

PHOENIX

MSAAA NEWSLETTER

**2017 REUNION
GENERAL INFORMATION**

**THE SPIRIT OF WHITWORTH
A LEGACY OF
ALTRUISM**

**2017 MSAAA ELECTION
OFFICER APPLICATIONS
AVAILABLE**

**REMEMBERING
LEVI PRISOCK**

President's Note

2017! As many of us head into our second semesters, recover from the Holidays, and struggle with the cold, it's important to remember those who are no longer with us and be grateful for the simple opportunities we are each privileged with every day. As the weather warms up and the 2016–2017 school year draws to a close, we can look back fondly on the trials and tribulations of the previous year and also look forward with excitement to what comes next—and I mean the 3rd Annual Alumni Reunion, of course!

We hope this year will be our biggest and best yet. Registration will begin on Friday, May 19th and continue Saturday, May 20th. Events will be announced soon, so make sure you are following the MSAAA facebook page and subscribed to the newsletter to stay updated. For help finding accommodations, feel free to email me at briannamr37@gmail.com.

Remember, MSAAA members get FREE admission to the reunion, and it's easier than ever to join: simply go to the MSAAA website and visit the school store here. 100% of your \$10 dues will go to the Rising Phoenix Scholarship, plus being a member of MSAAA shows your continued involvement in your alma mater and looks great on your resume! Please join today and help MSAAA fund the Rising Phoenix Scholarship 100% for the 2016–2017 school year.

Sincerely,

Brianna Moore-Christa, MSAAA President



9TH EDITION

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

Officers are marked with an asterisk (*).

CONTENTS

- 1** About the Cover Artist
- 2** Reunion Details
- 3** Celebrating the Life of Levi
- 4** 2017 MSAAA Officer
Applications
- 5** The Spirit of Whitworth
- 7** Announcements
- 9** MSA Events

ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

JESSICA SPRENKLE

Coming from a background of film and photography, Jessica H. Sprenkle, has combined her interest in horror film, special effects, and photography into a series of images which she publishes on the internet as high resolution grunge textures, most textures being free for use. While these images make for great textures and backgrounds for graphic artists, the images create a whole world of their own by invoking an emotion and space. Visit her online gallery here: <http://albrecht995.deviantart.com/>



2017 MSAAA REUNION

May 19–May 20

MORE ACTIVITIES AND DETAILS COMING SOON

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

We are excited to be hosting our 2017 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 and our alumni organization. Plus, registered alumni will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a **free MSAAA t-shirt!** Entry fee to the event for non MSAAA members is **\$15 per person** at the door. MSAAA members get in free at the reunion. 100% of proceeds will go to the Rising Phoenix Scholarship. Email briannamr37@gmail.com for questions or for lodging information! Free lodging off-campus is available on a limited basis. Free off-campus camp space is also available.

Friday, May 19

Registration	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Enochs Hall
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Saturday, May 20

Registration and Breakfast	8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Enochs Hall
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Lunch	12:00 p.m.	Enochs Hall
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MSAAA Annual Meeting	1:00 p.m.	Enochs Black Box Theater
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Tour of Campus	2:00 p.m.	Elizabeth Cottage
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Water Balloon Fight	3:00 p.m.	Bell Tower
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CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LEVI PRISOCK

Members of the Class of 2012 reconnected and honored the memory of their classmate - Levi Prisock.

This piece, written by Levi's mother, is a direct copy from Levi's obituary.

"Passion is not exclusive to precision, discipline feeds rather than stifles beauty, repetition is not restraint, but release." This will always be my favorite quote. You were so passionate, yet precise; disciplined when you were determined to do something, and willing to repeat until perfection was released. And so very beautiful.

You drew your first breath the morning of February 20, 1995 and your last breath Sunday morning November 6, 2016. Years ago you wrote, "Time ran out last night... so when I tried to flip the glass over this morning to mark a new beginning, an hour passed in a second." An eternity begins . . . without you.

Tradition demands a list of the people who exist on either side of that doorway you talked about where you paused for only a 21-year- long moment before continuing to the other side. But the people on that list know who they are. This is about you, Sweetheart, not them.

Just the other night you spoke of changing your name in some local court to Levi to make it legally and officially the name

of the person you had become. Leona, the lioness, strong and fierce. Viola, the flower, the musical instrument. Levi was most assuredly more than a nickname. It was the two combined. Science, math, poetry, novels, piano must be honorably mentioned along with art.

