

**NATIONAL SOCIETY  
OF ARTS AND LETTERS  
ANNUAL REPORT 2016**



**MUSICAL THEATER**



# MISSION STATEMENT

The National Society of Arts and Letters (NSAL) is a 501(c)(3) volunteer organization dedicated to helping young artists in the disciplines of drama, musical theater, dance, music (instruments, classical voice), visual arts, and writing who are beginning careers in the arts. In addition to annual awards, NSAL mentors young artists and provides valuable connections in the artist's chosen discipline. For more information, visit [www.arts-nsal.org](http://www.arts-nsal.org).

NSAL offers the following annual awards:

**NSAL Annual Awards Competition:** Chapters host a local competition and the first place winners are sent to compete on the national level. The Annual National Competition cycles on a four-year rotation through the disciplines of drama, musical theater, dance, and instrumental music.

**Shirley Rabb Winston Classical Voice Scholarship:** Eight to ten scholarships are awarded annually to vocalists between the ages of 16 and 22 with a maximum amount of \$5,000 per applicant.

**Naomi Rabb Winston Visual Arts Scholarship:** Eight to ten scholarships are awarded annually to visual artists between the ages of 16 and 22 with a maximum amount of \$5,000 per applicant.

**CalArts Scholarship:** California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) distributes an estimated \$6,000 annually from the proceeds of the NSAL Scholarship Fund as The National Society of Arts and Letters Award.

**NSAL Young Writers' Fund:** Each year NSAL will award one participant approximately \$2,000 plus travel expenses to attend the Iowa Young Writers' Studio, a summer residential creative writing program for high school students. The first award from this newly established fund was given in 2015.



Photo by Chris Loomis

## National President's Report — 2016

Dear Members,

During the past two years of my National Presidency the members listed below, as well as other members, have advanced NSAL goals and achievements:

- \*High School Pilot Program — Florida East Coast Chapter - Alyce Erickson
- \*Preparation for 2017 Dance Competition/Annual Meeting - Boca Raton, FL — Shari Upbin
- \*Materialization of the Greater New York Chapter — Margaret Johnson
- \*Beginnings of a Chicago Chapter — Judy Park
- \*Continuing work with San Francisco, Dallas, Nebraska, and Las Vegas for possible chapters and high school programs — Sandy Charles
- \*Updating the NSAL website Membership Directory — Nancy Morrow
- \* *The Annual Report*, formerly the *Record*, reformulated and edited for the NSAL website — Fran Goldstein
- \* Updating website, and creating strategic Bylaw Amendments — Jeanne Zarucchi
- \*Hiring a PR firm — work by Strategic Planning Committee and Public Relations and approved by the National Board in May 2016 - Doni Lystra
- \*Musical Theater Competition/Annual Meeting, May 2016- Phoenix — Anne White
- \*The 75 Fund — beginning in 2014, with the goal to raise \$75,000 by the 75th Anniversary in 2019; utilizing this fund beginning in 2015 for the Iowa Young Writers' Studio scholarship and for presenting winners in Classical Voice and Visual Art at NSAL Annual Meetings - Alicia Klaffky/Lynn Hessick
- \*Inauguration of the Dorothy Lincoln-Smith Classical Voice Competition ages 23-31 beginning in 2017- NSAL legacy of DLS.

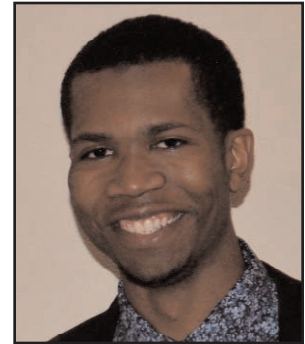
*Dorothy Lincoln-Smith*  
NSAL National President, 2014-2016

# FULFILLING OUR MISSION

The National Society of Arts and Letters awarded almost \$60,000 for Musical Theater, Art, Voice, and Literature to outstanding young performers in the National Musical Theater Competition, the Winston Visual Art and Classical Voice Scholarships, the CalArts Award, and the Iowa Young Writers' Studio. Awards were made at the Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, May 17-22, 2016.

Five outstanding young winners in the National Musical Theater Competition are:

**John Clay III**, 1st Place – \$12,000, representing the Pittsburgh Chapter, hails from Chicago and is a rising senior at Carnegie Mellon University. What he loves about theater is the storytelling aspect and how it draws people together under one roof. To be in theater and to change the political climate is an incredible endeavor. He is grateful for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and continues to thank his mother for her patience in raising a stubborn lost boy.



