

What's new and what's next: VPA is ranked among the nation's best design schools; performing in a fantastical, musical adventure; presenting research at a national communication convention; working as a designer in the Big Easy; and promoting youth literacy and self-esteem.

VPA MOMENTUM

December 2011

1_Top stories

Two VPA design programs ranked among top 10 in nation by DesignIntelligence _ The 2012 DesignIntelligence Report "America's Best Architecture & Design Schools" ranked VPA's industrial and interaction design program at No. 3 in the nation for undergraduate industrial design programs. The college's environmental and interior design program was ranked No. 10 in the nation for undergraduate interior design programs. Both programs are housed in VPA's Department of Design. DesignIntelligence ranks programs from the perspective of leading practitioners. [Read more.](#)

Continuum establishes award recognizing innovation in interdisciplinary design education at SU _ The global innovation design consultancy co-founded by Gianfranco Zaccai '70 H'09, its president and chief design officer, has established the Continuum + Arthur Pulos Award, which is presented to an exemplary faculty member at SU who has made unique and valuable contributions to interdisciplinary design education. Its name in part honors the late Arthur Pulos, ICSID, FIDSA, a globally renowned industrial designer, early leader of the industrial design



profession, and a professor and longtime chair of the Department of Design. Don Carr, VPA professor of industrial and interaction design, was named the award's inaugural recipient. He will be honored with Zaccai and Continuum at a reception on December 15 in New York City. [Read more](#) and learn about the dynamic award (pictured at left).



Samba Laranja: the SU Brazilian Ensemble wins Syracuse Area Music Award for 'Native Orange' album_Released in April 2011 by Syracuse University Recordings, the University's student-run record label, and recorded on the SU campus, *Native Orange* received the award for Best Recording, Other Styles at the recent Syracuse Area Music Awards (also known as SAMMYS). Samba Laranja directors and album executive producers Elisa Macedo Dekaney and Joshua Dekaney worked with a team of Setnor School of Music students and fellow Setnor faculty on *Native Orange*, which includes folk and popular music sung in Portuguese as well as the native languages of the Ägn and Suruí people of Rondônia, Brazil. [Read more](#).

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2_Happenings



Department of Drama, Syracuse Stage co-produce ‘The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe’ for the holiday season_The musical’s 27-member cast includes professionals from around the country and drama students earning points toward membership in the Actors’ Equity Association. As one of Stage and SU Drama’s largest productions to date, *Lion* required full use of Stage’s resident shops to create the beauty and magic of Narnia. Directed by Linda Hartzell, the show runs through December 31. [Read more](#) or [buy tickets](#). *Image (l-r) Marie Eife '12 (as Susan), Jordan Barbour (as Aslan), and Jenaha McLearn '12 (as Lucy). Photo: Michael Davis*



Communications design, museum studies students collaborate on ‘Six Sides of Japanese Package Design’_Based on a collection of different Japanese products, this exhibition is the result of a collaboration between undergraduate communications design students in the class “Problem-Solving Strategies,” taught by Roderick Martinez, and graduate museum studies students in the class “Museum Studies Practicum” taught by Bradley Hudson. The show is on view through January 19 at the Design Gallery at The Warehouse. [Read more](#).

Sculpture Club presents collaborative group show at VPA’s XL Projects_On view through January 8, the exhibition provides an excellent opportunity to see the vast array of artwork students have been creating in the sculptural field. The show is curated by Alex Svoboda '13 and Sarah Whitehouse '13. [Read more](#).

2011 M.F.A. thesis exhibition travels to West Coast_After shows on the SU campus and in New York City, the exhibition is now on view through January 21 at the San Pedro Arts & Academic Alliance in San Pedro, Calif. [Read more](#). A [reception](#) for VPA alumni will be held on January 8.

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

3_Take note

An incredible number of current graduate students and recent alumni from the Department of Communication and Rhetorical Studies presented research in November at the National Communication Association's Annual Convention in New Orleans, including **Olivia Conti**, **Alexa Eisner**, **Virginia Ferrer**, **Katie Lind G'11**, **Heather Roy**, **Mark Schaukowitch G'11**, **Emily Soule**, **Sally Spalding**, and **Danny Stofleth**. Read more about the research they presented [here](#).



