

# ART NEWS

## NAEA Conference Experience—

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I recently attended the National Art Education Association Conference in Minneapolis. This was my very first NAEA Conference I am ashamed to say but, better late than never. I might still have never attended one of these had it not been for the fact that, as President-Elect for the Florida Art Education Association, I am a member of the Delegates Assembly. This was an educational experience in itself as the voting body helps to shape and determine what will eventually become NAEA policy.

The conference alone can be quite overwhelming for a first-timer. I decided to stick with General Sessions, the NAEA Bookstore, and the Exhibitors' Hall. All three provided a

wealth of opportunities to network with art educators from around the United States. I was in awe of the sum of educational experience that filled the Convention Center. Nearly 4,000 people were in attendance. Among them were Duval art teachers **Glendia Cooper** (Terry Parker HS), **Gerie Leigh** (retired/Stanton), and **Gretchen Ebersol** (retired/DASOTA). Also in attendance were FAEA executive board members **Pat Lamb**, **Sue Castleman**, **Mabel Morales**, and **Marshall Adams**.

The NAEA Bookstore provided "hot-off-the-press" editions of books and pamphlets of which I purchased several of them. I will be sharing information from these with you from

time to time.

The Exhibitors' Hall was like that of the Florida Art Education Association but about 4 times larger. Many of the vendors were eager to talk to me and we discussed several workshop experiences they are willing to provide to Duval County art teachers this next school year.

Although my goal is to build attendance at our state association, I now feel that every teacher at some point in his or her career must make the effort to go to a national conference. I would suggest, though, you not wait 30 years to attend!

*Jack E. Matthews*

District Specialist,

### Dates to Remember

May 7—Best of Elementary Art Show reception 6:00-8:00 FCCJ Kent Campus Gallery E-112

19—Art work available for teacher pick up Art Lab 3:00-5:30

25—Memorial Day

27-28—Art work available for teacher pick up Art Lab 3:00-5:30

June 5—Last day for students

8-9—Post Planning Days (laptops due back at Art Lab 1:00-4:00)

10—DATA End of the Year Luncheon 11:30 (place: TBA)

## NAEA Materials to Learn From—

While at Conference, I visited the NAEA Bookstore. I picked up several books and pamphlets, including *Point of View Series Curriculum: Creating Curriculum in Art* by Phillip C. Dunn; *The Impact of Early Art Experiences on Literacy Development* by Kathy Danko-McGhee and Ruslan Slutsky; *Through the Prism:*

*Looking Into the Spectrum of Writings by Enid Zimmerman* by F. Robert Sabol and Marjorie Cohee Manifold; *NAEA Professional Standards for Visual Arts Educators* and *NAEA Standards for Art Teacher Preparation*.

Additionally, NAEA has put out a pamphlet called *Learning*

*in a Visual Age: The Critical Importance of Visual Arts Education*. This last piece can be accessed via NAEA's new web address [www.arteducators.org](http://www.arteducators.org)

I am anxious to begin reading these as I am looking for insight to things that can be shared with our art teachers, administrators, and district leaders.

**NOT A MEMBER OF NAEA?** I encourage you to become a member. The membership of \$50 has not gone up in over 20 years. Monthly newsletters, booklets, and studies are sent to you when you join. I also encourage you to join our state organization. FAEA is only as strong as its membership. FAEA provides great professional development opportunities for its members, publications, and opportunities to showcase student art work and teacher excellence.

## Middle School Art Exhibition: a Strong Show—



The Middle School Exhibition had its opening reception Tuesday, April 14 at the Kent Campus Gallery. On hand to present award recognitions was Deputy Superintendent **Patricia Willis**. She congratulated the students and the excellent teachers who inspired them, transferring their own knowledge and skills in order for students to produce the fine pieces showcased in the exhibition. Approximately 35 Juror's Choice awards were presented as well as 20 Administrative Awards. Juror for this year's show was Artist-in-Residence **Joi Hosker**.



The overall body of work was very strong. Special recognition of instructional excellence must be noted regarding the following teachers:

**Marjorie Morton** (Kernan) - Very strong collage still life images with bold colors. Her students received a majority of the Juror's Choice awards.

**Katy McIntyre** (LaVilla) - 3-D clay and sculptural pieces show imagination and push students to think hard about the process and construction

**Tracy Reed** (Kirby-Smith) - Very few middle schools include photography in their cur-

riculum. Tracy has apparently succeeded in having students look at overall composition and commentary impact the photograph has on the viewer.

**Cheryl Lunger** (LaVilla) - What a difference it makes when students can work on location using stretched canvases and easels. The maturity of the work selected from her class is evidence of the caliber of work all teachers can aspire to produce from their students.

Following selections for the Summer School Board Exhibit, student work will be available for retrieval beginning **May 19 at the Art Lab**.

## The "Best of Elementary" Show Opens the 7th—



From Elementary Library Show  
Downtown Library Site

The Annual "Best of Elementary" Show will have its opening reception **May 7 from 6:00-8:00** at Kent Campus/Gallery E-112. Assisting with the presentation of special awards will be School Board Chair **Tommy Hazouri**.

The show is selected from the annual Elementary Library Exhibits displayed in 15 city libraries. Pared down to 100 2-dimensional pieces as well as a large number of 3-dimensional pieces, the show represents some of the best work happen-

ing in our public elementary schools under the direction of certified art teachers.

The show will remain on display through May 14.

