

# SOCSA JOURNAL

South Orange County School of the Arts SOCSA Journal Vol. 1 No. 1 March 2006

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the *SOCSA Journal*. Our mission is to facilitate communication among all disciplines within the South Orange County School of the Arts and enhance the SOCSA experience for students, staff, parents and everyone involved in the Academy.

## SOCSA NEEDS YOU!

Concession cart? Committee work? Set construction? Find out where your help is needed in SOCSA and sign up now. Volunteering in the SOCSA program is a great way to make the experience rewarding for both you and your child. It's a great way to meet new friends and stay in touch with the ones you already know. Join the SOCSA Team of Volunteers today. Contact Laura Saleen Keller, Volunteer Coordinator at [lkellerdp@aol.com](mailto:lkellerdp@aol.com) or sign up through our website at [www.socsarts.org](http://www.socsarts.org), click on Socsa Foundation, and click on Volunteer, fill it out and click on SEND.

We welcome your comments, suggestions and input. Please address any feedback to Laurie S. Held, SOCSA Journal Editor, at [newsletter@socsarts.org](mailto:newsletter@socsarts.org).

## MEET RAY WOODS

VIProfile: Ray Woods  
Artistic Director, SOCSA  
Director of Vocal Music

Since 1971, Raymond Woods has taught vocal and instrumental music at the middle school and high school levels. Since coming to the Capistrano Unified School District in 1983, he has taught Vocal music at Marco Forster Middle School and Vocal Music and Advanced Placement Music Theory at Dana Hills High School. Since 2001, Mr. Woods has served as the Artistic Director of SOCSA, supervising and coordinating the educational efforts of 10 faculty members, numerous professional teachers and coaches, and over 240 students in the Performing and Visual Arts. Under his leadership, the performing and visual arts faculty and students continue to distinguish themselves in receiving MACY and Cappies awards, visual arts awards, scholarships, and other student awards.

Choirs at Dana Hills have consistently performed with great artistry, both in presentations throughout the Southern California area, and in festivals all over the US and abroad. The groups are in constant demand, entertaining at



over 50 events in and around Orange County each year. In addition, they have competed very successfully in Invitational festivals in Vancouver, B.C., Chicago, Hawaii, and locally in Southern California. The choirs have undertaken three concert tours, to London and Paris in 2001, to Toronto, Montreal, Quebec City, and Ottawa in 2004, and in 2006, to Switzerland,

*Mr. Woods, continued on page 2*

# Visual Arts News

Special events this month include Ceramic Raku firing in David Wilson's class, in which glazed ceramics are taken from the kiln and put into sawdust or leaves to create beautiful iridescent colors.

SOCSA students are doing great things, including Alexa Rockman and Tiffany Dalton in Ceramics, Alex Kron, Evelyn Martinez and Kat Millard in Photography and Anja Hughes in Drawing Painting and Ceramics.

Upcoming shows and contests include Color it Orange, also shown at the Laguna Festival of Arts, the District Office Show in April.

Be sure to enjoy the rotating shows in the glass cases outside 203-Ceramic/ Sculpture and Drawing/Painting and 301-Photo.

Former SOCSA students who are working in their field or related fields include Tessa Bollman and Alaina

McMillan, graphic design, Natalie Hribar Kelly, DHHS Art teacher, and Heather Smirl, Architect.

## *Mr. Woods, continued from page 1*

Italy, and London. The Vocal Jazz Ensemble receives superior ratings and superlative accolades everywhere they perform, from Jazz Festivals to local concerts and community celebrations.

In the spring of 2004, Mr. Woods was named the Educator of the Year by the Dana Point Chamber of Commerce, and received commendations for that award from the United States Senate, the California Senate and Assembly, and the City of Dana Point.

