



SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA ARTS IN ACADEMICS (SAAA) NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA THEATER ARTS

SUMMER 2009

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**A huge vote of thanks
went out to The University
of Arizona for their support
to SAAA by literally
opening the doors for this
program and their
expertise; without which
this weekend could not
have occurred.**

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
THEATER ARTS



The University of Arizona Theater Arts Hosts SAAA During Training Session.

Special thanks go out to The University of Arizona Theater Arts for hosting SAAA in a special training weekend on May 28, 29 and 30, 2009. SAAA participants for the weekend were able to stay in campus dorm rooms to make the weekend more accessible for the teachers and artists.

Below is an overview of the instructional weekend:

Friday, May 28

Master and Novice Artists **only** met in the **Drama Building** on campus for an introduction and overview of the role of the artists in the classroom within the Arts Integration Lesson Model.

There was an introduction, review and extensions of the CAPE & Understanding by Design (UbD) Pedagogy and Process. There was also a report and overview of the experiences from Spring 2009. As always Karen Husted, Director of SAAA discussed concerns and suggestions for the program as well as a review of essential questions and possible extensions and refinement of the artists and teacher planning tools and documents.



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Saturday, May 29

May 29th was a full day meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the Drama Building on the U of A Campus with **all SAAA Participants** joining in for a time to review the Jigsaw assignment materials.

The Jigsaw assignment had participants review different information or articles of arts integration with the different groups summarizing or reporting on the articles they reviewed. The Jigsaw method is used when there is a great deal of information, articles and/or reports to be covered in a limited amount of time with each group reviewing different articles and giving reports in order to cover the most information/materials expediently and with varied input from the groups. The groups also reviewed and summarized their perspective on arts integration.

Discussions included:

- Project goals and goals for training
- Discuss entry level for the arts vs. experienced level
- Develop a strategy for Sunday's meeting, and
- Presentation schedule
- Taiko presentation and workshop; there was also discussion time with the Taiko Group.
- Understanding by Design (UbD) the next steps
 - What should you do next with your plan/project?
 - How do you improve it?
 - What steps have not been completed?
- Review model arts integration mini unit
 - What is lacking in this model?
- Begin Jigsaw assignment with artists on mini model

Arts Integration lesson model using literature, theatre, movement, rhythms, and visual and word images.

After completion of this review, the SAAA participants went to the **Center for Creative Photography**, Director Cass Fey. This workshop activity was learning how to review a photo to integrate into the learning process.

The busy morning was completed with a workshop by the **Arizona State Museum**, Director Lisa Falk. After this workshop the SAAA participants took advantage of the various resources and sample lessons the museum offers.

The afternoon was spent at the **Center for Language Reading & Culture** with a presentation by Director Kathy Short. Kathy did a comprehensive workshop which integrated literature, art,



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cultures and other academic standards. Each school's essential questions had a table with books and resources to assist with individual and specific questions.

The following was discussed in the afternoon:

- The Performance Based Assessment - can assist and drive planning
- We then designed a performance assessment for each art form that incorporated another discipline.
- We then met with artists and discussed the design one assessment for next year.

Also, in the afternoon we had training on the new SAAA website by Marcy Nathan.

- Novice Artists gave a brief presentation.
- Reviewed the design of projects and incorporated the mini design concept, with a process to use with each artist.

And to complete the afternoon, we finalized schedules for Sunday.

SAAA had a delightful evening at the **Crizmac** with a presentation and more interaction and discussions on resources, followed by a reception. Stevie Mack, President and Founder of Crizmac, Art & Cultural Education Materials, Inc., graciously provided the location. Stevie is also an Arts for "Border" Children Boar Member.

Below is a list of the 2008-2009 **Advisory Board Members for Arts for "Border" Children:**

John R. "Bob" Baker - Retired DEX MEDIA RH Donnelley Crop. Regional Marketing Manager, Field Sales Operation Manager, Customer Advocate, Tucson, AZ
bobbaker2@gmail.com

Leon Ben - Superintendent Fort Thomas
Unified School District; Ft. Thomas, AZ
lben@forthomas.k12.az.us

Dorothy Hunt Finley - Retired Chairman/CEO, Finley Distributing Co.
Tucson, AZ 520-299-1639

Chuck Hoyak - Cochise College, Dean of the Douglas Campus, Douglas, AZ
hoyackc@cochise.edu

Thomas S. Hunt - VP Northern Trust, Tucson, AZ
tsh2@ntrs.com



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Stevie Mack - President and Founder of
Crizmac, Art & Cultural Education Materials,
Inc., Tucson, AZ
steviemack@crizmac.com

Gail A. Nelli - Consultant, Director &
Designer, Leicester, NY and Tucson, AZ
thespian@wbhsi.net

William Scott - Attorney at Law, Dagoon, AZ
wcs007@vtc.net

Kathy Gnagey Short - Professor, Department
of Language, Reading and Culture - The University of Arizona,
Tucson, AZ
shortk@u.arizona.edu

Lynn Tuttle - Arizona Department of Education, Arts Education Program Specialist,
Phoenix, AZ
Lynn.Tuttle@azed.gov

Sunday, May 30

Since we were meeting on a Sunday, participants were told that there were churches for nearly every religion and denomination on or near the campus – the dorm was able to assist with times and locations. The SAAA Program did not begin until 9:30 a.m. to allow time for participant's Sunday observances.

