

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS NEWSLETTER

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Edited by Katie Whipple, Creative Arts Coordinator

“MILLEDGEVILLE’S GOT MOTOWN” MOTOWN MUSICAL A HIT!

By: Katie Whipple

“Milledgeville’s Got Motown” was an absolute hit! It was truly a musical of cosmic proportions as characters from outer space graced the stage.

The performance at First Baptist Church on S. Liberty St. in Milledgeville was the culmination of a year of hard work learning favorite Motown hits. Although the Creative Expressions performers had performed Motown hits before, this time it was different.

“Milledgeville’s Got Motown” was Creative Expressions premier musical and it featured a whacky story line that kept the audience entertained and laughing! O’Clair Alexander, a creative arts therapy practitioner, performer, consultant and workshop facilitator was commissioned to write a musical for our performers. And that is just what she did!

The story was based on an imaginative talent search for Milledgeville’s Most Talented. Our Creative Expressions groups were the last five group finalist. The audience saw numbers from the Harmonettes Handbell Choir, Good Vibrations Drumming Ensemble, Music in Motion, the Circular Motion Dancers and the Harmonettes Vocal Choir.

The judges of the talent search were Simon Cowell played by music therapy student Chandler Moore, David Hasselhoff played by CE performer Anthony Davis and Sharon Osborne played by music therapy student Kenya Mitchell. They gave some great scores and support!

The most comical characters of the musical were the Aliens from outer space that crash landed into the talent search platform! The judges ran away like little babies as the poor aliens, played by CE performers Walter Norman, Kimberly Casper and CE arts instructor Megan Bowen, staggered their way upon the stage. At first Good Vibrations thought that the Aliens wanted to attack them and they prepared for battle. It wasn’t until after “War” that they realized the aliens didn’t want to hurt them.



From left to right: Rasheda Root, Chris Duncan, Mike Hall, Walter Norman, Megan Bowen & Kimberly Casper
(Photo by Field Whipple)

Still, the aliens didn’t understand the human language! They spoke gibberish until they befriended the signers from Music in Motion. The Aliens “transferred” the human language from the signer’s minds to their minds so that they could understand English. The Aliens then went back stage to rehearse with the Harmonettes Vocal Choir only to find that the Kill Joy Patrol, creatures from their planet’s moon, followed them to earth to destroy them because they started singing. The Kill Joys, played by CE performers Rasheda Root, Selena Wiggins, Jeffrey Carter, Gabe Elder, Chris Duncan and Jason Parker, hated singing more than anything in the world. The Harmonettes Vocal Choir sang the Kill Joy’s to their demise with a little “Respect”!

However crazy and fun the story line, enough can’t be said about Tony Taylor who played the Talent Show Host. He had to keep the chaos under control from the cosmic drama to keep the show rollin’! Although the judges left when they saw the aliens, it was decided by the audience that everyone won the title of “Milledgeville’s Most Talented”. Congrats to all performers for a wonderful and fun performance!



Harmonettes Vocal Choir singing the Kill Joy Patrol to their death!

(Photo by Field Whipple)

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ART HOUSE: CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS PREMIER ART EXHIBIT

By: Megan T. Bowen

Creative Expressions Studio Artists are hard at work preparing for their premier art show at Georgia College & State University. *Art House* will feature a wide variety of works from the beginnings of Creative Expressions to the present. From June 1st-30th our artists will have their art on display at the Wooten-Garner House in the Art Fix Gallery at GCSU. There will be an opening reception on June 4, 2009 from 5-7pm. Come by and meet the artists and see their artwork.

Wooten-Garner House is located at 131 South Clarke Street. The gallery is open from 9-5. For more information contact Megan T. Bowen at 478-445-2270 or megan@creativeexpressionsstudio.org

GALLERY VISITS

By: Megan T. Bowen

Our artists love coming to the Creative Expressions Studio and creating art, but they also love getting out and about to visit galleries and view other's artwork. Pat Black and myself have been taking a group of artists, almost every Friday, to experience a new art show in the middle Georgia area. Here is some information about a few of the exhibits we have seen.