In addition to his work in education, Mr. Woods has been involved in church work since 1968. He is currently the Director of Music at the United Methodist Church in Garden Grove, California, a position he has held since 1979. He is the Artistic Director and Conductor of the South Coast Singers, a very successful and widely respected chorale based in Orange County. Under his leadership, in 2006, the South Coast Singers held their Second Annual Stars of Tomorrow, a competition for the many talented student vocalists in high schools in the Orange County area. Three are selected to receive a scholarship.

Mr. Woods received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music from Whittier College in 1969, and a Master of Arts Degree in Organ Performance from Occidental College in Los Angeles. He earned a Secondary Teaching Credential in 1971. In 1979, he began extensive additional training at the University of Southern California, studying Choral Music, Instrumental Conducting, Church Music, and Music History. His principal mentors have been Howard

Swan and Rodney Eichenberger in choral music, Hans Beer in Instrumental Conducting, and Robert Prichard in Organ Performance. He is a long-time member of the American Choral Directors' Association and the California Music Educators' Association, and has served three terms on the Board of Directors of the Southern California Vocal Association.

*Ray Woods with Brittany Longdon.*



## FAQs:

What (or who) are the Cappies and MACYS?

### Cappies

In its seventh year, the Cappies is a national critics and awards program for high school theater. Through the Cappies, high school theater and journalism students are trained as theater critics, attending shows at each others' schools and writing of those shows under the guidance of teacher-mentors. The mentors select the top reviews for publication in local media. At the end of the school year, critics serve as judges for Cappie nominations and awards presented in a Cappies Gala. This year's Cappies Award Ceremony (for nominees only) will take place at the Grove in Anaheim in June.

Visit [cappies.com/occ/](http://cappies.com/occ/) for details on the Orange County chapter and for a list of shows at other local high schools. Denise Richter is our Cappies Parents Mentor and several students participate as critics. If your student is interested, contact Denise at [richterd@cox.net](mailto:richterd@cox.net) or watch for information at the beginning of the next school year.

### MACY Awards

MACY (Music and Art Commendation for Youth) is a non-profit organization founded by Lee and John Childress to recognize the accomplishments and hard work of performing arts high school students. Its mission is to recognize, encourage and promote achievement and excellence in high school theater. More than 25 local schools currently participate, and MACY judges attend area shows each year and conduct an annual award ceremony. College scholarships are awarded to a select number of qualified high school seniors each year.

*God's Favorite*, the Fall Play, and *Beauty and the Beast*, the Fall Musical, were entered for MACY Award consideration this year. The 2006 MACY Award ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, June 4 at noon at the Plummer Auditorium in Fullerton. Tickets are \$10 at the door and all parents and students are welcome to attend.

# Beauty and the Beast



Rachel Gross as Belle and Jordan Kelley as The Beast discover that looks are more than skin deep.

*Photo courtesy of Donna Drysdale.*



Many thanks to Donna Drysdale, Drysdale Imagery, [www.drysdalestudio.com](http://www.drysdalestudio.com), for permission to use these beautiful cast and crew photos.



The SOCSA Foundation is busy this school year with fundraising for the SOCSA Academy, and with other activities such as updating the website, launching the SOCSA Press with a new brochure and this newsletter, and sending out a Membership Directory for the first time in several years.

### **FUNDRAISING**

There are three major fundraising activities for the Foundation and they occur throughout each school year:

**1) The Concession Cart**, which operates each day after school. The cart's profits range from \$8,000 to \$10,000 a year. The cart is set up from 2 to 4:30 p.m. and serves our hungry SOCSA and DHHS students pizza, cups of noodles, muffins, EZ Mac, snacks, and drinks. The students often say this is the only time they eat all day, so they're glad the cart is there. For each shift, we need two parent volunteers to help set up the Cart and sell to the students. It takes 3 to 4 hours of your afternoon; if you are interested in helping to keep this fundraiser open each day, please call Laura Saleen Keller at 661-6203 or email her at [lkellerdp@aol.com](mailto:lkellerdp@aol.com).

