

A E A

ALABAMA ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

PERSPECTIVES

SEPTEMBER

2014 FALL ISSUE

Working Hard To Stay On The High Road

Listening to all the speakers at this year's Troy University Convocation, I became excited about starting yet another school year (19th year). There is always excitement surrounding school starting again. New teachers, new students, new materials.....basically, a new start. There is something about "starting over" that makes anything seem possible. I hope you all are beginning anew and things are off to a great start in this new school year.

Among all this excitement, I also heard the rumblings of cynicism coming from teachers and even some students. Cynicism is nothing new and it can be found in every discipline. I have seen it first hand in business and in education. None of us are immune to it, in fact we art teachers are some of the worst, but we can make a conscious effort not to be consumed by it. I realized as I listened to some of the remarks about the administration, budgets, etc. that it is so much easier just to go along. It really is! But, if we start the year off with a feeling of cynicism and negativity, we're setting ourselves up for a very long year.

Taking the "high road" so as not to get caught in this trap is never easy. Climbing up, to escape the lower, cynical levels, does not mean all cynics will cease talking to you or around you, it simply means you have to try harder not to be pulled back down. If you find yourself being pulling back, assert that you may have "taken the low road in, but you'll take the high road out" (Unknown author).

You can take the high road by focusing on what YOU can do, not what others are doing. Here are just a couple of ideas:

- Detach yourself from negative situations and people – walk away if you can
- Listen, if you have to, and then ask the person to tell you a "positive" story – they may not realize how negative they actually are
- Take a deep breath and say a prayer or meditate to keep your mind from going toward the negative
- Stay positive and exude enthusiastic energy – your positive energy will be contagious

I'm not trying to be a Debbie Downer, I'm actually trying to encourage you to start the new school year **positive and to stay that way!** Along with the new school year, I'm also excited about what is headed our way in November. **November 14-16, 2014 is our Annual Conference in Montgomery!!!!** Our keynote speaker and presenter is **Jessica Balsley, Founder of The Art of Education**. If you have not heard of her yet, you will. She and her team are filling a specific need for thousands of art teachers by offering online professional development opportunities.

So, with a *new* start, a *new* attitude, and a *new* school year, now is the best time to **invite another art teacher or other teachers to the conference**. Ask them NOW so they have time to get funding and time off. I don't know of anyone who has ever gone to one of our conferences and walked away empty handed (literally or figuratively)! Once teachers attend a conference, they are hooked. We need to get more people hooked and moving up the mountain to the high road with us. The high road is the only way to grow our membership and to make a difference with our students throughout the state of Alabama. Join us at the top!

See you in the Studio!

Kelly C. Berwager, PhD, NBCT
President



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"Art is an expression of beauty and does not require explanation! A bird sings, a flower blooms, these are natural expressions of beauty. Let your art speak for itself and let life speak for others."

AAEA State Conference 2014

Join Us On An Art Journey

The annual statewide conference for the Alabama Art Education Association will be held in Montgomery on November 14th and 15th. The Montgomery Museum of Fine Art will host the first day's events where participants will take part in six workshops as well as explore the museum's collection, current exhibitions, and receive information on incorporating art movements and international cultures into the art curriculum. This year's conference theme, "Art Journey" is fitting as teachers journey through significant works of art and explore how to implement connecting lessons into their classroom. A luncheon will be held in the Lowder Gallery for teachers to

hear from nationally recognized educator Jessica Balsley as she shares thoughts on her journey as an art educator in the classroom and now as the founder and director of her online website The Art of Education (AOE). The Friday night dinner and party will take place at Montgomery Academy. Educators will dine in Hill Hall for a ca-

tered dinner and then gather in Sahlie Commons for an "Arty Party". Participants will enjoy learning some new art techniques, unwinding to music, and visiting with friends and colleagues from across the state. Come dressed as a character from a famous work of art or just wear an arty t-shirt for a chance to win fun door prizes. On Saturday, educators will have the opportunity to participate in six additional workshops led by art educators. There will be a variety of workshops and the format will allow participants to choose their workshops onsite. The Awards Luncheon will take place on Saturday and the day's events will conclude with many door prizes from our fabulous and generous vendors. Hotel accommodations are offered at the Hilton Garden Inn Montgomery East, 1600 Interstate Park Dr., Montgomery, AL 36109. To make reservations call 334-272-2225 and use Group Code – AAE. Standard Room (2 Queens) \$94.00, Suite \$109.00. All rooms have a Keurig Coffee Maker, microwave, and refrigerator. Parking is free. A small pool and bar are available. Restaurant on site: Breakfast coupons will be issued at check-in \$6.95 per person. Registration includes Friday Lunch & Dinner, Saturday Breakfast & Lunch. Friday workshops and lunch will take place at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. Friday Dinner & Saturday meals will take place at Montgomery Academy. The hotel is conveniently located within three miles from each venue and participants will find it easy to provide their own transportation on each day of the conference. Registration forms will be available in the AAEA Newsletter or on the website at aaeaonline.org. Conference check-in will be available in the hotel lobby beginning at 4:00 pm on Thursday afternoon or at 8:30 am on Friday at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. Come and join us on an Art JOURNEY! Can't wait to see you in November in Montgomery. If you have additional questions please don't hesitate to contact conference co-chairs Connie Deal and BeeLee Tullos at:

connie_deal@montgomeryacademy.org or beelee_tullos@montgomeryacademy.org

ART JOURNEY

November 14-15, 2014



Keynote speaker and nationally recognized educator, Jessica Balsley



2014 AAEA Fall Conference Registration Form

"Art Journey" November 14-15, 2014 Montgomery, AL

Register online at www.aaeaonline.org after 8/25 or register by mail now

Name _____ NAEA/AAEA # _____
 Address _____ City _____ phone _____ Zip _____
 Email Address _____
 School _____ Division _____