The SU **"Pride of the Orange" Marching Band**, based in the Setnor School of Music and under the direction of **Justin J. Mertz**, assistant director of bands, has been invited to perform at the 77th Annual Heisman Memorial Trophy Gala on December 12 at the Marriott Marquis in New York City. The gala reception and awards presentation dinner honors the 2011 Heisman Trophy winner—who will be announced on December 10—as well as 2011 Heisman Humanitarian Award recipient. Renowned SU football player and 1961 Heisman winner Ernie Davis '62, the first African American to win the trophy, will be honored posthumously. The band will be featured throughout the event, portions of which will be aired on the ESPN family of networks.

Felix Cochren Jr., associate professor of theater design and technology in the Department of Drama, received an Outstanding Pioneer Award at the 39th Annual Audelco Awards, which honor excellence in African American theater.

Ilana Goldmeier, a sophomore art photography major in the Department of Transmedia, was selected out of 7,000 applicants to be one of 150 National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts YoungArts winners. She will have the opportunity to go to New York City for a master class with acclaimed photographer Bruce Weber, who selected only six students to participate. The master class will be filmed for an upcoming episode of HBO's *Masterclass* series.

Kimi Takesue, assistant professor of film in the Department of Transmedia, has been nationally nominated for the 2012 Alpert Award in Film/Video. The Alpert Award in the Arts provides annual prizes of \$75,000 to five engaged, independent artists working in the fields of film/video, music, dance, theater, and visual arts. The unrestricted prizes are awarded to exceptional mid-career artists who are challenging and transforming art, their respective disciplines, and society.



The college's visiting artists and speakers in November included artists **Doug Bucci**, **Marisa Olson**, **Jenny Schmid**, **Jean Shin**, and **Brent Wilson**; sound designer/filmmaker **Ben Burt**; actor/author **Taye Diggs '93**; supermodel/women's advocate **Emme '85**; illustrators **Shane W. Evans '92** and **Frank Stockton**; designers **Louise Fili** and **R. Roger Remington**; author/speaker **Robert Fishbone P'13** (pictured at left); creative director **Xanthe Hohalek**; **Kronos Quartet**; organist **Justin Murphy-Mancini**; **Joel Peresman**, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation president; and guitarists **Gohar Vardanyan** and **Jon Fitzgerald**.

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

4_For alumni



Alumni spotlight: Matthew Phelan '03 Communications design graduate Matthew Phelan works full time for a marketing agency in New Orleans and thoroughly enjoys his independent work, designing graphics and advertising for local businesses in the French Quarter, as well as managing his own screenprinting operation. "I think more than anything else, comm design taught me humility and discipline," he says. [Read more](#).

Join us for these VPA alumni events!

_December 6-8: [Setnor Singers Concert Tour](#), various cities nationwide

_December 15: [Continuum + Arthur Pulos Award Presentation and Reception](#), New York City

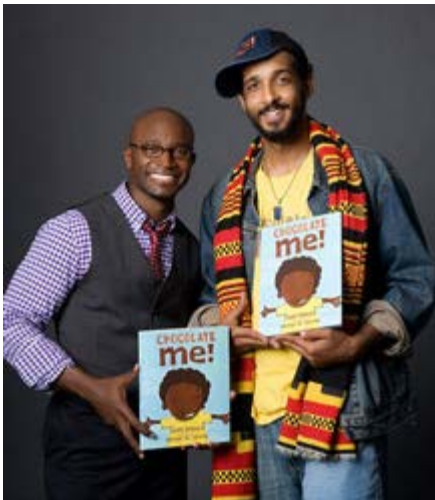
_January 8: [M.F.A. Show Alumni Reception](#), San Pedro, Calif.

Image: Four students from the Setnor School of Music comprise the Setnor Singers (l-r): Carina Digianfilippo '12, Ryan Whitman '12, Caitlin Moriarty '12, and Evan Wichman '12.



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



Taye Diggs '93 and Shane W. Evans '92 promote youth literacy, self-esteem in the 'Cuse—In November, television, film, and stage actor—and now author—Taye Diggs '93 (pictured, on left), a drama alumnus, along with illustration alumnus Shane W. Evans '92 (pictured, on right), visited campus for Orange Central and joined the Syracuse community in promoting literacy, education, and just being yourself. As collaborators for the children's book *Chocolate Me!* (Feiwel & Friends, 2011), Diggs and Evans held a book signing at the SU Bookstore as part of Orange Central and a book signing/Q-and-A for Syracuse children at a local church. *Chocolate Me!*, which Diggs wrote and Evans illustrated, carries an important message for children who may feel a little different from their peers. *Chocolate Me!* encourages kids to “appreciate their differences and celebrate them with a healthy sense of self-esteem.” While in Syracuse, Diggs also stopped by the Department of Drama to conduct a workshop for drama students.



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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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