**2) The Benefactors' Reception**

This event is a reception, art exhibit and concert solely to thank

our SOCSA donors, patrons, our CUSD administration and district figures, key admissions figures from arts universities, colleges and conservatories, politicians, and other dignitaries. This year, it will be on March 19 at the headquarters of The First American Corporation. See page 6 for details. If you would like to work on one of the Committees, please contact Committee Chair Marla Kelley at 495-9548.

**3) Annual End of the Year Gala Showcase and Silent Auction (Showcase)**

This event is in June of each school year, and it is designed for parents, students, and SOCSA supporters to have a gala night of fun, celebrating the year's successes in student growth and learning. Included is a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, an art exhibit from our visual arts students, and concert that includes all departments in performance. Call the Committee Coordinator, Karen Standen, at 248-3727 or email her at [seashores@dslextreme.com](mailto:seashores@dslextreme.com) to find out what Committee needs your help.

### **GRANTS AWARDED**

Our VP of Development, Marla Kelley, has applied for and SOCSA was awarded this year a grant from the Allergan Foundation and the City of Laguna Niguel.

# SOCSA FOUNDATION NEWS

## **DONATION PROGRAMS**

Our ongoing Donation Programs are easy to include in your everyday shopping and they bring in thousands of dollars to SOCSA each year. We thank you for remembering SOCSA.

### **Albertsons/Sav-On Card**

Sign up your shopping card with Albertsons/Sav-On on the web, linking it to the South Orange County School of the Arts. Swipe your card when you shop and SOCSA receives up to 4% of your shopping total. We make almost \$1,000 from this each year. Contact Flora Plowman with any questions at 443-0599.

Dollars for Scholars – Save your receipts from Ocean Ranch, Ocean Ranch Village and Laguna Hills Marketplace and turn them in at our office. The box is by the door entering the Choir Room. Deadline for this is 3/31/06, and we will receive credit for our shopping dollars and money back for a figure computed from our total receipts.

## **MATCHING GIFTS**

On our website, [www.socsarts.org](http://www.socsarts.org), there is a page listing corporations that will match your gift to SOCSA. You can do it one time or more, depending on your employer.

## **INK BANK**

Bring your used ink cartridge to the SOCSA Office. We will send them in to be recycled and receive credit for each cartridge.

## **ANNUAL REPORT PREPARED BY SOCSA BOARD**

Look on the web for the Annual Report for the School Year 2004-5. The rewards and recognition of our SOCSA students and information on our students again show what an excellent group of students makes up the SOCSA Academy.

## **FOUNDATION BOARD CONTACT**

Information can be found on the web. Visit [www.socsarts.org](http://www.socsarts.org) and click on Foundation Board. If you have any questions, call the SOCSA Secretary, Carol Stevenson, at (949) 240.1994. Carol is available from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each weekday.

## **PRODUCTIVE PRODUCTIONS**

Kudos to our Artistic Director, Ray Woods, and faculty members for their stellar productions this year. They include *God's Favorite*, directed by Robb Rigg, *Broadway Night*, directed by Ray Woods, *Beauty and the Beast*, directed by Pattie Sexton, *Our Town*, directed by Robb Rigg and Erin Williams,

*Moosehead Comedy Troupe*, advised by Pattie Sexton, two nights of instrumental performances directed by Steve Wade and Sonja Hammad, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, directed by Ray Woods, *Scattered Reflections*, our Dance Department Concert directed by Robb Rigg, and two nights of choir performances directed by Ray Woods.

*Rhen Kohan*

*SOCSA Foundation President*



## **BENEFACTORS' RECEPTION**

The SOCSA Foundation **BENEFACTORS' UNDERWRITING RECEPTION** was hosted this year by The First American Corporation at their headquarters in Santa Ana on March 19, 2006. Watch for our next Newsletter later this year to hear about what went on during this important fundraising event of the year during which SOCSA donors, officials, and alumni gathered with the Foundation and Academy thanking them for their support of SOCSA each year. We thank The First American Corporation for their continued support of SOCSA.

