Maryland Art Educators Continue to Garner Awards for Outstanding Art Educational Leadership

The National Art Education Association awarded several Maryland art educators at this year’s conference in March.
It was just a few months ago that we were all together in Fort Worth, Texas at the Annual NAEA Conference. The presentations and conversations were amazing. I am very proud of the number of contributions our MAEA members make at the national level. Congratulations to Mark Coates, National Supervision and Administration Art Educator of the Year and Michael Bell, National Art Honor Society Sponsor of the Year.

I have seen a great sense of community deepen and develop within the MAEA these past two years. We have worked diligently to offer valuable professional development opportunities that meet the needs of our members. We are gradually building an infrastructure that will reach out and support members across the state. Thank you to the council members who volunteer their time to bring these opportunities to fruition. There is still much work to do and we need your help. If you are interested in joining these efforts, I invite you to please contact me. Your voice is more important than ever to building networks within our organization.

For some of us, our summer “hiatus” will be even busier and productive than the school year. No matter how varied our summer activities, we can probably agree that a break from routine is refreshing. I wish you all an enjoyable summer and, as always, welcome your comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Eleni Dystra (maea.dykstra@gmail.com)

MAEA STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization is to encourage, strengthen, and promote the role of the visual arts in education by: promoting quality instruction in visual arts education conducted by certified art teachers; encouraging study of art teaching; improving the conditions of art teaching; and encouraging and conducting research in art education. To these ends the Association will: hold public discussions; sponsor institutes, conferences and programs; publish articles, reports and surveys; and work with other related organizations to provide advocacy for arts education.
Mark’s experiences in the public school system included teaching at Oakland Mills Middle School, serving as Art Department Chair at both Mount Hebron and River Hill High. While working in Howard County as a teacher, Mark was involved in writing curriculum for the district, as well as teaching the Visual Arts Gifted and Talented Program. A National Board Certified Teacher, he presented regionally on topics related to assessment in the arts, developing high school visual arts programs, and infusing studio skills within all levels of art education. Additional teaching experiences included the Young People’s Studio at Maryland Institute College of Art, the High School Seminar Program at the National Gallery of Art, and graduate courses at Johns Hopkins University and Boston University.

Mark has been active on the local, state and national levels through the Maryland Art Education Association and National Art Education Association. Having served as Editor for the Gazette, Conference Coordinator, and President of MAEA, he went on to serve on the Board of Directors for NAEA, first as the National Secondary Division Director and as the National Supervision and Administration Division Director. Mark has written regularly for NAEA News, and has presented at national conferences for the past 26 years.

As a practicing painter, Mark exhibits his work regionally and participates in plein air paint-outs in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. During the summer, he teaches a two week Painting Institute for Teachers and spends time in Maine painting.

Mark Coates was given two awards! National Supervision and Administration Art Educator and Eastern Region Supervision and Administration Art Educator.

Mark Coates is in his 35th year of working in art education, currently serving as Coordinator for Fine Arts in Howard County Public Schools. In his position, Mark is responsible for supervising the art, theatre, and dance teachers, as well as developing curriculum, professional development, and student exhibitions.

After receiving a BS in Art Education from Frostburg State College, Mark went on to teach visual art in Howard County, Maryland, public schools. While teaching for Howard County, he earned an M.Ed in Art Education from Towson University, along with 30+ credits from Maryland Institute College of Art and Loyola College.

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Michael Bell was awarded *National Art Honor Society Sponsor.*

Michael is a former Maryland Art Education Association Teacher of the Year (2002), MAEA Secondary Division Director (2002–2004), Anne Arundel County Public Schools Teacher of the Year (2004), has a B.A. in Fine Arts from Lycoming College, a M.Ed. in Art Education from Towson University and became a National Board Certified Teacher in 2010. He has had national rising star recipients for the past four years. His students have received national scholastic gold and silver keys and last year alone, his students earned over 2 million dollars in scholarships. His most recent winner, NAHS President Cat Allen, attended the ceremony in Fort Worth, TX to receive her award alongside Bell. At the state level he has helped organize presentations and exhibitions. Michael has been a curriculum writer and served on the National Board Certification Applicant Screening/Interviewing Committee. In addition to the NAEA award, Michael was awarded the College Board’s 2013 William U. Harris National Award of Excellence and the Washington Post’s 2013 Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award.

