

PHOENIX

MSAAA NEWSLETTER



**2016 REUNION
RECAP**

**FUND RAISING
T-SHIRT DESIGN
COMPETITION**

**Sell Your Stuff at the
2016 OLE BROOK
FESTIVAL**

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
Lauren Glisson
explains what makes
her business unique.

President's Note

It's an exciting time for MSA! Alumni are competing in national competitions, interviewing for Nintendo, auditioning for *The Lion King*, having exhibitions, starting businesses, and traveling the world doing what they love. Every day I hear amazing stories of MSA Alumni who are making their own way in the world, and it is inspiring. Although the years may pass and take us further and further apart, no matter who we are, where we are, or what our beliefs are, our passion for MSA is what unites us all. MSAAA has accomplished so much in the past year—but it would not have been possible without your support and dedication to MSA, and for that I thank you!

For many of us, MSA was a lighthouse in the storm leading us to our destinies. The school gave us the tools to imagine, create, and realize and continues to do so year after year. I sincerely hope you will continue to support MSA, whether it be through a summer camp internship, a brick purchase, or by simply joining the alumni association. Exciting things are happening on the MSA campus, and you should be a part of them!

The reunion was a blast this year, and just around the corner is Ole Brook Fest. This is a great opportunity for alumni to reconnect with MSA and Brookhaven and even make a little money. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
Brianna Moore-Christa
MSAAA President



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



7TH EDITION

EDITORIAL PRODUCER

Lauren Leslie*

EDITORS

Brianna Moore-Christa*
Daniel Moran

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Lauren Leslie*
Shelby Hamilton

WRITERS

Brianna Moore-Christa*
Lauren Leslie*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kristen Price
Kristen Mercedes' Perry
Ashlyn Brooke Ervin
Claire Campbell
Erin Lowery
Amy Lillian Cordor
Kelli Perrin Ferris

Officers are marked with an asterisk (*).

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TIME TO GET CREATIVE FOR MSAAA'S T-SHIRT DESIGN COMPETITION

MSAAA would like to announce our t-shirt competition! Thanks to alumni suggestions, we have found a great, reasonable option to produce t-shirts as a way to raise funds for MSAAA through a t-shirt fundraising company called Bonfire. Right now, we are looking for an awesome design! Knowing how many talented alumni we have, we are holding an MSA alumni t-shirt design competition, and the winner gets a free shirt! The winner will be announced during the Ole Brook Festival on October 1, 2016.

The competition is open to all MSA alumni with no entry fee; however there are requirements. Entries that do not meet the requirements of the Submission Rules will be disqualified. The work will be judged on quality, appropriateness, and creativity. Please view the Submission Rules before entering. We look forward to seeing all of your amazing designs!



Submission Rules:

- Entries must preferably be uploaded as a **PNG** file with transparent background; however **JPG and GIF** files types are also accepted.
- The file's resolution should be **300 DPI** (dots per inch)
- Maximum of **2 colors**
- **Deadline:** Sept 15, 2016
- Please submit your entry or any questions to msartsalumni@gmail.com with your **first** and **last name**.
- For more information about file types and design tips, please visit the Bonfire website by clicking [here](#).



NETWORK WITH OTHER ALUMNI JOIN MSAAA'S LINKEDIN GROUP

Thanks to alumni suggestions, we now have a professional networking group LinkedIn for MSA alumni specifically! The goal of this group is for members to share industry-related resources, knowledge, and job opportunities. Visit our page here:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8539706>



SELL YOUR STUFF AT THE **OLE BROOK FESTIVAL**

This October 1st marks another year for one of our favorite fund raisers at the Ole Brook Festival! We are currently seeking anyone who would like to sell their merchandise at our official MSAAA booth. Your presence is welcome but not required. That's right, we'll sell your stuff for you. All we ask is that you donate \$15 to MSAAA and submit your inventory. Although all donations are appreciated, you get to keep the money from whatever you sell! The proceeds will help fund our Rising Phoenix Scholarship, which pays for tuition for an incoming junior at MSA. We are also looking for alumni to sing occasionally or volunteer at our booth throughout the festival. For more information, please contact Brianna Moore-Christa at msartsalumni@gmail.com. If you or someone you know would like to sell items please read and fill out the form on the next page.

MSAAA WILL SOON BEGIN SELLING AD SPACE!

