

# CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS NEWSLETTER

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Edited by Katie Whipple, Creative Arts Coordinator

## EDUARDO MERCADO, JR ARTS COMPETITION

By: Megan T. Bowen

On August 2nd, 2009 artists and supporters celebrated the premier reception for the Eduardo Mercado Jr. Arts Competition (EMAC) in the new music therapy department at Georgia College & State University. There was a meet and greet for the artists and the public, a delicious spread of snacks for the reception, and a unique performance by Creative Expression's Harmonettes Choir. It was a day full of excitement and creativity as we celebrated the talents of the artists.

This arts competition was arranged by Dr. Chelsey Mercado, Chair of the Music Therapy Department at GCSU, in honor of her late husband Eduardo Mercado Jr. (January 22, 1946 - October 13, 2007). Mr. Mercado was a dedicated advocate for persons with developmental disabilities and a past president of the board at the Life Enrichment Center. He believed "the arts are a right of every person and that when given the opportunity, creative potential will be discovered."

Twelve artists from Creative Expressions Studio & Gallery, along with 38 other artists from Georgia and North Carolina, entered their art work into EMAC this year. Four of our artists won awards for their artwork. In the Emerging 2-dimensional category, Steve Dotson won first place for his 3'x4' acrylic painting, "The Basketball Player." In the Emerging 3-dimensional category, Brad Williams won first place for his hand built ceramic piece "The Pig," Gabe Elder won second place for his ceramic piece "Hippopotamus," and Sheronica Jackson won third place for ceramic piece "Blue Plate." All first place winners won \$100.00, second place winners won \$50.00, and third place winners won an art supply gift bag.



*Sheronica Jackson standing next to her award winning ceramic plate at the EMAC reception.  
(Photo by Megan T. Bowen)*

We had eight CE artists who received a ribbon for participation including Walter Norman, Jr., Latrice Cooper, Rena Johnson, Dee Weimer, Mike Hall, Selena Wiggins, Francenia Gibson and Anthony Davis. We are very proud of all of the artists that participated this year and we are looking forward to next year's competition.

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## GA ARTISTS WITH DISABILITIES EXHIBIT

By: Megan T. Bowen

We have discovered a new outlet for the Creative Expressions Studio Artists to exhibit their artwork- the Georgia Artists with DisAbilities exhibit. This is a yearly exhibit that has been going on for 25 years. It is sponsored by the Pilot Club of Metro Atlanta and is held at the Georgia Power Corporate Headquarters in downtown Atlanta.

Creative Expressions submitted the artwork of twelve of our artists: Latrice Cooper, Walter Norman, Dee Weimer, Brad Williams, Steve Dotson, Mike Hall, Selena Wiggins, Gabe Elder, Francenia Gibson, Shannon Carter, Rena Johnson, and Sheronica Jackson. Our twelve artist's art was on display with 105 other artist's work from throughout Georgia. The exhibit was up from September 14-26.

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, we headed to downtown Atlanta for an artist's meet and greet, awards presentation and luncheon. At this event we were excited to find out that Latrice Cooper's "S is for Snake" and Selena Wiggins "Ants Looking for Food" won a distinguished merit award. Also, Shannon Carter's "Giraffe", Steve Dotson's "Flower Pot", and Walter Norman's "Hillary Clinton" won an honorable mention award. A number of CE artist sold artwork at the exhibit. Francenia Gibson sold a ceramic pit fired vase she submitted, Steve Dotson sold his large 3'x4' acrylic painting "Basketball Player", and Rena Johnson sold her ceramic piece entitled "Elephant". All artists received a participation ribbon for being a part of the exhibit. We were all thrilled by the awards and sales that were made that day!

The Georgia Artists with DisAbilities exhibit will definitely be added to the repertoire of art shows that Creative Expressions participate in, in the future. We are extremely proud of all of the exhibiting artists and their accomplishments! The award winning artwork will be traveling throughout Georgia to different locations. Visit [www.CreativeExpressionsStudio.org](http://www.CreativeExpressionsStudio.org) to view the touring schedule.



From left to right: Rena Johnson, Andrea Johnson, Jenn Vickery, Brad Williams, Walter Norman, Latrice Cooper, Francenia Gibson, Dee Weimer, Selena Wiggins, Katie Whipple, Steve Dotson, Gabe Elder, Sheronica Jackson, Megan Bowen  
(photo by Patti Weimer)



From left to right: Lisa Nunn, Melissa Garner, Pat Black, Greg Eilers, Mamie Wells, & Katie Schmitt  
(photo by Katie Whipple)

## WHATS DIGGIN' IN HORTICULTURE?

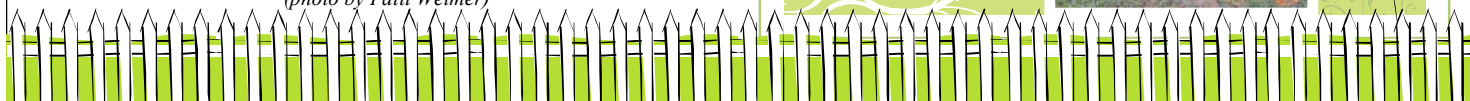
By: Pat Black

Every day from 9:00-10:00 students attend Horticulture classes. We have been working on so many projects! We are maintaining current projects such as the vegetable garden and potato barrels. Thanks to Greg and Katie the greenhouse and swings have been worked on!

New outside areas have been created to enjoy and display of art. A memory tree for those who have passed away has been resurrected in their honor in an outside installation. The names of people we have lost have been displayed on the tree. It includes the names of loved one that we have lost over the last 20 years.