On Friday, February 27th we went to Andalusia and toured Flannery O'Connor's home and land, after our visit we headed to the GCSU Museum to view a photography exhibit of Andalusia by Nancy Marshall. It was great to make the connection between the photographs and the actual place, since we had just been to O'Connor's home.

On March 13th we headed downtown to the Janet Wyndham-Quinn gallery, The Gallery, and The Marlor House. It is important for us to keep up with Milledgeville's local art scene!

On April 10th we loaded up the van and headed to Macon's Museum of Arts and Science. We had a great time exploring the museum. We especially enjoyed seeing the drawings of Nellie Mae Rowe, a famous folk artist. Her colors and imagery were definitely inspiring.

We are planning on visiting the Fire House Gallery in Louisville and the VSA gallery in Atlanta during the summer. We will keep you posted on our travels!



Special Education student Spenser Norris and Brad Williams working on a piece of art in Pat Black's Arts & Crafts class.

(Photo by GC&SU photography student Jaime Ammons)



From left to right: Pat Black, Shannon Carter, Walter Norman, Gabe Elder & Dee Weimer in front of the Marlor House after visiting the current art exhibit
(photo by Megan Bowen)

CLAY, TEXTURE, HANDFORMING FINISHES

By: Pat Black

All the pottery we make is handbuilt with out the wheel. Your fingers are you best tools so we try them first, making regular imprints with our fingertips. Then we try dragging our fingertips as they press into the clay. We also try pinching a bit of clay into a mound and twisting it slightly. You can press objects into the clay to create a repeat pattern.

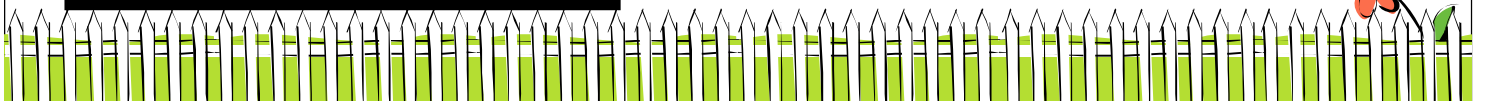
A brief list of tools you might use to make textures in clay are kitchen tools, combs, sea shells, twigs from trees, shells of nuts, flowers (especially dogwoods), seed pods and rope just to name a few!

The trays and bowls we make from clay are made by rolling the clay and putting designs on it and draping it over a plastic hump mold, made from plaster of paris. The plastic mold is the most durable of all and can be used for many years.

We use the red Georgia Clay. It is fired after it dries, and then glazed with a brush or dipped and fired again. The glaze is made of all colors. It takes 8 hours to fire the first firing and another 8 hours for the glazed.

A popular item we make is clay marbles of various colors flattened and textured and mounted in a mosaic technique for a wall panel or table top.

Wind chimes and clay necklaces are other popular items that the artists like to make.



ARTWORK ON DISPLAY IN MUSIC THERAPY DEPARTMENT

By: Katie Whipple

Creative Expressions Visual Artists were invited to display their artwork in the newly renovated music therapy department in the college of Health Sciences at Georgia College & State University. Dr. Chesley Mercado, department chair, oversaw the renovations and advocated that the department have a professional gallery space.

We are proud to say Creative Expressions is the music therapy department's premier exhibit! Mrs. Phillis Brown, administrative assistant in the MT department, said, "I love having the artwork displayed in the department. It is so wonderful to look outside my window and see all the colorful artwork!"

Ten CE artists are featured in the exhibit including Anthony Davis, Brad Williams, Dee Weimer, Latrice Cooper, Mike Hall, Nancy Williams, Rena Johnson, Shannon Carter, Steve Dotson, and Walter Norman Jr.

Artwork will be on display from April 1, 2009 to May 29, 2009. Gallery hours are from 9:00pm - 5:00pm, Monday to Friday. All artwork is for sale and the profits of the sale go to the artists and the CE arts program. Contact Phillis Brown to purchase artwork at 445-2645.

HORTICULTURE GALORE

By: Katie Whipple

The nature explorers have been busy getting ready for spring! They have just planted caladium bulbs that should be popping up in a few weeks that will add a splash of color to the LEC and CE Studio & Gallery. The explorers have also been growing vegetables indoors under special lighting and will be planted in the gardens at the LEC.

