



# PHOENIX

IMAGINE • CREATE • REALIZE

MSAAA NEWSLETTER

**Ole Brook Fest  
Artist Opportunity**

**\*Reunion Recap  
Officer Election Results  
Rising Phoenix  
Scholarship Presentation**

**Get Updated on  
MSAAA Website  
Progress**

July 15, 2015





## About the Cover Art

3rd Edition

***Finding a Place of Peace*** by Anne O'Hara

H 40" x W 32"

Tinted charcoal over watercolor

*Now retired, Mrs. Anne O'Hara was a former visual arts teacher at MSA, who will have her work on display at the Meridian Museum of Art in October and November.*

This piece is one of the latest works in an ongoing series that Anne calls *Hidden Treasures*. They are obviously nature-based, but are not straightforward renditions of flowers, leaves, and trees etc. They contain ambiguities manifested through the layering of images. "As I draw, and they develop, more unexpected objects seem to appear and the viewer sees things that are not readily apparent at first glance. This, I hope, causes the viewer to look even harder and see even more 'hidden treasures.'"

In the Baha'i Writings it says:

*"Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom."*

This statement guides Anne in life and is one important inspiration for her drawings. It is especially relevant to one who is a former educator. "I learned that life was better and relationships stronger, if I made the effort to search for the good qualities in people, which, upon occasion, were hard to see at first. Often one has to dig down beneath the layers to find the treasures that will almost assuredly, be hidden below."

The *Hidden Treasures* series is motivated by this sentiment. In keeping with the human experience, an in-depth study of the drawings should take you to another place. It is Anne's hope that through the beauty of nature the pieces will make a connection both visually and spiritually with those who see them, leaving spirits uplifted and curiosity kindled.

– From Anne O'Hara's Artist Statement

# Editor's Note

As we release the third edition of *The Phoenix Quarterly*, we are excited to bring you more news and updates to keep you in tune with what's happening within the association.

In this edition, read about the success of our first MSAAA ten-year reunion and how your activity with MSAAA allows us to better serve the school and each other as alumni. Exciting times are here, and it is apparent that more are right around the corner when you get a glimpse at the progress made on our MSAAA website.

Each and every member of MSAAA is what makes the quality of our organization great, so stay active with MSAAA and you will be surprised at how empowered you can feel just by sharing your ideas, your art, or your accomplishments.

Thank you for your support!



Lauren Leslie on behalf of the newsletter committee



Do you want to be a contributor? Please send your submission to [msartsalumni@gmail.com](mailto:msartsalumni@gmail.com) for approval.



## 3RD EDITION

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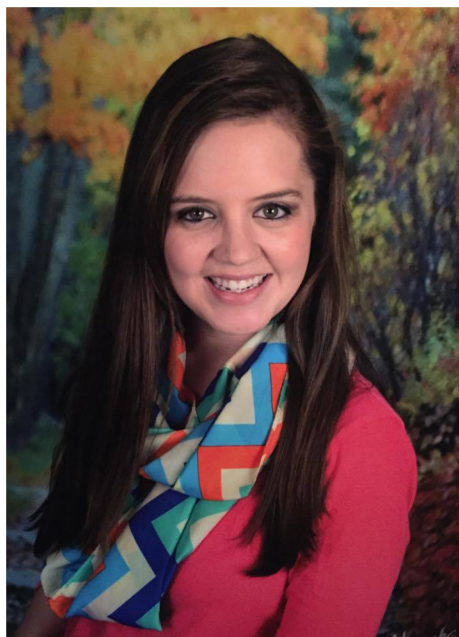
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Dear Fellow Alumni,

As summer reaches its peak, I find that I'm already missing the smiles and the laughter from the alumni gathering in May. Though some of us have been gone from the school for years, and some of us had never met before, we bonded in such a way that only those who share a similar life experience can. If you weren't able to come, I encourage you to try to make the next one. Dancing, laughter, and water balloon fights are good for the soul... no matter what you're battling in "real life."

Now that we have begun our new administrative year, I'd like to welcome on board those officers who have joined us, and say farewell to the ones who have served their term. We appreciate everything you have done to raise the Association to where it is today. I am honored that I will be able to continue to serve as your President, and hopefully bring even more momentum and stability to our organization. We have many things planned for the upcoming year, and can't wait to see familiar faces at them all.

As always, I want to thank everyone on the newsletter staff who contributes in such a big way to making these publications such a success.

