



*30th Annual  
Service Recognition Awards Ceremony*

*Executive Mansion, Springfield*

*March 14, 2013*

*"I am a strong supporter of funding for the arts in Illinois. . . .I think one of the keys to our civilization is how we pass on the arts. The amount and the quality of the arts that are going on in the state of Illinois is a real asset for us."*

*Lieutenant Governor, Sheila Simon*

# **ILLINOIS ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION**

## **2013 AWARDS CEREMONY**

**Emcee:** Terry Madsen, IAAE Vice President

**Presenter:** Becky Blaine, IAAE President

### **Public & Community Service Award**

*Lieutenant Governor, Sheila Simon*

### **Illinois Arts Education Week**

*Dr. Christopher Koch, Ed D*

*State Superintendent of Education*

### **Illinois Arts Education Week Poster Contest Winners**

**Award Presentation:** Melinda LaBarre, ISBE Board Member  
Cornelia Powell, ISBE Poster Chair

**1st Place:** Holly Johnson

*Hinsdale South High School, Dist. 86*

*Dr. Brian Waterman, Principal / Mr. Greg Gardner, Instructor*

**2nd Place:** Kelly Henaughan

*St Charles East High School, Dist. 303*

*Mr. Charles Kyle, Principal / Mrs. Louise Miller, Instructor*

**3rd Place:** Trystin Mansfield

*DuQuoin High School, Dist. 300*

*Mr. Matthew Hickam, Principal / Ms. Andrea Collins, Instructor*

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*ISBE is a partner with The Illinois Arts Council.*



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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

|                                        |                               |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Paulette Aronson                       | Kathi Hillyer                 |
| Becky Blaine, President                | Marissa Hockfield             |
| Betty Clementz, Newsletter Editor      | Terry Madsen, Vice President  |
| Karen Erickson                         | Darcy Nendza                  |
| Susan Ferdon, Website Editor           | Cornelia Powell               |
| Amber Harper, Director                 | Becky Slettum, Rec. Secretary |
| Barb Heimerdinger, Secretary Treasurer | Susan Wahlmann                |

### **Governor Pat Quinn**

Lieutenant Governor, Sheila Simon  
Governor's Office of Citizens Assistance and Executive Mansion Staff  
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### **Illinois State Board of Education**

Dr. Christopher Koch, State Superintendent of Education  
Mrs. Susie Morrison, Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Staff  
Mr. Don Evans, Human Resources and Professional Development, Director  
Mrs. Marci Johnson, Innovation and Improvement, Supervisor  
Mr. Matt Vanover, Public Information, Director  
ISBE Board Members

### **Special Thanks**

**Photographer:** Susan Ferdon

**Contest Judges:** David Moser and Evie Wilson

### **Awards Ceremony Committee:**

Amber Harper, Barb Heimerdinger, Mary Hotwagner and Susie LeMay

**Poster Contest Coordinator and Graphic Designer:** Cornelia Powell

## **Awards for Outstanding Service to The Arts**

### **Artist**

Carol Deibert

### **Drama**

Tim Schlegel

### **Music Educator**

David Larkin  
Mike McCoy

### **Visual Arts Educator**

Nathan Corbit  
Julie Jenkins  
Della Montgomery  
Josh Shearer  
Julie Kolze-Sorensen

### **Industry & Business**

Fourth Friday/Sterling Main Street  
Sauk Valley Bank

### **Public & Community Service**

Janet Seitz-Carlson/Prairie Art Alliance  
David Motley  
Peoria Symphony Guild  
St. Charles Public Library  
Lieutenant Governor, Sheila Simon

**Closing Remarks:** Becky Blaine, IAAE President

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The Kennedy Center Alliance for  
Arts Education Network and is  
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The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.*

## **ARTIST AWARD**

**Carol Deibert:** Carol Deibert has proven that there is more to come after retiring from teaching. She retired from Rock Falls High School where she taught art and displayed the distinct ability to inspire students in her classes, especially those who did not elect the class but were assigned to obtain a credit. She took every student, regardless of interest or ability, and encouraged their creativity.