At this point in the program a schedule was set up so that each of the schools, at various times, would go through the following schedule: 1) A specific school was to meet with a specific Artist; 2) A specific school was to meet for Standards Outline; or 3) A specific school was to meet with Karen Husted, while all others worked on their plan and presentation.

After lunch, the same schedule continued for the remaining Schools to 1) Meet with the Artists, 2) Meet for the Standards Outline and 3) Meet with the Director, Karen Husted, while all others worked on their plan and presentation.

The Jigsaw Group Presentations consisted of group reviews of Arts Integration articles and a summary of SAAA participants programs as well as what they had learned during the year.

Evaluation and Summary of the training program culminated the weekend.



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The following are just a few of the photos from the training session held at The University of Arizona Theatre Arts partnership.



Teachers reviewing assessment issues with the project.



Teachers using the resources available in the Department of Language, Reading and Culture.



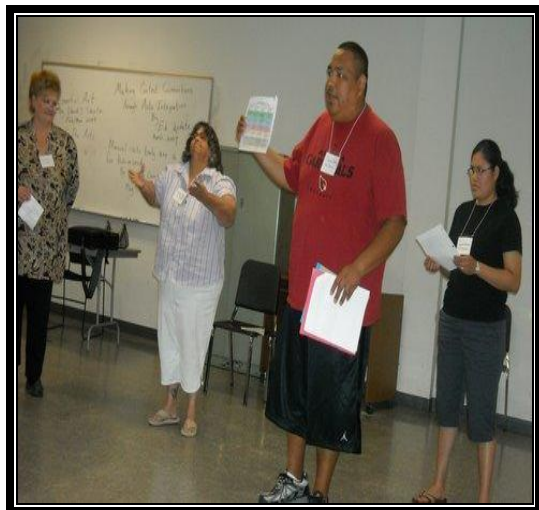
Teachers doing their presentations of arts integration learning at the U of A.



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Additional photos of teachers doing their presentations of arts integration learning at the U of A.

INTRODUCING

Prior to the training session at the University of Arizona, additional Master Artists were selected to join the Southeastern Arizona Arts in Academics SAAA arts program/grant. These artist include:

Alida Wilson-Gunn - Drama / Theatre

Educational Outreach: Director for Borderlands Theater

Alida Wilson-Gunn, a native Arizonan, became a staff member of Borderlands Theater at the end of their 2002/2003 Season and now manages their Education Outreach Program. This season she is directing the *Coyote y Culebra Youth Projects' Wind in the Shadows* and original and evolving piece of theater inspired and created by students and arranged by Toni Press-Coffman, as part of an ongoing in-school workshop, writing and performance project. Alida previously directed *Coyote y Culebra* and *Javalino Balerino*, an ensemble piece, as part of the *Folktales Youth Project*, developed by Borderlands Theater and Folklorist Professor Maribel Alvarez, written by Toni Press-Coffman, conceived by Maribel Alvarez, Eva Tessler, Toni Press-Coffman, and myself, with assistance from Jim Griffith and the Southwest Center (Humanities Department) at the University of Arizona.





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Alida has been affiliated with Borderlands Theater since 1989, starting as an actress in *La Casa de Bernarda Alba/The House of Bernarda Alba*. Since then she has performed in several Borderlands' productions. She has worked as a professional actress and a theater technician in New York and Los Angeles.

gunndrama@aol.com

Josh Schachter - Photographer

Josh Schachter is a photographer, visual storyteller, educator, and community activist who has worked for organizations throughout the U.S. to document issues from urban revitalization to food security. His images have been published internationally in books, magazines, newspapers, films and web sites, in venues ranging from the *New York Times* to the *Navajo Times*. Josh earned a master's degree in environment management at the Yale School of Forestry and Environment Studies, where he explored how urban youth could use photography to share their own lives and perspectives. Over the past decade he has taught documentary photography to youth, teachers, neighborhood groups, and nonprofit organizations in places ranging from New Delhi to Nigeria. Since 2005 he has developed a passion for digital storytelling and has facilitated digital storytelling workshops in the US, India and South Africa.

You can learn more about Josh's work at www.joshphotos.com and www.findingvoiceproject.org
joshsch@cox.net

Toni Press-Coffman - Playwright

Toni Press-Coffman was born and raised in the Bronx. She has written 20 plays, which have been produced throughout the country. She has had work developed at the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, the Sundance Institute, Midwest Professional Playwrights Laboratory, and Minneapolis' Playwrights Center. In addition to writing plays, she has taught playwrights at the undergraduate and graduate levels and mentored them through her work as the Literary Manager of Tucson's Borderlands Theater, and taught K-5 children through a Tucson Pima Arts Council residency.

