

*29th Annual  
Service Recognition  
Awards Ceremony*

*Executive Mansion  
Springfield*

*March 15, 2012*

*ILLINOIS ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION  
2012 AWARD CEREMONY*

**Welcome**

*Ms. Melinda A. LaBarre, ISBE Board Member*

**Announcement & Presentation of 2012 Awards**

*Terry Madsen, IAAE Vice President*

*Becky Blaine, IAAE President*

**Artist**

*Natasha Lehier*

**Dance Educator**

*Kristin Hill*

**Music Educator**

*Kris Murray, Beth Rock*

**Visual Arts Educator**

*Joanna Angelopoulos, Sue Metzroth, Heather Shore, Linda Von Holten*

**Industry & Business**

*Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar, PNC Bank*

**Public & Community Service**

*Peoria Ballet Academy, Fox Valley Repertory,  
Illinois Valley Fine Arts Co-op, Woodlawn Arts Academy*

**IAAE Organization**

*Betty Clementz*

**Kennedy Center State Level School of Distinction**

*Leepertown Community Consolidated School District*

**Illinois Arts Education Week Poster Contest Winners**

**1st Place:** *Reese Dannenfeldt*

**2nd Place:** *Madison Meyer*

**3rd Place:** *Daniel Diaz*

*Ellen Jiang*

**Honorable Mention**

*Eli McEwan*

*Alanna Buttitta*

*Giovanny A. Rodriguez*

*Presentation of 1st Place poster to ISBE*

*Made by Cornelia Powell, IAAE / ISBE*

*Accepted by Ms. Melinda A. LaBarre, ISBE Board Member*

**Closing Remarks**

*Becky Blaine, IAAE President*

## 2012 SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS

### **Artist Award**

*Natasha Lehier*

### **Arts Educator Awards**

*Dance—Kristin Hill, Sycamore High School, Sycamore*

*Music—Kris Murray, Sauk Valley Community College, Dixon*

*Music—Beth Rock, Midland School District, Varna*

*Visual Arts—Joanna Angelopoulos, Sanborn Elementary School, Palatine*

*Visual Arts—Sue Metzroth, Sacred Heart-Griffin High School, Springfield*

*Visual Arts—Heather Shore, Rock Falls High School, Rock Falls*

*Visual Arts—Linda Von Holten, Newman Central Catholic High School, Sterling*

### **Industry & Business Awards**

*Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar, Peru*

*PNC Bank, Peoria*

### **Public & Community Service Awards**

*Peoria Ballet Academy*

*Fox Valley Repertory*

*Illinois Valley Fine Arts Co-op*

*Woodlawn Arts Academy*

### **IAAE Organization Award**

*Betty Clementz, IAAE Newsletter Editor*

### **Kennedy Center State Level**

### **School of Distinction in Arts Education Award**

*Leepertown Community Consolidated School District, Leepertown*

## **ARTIST AWARD**

**Natasha Lehier:** Natasha Lehier began her life-long interest in artistic creation at Kaneland High School. She has created works that both challenge the viewer's imagination and provoke an emotional response. Working with fibers for nearly ten years, she uses her own wool as well as other locally grown fibers to create unique fiber art pieces that speak from her heart. An award winning artist, she has exhibited and presented to arts guild groups and at the Illinois Art Educator's Assoc. Conference. She is on staff at Waubensee Community College. She believes that everyone should have the opportunity to be involved in art and she enjoys introducing people to fiber arts. As well as being an artist, she owns and operates Esther's Place in Big Rock, IL.

## **ARTS EDUCATOR AWARDS**

### **Dance Educator**

**Kristin Hill:** Kristin is the dance education teacher and Orchesis Director for Sycamore High School. Prior to her employment the Sycamore school system did not have a dance program in the Physical Education Department. Kristin came to Sycamore High School in 2007 and since that time has established the Orchesis Dance Troupe which offers students the opportunity to be involved in extra-curricular activities, improve dance technique, perform, and learn choreography and leadership skills. The SHS Orchesis Dance Troupe officially started in academic year 2008-2009. The first show included more than 75 Orchesis dancers, 80 additional dancers from PE classes, and 12 faculty members. This year's show will include more than 100 dancers, and the troupe is divided into three different companies: innovate, ignite and inspire.