When she retired from full time teaching, Carol focused on the art form of pottery. She has become a household name as an artist in the Sterling/Rock Falls area. Her works are on display in a variety of venues, and always in demand as items for raising money for worthy causes. Her generosity to local events for charities is much appreciated. Along with her studio work, she has returned to teaching through classes in ceramics at the Woodlawn Arts Academy.

Carol has also been the Executive Director of the International Fellowship, an organization directly related to US Governmental Foreign Relations. She arranges tours, home stays and transportation for foreign visitors who are here to experience Midwestern life style in a small community, more rural than urban. Her commitment to her community is great!

## **ARTS EDUCATOR AWARDS**

### **Drama Educator**

**Tim Schlegel:** Tim Schlegel is the Director of Theater for Centennial Auditorium, Drama Instructor for Sterling Public Schools and board member for the Woodlawn Arts Academy. Among Tim's many strengths is his true passion and talent for theatre. He not only expects the best of himself but brings out the best in his students. His position with Sterling Public Schools entails work with high school age students but he has made it his personal mission to engage kindergarten through college level students in theatre experiences.

The experiences he provides for Sauk Valley Community extend beyond the area. He plans yearly theatre trips to New York for adults. He arranges theatre trips to Chicago for his students to study with Broadway professionals and to view a Broadway Musical that they have studied in class. He has even extended studies for his students by arranging for 170 students and their family members to be given the opportunity to study with Disney professionals and perform at Disney World in Florida.

Based on his dedication and true passion for theatre, Tim Schlegel is the perfect candidate for the IAAE Drama Educator Award.

### **Music Educator**

**David Larkin (Music Educator K-8):** David Larkin is the recipient of the IAAE, 2013 K-8 Music Educator Award. He currently teaches at Bureau Valley North Elementary & Jr. High in Walnut, IL. He shares his love of music through teaching all levels K-8. David's accomplishments include growth of the band program from 37 to 53 members where 75% of the students start band in 5th grade. The solo and ensemble events have grown to 41 participants, 31 of those students receiving ratings of one. In addition, his chorus members have doubled in number. He has pioneered the elementary guitar program, and a school talent show. Tryouts for the show serve as a learning tool for performance. He has even encouraged staff participation, a wonderful way for students to see their role models in fun filled and creative circumstances.

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

**St. Charles Public Library:** The St. Charles Public Library under the direction of Diana Brown actively encourages programs that support and involve the community. Of special note are the projects, performances and educational opportunities that involve the arts and arts education. These community components involve classes, workshops, presentations, visiting artists and receptions that take place in the library and in the community throughout the year. These opportunities have promoted the arts and arts education for the past 35 years, and may go much further back in the library's history. Included in the library schedule are visits by performing artists, including musicians, historical portrayals, writers, poets, story tellers, visual artists and illustrators. Library audiences are able to see and hear first-hand these artists from different disciplines and appreciate their art forms.

**Lieutenant Governor, Sheila Simon:** From an arts and education perspective, Lt. Gov. Simon has earned high marks during her time in office, lending her voice to a number of arts and education initiatives, including her recent keynote address at the 2012 Illinois Music Educators Conference and appointment as chair on the Joint Educational Leadership Committee for the P-20 Council (the state's top educational advisory body). Prior to her tenure as Lt. Governor, she served for five years on the Illinois Arts Council. In addition, her continued efforts to transform the state's community college system through workforce development programs is a testament to her understanding that education does not simply end when a student graduates, but rather is an interconnected support system from adolescence to adulthood.

On arts education, Lt. Gov. Simon suggests that we may have "missed the boat" when we only take into account math and reading scores, arguing that "there is so much more that goes into our education". A musician and educator herself, Lt. Governor Simon is both an avid supporter of the arts and active participant, she understands the importance of arts learning in a well-rounded curriculum and the impact it can have, even later in life.