Eleni Dykstra was awarded the *Eastern Region State Art Educator.*

Eleni has been a Visual Arts Educator for 22 years. She has taught middle and high school in Anne Arundel and Baltimore County Public Schools. Eleni has been a member of the Maryland Art Education Association during her career as a teacher. She has experience in curriculum writing, professional development and teacher support. Currently she serves as the President of the Maryland Art Education Association and is the past Middle Level Division Director and State Awards Chairman. She also earned her National Board Certification in 2009. In 2008, Eleni was the recipient of the National Art Education Association, Eastern Region Middle Level Teacher of the Year Award and was nominated for teacher of the year in Anne Arundel County Public Schools. She has presented at the local, state and national levels. Eleni has her BS from St. Mary’s College of Maryland and obtained her master’s degree from Johns Hopkins University in Curriculum and Instruction. She is currently an Art Resource Teacher with Anne Arundel County Public Schools.
Ryan Twenty is one of two national winners of the prestigious ASCD 2013 Outstanding Young Educator Award.

Ryan Twenty teaches AP art, photography, and interactive media and serves as the technology liaison at Parkville High School in Baltimore County Public Schools. “Ryan . . . displays dedication to the education of the whole child, (and) as a photography teacher. . . he encourages his students to persevere in their artwork, and his photography and multimedia students earn an impressive 100 percent pass rate for advanced placement tests. The OYEA recognizes creative and committed teachers and administrators under the age of 40 who are making a difference in children’s lives” (ASCD news release). To read the complete ASCD news release, go to:


Joshua Garcia, deputy superintendent of Tacoma Public Schools in Tacoma, Washington, was the other educator selected for this award.

Michael is the Art Department chair at Southern High School in Anne Arundel County and program development is his specialty. He is the creator of ArtQuest, an annual, nationally sponsored, professionally juried student art exhibit that provides opportunities for his students in many venues. Last spring he involved his NAHS students in artist Eric Fischl’s “America: Now and Here” project. It’s a cross country journey of artists and art and celebrates creativity as a driver for innovation. This fall Bell created a school-wide empathy contest after creating a collaborative portrait of Amanda Todd, the Vancouver teen that committing suicide after years of bullying.

“Michael Bell is a true educational pioneer who has blazed a beautiful, wide trail that countless students have followed to achieve great success,” Mark Procaccini, Principal, Southern High School.

Bell has also played a vital role in pioneering the Visual Journaling movement, giving numerous workshops throughout the country, most recently at NAEA before two sold out crowds in Fort Worth.

As an artist, Bell is famous for his large, thematic series paintings and for his infamous portrait painting clientele. He was commissioned to paint the portrait of legendary former Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, which hangs in the Nancy S. Grasmick Building of Education in Baltimore.

Follow Michael Bell’s art and life online at http://mbellart.com
Special congratulations to James “Jay” Tucker who received the AEMS Award for Outstanding Leadership in Arts Education at CAFÉ on May 30, 2013. The Cultural Arts for Education conference is run by AEMS, an organization dedicated to making sure all Maryland public school students have equitable access to arts education (www.aems-edu.org)

Upon receiving the award, Jay said: “When asked why I do this [my work], I do it because it is my life, it is a part of me.”

Jay is the Coordinator of Fine Arts for the Maryland State Department of Education. This is truly a well-deserved award and we are so fortunate to have Jay as our leader and part of the MAEA.

BECOME A REPORTER FOR THE MAEA Gazette

Have you considered writing for the MAEA Gazette? As summer approaches and you reflect on the past year of teaching, try to identify something that really worked well that can be shared with other art educators. Are you attending any classes for your own professional development during the summer? If so, take out your reporter’s pad and pencil and draft a quick paragraph about something that was meaningful to you or that could be useful to others. Perhaps you will read a good book recommended from the NAEA Summer Reading Lists. It would be great to have a review of Using Art to Teach Reading Comprehension Strategies: Lessons for Teachers, co-authored by MAEA member and president-elect Lisa Stuart (pictured right, at her book signing) and Jennifer Klein. Anyone?

Also, “a picture is worth a thousand words” and a great photograph accompanied by a caption and a few sentences can really tell a great story. Please share your passion and best practices with fellow art educators across the state. The Gazette is for you!

For more information and the writing guidelines, please contact Elisa Patterson, Gazette editor, at e-patterson@nga.gov
Or, you can find the information under “Forms” at www.marylandarted.org

Deadline for Fall submissions is November 1.
Online publication is December 6, 2013.
Winter issue: articles/photos due February 7
online publication is March 14, 2014
Spring/Summer issue: articles/photos due May 23, 2014
online publication June 27, 2014
At this year’s NAEA conference, Anne Arundel County Public School student Cat Allen and Baltimore County Public School student Erin Discordia were recognized as Rising Stars. Akash Shah from Montgomery County Public Schools received the Young Artist Award from the Arts Education Partnership at this year’s National Forum in Washington, DC. Read what their teachers say about them.

