

PHOENIX

MSAAA NEWSLETTER



Join us for
**Gallery Show and
Reception honoring
Anne O'Hara**

Jay Marion
Talks About how
he Maximizes his
College Experience

**Start Planning Now for
the 2016 Class Reunion**

Editor's Note

We hope everyone has had a good start to 2016. This fifth edition of our newsletter marks the one year anniversary of *The Phoenix Quarterly* and kicks off with the cover art from a colorful mixed media painting by Brianna Moore-Christa. Inside you'll catch some details about our 2016 class reunion in May, our MSAAA officer and representative elections coming up, and our reception hosted for Anne O'Hara's amazing exhibit *Hidden Treasures* featured at MSA.

At Mississippi School of the Arts Alumni Association (MSAAA) we are committed to working as diligently as possible to accomplish our goals. We've achieved so much in 2015 with the introduction of *The Phoenix Quarterly*, the success of our annual fundraiser at the Ole Brook Festival, MSA's first 10-year reunion, and the filing of our official non-profit status. As officers and representatives, we are excited to think about the opportunities ahead that we can provide for alumni and MSA students.

As always, we would like to encourage alumni to continue to contribute to our newsletter, and we thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Lauren Leslie on behalf of the newsletter committee



Do you want to be a contributor? Please send your submission to msartsalumni@gmail.com for approval.



5TH EDITION

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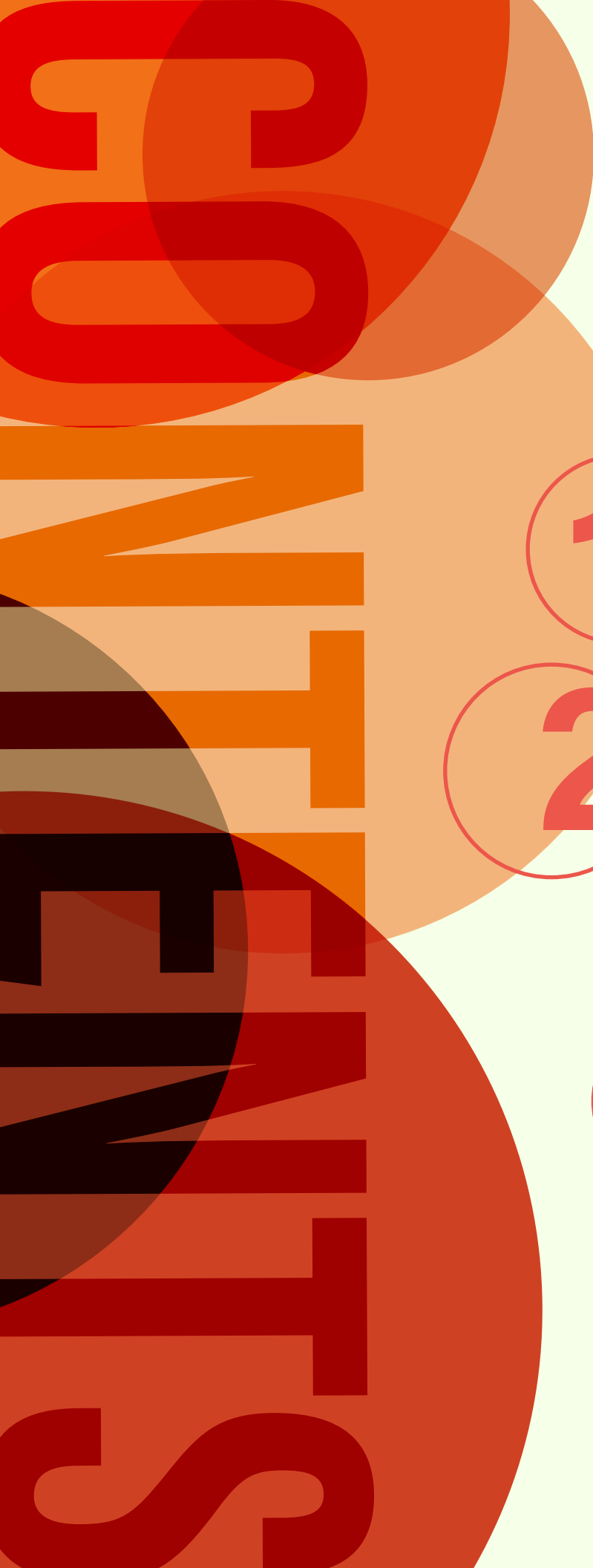
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MSAAA CLASS REUNION