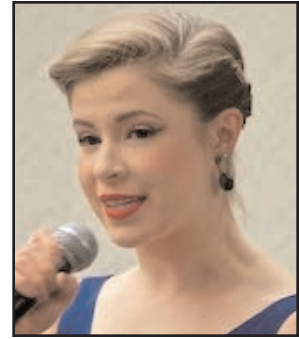
**Jeffrey Kringer**, 2nd place – \$7,000, representing the Chautauqua Chapter, will be a junior at Fredonia State University of New York, continuing to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theater. Born and raised in the Central New York area, he is happy to be surrounded with such great respect for this craft by talent from around the country. He is most appreciative of the deserving people he will remember and the experiences he will share with them. Thank you to his friends and family, his mentor, Professor Ted Sharon, and the chair of the Chautauqua Chapter, Margaret Johnson, along with all others who helped get him where he is today.



**Cameron Mullin**, 3rd place – \$5,000, representing the Bloomington Chapter, is honored to be competing with some extraordinary talent this year in Phoenix! He is a recent graduate of Indiana University with a BFA in Musical Theater. Some of his favorite credits at IU were Daddy Brubeck in *Sweet Charity*, the Egungun in *In the Red* and *Brown Water*, and *Mary Sunshine* in Chicago. This year he will be performing at Wagon Wheel Center for the Arts in Warsaw, Indiana, for its summer season. He plans to move to NYC in August.



**Austen Danielle Bohmer**, 4th place – \$3,000, representing the Saint Louis Chapter, is approaching her final year in the BFA Acting program at the Webster Conservatory of Theater Arts. Her regional theater credits include: Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*, Christine Patterson in *One Man, Two Guvnors*, Laurey in *Oklahoma*, and Echor in *Eleemosynary*. Austen also trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, where she played Emilia in *The Two Noble Kinsmen*. This summer, Austen is thrilled to be heading to Connecticut, where she will be working at the Goodspeed Opera House in a production of *Bye Bye Birdie*.



**Anson Woodin**, honorable mention – \$1,000, representing the Central Illinois Chapter, is pursuing a master’s in voice performance and literature at the University of Illinois. He is from Ames, Iowa, and graduated with a degree in music and finance from Iowa State University. While at Iowa State, he was involved with productions of *Candide* as Maximilian and *The Mikado* as the Mikado, *Rent* as Benny and *Fiddler on the Roof* as Tevye. At the University of Illinois he has performed the role of Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Danilo in *The Merry Widow* and Cinderella’s Prince/The Wolf in *Into the Woods*. Anson was the 2015 baritone soloist for the Simon Estes Young Artist Program and was a finalist in the 2014 NATS National Musical Theater Competition.



Other contestants were:

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Birmingham              | Jake Hemming          |
| Clearwater/Tampa Bay    | Brianna Marie Mooney  |
| El Paso                 | Jannell Stallard      |
| Florida East Coast      | Emily Rebecca Freeman |
| Greater Arizona         | Conner Michael Morley |
| Hawaii                  | Leiney Knapp Rigg     |
| Little Rock             | Laura Leigh Turner    |
| New Jersey              | Aaron Casey           |
| Ohio River Valley       | Hannah Mary Simpson   |
| Virginia/North Carolina | Mary Mattison Vallery |
| Washington, DC          | Katherine Riddle      |



## Judges for the competition were:

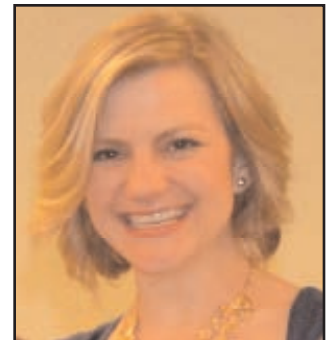
Judy Kaye, winner of Tony Awards and several nominations for Broadway performances, is presently starring on Broadway as Madame Morrible in *Wicked*. Judy Kaye was presented with the NSAL Gold Medallion of Merit, NSAL's highest honor for lifetime achievement.



Will Trice has served as associate lead producer on 17 Broadway productions, two West End productions, and three national tours, having received several Tony Awards; he is currently represented on Broadway by *Fiddler on the Roof* and *American Psycho*, as well as the national tour of *The Bridges of Madison County*.



Lauren Chapman is the Resident Teaching Artist and Manager of Teaching and Learning for Disney Theatrical Group in New York City. In 2004 she was the 1st place winner in Greater AZ and took 4th place nationally in the Musical Theater competition.



Jeffery Kennedy is assistant professor in the Division of Humanities, Art and Cultural Studies at Arizona State University.



Michael Barnard, in his 17th season as Phoenix Theater's Producing Artistic Director, is adjunct professor at Arizona State University's School of Music.