AAEA/NAEA Member Registration Student / Retired Registration
 Early Bird By October 6 \$150 _____ Early Bird By October 6 \$135 _____
 After October 6, 2014 \$175 _____ After October 6, 2014 \$155 _____
 On-Site and Non-Members \$200 _____ On-Site \$180 _____

T-Shirts \$15 _____ Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ X-Large _____ 2XL _____

MEALS ARE INCLUDED IN REGISTRATION - FILL OUT ONLY IF YOU ARE BRINGING A GUEST

	Guest \$35.00 (each guest)	Number of Guests	Total
Friday Speaker Lunch		Number of Guests	Total
Friday Dinner	Guest \$45.00 (each guest)	Number of Guests	Total
Sat. Awards Lunch	Guest \$35.00 (each guest)	Number of Guests	Total

The Hilton Garden Inn is located 3.5 miles from the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts and 1.5 miles from the Montgomery Academy. Participants should provide their own transportation to and from venues. You may pick up your registration packet on Thursday night at the hotel or at the museum on Friday morning at 8:00 am.

Dietary Requests: Vegetarian _____ Gluten-Free _____
 *Specific dietary requests must be received no later than October 25th. We will do our best to include vegetarian & gluten-free options at all meals; however buffers will be on a first come/first serve basis.

Total Cost Submitted for AAEA Fall Conference _____
 *Mail registration form along with check to the following address:
 Make Checks Payable to AAEA 2014 Fall Conference
 OR register online and pay by credit card at www.aaeaonline.org after 8/25 Troy, AL 36081

Additional conference information & registration packets may be obtained by going to www.aaeaonline.org. Please send all membership renewal fees and forms directly to NAEA by going to <http://www.arteducators.org/>.

Hotel Reservations—Hilton Garden Inn Montgomery East 1600 Interstate Park Dr., Montgomery, AL 36109
 To make reservation Call 334-272-2225

Group Code - AAE

Standard Room (2 Queens) \$94.00 Suite \$109.00

All rooms have Keurig Coffee Maker, Microwave, & Refrigerator. Parking is free. A small pool and bar are available. Restaurant on site: Breakfast coupons will be issued at check-in \$6.95 per person.

Registration includes Fri. Lunch & Dinner Sat. Breakfast & Lunch - Friday workshops and lunch will take place at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. Friday Dinner & Sat. Meals will take place at Montgomery Academy.



What happens when you combine an art teacher with a burning desire to visit an architectural "wonder" + good friends who love to travel and learn together + a grant source that makes dreams for teachers to design their own professional development opportunities become reality? ANSWER: Being granted a Fund for Teacher's Fellowship! Lauren Fowler and Gaile Randall did just this in order to research the lives and work of unconventional artists in the Catalan region of Spain and France to inspire innovation and promote problem solving solutions for open-ended, student centered curriculum to be written upon their return. Two sessions will be offered at this year's AAEA Conference: The process of grant writing will be discussed in a group presentation along with Sharon Christman and BeeLee Tullos, and a hands-on lesson based on the work of Gaudi and curriculum guide that is based on the research gained through our travels and exploration.

Throughout the year and into the future, Gaile and I will be collaborating with Petra Vlasman our new friend and an art educator from the Gala Salvador Dali Foundation to develop lessons based on the life and work of Dali. We will include brief synopses of these in our upcoming newsletters, and onto our blog <http://laurenandgaile.blogspot.com>

Two Art Fellows In Barcelona And Beyond



Lauren Fowler, Elementary Division Chair

Conversations with Colleagues: Jumpstart, Revitalize or Streamline your NAHS, NJAHS Chapter

Come join in the discussion to share ideas and best practices on starting or improving your NAHS/NJAHS Chapter (and art club ideas) to share great tips, project ideas and resources based on NAHS presentation attended at the 2014 NAEA National Convention! Look forward to seeing you at the AAEA Convention, check the workshop listings as for the specific day and time!

Also, join us in a workshop panel led by colleague Anna Nichols on classroom management for art teachers that is not to be missed! Check AAEA registration listings at the fall conference for exact time and day. For a preview, check out Anna's blog on art classroom management for art teachers as an amazing resource: <http://artteachershelpal.blogspot.com>

Jill Ritchey-AAEA NAHS Chair

Recognize an Outstanding Art Educator or Pre-service/First Year Teacher! Follow the Links Below For Award and Scholarship Applications! **DEADLINES SEPTEMBER 26TH!**

NOMINATE OUTSTANDING ART EDUCATORS FOR STATE AND NATIONAL AWARDS!

2015 Awards Program Booklet, a PDF file, at:
<http://www.arteducators.org/grants/naea-awards>

NOMINATE PRESERVICE AND FIRST YEAR TEACHERS!

In honor of art educator, Louise B. Marsh, an annual scholarship has been established and made available, through the Alabama Art Education Association, to **first year art educators and pre-service art education undergraduate students**. Applicants must demonstrate an interest in art education. The scholarship funds give students the opportunity to attend the **Alabama Art Educators' Fall Conference**.
<http://aaeaonline.org/?p=420>

AAEA
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