To quote one of her students, "Mrs. Hill gives fellow officers and I opportunities to lead whether it's with a select few dancers or an entire company. Through her guidance we are exposed to leadership and responsibilities you don't find in most aspects of high school. She encourages the officers to become choreographers, teachers, supervisors and dancers who are passionate about what they do. Every year, people join Orchesis with various skill levels, and it is awesome to see how our members are able to improve by the end of the year."

### **Music Educator**

**Kris Murray:** Kris Murray is Assistant Professor of music/humanities at Sauk Valley Community College. Kris delivers music classes in theory and hands-on instruction in both choral and instrumental classes. She believes in integrating technology in all of her classes and is the forerunner in technology integration with the rest of the SVCC staff. She willingly shares her self-instructed love of technology with the faculty encouraging their use of it to better reach students. Kris has conducted research as to the influence of *Fine Arts Instruction* upon student performance academically gathering the information under the title *Fine Arts Makes You Smarter*. This data is readily shared with any who want to gain knowledge of the advantages of arts education.

Kris is a skilled musician playing numerous instruments especially the piano and guitar.

**Beth Rock:** Beth Rock is a middle school music teacher in Varna, IL. Within the school community she is credited with establishing and fostering numerous programs to elevate and promote Fine Arts Education among the youth of Midland School District. Included in the list are: Young Artist Tour, Festival Choir program, Community Broadway in Chicago Tours, MHS Concert Choir Performance based Tours to: New York City, Chicago and Orlando. Her students have performed at the United Nations Building, Navy Pier, and on the American Stage at Epcot. She started the tradition of Renaissance Madrigal Dinner at MHS. Beth has served as music coordinator for a community based White House initiative luncheon and created a community performing arts program that includes students of all age levels and demographic backgrounds.

Outside the school community Beth is assistant director of Eureka College Music Camp, Asst. Director of Peoria Area Civic Chorale, has served as guest conductor at area choral festivals, is active in the ILMEA as an adjudicator, clinician and committee member and is a cooperating teacher for student teachers from Bradley University.

### **Visual Arts Educator**

**Joanna Angelopoulos:** Joanna teaches art to an extremely diverse student population in grades first through sixth at Sanborn Elementary School in Palatine. Part of what makes Joanna so wonderful is her teaching style. There are no tracers or templates in her classroom. She values the students' creative process, allowing them to use a wide variety of mediums to express their ideas. The emphasis is on the creative thinking and problem solving skills that were utilized in the creative process. Students are challenged in her class. The results are amazing; unique pieces of art that are as individual as each child. Joanna is active in *Do Your P'Art Foundation* whose focus is support of schools to partner and collaborate on art projects; she annually hosts a *Kids Art Fair*, is a supporter of *Kids Meet Art* a program partnering schools with active artists, is a National Board Certified Teacher, and among other tributes, received a scholarship/grant from the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund to participate in an exploration and immersion of the educational system of Japan.

### **Visual Arts Educator (continued)**

**Sue Metzroth:** Sue Metzroth teaches visual art at Sacred Heart-Griffin High School. Using the words of the school's Principal, SR. Margaret Grueter, "Sue Metzroth is an outstanding art teacher. She challenges students to go deeper and give more to their work of art. Student projects vary in quality. Some of the pieces are exquisite. What happens simultaneously is that students mature and gain confidence in life skills including communication and self-expression. Sue is in her classroom beyond the school hours as students beg for more time to work. She is generous with her time and an artist at getting the best from her students. The students not only create their art projects but also participate in the critique/dialogue which not only promotes the professional language and vocabulary but it also gives them a vocabulary and opportunity to express emotions." In Sue's own words, "I love both children and art and because of this, a Master of Arts in Art Education seemed a perfect way to combine these affections to realize a rewarding experience through the practical applications of this body of my art knowledge."