## The Master Class

The Master Class is an important element of each NSAL competition. This year's class was conducted by Judy Kaye, 2016 NSAL Gold Medallion Winner, with judges Lauren Chapman and Will Trice contributing. Ms. Kaye opened by praising the quality of the contestants' work in learning the routine in the dance class that was part of the competition the day before. She emphasized that this master class's purpose was to be supportive of the contestants' aims. She and the judges talked about the toughness of the musical theater life. Lauren Chapman said, "If you're in this business to become famous, reconsider. Do this only if it's the only thing you just have to do."

Here are some of the difficulties. Besides being skilled at acting, singing and dancing, musical theater performers now have to be able to play one or two musical instruments and dancers should know acrobatics. "Get as many tools as you can" because "it's a money economy," and "there are lots of other people with talent" and "there's more supply than demand." One of the tools is informing oneself about the history and styles of musical theater, the styles of the decades, their rhythms of speech that show revivals require of performers. "The more you know, the better living you'll make." "If you can't get hired for the work, create the work." Do a cabaret, etc. "Take all opportunities to perform," for instance as a singing frog. Judy Kaye recommended attention to the regional theaters.

More advice about auditioning: Figure out specifically what you can do better than anyone else; it will be a short list. If what's available is totally wrong for you, don't audition. Take dance classes, but if you're not a dancer, don't go to dance calls. Casting directors may specialize in a style; "hone in on that." Behave nicely. "Producers will look into the history of everyone chosen for the ensemble" because "they don't want trouble." Make connections. "Every job you get, you get by knowing someone who knows someone."

Then when these teachers worked with a few of the contestants, they made the usual analyses of what could improve the delivery of the song. "Always know why you're singing those words," in other words be thinking of the scene in which the song occurs. "What's the personality of the character whose words you're singing?" Dynamics: "Present the journey of self-discovery instead of telling about it afterwards." "The character should serve the show rather than you personally." These are all things the contestants will have heard before, but like advice health professionals give, they have to be repeated and repeated. Contestants' response to suggestions that a song be sung differently are always intelligent and transformative, "awesome."



Jannell Stallard, El Paso Chapter



Aaron Casey, New Jersey Chapter

## The Winston Scholarships

Shirley Rabb Winston, a mezzo-soprano who enjoyed a celebrated career as an opera singer, received an NSAL scholarship and an award in her early years from the Washington, D.C. chapter. Shortly before her death in January 2002, she left instructions for a \$400,000 bequest to fund annual NSAL scholarships for aspiring young singers and artists. The art scholarship was to be named for her mother Naomi Rabb Winston, who was a noted artist, and the scholarship in voice was to be named for herself. Following a Board of Directors vote in 2003, the scholarship document was placed in the organization's By-Laws as the Shirley Rabb Winston Scholarship Trust Fund and deposited and invested with Peoples Bank in Marietta, Ohio. The fund was to be separate from all other NSAL funds and managed independently from all other NSAL funds. The first Winston Scholarship competitions in classical voice and visual art were held in June, 2005.

This year's Shirley Rabb Winston winners were:

**Michael Pandolfo** (age 21), representing the Kentucky Chapter, received \$2,600 to attend the Seagle Music Colony this summer before returning to start his junior year at Kentucky. Michael performed for the organization's Annual Meeting. He has performed at Fort Worth Opera, Sarasota Opera and the Kennedy Center. Michael was a winner for YoungArts and 1st place in the Schmidt Youth Vocal Competition.

**Mary Burke** (age 21), Peabody Conservatory; Washington, D.C. Chapter: \$2200, for the Musiktheater Bavaria program, July 2016.

**Ruby Dibble** (age 20), Oberlin Conservatory; St. Louis Chapter: \$2200, for "Oberlin in Italy", summer 2016.

**Dorothy Gal** (age 21), Mannes College of Music; Florida East Coast Chapter: \$1000, for private coaching with Joan Dornemann.

**Javier Castellanos** (age 21), Marymount Manhattan College; New York/Chautauqua Chapter: \$1000, for private study.

In the Younger Category:

**Kathryn Aman** (age 17), a high school student; New Jersey Chapter: \$1000, for private study or a summer program.



### Judges

The 2016 judges, all of whom have considerable experience with young voices, the repertoire, and vocal adjudication, were as follows:

**Dr. Carol Kimball**, mezzo-soprano, is a noted author of books and articles on art song and opera, editor of widely-used song and aria anthologies, and a recognized specialist in French repertoire. A gifted recitalist and now Emerita Professor of Voice at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, she remains active as a clinician, lecturer, writer and adjudicator.