When it comes to fund raising, MSAAA wants to help support our association by integrating with our members and our local communities in Mississippi through selling ads in our newsletter *The Phoenix Quarterly*. If you or someone you know owns a business or provides a service and would like to advertise their business, products, or services please keep them in mind. We will begin to provide space in the future newsletters at the beginning of 2017 in January. Stay tuned for more details about pricing and process to come in October's newsletter!

2016 OLE BROOK FESTIVAL INTAKE FORM

IMPORTANT All submissions must include a detailed inventory list. Please review our submission terms before submitting. If you have any questions, please email Brianna at briannamr37@gmail.com. Please save your completed form electronically and return it to Brianna or mail it to the address below along with your submissions:

Brianna Moore-Christa
1897 Zetus Road NW
Brookhaven MS 39601

SUBMISSION TERMS

All items received by the association must include a detailed inventory which lists each item separately UNLESS you are selling bulk items (for example, stickers or t-shirts). For example:

1. Watercolor painting of swan - \$50
2. Jar of Honey - \$15
3. MSAAA stickers – quantity 50 - \$3.00 each

If the inventory does not match the items received, the items will not be sold so please make sure the inventory is accurate. All items must be labeled with the price.

Pick-up for items is available in Mississippi. Please contact Brianna to schedule a pick-up. Unsold items will be returned at the association's earliest convenience, or can be picked up by the artist at any time in Brookhaven unless you request no return.

By submitting the form, you acknowledge that MSAAA is not responsible for lost or damaged items.

FORM:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Physical Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Would you like to receive quarterly editions of the MSAAA newsletter *The Phoenix Quarterly* by email? _____ yes _____ no

Donation amount (\$15 minimum): _____

(If no items are sold, no donation will be made.)

Would you like us to return your unsold items? _____ yes _____ no





2016 REUNION RECAP

Each MSA alumni reunion is unique, and that was especially true for the 2016 reunion, as MSAAA gladly welcomed over 20 Whitworth College alumni who had a reunion in conjunction with our own. The Whitworth alumni present included former teachers, school superintendents, deans, and presidents.

On the morning of the reunion, MSAAA held an open-forum meeting led by Brianna Moore-Christa who was announced as President of the association. Lauren Leslie was announced as Vice President and attended the meeting from Portland, Oregon via Skype thanks to the help of MSA's IT Specialist Patrick Brown. Acknowledging accomplishments from this past year, future plans for MSAAA were discussed with attending alumni for both short term (annual goals) and long term goals, which are listed below. Lunch was provided by Fox's Pizza of Brookhaven, and afternoon activities included a historical presentation on the early history of the campus and concluded with a 700+ water balloon fight at the bell tower. Overall, the reunion was a success and MSAAA managed to raise over \$200—enough needed to reach our goal of \$1000 for MSAAA's annual scholarship for MSA students in need, The Rising Phoenix Scholarship.



MSAAA appreciates the alumni that showed their support at the reunion and encourages alumni to volunteer their skills or connections to help MSAAA grow. With so many great ideas for the future, MSAAA would love any help or support from alumni, especially in regards to fundraising.

Previous Accomplishments (2015-2016)

- Became an official non profit organization
- Raised \$1000 for The Rising Phoenix Scholarship
- Created exhibition opportunities for alumni
- Simplified MSAAA's accounting construct by merging funds into a sub account with the Foundation.
- Created a Linkedin group for MSAAA professional networking.

Short Term Goals (2016-2017)

- Raise \$1500 for the association by generating funds through advertising in the newsletter, selling bumper stickers, and fundraising at Ole Brook Fest.
- Find a sponsor or grants for MSAAA
- Increase alumni engagement with a drawing to fund a creative project for two lucky winners.

Long Term Goals (2017-)

- Create a travel hosting program for MSA alumni
- Create MSAAA promotional video as part of a welcoming bag for future MSA graduating seniors
- Raise at least \$2000/ per year.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

LAUREN GLISSON

by Lauren Leslie



After being introduced by mutual friends Lauren Glisson, an MSA alumna from the class of 2006 and her friend Tess Stout, discovered that they shared similar interests in antiques, auctions, and adventure. Having both previously been familiarized with the business world as entrepreneurs, the two eventually decided to create a small vintage furniture business called Vin.tique Urban Décor, despite their different styles. “We wanted to be thrifty, we wanted to stretch our artistic vision, and we wanted people to appreciate the beauty of things built by generations that put more of themselves into their work,” said Lauren.