**Janet Seitz-Carlson/Prairie Art Alliance (Continued):** Janet Seitz-Carlson has been executive Director since May, 2011 and has been instrumental in increasing the visibility of the PAA in the community, even though the financial outlook has been difficult. Her responsibilities include working with the budget, financial records and disbursement of funds, coordinating the Board activities, educational and outreach programs and workshops, exhibits, displays and other public functions at the Gallery. She also directs, promotes and coordinates a Business Art Service rental/sales program for the PAA. She develops and coordinates grant writing, fundraising and membership dues for both juried and associate members. She oversees the PAA website and all communications and public relations on behalf of the PAA. Janet is an outstanding administrator, friend of the arts and of all the individual artists. With all that she accomplished it is no doubt that she should be recognized for her contributions to the arts.

**David Motley:** David Motley is a resident of Waukegan, IL. He is recognized throughout Lake County for his outstanding and tireless dedication to his art, for developing the local Waukegan art culture, and educating its citizens. One of the many exciting events that David manages and promotes is "ArtWauk", an event that occurs once a month and has been in existence for over a year. Because of the event, hundreds of people come to Waukegan to see the new art galleries, visit the shops, and show true appreciation for the art scene. In David's words, it has been a strange and wonderful path in my more than 20 years of experience working for the City of Waukegan along with other duties, as assigned, dictating the pace of my life. It seems that my mission of late has been a very interesting one that of trying to wrestle with universal concepts like—How do you teach passion? How do you foster creativity? How do you inspire someone to give a darn? It is my opinion that our ArtWauk event seems to have started to help provide answers to these questions. It is the intersection of where the arts, neighborhood identity, community development, civic imagination and the "try anything" moment meet. I still look back at this time and consider it as the 'hey day' when the community really could recognize the true impact and the role that the arts could play in Waukegan. Support of arts related programs enhance community development, promote cultural planning, stimulate economic development, spur urban renewal, attract new businesses, and is improving the quality of life in our cities and towns.

David has also visited schools and colleges to share information about his evolution as an artist and how that ties in to his promotional job for the city of Waukegan.

**Peoria Symphony Guild:** One of The Guild's major and most far-reaching programs is the series of Student Concerts that was launched in 1954. To date this live concert experience has been presented to an audience of 375,341 students grades 4 through 12, within a 100 mile radius of Peoria. For many students it is their first and only exposure to the kind of music that is neither rap, nor rock, nor country nor top 40. They hope that their audiences will gain an appreciation for the best music and consequently, the better things in life.

The Peoria Symphony Guild's trail blazing puppet show has brought a remarkable show-biz music appreciation event to 5-9 year olds in a record setting 42 year run. Every year one of three productions, Hansel and Gretel, Peter and the Wolf, and Peer Gynt is offered to kindergarten through grade three in the tri county area.

Two other Guild-sponsored programs center on more mature young people. One is the Young Artist's Competition, the winner of which performs with the orchestra and the annual Student Concerts and the other is the Master Class presented whenever possible by artists who are here as soloists with the orchestra. The Peoria Symphony Guild is a group that offers the arts to children in a very large area, and sparks a light for many. The Guild is to be commended for the gifts they provide for so many young people in and around Peoria.

#### **David Larkin (Continued):**

The school does not have a formal Drama Dept. but David's collaboration with the school's art instructor allows students to integrate the disciplines of music and art through drama. He is currently working toward integrating Common Core Standards with a wide variety of material that will cause, on the part of the students, application of higher order thinking skills. He encourages all learners to experience music in many forms. Part of David's philosophy is that the arts truly make a difference in cultivating "well rounded individuals".

"To teach is to touch a life forever", David Larkin's teaching of music really does touch lives, in many ways, on a daily basis and beyond.