May 14–May 15

We are excited to be hosting our 2016 class reunion this year for all graduated classes of MSA. The reunion is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends, explore the new changes on campus, and support MSA. While we are still working towards a finalized schedule for that weekend, we have set the date for the reunion along with most of the details to provide you with a general outline. More details will be published in the next edition of *The Phoenix Quarterly*. If you are able to attend, please use our [Facebook event page](#) to RSVP and stay updated about the event. Entry fee to the event is \$5.00 per person at the door.

Saturday, May 14

Registration and Breakfast	9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Enochs
MSAAA Alumni Meeting	10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Black Box
Tour of Campus	10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	
MSA's Picnic Events and Lunch		
Dinner	6:30 p.m.	<u>Georgia Blue</u>

Sunday, May 15

Brunch	11:00 a.m.	Enochs
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COMING IN MAY 2016

MSAAA ELECTIONS

Are you a good communicator? Do you want to make a difference? Do you have great ideas or skills to bring to the table? If you're a driven, self-motivated alumni who is seeking an amazing nonprofit organization to dedicate yourself as an officer or representative, then consider supporting MSAAA by running for an officer or representative position. The officers and representatives meet four times a year minimum. Only one of these meetings is a physical meeting, which takes place at the reunion at MSA once a year. The other three meetings take place via social media in August, in the weeks after Ole Brook Festival, and in January to plan the upcoming reunion. Officers may meet more frequently as needed at the discretion of the president. Please read the requirements and position descriptions below. For more information please contact us at msartsalumni@gmail.com.

Requirements

- 1) Must be a registered member of the Alumni Association for the duration of the term.
 - 2) Officers are expected to participate in a majority of the meetings, events, and activities of the association.
-

PRESIDENT Works directly with the vice president to organize meetings, and maintain effective communications between officers, representatives, alumni and MSA. The president is directly responsible for administrating social media pages and the email account. The president must attend the yearly reunion in order to facilitate the yearly member's meeting as well as chair over all regularly scheduled meetings and organizes the alumni booth at Ole Brook Festival. Promotes the welfare and further the objectives of this Association. Plays a lead role in fundraising activities and other events.

VICE PRESIDENT With the help of the president, organizes meetings, maintains communications between all officers, representatives and alumni. The vice president must attend all regularly scheduled meetings. Promotes the welfare and further the objectives of this Association.

TREASURER Works directly with the president to handle association business transaction, maintains the bank account and Paypal account, and attends all regularly scheduled meetings. The treasurer is also responsible for providing a bi-annual budget report to the newsletter for publication. Promotes the welfare and further the objectives of this Association.

SECRETARY Records and maintains minutes from each meeting, helps maintain effective communication between officers, representatives, alumni, and MSA. Attends all regularly scheduled meetings and assists the president and vice-president as needed. Promotes the welfare and further the objectives of this Association.

REPRESENTATIVES Play important supporting roles with MSAAA and alumni of their discipline. Representatives are responsible for the participation of their own disciplines during MSAAA events and should have the desire to provide opportunities for alumni associated with their field. They should bring new ideas to association regarding the involvement of the disciplines they represent, and they must be able to take initiative to carry out their ideas.



Hidden Treasures

Anne O'Hara

The Mississippi School of the Arts Alumni Association is hosting a reception honoring Anne O'Hara at the Mississippi School of the Arts on **January 12 from 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.**

O'Hara's work will also be hosted by MSA in **Enochs** from **January 5–28.**

Come out to support an MSA legend and reconnect.

MSA EVENTS

MSA needs your help! It's time to FINISH Elizabeth Cottage! Alumni who wish to order a brick are urged to do so as soon as possible. You are already a part of MSA history - don't you want to see it LITERALLY set in stone? (See page 7)

January	Junior Visual Arts Exhibit		Enochs Gallery
January 5–28	<i>Hidden Treasures</i> Exhibit		Enochs Gallery
February 18–20	Spring Dance Concert	7 p.m.	Enochs Theatre
April 1–3	<i>A Winter's Tale</i> , MSA Theatre Department	7 p.m.	Enochs
April 11	Visual Arts Showcase		Enochs Gallery
April 15	Musical Theatre Showcase	7 p.m.	Enochs Theatre
April 29	Senior Vocal Music Recital	7 p.m.	Lampton
May 13	MSA Spring Chorale Concert		Lampton

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

JAMIAUS MARION

by Lauren Leslie



Whether having practiced a craft for a lifetime or only a few months, the potential for improvement is the same no matter the amount of experience.