**Elisabeth Pehlivanian**, soprano and consummate recitalist, has given over 300 performances in premier venues in Europe, Canada and the U.S., with repertoire ranging from 5th-Century Armenian chant to the avant-garde. She has taught Voice, Diction, Art Song Repertoire, and Opera Scenes at Cal. State University, Long Beach since 1999, and now resides in Arizona.

**Henri Venanzi**, a distinguished keyboardist, multi-lingual vocal coach, opera conductor and lecturer, is currently Chorusmaster for both the Cincinnati and Arizona Operas. He has performed with internationally acclaimed recitalists and orchestras throughout Europe and the U.S. and has served as Music Director for Young Artist and youth music programs across the country.



Michael serenades past national president Jeanne Tassé. This was the last NSAL annual meeting that Jeanne would attend.



The recipients of the Naomi Winston Scholarships in Two-Dimensional Art were:

**Alena Titova**, representing the Washington D.C. Chapter, an 18-year-old artist from Sterling, VA, is one of eight finalists of the 2016 Naomi Winston Scholarship in Two-Dimensional Art. She was selected as the featured artist to show her work at the annual meeting in Phoenix. She will be attending the University of Virginia this fall. She plans to use her \$2,000 scholarship for intensive studies in “Drawing the Figure” at the Parsons School of Design in New York City.



**Alexander Wrencher**, 21, Central Illinois Chapter. \$1,500 for a summer studio program in printmaking at Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Morgan Gruer**, 21, New Jersey Chapter. \$1,250 for artist residencies at Skopelos Art Foundation in Skopelos, Greece, and Scuola Internazionale di Grafica in Venice, Italy.

**Sienna Broglie**, 17, Washington, D.C. Chapter. \$1,200 for studies at Yale summer school of art and music.

**Betsy Marsch**, 22, Pittsburgh, PA Chapter. \$1,050 for a summer program at New York Academy of Art to further develop her work in figurative art and portraiture.

**Esther Sitver**, 18, St. Louis, MO Chapter. \$1,000 for a summer precollege program with a focus on illustration.

**Ana Remis**, 20, Clearwater/Tampa Bay, FL Chapter. \$1,000 for study at Genspace in New York City to paint with bacteria cultures as part of her interest in science and technology.

**Mikayla Wenzel**, 18, Bloomington, IND Chapter. \$1,000 for studies in game art and character modeling at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit.

#### Judges

Judges for the national art scholarship this year were Mary Rose Holmes, Violetta Shtymeyzen-Chandler and Helen Tilston. The three distinguished artists and friends founded The Plein Aire Cottage Artists 16 years ago with a mission to preserve the history of Florida through their art – paintings that include its unique and disappearing coastal cottages, its tropical landscapes and beautiful white sand beaches. Among their many honors as The Plein Aire Cottage Artists, are awards from the Florida Trusts for Historic Preservation and a lifetime invitation to show their work at the famed Biennale in Florence, Italy. Their works are featured in national and international private and corporate collections.

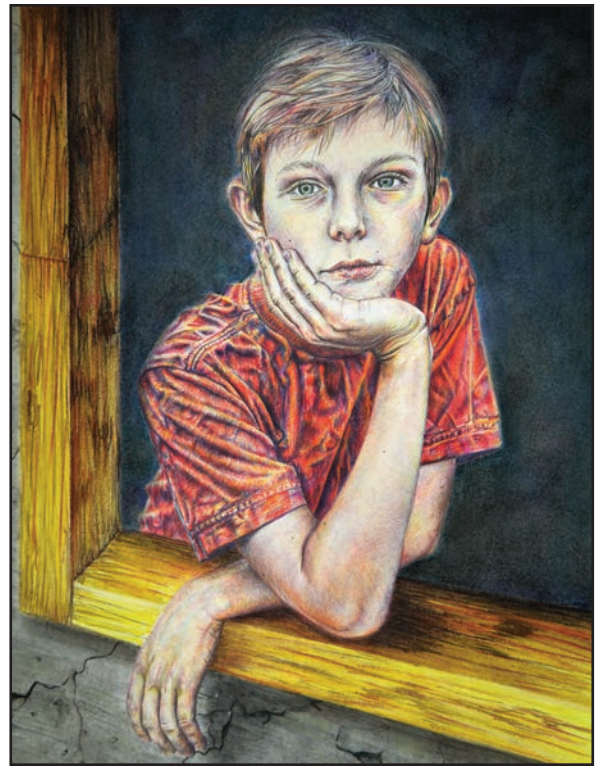
**Mary Rose Holmes** is a fifth generation Floridian and third generation Florida artist.