**Heather Shore:** Heather teaches art at Rock Falls High School. She has developed the art department for her students by elevating the curriculum to prepare students for a career in art. She is the Rock Falls High School Art Department Chair. She recreated the art club, established a permanent collection of student artwork that hangs in the halls of RFHS. Heather developed the art curriculum to include more real world applications of art by expanding the graphics courses and creating a Visual Communications Course. She has expanded the AP Studio Art program which hosts an annual formal gallery opening at *The Next Picture Show Gallery* in Dixon. She takes students on art related field trips including National Portfolio Days and college visits and she has worked collaboratively with the French teacher to offer a joint European tour with art and French students. Her Art Department face-book page provides inspirational videos, links to scholarships and arts related articles and information on shows and past students working in the field of art.

**Linda Von Holten:** Linda Von Holten taught elementary (K-6) art for 10 years in the Sterling School District and is currently in her 12<sup>th</sup> year of teaching high school art at Newman Central Catholic High School in Sterling. Her teaching demonstrates the integration of the arts across the curriculum. In addition to her regular teaching assignment she gives up her "free hour" on a weekly basis to share an art project with the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students who are assigned to the *Safe School*. Safe School students are those who for whatever reason are close to expulsion in their home district. She values these students and is another strong influence in their lives.

Linda is also a professional artist. She creates in a variety of mediums and is often accepted in a juried venue. She also works creating logo designs and digital graphics. She is an educator and artist and volunteers to share her skills with the students in Whiteside County Safe Schools Program. Using the words of her students, "She inspires the uncreative to be creative."

## **INDUSTRY & BUSINESS AWARDS**

**Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar:** The Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar in Peru, IL truly exemplifies the word "community" through their demonstration of interest in area children's artwork. Every quarter Applebee's contacts local arts educators requesting that they select children's artwork to be displayed in the restaurant. They advance a cooperative spirit through supplying and delivering the matte boards for mounting the children's artwork and then framing and displaying the works in the restaurant. It is truly an honor for the children to have their work displayed for the public to view. The children, families and community at large are excited to see local talent displayed. Applebee's exhibition of children's art raises awareness of the importance of the arts education in our children's lives.

**PNC Bank:** PNC Bank has been nominated for the IAAE Industry award by Sangamon Auditorium staff. Through the PNC's "Grow Up Great" initiative, a comprehensive school readiness program to help prepare children from birth to age five for success in school and life, the Sangamon Auditorium staff has become closely acquainted with PNC's commitment to strengthening and enriching the communities in which we live. PNC Bank has reinforced the mission of Sangamon auditorium through financial and volunteer support from PNC employees. As part of PNC's *Grow Up Great* commitment several employees have assisted with activities at Sangamon Auditorium "Family Night", others are planning to assist with Head Start classroom visits in the spring semester.

PNC also serves as title sponsor of "Class Acts", a performing arts series for young people offered, through the schools, by Sangamon Auditorium. Through PNC's cash support for the series Sangamon Auditorium is able to keep base ticket prices affordable for many schools and are able to offer a balance of scholarship tickets to schools and students whose financial need is great. The value that PNC places on the recognition of arts education is highly significant for the community schools and students.

## **PUBLIC & COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS**

**Peoria Ballet Academy:** The mission of Peoria Ballet Academy is to further the participation, education, and appreciation of all disciplines of dance as a cultural art form, with a particular emphasis in ballet. Peoria Ballet desires to improve upon and touch the Peoria area public with productions that stir the soul, inspire young art lovers and include programs that specifically target underprivileged students and students with physical and mental disabilities. The Academy provides lecture demonstrations for several thousand schoolchildren and more than 60 different dance classes for students of all ages and ability levels.