In Jamiaus's case, dancing was just an interest before he began

his studies at Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA). In fact, as of now he has only been dancing for five years but has seen a drastic improvement in his skills, even in just the two years that he attended MSA. During the beginning of his intense studies at MSA, he was discouraged by his novice dancing skills, as he realized how much work needed to be done. However, with the patience of his instructor, Tammy Stanford, dancing eventually became an expression of his strength, as he found enjoyment in transcending his limitations. "From then on, I wanted to pursue something that had made me who I am today,"

Jamiaus said. He credits Jennifer Jackson in light of his successes at MSA, including winning the Scholastic Young Arts Award.

When Southern Miss offered Jamiaus the highest dance scholarship only given to a select few students, it was no question that after graduating with honors from the dance discipline at MSA in 2012, he would attend The University of

Southern Mississippi (USM) where he continues his studies in Dance Performance and Choreography. However, Jamiaus's appreciation for the arts runs deeper than just dancing on a stage: "Art is passion; it's something that we have to do daily through our craft. We make meaningful connections with people even if they don't understand."

“From then on, I wanted to pursue something that had made me who I am today.”

Jamiaus affirms that college is a great place for people to begin establishing themselves as artists by using the knowledge and resources available to experiment and develop their skills during their education. "I think that studying art in college is beneficial to your growth as a person and artist." Despite common misconceptions concerning the practicality of going to college for art, Jamiaus emphasized the importance of the other college experiences that students have outside of just studying for a degree. Utilizing college's many opportunities and resources to

learn, grow, and lead, Jamiaus looks for ways to benefit from its value. He even joined a fraternity to make different friends who were not dancers.

By branching out and taking opportunities, he asserts that artists can also dominate a public school setting. While maintaining a 3.0 GPA, Jamiaus has been in several quality productions, won various awards, and serves in numerous

positions at USM including Vice President of the Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity. His love and passion for charity and fundraising has recently led him to be elected as Vice President of Philanthropy for the Interfraternity Council Executive board of Southern Miss. “MSA taught me that you can be an artist



and a leader as well.” Whether as a dancer or a leader, both require flexible action, graceful timing, and sensitive attention to details. With a broad lens, Jamiaus continues to insist that among his achievements, dance has played the biggest role in refining his leadership skills. “I am able to work well under pressure, deal with attitudes, deal with a heavy load, and most of all see the bigger picture in life. I bring a new perspective to the table, and that’s love and compassion.”

Jamiaus has recently been awarded the Eagles Scholars Program for Undergraduate Research Grant to fund a research project for the spring semester of 2016. Only 24 students are awarded \$1,000 to fund the research of a creative project. He will be using his money to create an autobiographical one-man act called *The Progression of a Dramatic State*. The artistic production focuses on his life and experiences while in college using comedy to connect with the audience. “I want the audience to see that through life’s hardships, you can make something beautiful and entertaining out of it,” he explained. With a full professional show, Jamiaus has enlisted a team composed of an artistic advisor, student advisor, stage manager, lighting and sound designer, stage crew, front of the house crew, photographer, videographer, program editor, and

a faculty member. He will create the text, choreography, lights, costumes, and characters and adapt songs while at the same time directing the entire show. The ambitious project has his nerves dancing, but he is mostly excited to perform his show on March 30th at The University of Southern Mississippi.

Jamiaus encourages MSA students to be unafraid of initiating their post graduation futures by positioning themselves where they can shine brightest. “Lucky us, we have two [more] years of experience than what any other normal college student would have.” Jamiaus refers to this experience at MSA not only as an academic advantage but also as a tool to find or create unique opportunities in different areas of life. As a leader, he is naturally interested in helping others realize their own potential, just as MSA had helped him discover his leadership abilities not only through his studies but also through his involvement as an arts ambassador and a member of the book club. “Eventually, I want to work with students and inspire them to not only be performers but leaders as well.”