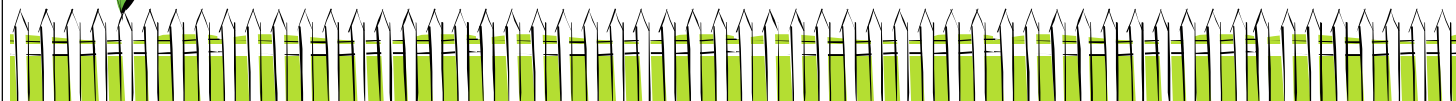
Some vegetables have already been planted. The explorers from Gloria Chapple, Loretta Simmons-Cannon and Randy Simmons classes have been preparing the gardens for spring planting. They have already grown lettuce and picked it out of the garden! They have also planted rosemary and oregano in the yummy "pizza barrels". One interesting thing the explorers have learned is that you have to plant squash inside a mound of dirt to give it plenty of room to grow. The explorers have also planted peppers, onions and cucumbers that will be great to eat in a salad. We can't wait to eat some of those home grown vegetables! Keep up the good work explorers!

BRAG BOX!

- * **Special thanks to Spenser Norris** for all of her help this semester. Spenser has been volunteering with us on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1-3, since March. Spenser is a freshman special education major at GCSU. She is also a part of the Best Buddies program. Thank you Spenser for all of your hard work!
- * **You can now become a supporter** of Creative Expressions! **Donate online** by visiting our website at www.CreativeExpressionsStudio.org
- * **A big thank you to First Baptist Church's Faith Sunday School Class** for all the yummys made for "Milledgeville's Got Motown" including Pat Black, Megan Bowen, June Chambers, Brenda Douglas, Jo Dunn, Aurelia Dykes, Harriett Whipple, June Henson, & Allie Kilpatrick.
- * **DVD's for sale for only \$10** featuring "Behind the Scenes" of our Creative Expressions performance groups! Profits go towards future performances!
- * **A big thank you to First Baptist Church**, especially Rev. Jerry Bradley, Jr., Music Director John Cotton, Pat Black, Eileen Barber, Tom Hanson and our sponsors Mr. & Mrs. Fielding Whipple, Sr. for letting us use their Church facilities for our performance.
- * **Shout out to Tony Taylor** for all his hard work in making "Milledgeville's Got Motown" a hit.
- * **Thanks to Pastor Scott Kitchens and Field Whipple** for photographing "Milledgeville's Got Motown".



*Mark McCook preparing flower pots to plant caladium bulbs.
(photo by Katie Whipple)*





Ms. Francenia Gibson is our spotlight artist of the quarter. She has been creating artwork with Pat Black almost every day for a year and a half. Francenia works in a variety of art mediums including pottery, collage and wreath making. Francenia will be entering her artwork into the Eduardo Mercado Arts Competition this May with hopes of winning an award. "Francenia is so pleasant to be around and a true joy to work with" says Pat Black, Francenia's art teacher. Francenia stays busy between working at the Union Recorder every morning then working on her artwork in the afternoons. Francenia is a true joy to be around as anyone can tell from her smile!

- Do you have an old point and shoot digital camera that you are not using anymore? Well we know what you can do with it - Donate it to Creative Expressions! We are hoping to start a digital photography class and your camera donation will help us meet that goal. All donations to Creative Expressions are tax deductible. If you would like to donate a digital camera please contact Megan T. Bowen at 478-445-2270 or megan@creativeexpressionsstudio.org.



Francenia Gibson

Special Upcoming Events & News

Art Exhibit in New Music Therapy Department

April 1, 2009 - May 29, 2009

Music therapy department

Health Sciences Building @ GC&SU

ART HOUSE: Art Exhibit @ Art Fix Gallery

Opening Reception, June 4, 2009

5:00pm - 7:00pm

Wooten-Garner House @ GC&SU

Music Performance @

Long Road Home Celebration

June 19, 2009

Central State Hospital Auditorium



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We're on the Web!

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