Created with a grant from the Arizona Commission on the Arts, Press-Coffman's *Touch* has been produced throughout the United States, including a 2003 Off-Broadway production and a production at Actors Theatre of Louisville's Humana Festival. Her play about the Los Angeles riots, *Trucker Rhapsody*, was developed at Playlabs in Minneapolis in 2003 and subsequently produced in Indianapolis and San Francisco.

Press-Coffman lives, writes, teaches and acts, in Tucson. She wrote her most recent play, *Armor*, with a Sloan Foundation commission.

tpplay@cox.net



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Alex Jones - Visual Artist

BIO

We would like to welcome each of the new artist to our program and know they will add their own unique skills to our educational program.

If you want a real artistic treat, go to Josh Schachter's new website. He also has a section on SAAA. Josh is our new artist in photography. Congratulations Josh! We have enjoyed your website immensely; it was a way for all of us to get some great relaxation during a very tense training week. www.joshphotos.com and www.findingvoiceproject.org

Below is a copy of an article which appeared in the Safford, AZ newspaper which was written by a student from Ft. Thomas:

Eastern Arizona Courier

News

Written words in action

By Justine Pike

Fort Thomas High School Student



Actors Bryant Enriquez, Alida Gunn and Julio Saucedo (pictured right) of the Borderlands Theater Company of Tucson, perform a skit onstage as part of the *Wind in the Shadows* a production that came to Fort Thomas High School. Contributed photo



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Students at Fort Thomas High School and Mount Turnbull Academy watched their words come to life onstage in a special production of an original play, *Wind in the Shadows*, on March 23, 2010.

The Borderlands Company from Tucson performed a montage of skits based on work by high school students and written by an award-winning playwright, Toni Press-Coffman, and Coyote y Culebra project director Alida Gunn.

The audience of approximately 150 high school students in the FTHS gym were immediately hooked while watching stories from their own experiences. The subjects of the skits were issues the students are familiar with — from relationship or family problems to the devastating effects of drug and alcohol use.

“I think that when we give voice to the issues in the community, we allow ourselves to talk about those things that are difficult to talk about,” Gunn said in an interview after the show.

She was explaining the purpose behind the project. Borderlands Theatre Company is committed to giving voice to stories seldom heard. Gunn added that often people forget high school students have complicated lives.

I can tell you stories about my four years in high school, but that was a long time ago. Many people don't realize how much has changed for young people today. Problems have changed, people have changed, families have changed.” She added that many adults don't grasp what adolescents go through or appreciate their unique thoughts, feelings, emotions and imaginations.

Some months before this production was ready for the stage, Press-Coffman and Gunn visited Fort Thomas High School and Mount Turnbull academy to conduct writing workshops (through a project named Coyote y Culebra that was designed to reach out to young writers in several Southeastern Arizona schools).

They used pieces of students stories from these workshops to create the script for *Wind in the Shadows*.”

One student who recognized her story in the production said, “Everything I wrote, that's how they played it! They didn't change anything. Afterward, the director told me that the dialogue was already perfect and it didn't need to be changed.

She and others wore smiles of recognition when they saw their work performed. It was a powerful experience,” said Sandra Hill, Fort Thomas English teacher. “I was amazed when I saw what I had previously just read on paper. It's important for the students to have an audience and see how their work affects others.



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Above: Laurel Lippman, left, and Alida Gunn, members of Borderlands Theater Company, perform a skit based on a story of a mother and a daughter written by a Fort Thomas High School student in the theater production of "Wind in the Shadows."

Left: Fort Thomas High School students experience a serious moment as they watch familiar conflicts played out onstage during a performance of "Wind in the Shadows."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Students at Fort Thomas High School watch the Borderlands troupe perform skits.

WIND IN THE SHADOWS:

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2009

May

SAAA Board Meeting and Reception
Training Session at the University of Arizona.
Selection of New Artist



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June

Complete SAAA Website

July

Staff continues to learn the Website and use of the GoToMeeting Programs.

August

September

9/26 - SAAA Meeting & Website Training, September 26, 2009, Cochise College, Willcox, AZ

Go To Meeting started as a way for greater more frequent communication between teachers, artists, and director. GoToMeeting and Website are bridging the distance to enhance the feeling of a team effect for the program.

October

10/26 - MEGA Planning Conference Call

November

11/2 - 6 - Visual Arts: Susan Corl - Ft. Thomas Elementary

11/2 - 6 - Theater: Paul Fisher - Ft. Thomas High School

11/4 - GoTo Meeting - Conference Call

11/12 - GoToMeeting - Conference Call

11/18 - 24 - Music Artist: Carrie Starr - Naco Elementary

11/30 - Theater/Drama: Paul Fisher - Naco Elementary

December

12/1 - 18 - Theater/Drama: Paul Fisher - Naco Elementary

12/7 - 17 - Movement & Creative Writing: Kimi Eisele - Ash Creek

12/7 - 11 - Music: Carrie Starr - Ft. Thomas High School

12/14 - 18 - Visual Art: Susan Corl - Ft. Thomas Elementary