

What's new and what's next: What's new and what's next: VPA is participating in an international cultural diplomacy program, exhibiting graduate thesis work in New York City, bringing an audience to its feet, playing a courtroom sketch artist, and co-chairing Orange Central.

VPA MOMENTUM

November 2011

1_Top stories



VPA students contribute to international cultural diplomacy program co-sponsored by U.S. Department of State Thirteen students are serving as research assistants to professional visual artists preparing for residencies abroad. Student participation is facilitated through this fall's "Arts and Cultural Diplomacy" course taught by Joanna Spitzner, associate professor and chair of the Department of Foundation, and Jan Cohen-Cruz, Imagining America director and University professor. The course partners with smARTpowerSM, a program administered by the Bronx Museum of the Arts and funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. [Read more.](#)



Joshua Dekaney named interim director of Center for Live Music in the 21st Century

Based in the Setnor School of Music, the center is a unique entity that is a combination of a research center and arts business incubator. Dekaney, who will lead the center until a permanent director is hired, is a part-time instructor of percussion at the Setnor School who teaches drumset, Latin percussion, Brazilian percussion, and jazz improvisation; leads Samba Laranja, the Brazilian Ensemble; and directs the drumline of the Pride of the Orange Marching Band. He will establish programming, procedures, and staffing for the center's first initiatives. [Read more.](#)



Department of Design students contribute to Syracuse Little Free Library Project

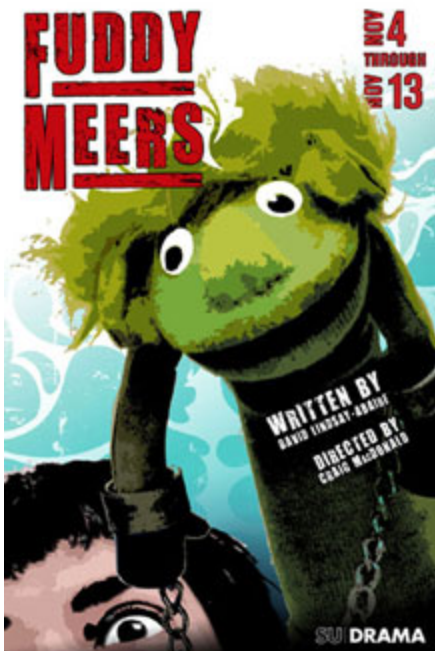
Design students are collaborating with SU's iSchool and residents of Syracuse's Near Westside on the Syracuse Little Free Library Project (SYR-LFL). Little Free Libraries are small, customized structures that house community-based lending libraries. Design students and Zeke Leonard, faculty member and shops manager in the department, recently participated in a workshop with a select group of librarians, iSchool library and information science students, and community members to identify potential locations for approximately five libraries, create community-based themes for each library, and discuss design requirements for the structures, which must be weatherproof. [Read more.](#)

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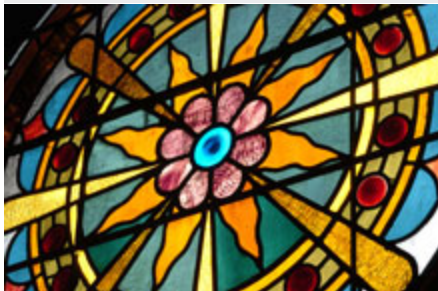
2_Happenings



Master of fine arts candidates mount 2011 thesis exhibition in New York City *Fishing from the Beach* features work by M.F.A. candidates from the Departments of Art and Transmedia and is curated by graduate students from Bard College's Center for Curatorial Studies. The show will be on view November 16-20 at Dumbo Arts Center in Brooklyn with an opening reception November 17. [Read more.](#) *Image: work (detail) by Nathaniel Sullivan*



Department of Drama's wild comedy 'Fuddy Meers' offers a colorful cast of characters *With moments like a wild carnival ride, throwing the characters back and forth between perception and reality, playwright David Lindsay-Abaire masters off-beat humor in Fuddy Meers, with a cast of characters consisting of a lisping, limping man; a pot-smoking teenager; an ex-con turned suburban father; a man who uses a puppet to communicate; a skeptical police officer; and an amnesiac woman. Craig MacDonald, associate professor of drama, directs the production in the reconfigured Storch Theatre Nov. 4-13.* [Read more.](#)



Enjoy performances by Setnor School of Music ensembles even if you're not in Syracuse! Most Setnor School concerts held in Crouse College's Setnor Auditorium are [streamed live](#) (audio and video) on our web site. The school's November concert calendar includes performances by the Oratorio Society, Samba Laranja (Brazilian Ensemble), University Singers, Concert Choir, and a number of instrumental ensembles (see a complete list [here](#)).

Find our complete events listings at vpa.syr.edu/calendar.

3_Take note

Daniel S. Godfrey, professor of composition in the Setnor School of Music, was one of two conductors in a concert by the Yale Russian Chorus Alumni at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Litchfield, Conn. Included on the program were Russian Orthodox liturgical repertoire and Russian folk songs, with settings and arrangements by Arkhangelsky, Bortniansky, Grechaninov, Mickiewisz, Tchaikovsky, and Rimsky-Korsokov. Godfrey's conducting of the concert finale brought a packed house of 800-plus to its feet.