ALUMNI WORK

MERRILEE BUFKIN

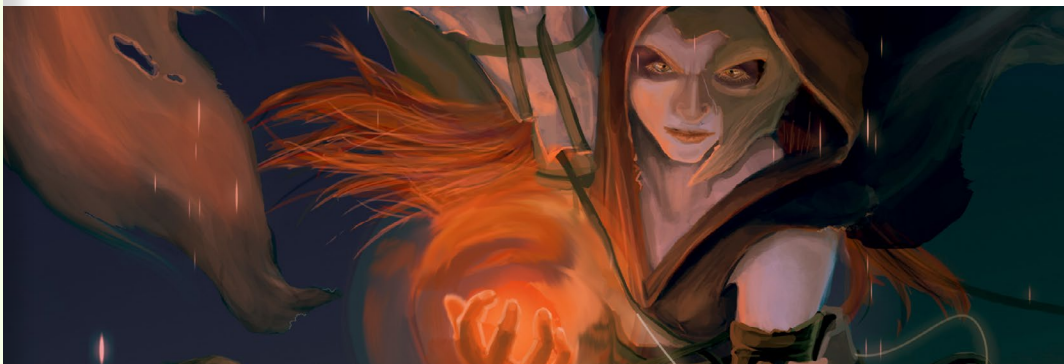
Marlboro Ultra Lights
for Callie Rush

Her lungs will thank her—
she is sure—
for the extra air,
pulled through pursed lips.
She hides her addiction,
sated with patches
like an old dress,
tearing at its seams.

Her vocal chords curse her.
Already bending with each cough,
they've become soft.

Caffeine stained belly
sinking beneath
a burdened diaphragm.
She inhales
and tells me she really hates
how it changes her muscles,
already so out of control.

An exhale
and she speaks of her future:
something she can't
and doesn't want to know,
but she says to me,
I won't be smoking these damn things.



ALUMNI WORK

LAUREN LESLIE

Lauren Leslie is a digital artist who graduated from the visual art discipline at MSA in 2006 and later attended Mississippi State University for graphic design. Having the technical knowledge from her studies in graphic design introduced her to the programs necessary to create her digital paintings. With Adobe Photoshop and her Wacom tablet, she uses a traditional style of layering color in her digital paintings, which mainly consist of her fictional characters in their environments. To view more of her work, visit vibrationcreative.com.

SUPPORT MSA RENOVATIONS

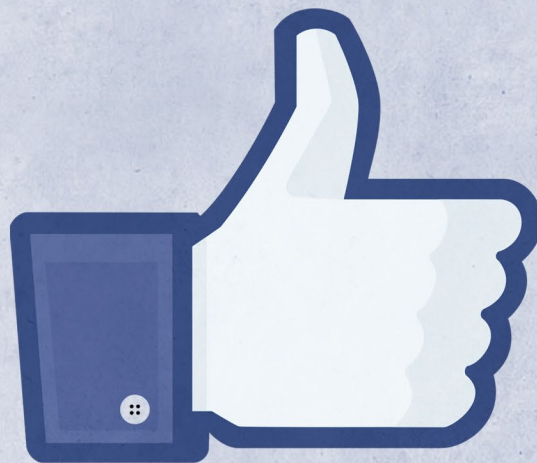
BUY A COMMEMORATIVE BRICK

By purchasing an engraved brick you are given the means by which to become a lasting part of the Mississippi School of the Arts. Each newly engraved brick will be placed in the walkway of Lampton Auditorium at MSA. You will also be contributing to further improvements to the campus and facilities at MSA. Order forms are available at Mississippi School of the Arts or by clicking [here](#).

\$100
4"x8" Brick

\$250
8"x8" Brick

\$500
8"x8" Granite
Custom Paver



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Stay up to date on opportunities, events, and what your fellow alumni are doing by following MSAAA on Facebook! If you are a member of our MSAAA Facebook group, make sure to follow us by checking the "Notifications" box on the top right hand side of our page. You don't want to miss out on the exciting things that are happening!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/msaaa/>



Without your input and contributions, the fifth edition of our MSAAA newsletter would not have been possible. *The Phoenix Quarterly* is made by the alumni for the alumni. If you would like to contribute to future editions or have suggestions please reach out to our newsletter committee by emailing us at **msartsalumni@gmail.com**.

Thanks for reading and be sure to share!



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