Questions about SOCSA? Call Carol Stevenson, SOCSA Office Secretary, at (949) 240-1994 or send an email to [office@socsarts.org](mailto:office@socsarts.org).

## **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

Proving that you can participate in SOCSA and also be a scholar, more than 20 percent of this year's National Honor Society inductees are also SOCSA students. In addition, the Superintendent's and Principal's Lists also feature many SOCSA members. Look for a detailed listing in the next issue of the SOCSA Journal.

## **ALUMNI NEWS**

As SOCSA marks its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, the number of graduates with accomplished careers in the arts continues to grow. Watch for profiles of accomplished alumni in future issues of The SOCSA Journal.

To stay in touch with other former SOCSA members and stay up-to-date on alumni news, send an email to Frances Hellings, Alumni Contact, at [fhellings@socsarts.org](mailto:fhellings@socsarts.org).

## **SOCSA CELEBRATES ITS 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

In the fall of 1989, a small group of administrators, teachers, parents and students began to plan for the creation of a visual and performing arts public high school for the Capistrano Unified School District.

On November 20, 1995, the school district board approved the concept.

In the spring of 1996, a pilot program was launched at Dana Hills High School, offering intensive arts programs in such disciplines as Dance, Drama, Musical Theater, Vocal Music, Production/Design and Visual Arts. Ten years after its inception, SOCSA thrives, with more than 240 students enrolled.

# SOCSA CALENDAR

## UPCOMING BOARD MEETING DATES

Board meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the school in the teacher's lounge or choir room.

Month	Board Meeting Date
March	3/13
April	4/17
May	5/15
<i>Annual Meeting Per By Laws</i>	
June	6/12
<i>Last Meeting of Year, Transition Between Boards</i>	

## NEW LOGO

Watch for the new SOCSA Logo, currently being developed by Jeff Simon and soon to be released by the SOCSA Press. Jeff, Laurie Held and SOCSA Foundation President Rhen Kohan have been working hard to create not only this newsletter but also a consistent image for SOCSA that represents all its disciplines as well as its mission and values.

The SOCSA Press is also working on a brochure that will provide details on the Academy to any interested party and plans to go to print by the end of the school year.

## MARCH

19	Sunday	3-6:00 pm	Benefactor's Underwriting Reception, Exhibit, & Concert First American Corp, Santa Ana
23-25	Thurs. – Sat.	7:00 pm	Midsummer's Night Dream Porthole
29	Wed.	7:00 pm	Opera Night
30	Thurs.	7:00 pm	Instrumental Concert Porthole
31	Friday	7:00 pm	IMPROV Show (Drama Club) Porthole

## APRIL

1	Saturday	All Day	Showcase Workshop TBA
3	Monday	3:00 pm	Auditions for Showcase Choir Room
7-11	Friday – Tuesday		Instrumental Trip to New York
10			During Spring Recess Choir Trip to Europe
28-29	Fri. – Sat.	7:00 pm	Spring Musical – Side Show Porthole
29	Saturday	2:00 pm	Spring Musical – Side Show (Matinee) Porthole

## MAY

5-6	Fri. – Sat.	7:00 pm	Spring Musical – Side Show Porthole
6	Saturday	2:00 pm	Spring Musical – Side Show (Matinee) Porthole
19	Friday	7:00 pm	Actors' Rep Night Porthole
23	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Instrumental Spring Concert and Auction Porthole
25	Thursday	7:00 pm	Jazz Night Porthole
31	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Choral Spring Concert TBA

## JUNE

3	Saturday	TBA	SOCSA Silent Auction and Showcase Tent/Porthole/Mall
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# Don't Forget! Showcase & Silent Auction

coming up June 3rd.

**SOCSA**