You left behind trophies, medals, certificates, a piano that you said "hums to itself when you enter in dead silence", people with shattered hearts, Mina the cat who mourns outside your bedroom door, and me, your favorite Mom.

This is only a pause, or as you described it a caesura in our lives, a very sad "chorus between the verses" of your passing and ours. One morning I will meet you, and we'll sit down by the river.

You'll know me by the smile that I wear. You loved with all your heart not withholding one beat. We could speculate on the existence of any reason for your being taken from us, but the answer would assuredly be that as you described it in your play,

"They Couldn't Reach Any Conclusion". I wish you could break through that fourth wall or that I could do so.

In loving homage for my daughter, Leona Viola "Levi" Prisock.



COMING IN MAY 2017

MSAAA OFFICER ELECTIONS

As we move into another year, it is time once again to decide who will serve our alumni association as officers in this year's 2017 MSAAA officer elections. **Right now we are accepting officer position applications!** We encourage qualified candidates, who are serious about helping MSA's alumni, association to put their name on the ballot by completing our electronic form.

Please click the link below and complete our application form:

[2017 OFFICER APPLICATION](#)

This application is for Mississippi School of the Arts alumni only. You must have paid your MSA alumni association membership dues for 2017 to be eligible to run for an officer position. Join the alumni association for \$10 at the MSA school store online [here](#). All submitted applications with unpaid dues will be voided after 24 hours of completing this form. The deadline to submit this officer application form is **April 1, 2017 at 10:00 p.m. CT**. All applications submitted after April 1, 2017 at 10:00 p.m. CT will be voided. Only one application per candidate is allowed. **Please be reminded that all candidates are required to attend three of the four quarterly meetings each year upon holding an officer position.**

Read below for position descriptions.

OFFICER POSITIONS

PRESIDENT He/She 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 administering 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 Assists the president with organizing meetings, coordinating events, and maintaining communications between all officers, representatives and alumni. The vice president must attend all regularly scheduled meetings. He/She promotes the welfare and further the objectives of MSAAA. In the case that the president resigns or takes a leave of absence, the vice president will assume the president's responsibility and authority.

SECRETARY Records 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. The secretary promotes the welfare and further the objectives of this Association.

REPRESENTATIVES They 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.



THE SPIRIT OF

WHITWORTH

Since the incorporation of Whitworth College in 1859 until the opening of MSA's doors in 2003, the campus which both schools have called home has been imbued with what has been referred to historically as "The Spirit of Whitworth"—but what does that really mean? Milton Whitworth, the founder of Whitworth College, was well-known for his altruistic endeavors. Not only did he donate the land for Whitworth Female Academy, he also donated lands for many of the first churches in Brookhaven as well as the first cemeteries (including Rosehill, which was formed when Whitworth donated the land for the burial of a traveler who died passing through town). This spirit of altruism lived on after Whitworth's death in the legacy of his successor, Dr. Harvey Johnson, who we know from historical record used his own money to build Margaret Hall and Johnson Hall his own land at great personal expense. After the buildings were completed, he donated the land and buildings to the school. He was followed by Dr. Imam Cooper, was no exception when it came to the Spirit of Whitworth, and it is thanks to his fundraising and altruistic efforts that we have Mary Jane Lampton Auditorium, Elizabeth Cottage, Enoch Hall and Cooper Hall. He also inspired the students of Whitworth who fundraised and (with a little help from Dr. Cooper) built the Y-Hut through a student-led initiative.

After Whitworth College closed down, the campus sat mostly unused as the buildings fell into disrepair. Margaret Hall would eventually be demolished, but thanks to the efforts of some generous and concerned citizens of Brookhaven, Mary Jane Lampton Auditorium was saved from this same fate. The auditorium became the emphasis of a Whitworth Campus revival when the First Lady of Mississippi, Pat Fordice, visited the newly-renovated Mary Jane Lampton in 1997 and remarked about how the campus would make a lovely school for gifted young artists. Since then, there has been no doubt that the Spirit of Whitworth is fully revived. This year MSA will celebrate its 12th graduating class and can brag that the 2016 graduating class received over 8.6 million dollars in scholarship offers. What is particularly special about that number is that it's double the entire budget of MSA; in fact, scholarship offers for MSA graduates have exceeded the MSA budget since 2009. Last year MSA accepted its largest class of juniors ever—over eighty students.