## **PUBLIC & COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS (continued)**

**Peoria Ballet Academy (continued):** Each year Peoria Ballet presents the art of dance to area schools inspiring children to reach their dreams. Area school children experience performances during winter and spring seasons. Last year, over 2,878 students, teachers and chaperones attended the Peoria Ballets. Without the performances provided through the generosity of the Peoria Ballet Company children in the area would not have the opportunity to become familiar with dance productions such as The Nutcracker or last year's spring production of Arts That Rock. The Peoria Ballet Academy is a recognized leader in dance providing performance, education and community service to the people of central Illinois.

**Fox Valley Repertory:** Fox Valley Repertory is a not-for-profit performing- arts company based in St. Charles, Illinois. This Repertory company is dedicated to arts education for community members and especially young people. Through extensive offering of children's classes, camps and workshops, the Fox Valley Repertory provides opportunities for students to gain skills, confidence, learn professionalism and team work while at the same time gaining appreciation for the performing arts. Learning experiences are provided for students of all ability levels, ages and interests. In addition to gains in personal attributes career direction is presented to students through internships offered to area high school students and scholarships to the Performing Arts Academy. The Academy encourages students to give back to the community by helping them to become involved in service projects related to local organizations such as raising funds for the St. Charles East High School Jazz Choir to help purchase new sound equipment. In the year 2011 Fox Valley Repertory solicited over \$10,000.00 for local charities and other worthy causes.

**Illinois Valley Fine Arts Co-op:** The Illinois Valley Fine Arts Co-op enriches the educational experiences of students in the Illinois Valley by providing meaningful educational opportunities in the arts. The Co-op allows students to experience fine arts performances in one of the best theater facilities in the Illinois Valley; gives member schools an active say in programming and allows them to concentrate on the educational process while the Co-op takes care of the organizational planning and logistics of staging performances. The Co-op is able to schedule fine arts performances that capture the imagination of targeted grade groups (K-2, 3-5, 6-12) so that students can experience educational fine arts performances with peer-students at other Illinois Valley schools. The Co-op removes most institutional costs associated with fine arts performances and gives students an opportunity to experience quality events at a minimal cost.

**Woodlawn Arts Academy** All programs at Woodlawn Arts Academy expand appreciation of the arts and increase skill levels of participants. The Academy offers programming for all ages, starting at two months through adults. Programs in all disciplines are offered including visual art, music, theatre, dance, literary arts, healing arts and culinary arts. All Woodlawn lessons and classes are conducted by trained artists, musicians and teachers. Programs are funded through scholarships, fees, grants and contributions with 100% of staff time devoted to furthering opportunities in the arts for the Sauk Valley area. It is a place where all artists are welcome and artistic opportunities are endless. Some community members refer to the Academy as one of Sauk Valley's "hidden gems" and others as "my second home". It is truly a place where opportunities for the arts are endless.

## **IAAE ORGANIZATION AWARD**

**Betty Clementz:** IAAE Organization recognizes individuals who have given varied and outstanding service to IAAE. Today we are honoring a very special member of IAAE, Betty Clementz. Betty is exceptional in that she qualifies for having met every one of the categories specified for this award.

The recipient must be a current member of the IAAE. Examples of contributions can be: Developed special projects for IAAE, Provided local leadership in promoting IAAE goals and activities, Acted as local advocate for arts education, Served as a member of the Board of Directors, is an IAAE Committee Member.

Betty is the Newsletter Editor for IAAE and has served in that position for 6 years. Not only does she serve as Editor, her advice and counsel is of extreme importance to this organization. She possesses a passion for arts and arts education as shown through her contributions to IAAE as well as being a member of the Whiteside County ROE and spearheading promotion of the arts through their day-long conference, "Meeting The Challenge."