**Violetta Shtymeyzen-Chandler** was born near Odessa, Ukraine, moved to Sarasota, FL in 1995 and taught painting at the renowned Ringling School of Art and Design.

**Helen Tilston** was born in Kinvara, Ireland, and educated in Dublin.



Alena Titova's *Tea with Grandma*, Oil



Alena Titova's *Brother*, Colored pencil

## The Iowa Young Writers' Studio

This is the second year that NSAL has been assisting young high-school aged writers to attend the Iowa Young Writers' Studio. Here's how it works. In April, once the Iowa creative writing faculty have reviewed the applications for the coming summer and selected the students who they think can do appropriate work in the Studio and benefit from one another's presence, they ask which of the students need financial help to attend the Studio. At our request, they send us the application statements and writing samples from three who need financial assistance. Our committee members read and select. In their applications, the students state what they expect to contribute to the workshop and what they expect to get from it. They write poetry or fiction or both. In 2015 we selected Adriane Tharp, who wrote this about her experience at the Studio:

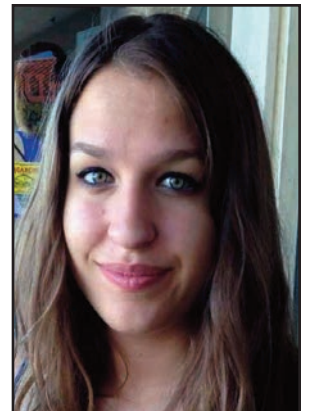
In Iowa City, everything has a story to tell. The sidewalks quote everyone from Flannery O'Connor to Kurt Vonnegut, the black angel of Oakland Cemetery carries tales of superstitions and poets like James Tate who found inspiration there, and those who enter Iowa Young Writers' Studio continue scribbling words into notebooks long after camp is over because they don't know how to stop. My two weeks in Iowa were the highlight of my year. There, I found people who spoke my language—that of poets and fiction writers, voltas and Freytag's triangle, constructive criticism and the powerful giving over of oneself that I've only ever felt in a workshop setting. My teacher told us that "the purpose of literature is to make life less lonely," and the same could be said for the studio itself. I've never experienced a greater feeling of belonging than what I felt among the writers of Iowa. I left more confident in my work, more assured of myself, and slightly emptier because part of me is still in the Midwest, sipping tea among the shelves of Prairie Lights, composing poems by the river, haunting lamplit streets where I walked with writers who gave me hope for the future of literature.

**Michelle Chen**, winner of the Iowa Writers' Studio scholarship, is a junior at Hunter College High School in Whitestone, New York. She is a sixteen-year old poet, writer, and artist who takes inspiration for her writing from the events that occur in and around her home, New York City, though she was born in Singapore and hopes to return and visit someday. She is the first-prize winner of the 2015 Knop Poetry prize and the Norm Strung Youth Writing Competition, the recipient of the Critical Junior Poet's Award, was commended as a Foyle Young Poet of the Year, and has performed at Lincoln Center. Her work has been honored both regionally and nationally in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards and has appeared or will appear in *Prairie Schooner*, the *Shabrack Poetry Review*, *The Critical Pass Review*, *Across the Margin*, *Transcendence*, *Alexandria Quarterly*, *Ember*, *On Spec*, *Polyphony HS*, and elsewhere.



## CALARTS

The National Society of Arts and Letters has been providing scholarships to talented students to attend the California Institute of the Arts since 1987. **Dana Ljubicic** is a first generation American who has received the NSAL Scholarship for four years. The \$5,800 allowed Dana to complete her education at CalArts. In a thank you note to NSAL, she stated, "I am in my fourth and final year at CalArts and I am so grateful to be a part of this community and excited to graduate and use what I have learned here. I am proud of the artist I have become and can't wait to show it to the world. I would not have been able to do this without your scholarship. So again, thank you so much,"