From entertainment center to lamps, and dresser tables to coffee tables, the spirit of Vin.tique’s furniture lies in the way all of its pieces were originally handcrafted and restored to integrate modern trends into the pieces’ authentic character. “My artist vision, with guidance from MSA, has really taught me to look past what is directly in front of me and instead see the potential in everything...

The chance to use your artistic skill set is everywhere if you’re taught the value of art and how to harness it,” Lauren said. Lauren and Tess find their pieces through their adventures on frequent trips out to antique stores, estate sales, auction houses,

yard sales, etc. “We have found some of the most amazing pieces thanks to a wrong turn or a whim for adventure.”

Lauren and Tess’ process for finding a new piece for Vin.tique’s collection starts with discarding expectations towards the piece based on its current condition and instead focusing on

how it will live its new life in a new environment. After they have found a piece that speaks to them, they bring it back to their workshop at the Historic Grant House, to discuss their next adventure and decide how each piece will be treated or restored. “We love pieces for their personality and their history, and we strive to preserve that while incorporating small accents that will bring the piece into the modern century,” Lauren said. “We look for unique pieces and upgrade them to suit the palate of the tasteful urban home.”

However, like a double-edged sword, working with older furniture can bring about challenges that put Lauren and Tess’ patience and experience to the test, as each piece has been exposed to different situations, elements, and trauma over time.

“Vin.tique is unique because we are unique and we celebrate that aspect of ourselves, our business, and our art.” Being sensitive to each piece is critical to determine the direction of the restoration process, which can be tricky, involving

“Vin.tique is unique because we are unique and we celebrate that aspect of ourselves, our business, and our art.”

a keen sense of good judgment, a strong vision, and most importantly, confidence."...at the end of all the discussion and theorizing, you have to have enough confidence in yourself and your medium to know that no matter what happens, you possess the experience necessary to make it a success."

After all the countless hours of behind-the-scenes work on perfecting the Vin.tique brand, Lauren and Tess were finally able to launch their business in May of 2016 on Facebook. Being a small business, Vin.tique Urban Décor operates primarily through Facebook, which allows them to reach a broader audience. "We consider ourselves urban décor because urban areas have such diverse lifestyles." Because of their product and audience, social media serves as an efficient, effective platform to market their products in a way that allows them to be present with their audience, flexible, and gives them the opportunity to strengthen their brand identity. Lauren also showcases her furniture in a space at The Artisan Village of Wayne County.



Although Lauren continues to work long hours in an engineering role for a worldwide lubrication company, Bijur Delimon International, the dream of developing Vin.tique Urban Décor as a sustainable business continues to manifest in a place of freedom and an ambitious artistic vision. Being aware of her artistic nature and creativity, Lauren encourages others to make time for their projects and creative endeavors by realizing the effort towards joy is worth the sacrifice of time. "Personally, I find that the real world can be a stifling place to a creative mind, so it's important to indulge your creativity even if it means longer days and more work. At the end of the day, you can either be exhausted and stifled or you can be exhausted and satisfied."

Even though they just launched the business, they have some plans for the future of Vin.tique. These plans include introducing interior design work for their clients to include murals and other artistic projects in their clients' homes and eventually having a showroom in downtown Goldsboro, North Carolina.



[Follow Vin.Tique on Facebook](#)

Congratulations to Jamiaus Marion for receiving the MLK Drum Major award from the White House. The MLK Drum Major for Service award gives organizations or groups an opportunity to recognize committed volunteers who seldom receive recognition for dedicated acts of service. Jamiaus was nominated on Martin Luther King Day because of his leadership and involvement in the community. He started a philanthropy event at the local homeless shelter in Hattiesburg, and he also planned a campus wide profit share for the same homeless shelter to help raise money. He has raised more than \$400 for the shelter and as of right now he is running a clothing line of donated clothes for the homeless. The award also recognized his 1000+ hours of community service.



CONGRATULATIONSclassof2016!

MSA Alumni Association would like to welcome our new alumni into our growing organization! If you are a part of the class of 2016, we would love to keep you updated on future opportunities with MSA and our alumni association. Please send us your contact information to msartsalumni@gmail.com.

ALUMNI WORK

QUINTA CLARK



Total Praise
Chalk pastels



Asa's Imagination
Acrylic paints

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 seventh 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.

You can download previous editions of *The Phoenix Quarterly* [here](#).

Thanks for reading and be sure to share!



Brianna Moore-Christa
President

Lauren Leslie
Vice President