**CAT ALLEN**

Michael Bell, her art teacher states, “Cat has won numerous awards in art, including the 2013 NAEA Rising Star, Scholastic Arts Regional Gold and Silver Keys, and awards at ArtQuest, one of the largest art shows in the State of Maryland. Cat is on the Principal’s Honor Roll, donated her time and talent annually to create handmade sketchbooks for the Los Angeles Good Shepherd Domestic Violence Shelter with her NAHS classmates, and recently won a county-wide concussion awareness poster contest to be published as RightTime Medical Center’s featured artwork.”

“Cat’s an amazing student with an amazing story and she is more than deserving of her tremendous honors.”
Mr. Bell continues, “Cat’s an amazing student with an amazing story and she is more than deserving of her tremendous honors. Cat Allen is a tremendously talented young lady. In the summer of 2012 she put together a crew of students to produce a beautiful public work of art at a Marina in Deale, Maryland. The summer of 2011 Cat helped create a huge outdoor public art mural at the Muddy Creek Animal Hospital.”

Cat states, “It’s because of some incredible art educators that I believe in my own potential.”

Mr. Bell concludes, “Having positive experiences in her higher level art classes turned her life around and gave her a reason to care, be positive about herself, planning her future as a visual arts educator.”

Todd Smith, Social Studies chairperson states, “Cat’s writing prowess and ability to comport herself in front of a courtroom setting was admirable. That, along with her drama experiences has also served to inoculate in Cat a love of academics and the arts.”

ERIN DISCORDIA

Mary Elizabeth Dickman, Erin’s teacher at Owings Mills High School writes: “Erin is an amazing artist. Unfortunately, I only had her for half the year this year. From this short session I had with her, I have found how dedicated Erin is. Erin is a perfectionist through and through. She is so determined to make a perfect picture that she will work on a piece for weeks then discover something minutely wrong and stop working entirely. No one would ever have known there was a slight “defect” in the artwork, only she discovered it. This would irritate me as a teacher because I would encourage her to continue working on it because it was absolutely beautiful; however, she would abandon the concept in search for something more challenging. Erin received the Rising Star award for her amazing talent. She started off as a photographer and then decided to expand her art experience by drawing and painting, to which I am most grateful! I was able to challenge Erin to build a canvas and to paint the biggest piece she ever did. She was nominated by Owings Mills High School to represent the school at the 27th Annual Art Exhibit at Goucher College on June 3. Erin was president of NAHS for her senior year and without her dedication, I would not have survived. She would often return to school to make sure everything was set up, completed, and well-managed. Even when my hair was falling out due to the stress of the year, Erin was the rock that kept everyone in line. Erin is an amazing artist and I am so glad I had the opportunity to teach her even if it was only for a brief spell.”

“Erin is an amazing artist and I am so glad I had the opportunity to teach her.”
AKASH SHAH

Akash Shah, a 17 year old student at Northwest High School in Germantown, MD, received the Young Artist Award from the Arts Education Partnership at this year’s National Forum in Washington, DC. Katherine Hess, the teacher he worked with to create his submission, attended a session at the forum. She writes, “His work was selected for the cover of the two-day program and an interview with the artist was published on the back of the cover. (See the program booklet and interview at http://www.aep-arts.org/events/forum). He was congratulated by Sandra Ruppert, director of the Arts Education Partnership and interviewed by Deborah Reeve, executive director of the National Art Education Association. In addition, the drummer for Foster the People, Mark Pontius (who does a lot of work with arts education through Foster the Future), praised Akash’s work via video. A number of contributors in the morning’s sessions referred to Akash’s interview and statement, repeating and reflecting on his opinion that the most important focus an art educator can have is on ‘involvement,’ and ‘fluidity.’ Four other students from Northwest submitted images that were accepted for publication in the program: Morgan Bowen (grade 12), Cindy Lian (grade 11), Catherine Miranda (grade 11), and Olivia Vieira (grade 10)."

Congratulations to these outstanding Maryland students!

“[Akash believes that] the most important focus an art educator can have is on ‘involvement’ and ‘fluidity.’”
MAEA’s
First Crawl and Draw

VIRGINIA BUTE-RILEY
MAEA Elementary Division Director

On March 23rd, MAEA sponsored its first Crawl and Draw. The Crawl and Draw was a free event that brought together 17 members from several counties to visit three nearby museums in Washington, D.C. Before we strolled, or “crawled,” from location to location, we spent a little time getting to know each other. We compared teaching assignments and shared everything from class sizes to lesson ideas. Thanks to the icebreaker we played, we also found out fun stuff like who loves to cook, who has gotten an electronic speeding ticket (many of us!), and who watched Sesame Street as a child, among other things. We all had a great time getting to know each other.

