foundation ($5000 summer music workshop)
- Andrea Guenther Piano Studies Scholarship ($2000)
- Mozart Hammond Scholarships in Piano and Voice ($1000)
- Mary Martha Lappe Dance Scholarship ($1000)
- Amanda May Musical Theatre Scholarship ($1000)
- Jason Moran Jazz Scholarships ($1000 and $500)
- Immanuel and Helen B. Olshan Summer Arts Workshop Scholarships in Music and Dance ($500 each)
- Bob Ostrum Jazz Scholarship ($1000)
- Sermoonjoy Theatre Scholarships (two at $2000 - renewable for four years)
- Bob Singleton Theatre Education Scholarship ($1000 for graduate students)
- Rachel Speight Vocal Music Scholarship ($2000)
**HSPVA Friends** is a private, nonprofit organization comprised of prominent Houstonians whose aim is to encourage, inspire, support, and celebrate excellence in the arts and in education. The organization has supported a myriad of projects which address the needs of young artists, not only for the 650 students at Houston’s famous HSPVA, but also for elementary school, middle school and high school students from up to ten counties in the Gulf Coast Area. In recent years, HSPVA FRIENDS has raised almost seven million dollars in private funds for art supplies and equipment, musical instruments, college art scholarships, master classes and lectures by professional guest artists, art exhibits, ballet shoes, summer arts workshops, private music lessons, and art publications.

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“Untitled 2” by Lauren Kramer, 12th grade, Visual Arts