# Financial Statement and Proposed Budget, General Funds

<b><u>National Society of Arts and Letters</u></b>			
<b>Year End Report from 6/1/2015 - 5/31/2016</b>			
<b>and Proposed Budget for 2016/2017</b>			
<b><u>Income:</u></b>	<b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b><u>Approved</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed</u></b>
	<b><u>as of 5/10/16</u></b>	<b><u>2015-2016</u></b>	<b><u>2016-2017</u></b>
Membership Dues 2016-2017	24,327.50	27,000	26,000
Career Opportunity	2,769.00		0
Competition Registration Fee	1,600	1,600	1,600
Insignia	592	0	0
Donation - Young Writers Fund]	250	0	0
New Chapter Development	2764.00	0	0
Nicholsen-Nielsen - Awards	27000.00	27,000	27,000
Nicholsen-Nielsen - Donation	0	0	0
The 75 Fund	10,400	4,000	8,000
Winston Application Fee - Voice	375	350	350
Winston Application Fee - Art	315	350	350
Designated Giving	250	0	0
Donation - Career Opportunity	2,000	2,000	0
Miscellaneous	0	0	0
PR Project - from 75 Fund and Schwab Investment			30,000
	72,643	62,300	93,300
<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>			
Administration (Stamps)	49.00	0	0
President & Assistant	6,793	6,000	5,000
1st VP and 2nd VP	0	1,000	1,500
Treasurer			
IRS Filing and Compellation	1,600	1,600	1,600
IRS Form 1099	40	50	50
Liability Insurance	1,515	1,600	1,600
Historian	0	50	0
Category Chair	0	100	0
Career Awards Chair	0	100	0
Annual Meeting Start Up - Boca Reton	1,000	1,000	1,000
2016 Phoenix Annual Meeting			
Judges Travel Expenses	1,763.00	2,000	2,000
Judges Honorarium	4,000	4,000	4,000
Judges Accommodations/Meals		2,000	2,000
Gold Medallion	478	500	500
Meeting Coordinator		0	0
Printing		400	400
Photographer/Videographer		200	200
Call to Meeting	4,022.00	2,000	2,000
Career Opportunity	2,724	2,000	2,000

# Financial Statement, Endowed Funds

## ASSET SUMMARY FROM MAY 1, 2015 - APRIL 30, 2016

<b>AUDREY PEERY FUND</b>		Beginning Market value	\$ 602,848.76
Beginning Market value:	\$ 22,655.91	Cash Deposits (contributions)	\$:
Cash Deposits (contributions)	\$	Investment Income and Growth:	
Investment Income and Growth:		Interest	\$ 2,730.12
Interest	\$ 103.89	Dividend Income	\$ 6,628.17
Dividend Income	\$ 252.48	Realized Gains	\$ 3,754.95
Realized Gains	\$ (18.30)	Subtotal Investment Income	\$ 13,113.24
Subtotal Investment Income	\$ 338.07	Change in market value of securities	\$(22,604.48)
Change in market value of securities	\$ (708.93)	Total Investment income and growth	\$ (9,491.24)
Total Investment income and growth	\$ (370.86)	Disbursements:	
Disbursements:		Bank fees	\$ (4,092.19)
Bank fees	\$ (160.88)	Withdrawal for awards	\$ (26,000.00)
Withdrawal for awards	\$	Chibratable tax prep and filing fees	\$ (90.28)
Chibratable tax prep and filing fees	\$ (3.34)	Payments to US Treasury	\$ (661.00)
Payments to US Treasury	\$ (25.00)	Total Disbursements	\$ (30,843.47)
Total Disbursements	\$ (189.22)	Ending Market value	\$562,514.05
Ending Market value	\$ 22,095.83		
<b>KATHY MORGAN LEE FUND</b>		<b>SHIRLEY RABB WINSTON FUND</b>	
Beginning Market value:	\$ 58,200.33	Beginning Market value	\$ 498,243.44:
Cash Deposits (contributions):	\$	Capital Deposits (contributions)	\$:
Investment Income and Growth:		Investment Income and Growth:	
Interest	\$ 275.90	Interest	\$ 2,367.34
Dividend Income	\$ 670.49	Dividend Income	\$ 5,721.26
Realized Gains	\$ (69.81)	Realized Gains	\$ (443.48)
Subtotal Investment Income	\$ 876.58	Subtotal Investment Income	\$ 7,645.12
Change in market value of securities	\$ 1,817.01	Change in market value of securities	\$(15,827.67)
Total Investment income and growth	\$ (940.43)	Total Investment income and growth	\$ (8,182.55)
Disbursements:		Disbursements:	
Bank fees	\$ (413.72)	Bank fees	\$ (3,528.36)
Withdrawal for awards	\$	Withdrawal for awards	\$ 10,000.00
Chibratable tax prep and filing fees	\$ (8.46)	Chibratable tax prep and filing fees	\$ (74.38)
Payments to US Treasury	\$ (62.00)	Payments to US Treasury	\$ (544.00)
Total Disbursements	\$ (484.18)	Total Disbursements	\$ (14,146.74)
Ending Market value	\$ 56,874.72	Ending Market value	\$475,914.15
<b>MARY PEERY FIFE FUND</b>		<b>MARINA SVETLOVA FUND</b>	
Beginning Market value:	\$ 93,777.80	Beginning Market value:	\$ 68,933.35
Cash Deposits (contributions)	\$	Capital Deposits (contributions)	\$:
Investment Income and Growth:		Investment Income and Growth:	
Interest	\$ 443.75	Interest	\$ 326.27
Dividend Income	\$ 1,078.51	Dividend Income	\$ 792.78
Realized Gains	\$ (145.78)	Realized Gains	\$ (81.04)
Subtotal Investment Income	\$ 1,376.48	Subtotal Investment Income	\$ 1,038.01
Change in market value of securities	\$ (2,888.84)	Change in market value of securities	\$ (2,149.83)
Total Investment income and growth	\$ (1,512.36)	Total Investment income and growth	\$ (1,111.82)
Disbursements:		Disbursements:	
Bank fees	\$ (665.44)	Bank fees	\$ (489.11)
Withdrawal for awards	\$	Withdrawal for awards	\$
Chibratable tax prep and filing fees	\$ (13.55)	Chibratable tax prep and filing fees	\$ (9.99)
Payments to US Treasury	\$ (99.00)	Payments to US Treasury	\$ (73.00)
Total Disbursements	\$ (777.99)	Total Disbursements	\$ (572.10)
Ending Market value	\$ 91,467.45	Ending Market value	\$ 67,249.43)