## **KENNEDY CENTER STATE LEVEL SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION AWARD**

**Leepertown Community Consolidated School District:** The "The Schools of Distinction" awards are designed to honor INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS exclusively. This award recognizes schools in Illinois that have done an outstanding job of making the arts essential to the education of their students. All of the Kennedy Center suggested requirements for receiving this award have been met by Leepertown CCSD. The following are examples of requirements for being considered for this award:

- Integration of arts education into the overall school curriculum
- Use of imaginative learning opportunities
- Strong and direct parent involvement
- Teach about other cultures through the arts
- Link arts education to the community
- Include all four art forms: dance, drama, music, visual art

Throughout the past decade the Leepertown School District has infused all four art forms in their curriculum. The arts expansion began simply with a music specialist and increased annually until minimally three art forms were taught and in most years all four art forms were experienced by the students. As art forms increased, a parallel rise in test scores demonstrated the children's increased academic learning.

During this final year of Leepertown's existence (closing due to small size financial difficulties) the district continues to offer all 4 art forms, provide meaningful live arts performances for students, and demonstrate their academic success by continuing to make adequate yearly process.

### *ILLINOIS ARTS EDUCATION WEEK POSTER CONTEST WINNERS*

#### **1st Place**

*Reese Dannenfeldt - Copeland Manor School, Libertyville, IL  
Mr. Erik Youngman, Principal / Ms. Cindi Sartain, Art Teacher*

#### **2nd Place**

*Madison Meyer - Washington Elementary School, Sterling, IL  
Mr. Pat Fortney, Principal / Mrs. Margaret Blakeslee, Art Teacher*

#### **3rd Place**

*Daniel Diaz - Westfield Middle School, Bloomingdale, IL  
Dr. Debbie Kling, Principal / Ms. Deyana Matt, Art Teacher*

#### **Honorable Mention**

*Eli McEwan - Rockland School, Libertyville, IL  
Mr. Jeff Knapp, Principal / Ms. Cindi Sartain, Art Teacher*

*Alanna Buttitta - Westfield Middle School, Bloomingdale, IL  
Dr. Debbie Kling, Principal / Ms. Deyana Matt, Art Teacher*

*Giovanny A. Rodriguez - Westchester Middle School, Westchester, IL  
Mr. Gregory Leban, Principal / Mrs. Theony Demakis, Art Teacher*

*Ellen Jiang - Westview Hills Middle School, Willowbrook, IL  
Mr. Sean Nugent, Principal / Mr. Josh Vance, Art Teacher*

## *ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS*

### **Illinois Alliance for Arts Education Board Committee Members**

|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Paulette Aronson</i>                  | <i>Barb Heimerdinger, Director</i>   |
| <i>Becky Blaine, President</i>           | <i>Kathi Hillyer, Website Editor</i> |
| <i>Betty Clementz, Newsletter Editor</i> | <i>Marissa Hockfield</i>             |
| <i>Ed Erickson</i>                       | <i>Terry Madsen, Vice President</i>  |
| <i>Karen Erickson</i>                    | <i>Cornelia Powell</i>               |
| <i>Amber Harper</i>                      | <i>Becky Slettum, Secretary</i>      |
|  | <i>Susan Wahlmann</i>                |

### **Governor Pat Quinn**

*Governor's Office of Citizens Assistance and Executive Mansion Staff  
General Assembly and Staff*

### **Illinois State Board of Education**

*Mrs. Susie Morrison, Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Staff*  
*Mr. Don Evans, Human Resources and Professional Development, Director*  
*Dr. Monique Chism, Innovation and Improvement, Division Administrator*  
*Mrs. Marci Johnson, Innovation and Improvement, Supervisor*  
*Mr. Matt Vanover, Public Information, Director*

### **Special Thanks**

*Photographer: Mary Jane Thornton*  
*Contest Judges: Mrs. Kathy Summer and David Moser*  
*Award Ceremony Committee: Amber Harper, Barb Heimerdinger,  
Mary Hotwagner and Susie LeMay,*  
*Poster Contest Coordinator and Graphic Designer: Cornelia Powell*



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