The bottle tree was a fun work of art! We have also cleaned the outside fences from vines and we decorated them with Olympic circles, painted black, red, blue, green and yellow. A paddle post pole was put up in yard of art center with words *love*, *joy*, *peace*, and *patience* on them. We spruced up other areas by displaying our decorated bird houses on surrounding oak trees, displaying an old chair that was painted red, white and blue and used as a planter. We plan to grow and produce a few items to sell at next years Farmer's Market. We want to thank Greg Eilers and Katie Schmitt for helping us.

Bottle Tree made in the horticulture classes  
(photo by Katie Whipple)



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW CREATIVE ARTS INSTRUCTOR

By: Katie Whipple

A big welcome Jenn Vickery, our new creative arts instructor! Jenn is teaching a variety of studio art classes including painting, printmaking, drawing, and jewelry making. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Studio Art and her Masters of Arts degree in Art Education at Georgia College & State University. She has had experience teaching at the Early Learning Center, Early College, and Eagle Ridge Elementary. She has also had experience working at the Bill E. Ireland Youth Development Campus.

Jenn has already been busy displaying our artwork out in the community. Check out Blackbird Coffee in downtown Milledgeville where our studio art is being display until the end of November. Jenn is also working on creating a new multicultural art class to implement in the visual arts programming. We are glad to have her with us! To contact Jenn call (478) 445-2270 or email [Jenn@CreativeExpressionsStudio.org](mailto:Jenn@CreativeExpressionsStudio.org)



*Steve Dotson, Jaime Kearney, Elizabeth Grogan, Dustin Donaldson & Mamie Wells concentrating hard at Handbell practice  
(photo by Katie Whipple)*

## GETTING READY FOR UPCOMING PERFORMANCE

By: Katie Whipple

Yep! It's that time of year again when we start rehearsing for another fantastic performance with the music therapy students of GC&SU! We have many new student members this year and we have had fun getting to know them! The groups have been hard at work learning completely new pieces, but no worries... we still make time for fun!

The Harmonettes Handbell Choir have begun rehearsing popular wedding pieces such as "Ave Maria", "Canon in D", and "Minuet in G" under the direction of music therapy intern Andrea Johnson. Good Vibrations is kicking it up old school with African rhythms and songs under the leadership of senior music therapy student Stanisha Blackburn. Music in Motion is bringing in some fun Broadway hits with "Somewhere", "New York, New York" and "Dancing Queen" under the direction of music therapy students Elise Ivey and Meagan Underwood. The Harmonettes Vocal Choir has been practicing all kinds of gospel hits such as "This Little Light of Mine" and "Children, Go Where I Send Thee" under the direction senior music therapy student Kenya Mitchell. Last, but not least The Circular Motion dancers have been practicing a peaceful "Air" by Bach and an interesting Celtic piece (just wait till you see our dances!)

The performance will be in the Arts & Sciences Auditorium for Georgia College & State University on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 7:00 pm. Admission is free and open to the public. Donations are appreciated and will help fund the next performance in the spring. See you then!

## BRAG BOX!

- \* Check out our art exhibit at Blackbird Coffee in downtown Milledgeville until the end of November, organized by our new art instructor Jenn Vickery! Go Jenn!
- \* Award winning artwork from the GA Artists with DisAbilities Competition will go on tour around Georgia. The exhibition will be nearby at Central GA Rehabilitation Hospital in Macon GA from Oct. 1-31 and Cochran Bleckley Arts Alliance Dec. 8-31.
- \* Our performers took a trip to the GA Music Hall of Fame this summer and they had a blast!
- \* You can now become a supporter of Creative Expressions! Donate online by visiting our website at [www.CreativeExpressionsStudio.org](http://www.CreativeExpressionsStudio.org)
- \* Thanks to Dr. Whipple and GC&SU for donating wreaths and picks for the arts program!
- \* A big thank you to Pat Black, Greg Eilers, Katie Schmitt and Harriett Whipple on all the great work they have been doing to make our outside areas more beautiful & enjoyable! Another big thank you to Greg Eilers for fixing our swings! Whoop, Whoop!





# Artist Spotlight



## Brad Williams

Brad Williams is a true renaissance man. He is talented musically and in the visual arts. Most recently he won first place in the EMAC Emerging Artist 3 Dimensional category with his ceramic piece entitled *Pig*. Brad is a senior member of the Music in Motion signing group and has performed all over the southeastern United States. Although Brad is known for his latch hook works in the past, when asked what his favorite art class is he said jewelry making. He is a creative worker and has created many different jewelry pieces and other artworks to sell in the gallery. Come check out Brad's artwork at the CE Studio & Gallery!

### Special Upcoming Events

*Green Acres Music Performances*  
3:00pm - 4:00pm  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> & January 7<sup>th</sup>

*Arts & Crafts Booth @ The Lockerly Heritage Festival*  
October 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am - 5:00pm

*Harmonettes Choir Performance*  
Lockerly Heritage Festival  
October 17<sup>th</sup>, 3:00pm

*Oconee Regional Medical Center Music Performances*  
1:15-2:15  
October 20<sup>th</sup>, November 17<sup>th</sup>,  
December 15<sup>th</sup>

*Arts & Crafts Booth @ the Deep Roots Festival*  
Downtown Milledgeville  
October 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am - 6:00pm

*Creative Expressions Perform for No Boundaries Week*  
GC&SU Front Campus  
October 29<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm

*Music Therapy Recital*  
GC&SU, Arts & Sciences Auditorium  
Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm

*Christmas Open House*  
Creative Expressions Studio & Gallery  
Saturday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 - 4:00

### Creative Expressions Studio & Gallery

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We're on the Web!

[www.CreativeExpressionsStudio.org](http://www.CreativeExpressionsStudio.org)