May your flame always burn bright,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hallie Waldrep". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Hallie Waldrep  
Alumni Association President

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**Matt-Brianna Christa**  
Vice President

**Clinton Davis**  
Secretary

**Kristen Price**  
Treasurer

**Lauren Leslie**  
VisualRep



# SELL YOUR ART AT THE OLE BROOK FESTIVAL

**It's almost time for Ole Brook Fest!** This October marks the 41st year of the Ole Brook Festival in Brookhaven. This year the association will be getting involved and we need your help. We are currently seeking artists 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 give a part of your proceeds to our scholarship fund, which pays full tuition for an incoming junior at MSA. We are also looking for alumni to sing occasionally at our booth throughout the festival. For more information, please contact Brianna Moore-Christa at [briannamr37@gmail.com](mailto:briannamr37@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 WEBSITE PROGRESS

As most of you know, MSAAA announced our association's website to launch ambitiously in May of 2015. We want to ensure that our website is fully functional in its ability to serve our members and reach the public. Due to scheduling issues, we have decided to push our deadline back to August 2015. Having more time to complete the website will allow us to guarantee that the quality of the website is up to a standard that will best represent our association.

Currently, the website is being managed and developed by MSAAA President, Hallie Waldrep and was designed by MSAAA Visual Arts Representative, Lauren Leslie. With most of the pages designed and outlined to completion, the next phase of production will be to implement content and bring the pages to life with coding. Once completed, this website will cost a fair annual investment of \$162.00.





# 2015 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](mailto: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  
742 Union Church Road #13  
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





# MSAAA REUNION RECAP

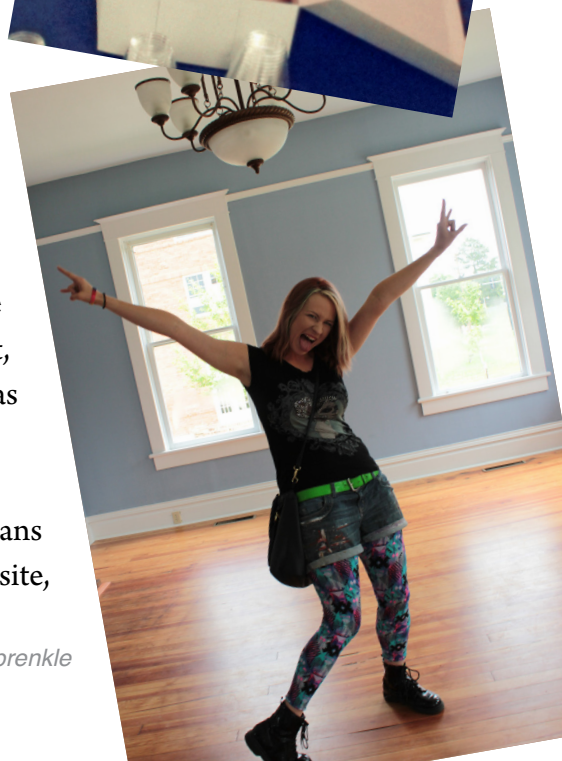
by Lauren Leslie

**O**n May 15th–16th MSAAA hosted its first ever ten-year class reunion honoring the class of 2005, organized by MSAAA President Hallie Waldrep and Vice President Brianna Moore. Among the 17 attendees, 10 alumni who attended were from the class of 2005 and 2006, joined by other classes such as 2006, 2008, and 2010. Alumni attended from as far as New Hampshire, Texas, Oregon, and Tennessee.

The first evening, a small group of alumni attended registration in Enochs where they reunited to socialize with each other before parting campus to wine and dine at the new Georgia Blue restaurant in downtown Brookhaven. Alumni were joined by past and present faculty members of MSA such as Nadine Phillips, Suzanne Hirsch, Bettie Cox, Patt Rice, and Anne O'Hara.

The next morning alumni kicked off the day's events with breakfast in Enochs. A selection of donuts from Janie's Bakery was served before alumni gathered in the Black Box theater for a productive MSAAA meeting, which was attended by MSA Executive Director Suzanne Hirsch. The meeting agenda started off by electing new MSAAA officers and representatives from a small running of candidates. The results of the newly elected positions are as followed: **Hallie Waldrep** as president, **Brianna Moore** as vice president, **Clinton Davis** as secretary, **Kristen Price** as treasurer, and **Lauren Leslie** as visual arts representative.

Following the elections, alumni discussed future plans of MSAAA regarding plans to promote MSAAA, strategies for fund raising for our scholarship and website,



Top: Photo by Jessica Sprenkle. Middle: Photo by Lauren Leslie Bottom: Photo by Jessica Sprenkle





and ways MSAAA could better serve MSA by listening to valuable insights from Suzanne. Some of the future plans discussed in the meeting were ideas for gift baskets for MSA's graduating seniors, which would include MSAAA themed materials like t-shirts, brochures, and a promotional video. Fund raising ideas that were gaining support from local and regional businesses, attending different events such as the Ole Brook Festival, and selling advertisement space through the MSAAA website.