"The work of the alumni association is more important than ever—not just to give back to MSA, but to spread the word about this awesome opportunity available to students in Mississippi," says Brianna Moore-Christa, president of MSAAA, who is also the recruiter at MSA: "Many students who applied last year heard about the

school from alumni. I've also received phone calls from former alumni who are now teachers and are helping their students get to MSA, which is amazing."

MSAAA has seen a lot of changes over the past two years, when regular reunions were established along with a clear goal for the association: raise at least \$1000 a year to fund the Rising Phoenix Scholarship, which provides for students who don't qualify for the fee waiver.

The scholarship is funded through membership fees, fundraisers, and private donations from alumni. The association also provides opportunities for alumni to network with one another and reconnect with Brookhaven: "This year our Ole Brook Festival fundraiser will be especially fun. In the past we have teamed up with various Brookhaven businesses and associations like the Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild, but this year will be slightly different—we will also be teaming up with Camp Looking Glass to help bring awareness to their great cause."

Camp Looking Glass has been operating a sleep-away camp for children and adults with disabilities in the Mississippi Delta at no cost since 2004. The campers are able to enjoy traditional camp activities which are accessible to campers of all abilities. "I think this is a great team-up, which will bring attention to both of our projects." Alumni are also encouraged to participate in the Ole Brook event, which benefits both artists and MSAAA. For a small fee of \$15, MSAAA will sell your artwork and crafts at Ole Brook Festival, and that \$15 donation, which is tax deductible,

goes straight to helping future MSA alumni. 100% of the membership fees and funds raised will always go into the scholarship fund. "There is no waste. The reunion is paid for by private donations made for that specific purpose, as well as the fee for Ole Brook. When you give to MSAAA, your money is never wasted. You know 100% [of your donations] is helping to ensure that a student who may have had to leave MSA will graduate."



The work of the alumni association is more important than ever—not just to give back to MSA, but to spread the word about this awesome opportunity available to students in Mississippi.

This year MSAAA teamed up with the MSA Foundation to simplify the treasury process, also making it possible for alumni to join MSA through the official MSA website ([msabrookhaven.org](https://www.msabrookhaven.org)), which features past issues of the alumni newsletter as well as announcements about upcoming alumni events. Membership in MSAAA is only \$10 a year, and members also enjoy free admission to the reunion. To join MSAAA, simply visit the school store on the MSA website: <https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/stores/catalog/>

AD SPACE AVAILABLE!

DO YOU HAVE YOUR OWN BUSINESS? ARE YOU AN ARTIST THAT NEEDS PROMOTION? DO YOU HAVE YOUR OWN PRODUCT OR ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE? MSAAA WANTS TO SUPPORT YOU!

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*. All proceeds go to our Rising Phoenix Scholarship that helps fund a special incoming MSA junior each year.

NEED A DESIGN FOR YOUR AD?

No problem! At MSAAA we have volunteer graphic designers that graciously volunteer to create amazing designs for MSAAA and can help you create your ad! Just submit any content for your ad, and we will take care of the rest!

Ads will run for 12 months, and since this is the first year for us to sell ads, we are giving everyone a special introductory offer! Don't miss out on this amazing deal and help support MSA and our alumni association!

Pricing is listed below:

*****TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR INTRODUCTORY PRICES!*****

Full Page ad: \$50/year per ad

Half Page ad: \$30/year per ad

Quarter ad: \$15/year per ad

If you or someone you know is interested in buying an ad, please email visit MSA's website [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>



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/>

MSA EVENTS

Winter Art Showcase

1/15-1/27

Enochs Gallery

MSA Visual Art Exhibition at the Ogden Museum

1/19-3/5

New Orleans Ogden Museum

Spring Art Showcase

2/6-3/24

Enochs Gallery

Spring Dance Concert

3/2-3/4

Black Box Theater

Visual Art Senior Showcase

4/4, 4/11

6:00 p.m.

Enochs Gallery

"The Rover" Theatrical Play

4/6-4/8

7:00 p.m.

Black Box Theater

Literary Art Showcase

4/10

6:00 p.m.

For more information visit the MSA event calendar [here](#).

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



Without your input and contributions, the ninth 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 Butler
Vice President