## Recognition for School Art Programs in the Near Future?

**Jack Matthews** has recently returned from Brevard County after taking part in their **Excellence in Visual Arts (EVA)** review. A few years ago, the Brevard County Cultural Alliance, along with **Peggy Nolan**, District Specialist for Visual Arts, created a model for recognizing schools with outstanding visual arts programs. Evidence of exemplary programs was provided through teacher experience, administrative support, community involvement, and financial, technical, and facilitatory provisions.

Every elementary and secondary school up for re-evaluation for the award provided their art

teacher(s) with state of the art technology, materials, and an art lab. Cross-curricular teaching was evident as many of the classroom teachers continued art processes or built upon lessons taught in the art lab. Matthews saw this as a great opportunity to evaluate programs and their needs in Duval County through the development of a similar award process.

The process for EVA is one the **Department of Education** is extrapolating from as it moves forward in developing the **Visual Arts Demonstration School** application. DOE Arts Education Director **Linda**

**Lovins**, along with Jack Matthews, Peggy Nolan, and several other art supervisors/district art specialists from around the state, are developing this application process in order for it to be unveiled at the Florida Art Education Association Conference in October.

The committee working on this, with a nod from the Florida Art Education Association Board, is hopeful this system of recognition will motivate school districts to significantly support art programs in their schools.

## Visual/Verbal Learners and Brain Activity—

In the March 24 edition of **ScienceDaily**, evidence was shared through a study conducted at the University of Pennsylvania regarding learning styles. Studies show that visual learners tend to convert “linguistically presented information into visual mental representations”. The opposite appears to be true for verbal learners who tend to turn visual images into linguistic representations.

The old saying “I am a visual learner” or “I am a verbal learner” now takes on stronger meaning. Through the study conducted via magnetic imaging, results showed that when participants, considered to be visual learners, were confronted with the written word, the visual cortex was significantly activated, changing word into image.

Further research may be

able to provide information which will determine if these cognitive styles of learning are “predisposed” or can be learned.

For a more complete report, go to <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/03/090325091834.htm>

## Teacher Takes Art Into the Community—

Schools and community businesses can create partnerships which help fund school programs and raise art awareness. Teachers, principals, and parents can solicit business partners who usually donate funds or supplies to a school in their area. One of the ways art teachers can help solicit partners is by offering to hang student work at participating businesses. When I asked Hemming Plaza Jewelers, a regular participant in the Downtown ArtWalk, to become a business sponsor, the Art is Elementary Exhibit was

born! This exhibition features nearly 200 art works from the three schools I serve: **Susie Tolbert, R.V. Daniels, and S.A. Hull.**

Visit Hemming Plaza Jewelers through the month of May, located at 231 N. Hogan Street, or join us for the second opening reception which will be held May 6th from 5:30-8:30 during the ArtWalk. HPJ will be offering a 10% discount to any school employee, parent, or guardian on purchases. Just ask for it!

The feeling you get when walking into this exhibition is much like art class itself: colorful, active, overwhelming, and triumphant. The more our community sees artwork from our schools, the less they will need to be reminded of why art education must remain a part of our schools. America’s future is in the hands of tomorrow’s creative problem solvers. **VIVA THE ARTS!**

Article by Tiffany Arteaga McGuire



Tiffany McGuire

## SPOTLIGHT on Art Educators—Moises Ramos

Last month, the **Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville** awarded **Moises Ramos** the **Memphis Wood Excellence in Teaching Award for 2009**. Along with the award, Moises was presented a check for \$1,000. Here is what principal **Robert Snyder** says about this teacher:

“Moises Ramos is passionate about teaching. To him it is a calling and gift that began in Puerto Rico and has since evolved into a fine-tuned labor of love.” He goes on to say

“[Moises] sets the atmosphere of warmth and community in our elementary environment with his gallery of masterpieces which fill the children, who are the artists, with pride. Through his Latin flair and personal passion for the subject, Mr. Ramos is not only an art teacher, but a teacher who uses art to teach. As an ESOL center, one third of our students come from other countries. Mr. Ramos is very involved in creating an atmosphere of acceptance and a culture of respect at Arlington Heights. He has been

instrumental in implementing our theme: *One World, Many Cultures* by designating an Hispanic Celebration involving parents coming to school to share their heritage. As a teacher of the year, Mr. Ramos is an example of excellence in teaching and his artistic signature sweeps from his students, to his fellow teachers, to the parents of our students, and into the community. And as he leaves his mark, we all grow...as artists, as learners and inspired individuals.”



Moises Ramos




#3001  
6th Floor—Fine Arts Department

Phone: 904-390-2677  
Fax: 904-390-2260  
E-mail: matthewsj@duvalschools.org

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**ART LAB:** 2924 KNIGHTS LANE EAST  
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32216  
**PHONE:** 732-5123



“The artist is nothing without the gift, but the gift is nothing without the work.”

- Emile Zola

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## Upcoming Events in Our Schools & Communities:

Following are some of the events going on this May in our Duval County Public Schools:

- **Greenland Pines Elementary**—Cultural Arts Fair May 4-5.
- **Beauclerc Elementary**— “Sights and Sounds” May 5 beginning at 6:00; student art exhibit followed by musical concert
- **Holiday Hill Elementary**— “Night of the Arts” May 7. Silent Auction at 5:30 performances at 6:30.
- **Ft. Caroline Elementary**— “Evening with the Arts” May 8. One piece of art work from each child displayed; music department will provide musical entertainment.
- **James Weldon Johnson Middle**— Fine Arts Night May 12. Performance by band and chorus; art show.
- **John Stockton Elementary**— “Kids Art Fair” May 12.
- **North Shore K-8 Micro-Society School**—Spring Arts Festival May 19
- **Biscayne Elementary**—Spring Arts Festival May 21 6:30; student art exhibition, musical and dance entertainment