After the meeting, alumni admired the new renovations during a tour of campus graciously given by Suzanne. Needless to say, older alumni were very impressed and slightly envious of the new additions to campus like the large gallery space, the professionally designed Black Box theater in Enochs, the beautiful dance room in Johnson Institute, and the long-awaited renovations to the historic cottage. It was reassuring and exciting for alumni to see the campus blossom.



With the trip to Red Bluff canceled due to bad weather, alumni took it upon themselves to find an alternative method of entertainment after re-energizing themselves with pizza for lunch. They wandered over to the familiar old park, which most of them had used during their high school career to briefly escape the school environment, and took advantage of the playground equipment.



But aside from all the reminiscing at the classic southern dinner catered by MSA that night and reliving old traditions like the water balloon fight later that evening with recreational park recesses during the day, the most important event during the reunion represented the alumni association's desire to mature. Outside of Enochs, the blank plaque for our MSAAA sponsored Rising Phoenix Scholarship was presented to Suzanne by Hallie and Brianna on behalf of MSAAA. The scholarship would provide \$1000.00 to an upcoming junior, selected each year. Even a photographer from The Daily Leader, a local newspaper, was present to document the event.

Overall, the reunion was a success, and everyone enjoyed each other's company as new memories were made. It is a tradition that MSAAA hopes to continue for years to come. If you would like to host an official reunion, plans should be made by the class officers and organized in conjunction with the MSAAA President ideally.



**SUPPORT MSA RENOVATIONS AND**

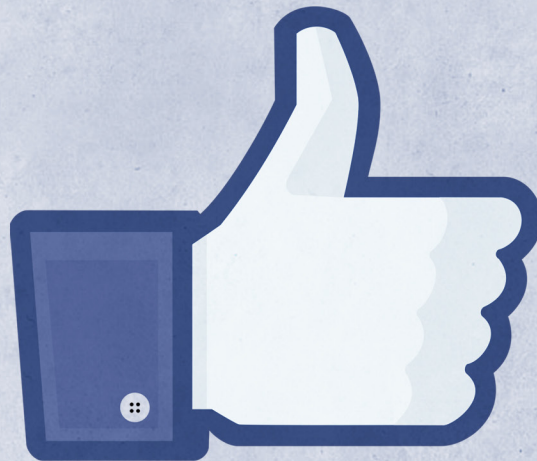
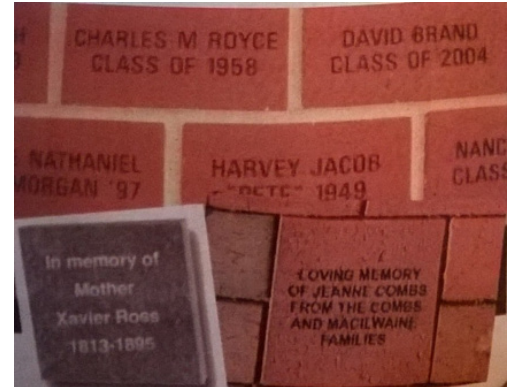
# **BUY A COMMEMORATIVE BRICK**

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 the Lampton Auditorium at MSA. You will also be contributing to further improvements to the campus and facilities here at MSA. Order forms are available at Mississippi School of the Arts or by clicking [here](#).

**8x8 granite custom paver = \$500.**

**8X8 Brick = \$250**

**4X8 Brick = \$100**



## **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/>



## ALUMNI WORK

# MAX HANCOCK

Max Hancock, a 2005 graduate of the MSA Visual Arts program, works as an illustrator. His main focus is character design. Initially starting off with sketches, Max brings his characters to life in a digital painting and sculpting program called ZBrush. Inspired by video games, his simple and cute designs go against the tide of most modern complex 3D game characters. While sometimes animating his characters, his favorite part of the process is rendering them in 3D and having someone else animate them.

Below are two examples of his digital sculptures that he has made for fun. Melia is created from one of his previous concept sketches while "Lis" is based off the drawings from Bryan Lee O'Malley's book "Seconds." You can visit his portfolio at [maxhancock.net](http://maxhancock.net).



"Lis" From "Seconds" by Bryan Lee O'Malley. Sculpt by Max Hancock



"Melia" by Max Hancock







Without your input and contributions, the third 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](mailto:msartsalumni@gmail.com).

Thanks for reading and be sure to share!

