

**What's new and what's next: VPA is honoring Vanessa Williams with its Icon of Style Award, exhibiting new directions in photography, announcing the winners of its Concerto and Aria Competition, and overseeing strategic marketing efforts for FOX's Regional Sports Networks.**

# VPA MOMENTUM

**March 2011**

## 1\_Top stories



**Vanessa Williams '85 to receive VPA Icon of Style Award at New York City gala\_** The May 19 event will also honor JPMorgan Chase & Co. Chief Administrative Officer Frank Bisignano, who will receive the college's Dean's Award of Distinction. The gala includes a reception and fashion show featuring the top collections from fashion design seniors in VPA's Department of Design, followed by a benefit dinner for the college. [Read more.](#) *Photo by Gilles Toucas*

**Three VPA faculty members named Kauffman Professors of Entrepreneurship and Innovation\_** Cas Holman and Ruth Westervelt of the School of Art and Design's Department of Design and Ulf Oesterle of the Setnor School of Music's Bandier Program are among the most engaged SU faculty being brought together to network and discuss entrepreneurship courses, programs, ventures, and support. [Read](#)

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[more.](#)

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**Students travel to London during Spring Break for ‘Many Faiths, One Humanity’**\_VPA students and faculty are an integral part of the interfaith travel study experience in mid-March. Members of the group are sharing their experiences through writings, photos, and video. [Read more.](#)

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## 2\_Happenings



**‘New Directions in Photography’ on view through March 27 at XL Projects**\_What does it mean to be an art photographer today? In the exhibition *New Directions in Photography*, the third-year art photography graduate students in the School of Art and Design’s Department of Transmedia prove that the photographic medium has outgrown its traditional function as singular-print-on-the-wall and is now an expanded practice that includes video, sculpture, installation, and performance. [Read more.](#) *Image: Sarah Zamecnik, Cowboy in Clouds*

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**Department of Communication and Rhetorical Studies to sponsor guest lecture by Ronald Jackson II March 31**\_ Jackson, head of the University of Illinois' Department of African American Studies and a professor of media and cinema studies and African American studies, is one of the leading communication and identity scholars in the nation. His talk is titled “What Do Contemporary Films Teach Us about Race and African American Culture?” [Read more.](#)

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**‘Curse of the Starving Class’ to be presented by Department of Drama April 1-10**\_ Pulitzer Prize-winner Sam Shepard’s 1978 savage fantasy on America’s voraciousness only gets better with age. The production will be directed by Gerardine Clark, professor of acting and Celia and Issac Heiman Chair in the drama department. [Read more](#) or [buy tickets.](#)



**'ID+' to be exhibited at the Design Gallery at The Warehouse March 30-April 3** This annual event showcases outside works--art, film, painting, stand-up comedy, performance art, and more--of industrial and interaction design students in the School of Art and Design's Department of Design. [Read more](#). *Image: student work from ID+*

Find our complete events listings at [vpa.syr.edu/calendar](http://vpa.syr.edu/calendar). Watch live performances of Setnor School of Music concerts in Setnor Auditorium [here](#).

## 3\_Take note

The **Setnor School of Music**, in collaboration with the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra (SSO), recently announced the 2011 winners of its Concerto and Aria Competition. Five are being invited to perform on concerts this spring; four with the SU Symphony Orchestra (SUSO) on April 26 and one with the SSO on campus on April 2. The SUSO concert will feature senior **Jill Brenner** and graduate student **Juliette Sabbah**, piano and voice; graduate student **Jillian Bushnell**, bassoon; senior **Trevor Roche**, clarinet; and senior **Stephen Ryck**, cello. The SSO invitee is graduate student **Jianan Yu**, piano.

**James Abbott**, instructor of audio engineering in the Setnor School of Music, has been selected as a fellow at the Burton Blatt Institute (BBI) at Syracuse University. Fellow appointments provide select and accomplished faculty the opportunity to collaborate with BBI on innovative projects related to their disciplines, with impact for people with disabilities. Abbott will work with Peter Blanck, BBI chairman and University professor, on a music production program that enables people with disabilities to learn and use professional studio equipment.

**Anne Demo**, assistant professor of communication and rhetorical studies in the Department of Communication and Rhetorical Studies and the School of Art and Design,

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recently presented the talk “Screening Immigration: Reframing Illegal Immigration in the U.S. through the Documentary Lens” as part of SU's Program for the Advancement of Research on Conflict and Collaboration (PARCC) “Conversations in Conflict” series.