We started at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. Museum educator, Elisa Patterson, gave us an orientation to the exhibit Faking It: Manipulated Photography Before Photoshop.” Elisa also shared information on accessing museum resources and provided an example of an art activity involving image
couple of blocks away. The museum’s emphasis on modern and contemporary art gave us a chance to consider expanding our repertoire of artists, as well as the type of art that we usually focus on in class. The piece by conceptual artist Dan Graham, *For Gordon Bunshaft* (2007), really got me thinking about how we could explore structure, material, and architecture in the classroom. While in the garden, a few members whipped out their sketchbooks. Some of the group chatted and snacked. A couple of us, appreciating the flexibility of the crawl’s format, slipped out to tend to little crawlers waiting at home.

At the last stop on our “Crawl” we had our own tour of the *African Mosaic: Celebrating a Decade of Collecting* exhibition showcasing important acquisitions of the past decade at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African Art.

Our docent, Mr. Jinkins, began our tour with a sculpture of the 18th-century Haitian leader Toussaint Louverture by contemporary Senegalese artist Ousmane Sow. It was a very fitting beginning to the exhibit that contains contemporary work alongside ancient and traditional pieces. Mr. Jinkins was a great docent and the questions he asked helped us to make important observations and our discussion highlighted the role of context and history in creating art as well as in providing a lens for interpretation.

By the end of our Crawl and Draw there was no escaping that we engaged in a little professional development but ultimately we enjoyed each other’s company as art lovers coming together to view art. MAEA is looking forward to having another Crawl and Draw in conjunction with our State conference in October. Stay tuned for more details.
MAEA HOSTS A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE EASTERN SHORE

On April 13th, MAEA hosted a CONNECT Saturday professional development for art educators. The event was held at Salisbury University in Wicomico County and was attended by approximately thirty art educators who enjoyed two workshops, lunch, networking, and received a USB flash drive bracelet loaded with resources, lesson plans, worksheets and more to use in the classroom.

Two fabulous presenters gave workshops that both inspired and engaged the art educators in attendance. Katie Morris, Educator and Printmaker at Maryland Institute College of Art, presented *Alternative Processes in Printmaking*, which gave participants a series of classroom-friendly and

RAVEN BISHOP, NBCT
MAEA Middle Level Division Director
economical strategies to enhance their printmaking pedagogy. Heidi Hinish, Head of the Department of Teacher, School, and Family Programs at the National Gallery of Art presented *Teaching with Thinking Routines*, in which participants explored two strategies to engage students in open-ended questioning about artworks and objects to foster rich engagement and build deep understanding. Both workshops were highly participatory. In the Morris workshop participants had an opportunity to experiment with a vast number of experimental printmaking materials and create several prints (many participants stayed after class to continue to create their own artworks). In the Hinish workshop, participants actively used Thinking Routines to collaboratively “unpack” meaning in two artworks. This workshop culminated in a poetry activity that many in the room found very powerful as a tool for instruction. In addition to the two classroom workshops offered, representatives from Sax/School Specialty and Prang gave demonstrations and samples of new and featured art materials. A few lucky participants won prizes from Sax/School Specialty and Prang!

As part of MAEA’s ongoing efforts to provide high quality professional development opportunities for all members, this event was held on the Eastern Shore to serve art educators in this region, educators who often have to travel great distances to take advantage of professional development opportunities. Following this model of bringing professional development to more distant regions of our state, the MAEA has plans to bring future CONNECT professional development events to other areas throughout Maryland.

As a participant in this event and as a resident of the Eastern Shore myself, I left the day feeling the way good professional development opportunities are supposed to leave participants: inspired, re-energized, and armed with new ideas and strategies which I am excited to use in my classroom. I also left with a great feeling of gratitude for having such a high quality professional development opportunity so close to home—a sentiment echoed by other Eastern Shore art educators who attended the event. On behalf of those who attended this event, I’d like to express gratitude to all who had a hand in making this day so enjoyable: workshop presenters, participants, Sax/School specialty and Prang representatives, Salisbury University and, of course, the MAEA!
Read a book from your targeted list or explore one from another with NAEA’s summer reading lists: www.arteducators.org/learning/SummerReading_2013_Final.pdf

Perhaps form a book group or plan to discuss your reading when you see your colleagues in the fall.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR TWO UPCOMING CONFERENCES:

MARYLAND ART EDUCATION CONFERENCE
CREATING A
Contemporary
COLLABORATIVE
COMMUNITY

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MARYLAND ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

2014 NAEA National CONVENTION
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