**Mike McCoy (Music Educator High School):** Mike is a Music Educator at Sterling High School, a wonderful mentor and role model for his students. One of his great accomplishments is a music appreciation class he has recently added to the fine arts curriculum. Many times he finds himself teaching troubled youth that have no interest in music other than their own pop culture, they are just there for a credit. However, by the end of the semester, his students proclaim him as their favorite teacher and have a sudden and new found appreciation of all types of music and its ability to touch the human soul. Students confide in him, discuss their problems with him, and he reaches out and teaches them not only about music but about life.

He directs marching band, pep band, jazz band and often helps with musicals either directing or participating in the pit orchestras. In addition to teaching, directing and assisting he includes duties such as; Veteran's Day services, Memorial Day services, parades, evening pep band groups and is an active participant in his church music program. He is a loyal member of the Illinois Music Educators Association, has hosted regional auditions for over 80 schools and has sent as many as 25 all-state musicians for the Sterling H.S. music programs to all-state. Mike believes that the key to helping students succeed is to show them that someone cares about them.

### **Visual Arts Educator**

**Nathan Corbit:** Nathan Corbit's Superintendent, Greg Frehner, informed us that Nathan has significantly expanded Vienna District #55 visual arts education program for students, staff, and community stakeholders. His list of accomplishments include raising advocacy and awareness of the visual arts, establishing curriculum alignment with benchmarks and targets, leading a gifted art program, empowering students to create three outstanding murals within the school showcasing the accomplishments of Vienna Grade School students. Nathan reaches out to the community by facilitating visual art projects for the Junior High Beta Club at state and national conventions, connecting the art program to the annual spring play, organizing weekend and spring time art shows, and for the summer of 2013 putting in motion an art program that connects students to Shawnee Community College. His efforts for students and stakeholders in rural Southern Illinois certainly deserve recognition.

**Julie Jenkins:** Julie has been teaching in the Peru public school system for 13 years. She is involved in community service through being founder/president of North Central Illinois ARTworks. She is also a Visual Arts Committee Chairperson for the Peru Maud Powell Arts Celebration. She has helped Applebee's in Peru, IL with their rotating art display of student artwork from her classes at Parkside School and from North Central IL ARTworks.

Her Courses are aligned according to the state standards and the Charlotte Danielson Framework for teaching Art, Graphic Design, Ceramics and Family Living. She plans and supervises student contests, the arranging of art exhibits, supervision of field trips to museums and art galleries. In addition to her regularly assigned duties she includes in her schedule internal coaching for her school's Positive Behavior Interventions, yearbook advisor and assisting with stage designs for musicals and she teaches private lessons for adult learners. Her commitment to Art, education and volunteering in the community is invaluable.

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

**Della Montgomery:** Della is a 7-12 visual art instructor in a rural district her passion and commitment to education is remarkable and to have that passion and commitment displayed through the art of her students is commendable. Della has given her students the encouragement to pursue careers in graphic design, video game design, costume and makeup artistry, fashion design and mixed media art. She has made it her mission to find the artist in everyone and exploit that talent to produce some amazing works of art. She has worked alongside other educators to help them create workshops for parents.

She has shown her passion in keeping the arts alive by providing a way for students to express their inner diva through the junior high and high school play. She spends her time and money to give these students a voice who normally would not be stand-out students. She provides a chance for them to shine in the spotlight for one night. She is an amazing person, an outstanding educator, advocate and most of all gifted in speaking and teaching art to students in classrooms where math, science and reading scores tend to dominate the curriculum.

**Joshua Shearer:** Joshua Shearer is currently employed serving Anna School District #37 teaching visual art to students in third through eighth grade. Josh is the kind of teacher that inspires one to constantly work to become a better art instructor. He presents studio and art history with enthusiasm. He stretches student concepts of the arts and how arts fit into their lives. He connects what is happening in the community with what is being taught in the classroom. He is teaching skills and concepts of the arts and how important the arts are to their lives. He successfully integrates classroom curriculum subjects with his art projects. To emphasize just how dedicated Josh is to his chosen profession, when he received his job at Anna, he asked his superintendent what the budget for the art program was, he replied, "You are the art teacher, you find the money." Instead of being discouraged to come into a new job without an art budget, Josh being the dedicated arts instructor that he is, turned to the community for financial support by making art club shirts with local businesses on the back to support and raise money for his program. His project was so successful that he was able to fully fund his arts programs for the academic year. Josh expanded his work into the community at large by single handedly taking on the responsibility of putting together the first southern Chapter art conference gaining 50 attendees from Southern Illinois. He is truly an inspiring teacher and an enthusiastic leader/advocate for the arts.