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**Fred Karpoff**, associate professor of piano and ensemble arts in the Setnor School of Music, had his six-part DVD series “[3-D Piano](#)” honored by the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) with its 2011 Frances Clark Keyboard Pedagogy Award. Karpoff co-produced the series with Richard Breyer, professor of television, radio, and film in the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. The MTNA established the award in 2001 to recognize an individual or group who has made a significant contribution to keyboard pedagogy.

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**Kimi Takesue**, assistant professor of film in the School of Art and Design's Department of Transmedia, had her short narrative film [That Which Once Was](#) have its world premiere at the SXSW Film Festival on March 13. The film was one of 10 films nationally commissioned by ITVS (Independent Television Service/PBS) as part of the FUTURESTATES series, where each filmmaker was invited to present a vision of American society in the not-too-distant future. Her feature-length Ugandan documentary [Where Are You Taking Me?](#) had its New York City premiere at the Museum of Modern Art in February as part of its Documentary Fortnight 2011. *Image: Natar Ungalaq in That Which Once Was*

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**Sam Van Aken**, associate professor of sculpture in the School of Art and Design's Department of Art, was honored with a prestigious Joan Mitchell Foundation 2010 Painters and Sculptors Award, which includes a \$25,000 grant. He recently had the solo exhibition *New Edens* at the 2011 Armory Show in New York City; his work received coverage by the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Vogue*, *Artinfo.com*, and *Art in America*, among others. *Image: from New Edens*

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The college's visiting artists and speakers in January and February included **Jem Aswad '85**, editor of *Billboard.biz*; art educators **Olivia Gude** and **Graeme Sullivan**; artists

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**Boston Valley Terra Cotta, Steve Cerio '87, and Chris Staley;** Cornerstone Promotion co-CEO **Jon Cohen '90;** Foundations Artist Management partners **Richard Cohen '00** and **Brian Winton;** ensembles **counter)induction** and **Meridian Phase 2;** **Shaun Cusick,** lead character modeler, Blue Sky Studios; somatic educator **Meriah Kruse;** illustrator **Dan Meth '99;** ESPN coordinating director of music **Claude Mitchell;** designers **Rodrigo Corral, Joan Orth, James Patten, Chris Woebken,** and **James Victore;** **Wayne Raicik '80,** vice president/associate creative director, Cronin & Co.; **Ken Weinstein,** co-founder of Big Hassle Media; and scholars **Kirt Wilson** and **David Zarefsky.**

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Read more faculty and student news and notes [here](#).

## 4\_For alumni



### Alumni spotlight: Chris Hannan

'95\_Hannan, who graduated with a bachelor of science degree in speech communication (now communication and rhetorical studies), is the senior vice-president, marketing, for FOX's Regional Sports Networks. A Los Angeles resident, he is active in his local community and also serves on SU's Athletic Advisory Board. [Read more](#).

### Upcoming alumni events

- \_April 1: NCECA conference reception honoring ceramics Professor Emeritus David MacDonald, Tampa, Florida. [Learn more](#).
- \_April 5: Fashion design alumni reception, New York City. [Learn more](#).
- \_April 27: Interior design and environmental design/interiors portfolio presentation and alumni reception, New York City. [Learn more](#).
- \_April 27, Industrial and interaction design thesis show, New York City. [Learn more](#).
- \_April 28: Communication and rhetorical studies alumni reception, New York City. [Learn more](#).

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April 28-29: Senior fashion show, Syracuse. [Learn more.](#)

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### **Career resources**

Participate in our 3rd Annual Spring Design Career Fair on April 1 in Syracuse! Review portfolios, speak on career advice, and introduce your company. (Program invitations to follow.)

Are you following your favorite companies on [LinkedIn](#)? When you follow them, jobs will be posted on your page when they become available.

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### **And don't forget...**

Visit the [alumni section](#) of the VPA web site to find many features, including our class notes, the Alumni Showcase about you, and our Marketplace (your virtual shop in which to promote products designed and/or created by you and where you are encouraged to patronize alumni-owned businesses across our network).

Join VPA alumni on [Facebook](#) as well as [LinkedIn](#). Visit [SU News 2.0](#) for a complete list of links to follow VPA and SU people and activities via social media, including Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter.

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The College of Visual and Performing Arts at Syracuse University is committed to the education of cultural leaders who will engage and inspire audiences through performance, visual art, design, scholarship, and commentary. We provide the tools for self-discovery and risk-taking in an environment that thrives on critical thought and action.



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