### NICHOLSON-NIELSEN TRUST FUND

#### All NSAL Endowed Fund

4/30/16 Balance

The Audrey Peery Award Fund	\$22,095.83
The Kathryn Morgan Lee Fund for Art	\$56,874.72
The Nicholson-Nielsen Trust Fund	\$562,514.05
The Mary Peery Fife Fund	\$91,487.45
The Shirley Rabb Winston Scholarship Fund	\$475,914.15
Marina Svetlova Endowment for Dance	\$67,249.43

#### Super Stars (\$100,000 and up)

Nicholson-Nielsen Award Fund†  
 Naomi Rabb Winston Scholarship in Visual Art  
 Shirley Rabb Winston Scholarship in Voice  
 National Society of Arts and Letters Scholarship Fund for CalArts\*

#### Stars (\$50,000-\$99,999)

Mary Peery Fife Fund for Dance Marina Svetlova Fund for Dance  
 Kathy Morgan Lee Fund for Visual Art  
 Marina Svetlova Endowment for Dance

#### Laureates (\$30,000-49,999)

#### Conductors (\$10,000-29,000)

Audrey Peery Fund for Visual Art

The six funds detailed above are administered by Peopele's Bank in Marietta, OH. To keep the principal of the endowed funds intact, the amount of the annual awards given to the National Competition winners from the endowed funds is determined by the NSAL Board of Trustees using a simplified version of the Yale Endowment Spending Rule: 4.5 – 5.0% of the average ending market values on December 31 of the preceding three years.

†The Nicholson-Nielsen Trust Fund was established in honor of our founders, Mollie Davis Nicholson and Francesca Falk Miller Nielsen.

\*The NSAL CalArts Fund is administered by CalArts.

**The National Society of Arts and Letters**  
 awarded about \$60,000 for Musical Theater, Visual Art, Classical Voice, and Literature to outstanding young performers in the National Musical Theater Competition, the Winston Visual Art and Classical Voice Competitions, the CalArts Award, the Iowa Young Writers' Studio and through our Career Opportunities.

# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Qualified recipients for a Career Opportunity award are the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place competition winners for three years following the competition in which they competed. Qualified recipients were all notified last September. Of the nine notified, five responded and were given an award.

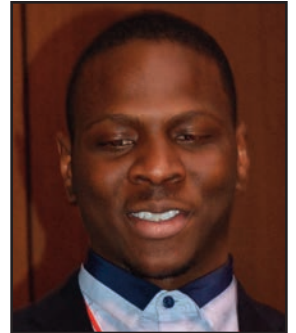
**ANNA MARIA BRUMBAUGH** was the second place winner of the NSAL 2014 Woodwind Competition. She was awarded \$359 for an airline flight to be able to audition for the Oregon Symphony.



**JULIA MARIE DeROSA** was the first place winner of the NSAL 2014 Woodwind Competition. She was awarded \$550 for a new oboe case.



**MITCHELL EDWARDS** was the third place winner in the NSAL 2015 Drama Competition. He was awarded \$750 to help him with membership in SAG/AFTRA. Mitchell is in Hollywood getting parts in productions and this membership will enable him to obtain premier parts.



**MENSA KONDO** was the third place winner of the NSAL 2013 Printmaking Competition. He was awarded \$266 for materials for his production company.



**JONATHAN MAJORS** was the first place winner of the NSAL 2015 Drama Competition. He was awarded \$816.56 for new headshots.