Ulf Oesterle, assistant professor of music and entertainment industries in the Setnor School of Music's Bandier Program, spoke at CMJ's Music Marathon in October as part of the panel "Music Industry: Higher Education."

Amardo Rodriguez, professor of communication and rhetorical studies in the Department of Communication and Rhetorical Studies, co-authored the new book *Liminal Traces: Performing, Storying, and Embodying Postcoloniality* (Sense Publishers, 2011). His article "Postcoloniality and the Speaking Body: Revisioning the English Oral Competency Curriculum" *Critical Studies: Critical Methodologies* (2010; co-authored with Devika Chawla) was selected for the African American Communication and Culture Division Article Award by the National Communication Association (NCA). The award will be given on November 19 at the NCA's annual convention.

Susannah Saylor, assistant professor of art photography in the Department of Transmedia, recently participated in the panel "What Ifs: Climate Change and Creative Agency" at Parsons The New School for Design in New York City.

Tom Sherman, professor of art video in the Department of Transmedia, presented his recent video art at the ADJA Gallery in Liverpool, Nova Scotia. He will also present his video and lecture at the McLuhan100 Conference in Toronto on November 10. His

presentation is titled “Technology as language: Cultural engineering begets Personal humans.” His video, *Talking to Nature*, is currently featured in an exhibition of work by laureates of Governor General’s Awards in Visual and Media Arts at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia in Halifax, which runs through November 30.

Andrew Waggoner, professor of composition in the Setnor School of Music, just had his new CD *Terror and Memory* released on Albany Records. Funded by a major award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and featuring performances by Open End, the Corigliano String Quartet, Flexible Music, and the Danish group Ensemble Nordlys, the CD is made up of chamber works composed by Waggoner over the last 10 years.

The college’s visiting artists and speakers in October included artists **Joe Ciardiello**, **John Collier**, **James Little G’76**, **Ken Maxwell ’03**; **Daniel Serig**, and **Nan Smith**; music producer **Scott Billington**; **Buglisi Dance Theatre**; **Shinge Roko Sherry Chayat Roshi**; historical keyboardist **Ulrika Davidsson**; creative director **Joyce Fish ’77**; music industry entrepreneur **Josh Grabelle ’96 G’01**; Universal Republic Records executive vice president **Joel Klaiman**; artist manager/attorney **Michael Lehman**; author/editor **Robert Levine**; new music ensemble **Open End**; composer **Philip Rothman**; and pianist **Stephanie Trick**.

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

4_For alumni



Alumni spotlight: Desira Pesta ’05_Pesta studied painting in VPA’s Department of Art and has a passion for drawing and acting. She recently finished shooting an episode of *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, in which she was cast as a courtroom sketch artist. She has also garnered national attention for her self-titled clothing line, which was inspired by her 2004 study abroad experiences in Italy. She credits her education at VPA as “instrumental” for her growth as an artist. [Read more.](#)



_November 10-13: [Orange Central](#) (Homecoming + Reunion) 2011, Syracuse. Featuring Breakfast with the Deans, Communication and Rhetorical Studies Alumni Panel, and more!

_November 17: [M.F.A. show reception](#), Brooklyn, N.Y.

_November 18: [Communication and rhetorical studies alumni reception](#) at National Communication Association national convention, New Orleans

_December 2: [Setnor School of Music alumni reception](#) at NYSSMA winter conference, Rochester, N.Y.

Visit the [alumni section](#) of the VPA web site to find many features for alumni. Join VPA alumni on [Facebook](#) as well as [LinkedIn](#). Help us go green by sharing this e-mail with fellow alumni who don't receive our e-mails. If they fill out our [online form](#), they will receive future issues of Momentum, alumni event e-vites, and other college information of interest.

5_Giving back



Emme '85 welcomes alumni back to campus as Orange Central 2011 co-chair and host of Orange Central Bash Emme, a graduate of the college's Department of Communication and Rhetorical Studies, is a successful supermodel, television personality, author, lecturer, creative director for her clothing lines, and nationally recognized women's advocate for positive body image and self-esteem. For this year's [Orange Central](#) celebration November 10-13, she is serving as co-chair and hosting the Orange Central Bash, the event's biggest and most unique party. She will also co-present the talk "Dream Big: Let Go of Negative Self-Speak and Live the Life You Desire" with national fitness guru and entrepreneur Nicole Glor '99 as part of Orange Central Showcase. [Read more about Emme.](#)

Don't miss out on your chance to give VPA a vibrant future. Visit our [secure, online giving site](#) or learn about more ways you can [get involved](#) and give back to the college.

Momentum is published by the VPA Office of Communications under the leadership of Dean Ann Clarke. Send comments to Erica Blust, Director of Communications and Media Relations, at esblust@syr.edu. For more information about the college, visit our web site at vpa.syr.edu.

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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