**Julie Kolze-Sorenson:** Julie Kolze is a passionate advocate for art education and the arts. She has taught every age level from Pre-school through community college, but her favorite and longest teaching position is her current job at Genoa-Kingston Middle School. Julie finds the energy, creativity and ability it takes to help this age group overcome challenges to be very rewarding. She collaborates with the music instructor to coordinate the fine arts at the middle school. She sponsors the art club to provide extra-curricular enrichment for the students. She has worked with the local Lions Club for two years to coordinate the "Peace Poster" contest. She edits the school yearbook and works with students to design the book's cover.

Julie is passionate about pursuing her own art and participates actively in art shows and competitions. She feels her work as an artist is an integral part of her life and her teaching. To round out their understanding of art in the real world, she shares with her students her experiences with 2D and 3D media, and published artwork and writings. She is always looking for new ways to make art come alive for her students and the community at large.

## **INDUSTRY & BUSINESS AWARDS**

**Fourth Friday/Sterling Main Street:** Janna Groharing, Tim McNinch and Susan Boyd - The citizens of Sterling are proud of these three people and their efforts to bring the arts to their city. Janna Groeharing and Tim McNinch, as community volunteers in support of the arts, had an idea that launched into an evening on September 23, 2011, the fourth Friday in downtown Sterling. That first event invited 15 artists of various art forms to be located in a number of businesses in the downtown area from 6:00—8:00 PM. It was a booming success. Not only did it expose local artists to the public but it also provided a venue for the artists to share their talent, as many performed or did demonstrations as well as inviting the public into a business where they may not normally enter. It was after that evening that Susan Boyd, Exec. Director of the Sterling Main Street organization started working with Janna and Tim giving support and supervision to the event.

The beauty of this monthly event is that not all artists are selling their items; some are just sharing their passion for an art form. Entry to all the venues is free to the public. The overall result is an increased awareness in the community of how many, how talented, and how varied are the local artists. These individuals who designed and orchestrated the events in downtown Sterling truly have accomplished what they set out to do, and that is to bring to the community "Fourth Fridays where people and the arts collide".

**Sauk Valley Bank:** Sauk Valley Bank is an advocate for the arts helping to keep organizations like the Woodlawn Arts Academy alive and thriving. Sauk Valley Bank employees always go the extra mile to take care of the academy needs. They have volunteered their time, have worked at different arts events and currently serve on different academy committees. Their support has been endless. Sauk Valley Bank celebrates the Academy successes like they are their own, by sending notes of encouragement or making a phone call to say Congratulations. As the Academy was looking for ways to grow and reach out to the community this local bank took them under their wing providing them with numerous opportunities to "soar". Sauk Valley Bank consistently demonstrates professionalism, community, dependability and respect for the arts.

## **PUBLIC & COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS**

**Janet Seitz-Carlson/Prairie Art Alliance:** Prairie Art Alliance in Springfield is a not-for-profit art gallery and school committed to fostering community awareness of and participation in the visual arts. The Prairie Art Alliance began as a women's artist support group in 1979 for about six artists the PAA has grown to include over one hundred artists and ample associate members who support the arts.

The PAA is located in the Hoogland Center offering art classes for both children and adults throughout the year. All materials and supplies are provided for children including paint shirts. Workshops offer a variety of media and interest levels. Scholarships are available through grant funding provided by Target, the Illinois Arts Council Springfield Area Arts Council and the Sangamon County Community Foundation.