Each competition winner who received an award documented his or her expenses with an invoice before receiving an award. The NSAL Career Opportunity Fund allows NSAL to further young artists in the beginning of their professional careers. It is a great PR tool for NSAL.

The total amount awarded for 2015-2016 from the Career Opportunities fund was \$2,741.56. The fund is granted \$2,000 in the annual NSAL Budget. The extra \$741.56 came from the Raffle and Silent Auction of past competition winners who donated books and paintings.

## Where Are They Now?

**David James Poissant** was the 3rd place winner in the 2010 Literature competition in Clearwater, FL.

David James Poissant's stories and essays have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Glimmer Train*, *The New York Times*, *One Story*, *Playboy*, *Ploughshares*, *The Southern Review*, and in the *New Stories from the South* and *Best New American Voices* anthologies. His writing has been awarded the Matt Clark Prize, the George Garrett Fiction Award, the RopeWalk Fiction Chapbook Prize, the GLCA New Writers Award, and the **Alice White Reeves Memorial Award from the National Society of Arts & Letters**, as well as awards from *The Chicago Tribune* and *The Atlantic Monthly* and *Playboy* magazines. He teaches in the MFA program at the University of Central Florida and lives in Orlando with his wife and daughters.



His debut short story collection, *The Heaven of Animals*, was published by Simon & Schuster in 2014. He is currently at work on a novel, which is also forthcoming from Simon & Schuster. There were many glowing critiques written about "Jamie's" first book. Among them was one by Lauren Groff, one of the judges for the NSAL competition.

David James Poissant is one of our finest young writers, with a taut and subtle prose style, a deep knowledge of craft, and a heart so vast it encompasses whole worlds.

- Lauren Groff, author of *Arcadia* and *The Monsters of Templeton*

"Masterful...Poissant's gift of fiction writing [is] a great big gift. So big that it stretches the short story form a bit; he turns typical short story writing pitfalls into strengths...You can move among William Faulkner, Harry Crews, and Flannery O'Connor to find the muscle that is in ["Lizard Man"] (and many of the others here), and among Eudora Welty, Lee Smith, and Jill McCorkle for the tenderness....A great strength of this collection: Though many of the characters are not like us readers one bit (some are), Poissant shows us how much alike we all are—as fathers, mothers, friends, children, liars, and lovers—no matter our pedigree.... Poissant can do the seemingly impossible...I hear a novel is on the way. Look out."

- Clyde Edgerton, *Garden & Gun*

It's not often you read stories with this much range, precision, power, and emotional depth in a first collection. It's not like a "first collection" at all, in fact. This is beautiful, exciting, accomplished work. David James Poissant is one of the best-of-the-best new writers out there, and I have no doubt there's a lot more to come.

- Brad Watson, author of *The Heaven of Mercury* and *Aliens in the Prime of Their Lives*

The GLCA names David James Poissant winner of the 2015 New Writers Award for fiction, putting him in the company of former prizewinners Alice Munro, Richard Ford, Susan Straight, and Louise Erdrich. The judges had this to say about *The Heaven of Animals*: "Poissant's voice is clear, honest and vulnerable. The characters pause and wonder on their own behavior. The writing is as if spoken, the stories as if testimony, confession, conversation. The writing is literary and yet without pretension...In these

stories we are all passing through, our hope residing in discreet gestures and small illuminated moments. The stories are understated, and there is not a weak entry in the collection."

In March, we received a copy of an email that Jamie sent out regarding the publication of his book and subsequent developments.

Hey, friends,

*If you're receiving this email, it's because you've had a lot to do with the success of *The Heaven of Animals*. You're a bookseller or reading series coordinator or reviewer or blurb-provider or conference director or professor or someone who first published one or more of the stories in the collection. You have my sincere thanks for supporting me and my work and this book. I really can't thank you enough.*

*I'm writing with an update on good things that have been happening for the book. *The Heaven of Animals* recently won the Silver Medal in this year's Florida Book Awards. Additionally, the collection is the recipient of the 2015 GLCA New Writers Award for fiction, a North American first book prize that has been awarded in the past to writers like Alice Munro, Richard Ford, Louise Erdrich, and Brad Watson. The book is also currently being translated into several languages. Finally (today's big news!), *The Heaven of Animals* has just been named a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, specifically for The Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction. Marla and I will travel to California for the ceremony in April, fingers crossed, but mostly just stunned and happy to be in the company of so many fine writers.*

*Thanks, all, for your time and support, and for helping to make this the little book that could!*

*Love and hugs--*

*Jamie*



# National Society of Arts and Letters

Supporting young talent in the performing, visual, and literary arts since 1944

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