



National Society of Arts and Letters
Supporting young talent in the performing, literary, and visual arts since 1944.



Wishing You a Successful 2019!

The New Year is well under way. I wish all of you a wonderful 2019.

Because of several heavy deadlines through January, the first e-blast has run late, which is why you're only now getting this letter.

It is just four months until we meet in Washington, D.C. for our Annual Meeting and National Drama Competition. I hope to see all of you there in celebration of our 75th Anniversary. As I have mentioned before, national convention co-chairs, Bea Hessick and Judy Gilbert have a very glamorous few days planned, befitting the distinction of the occasion. They, along with Washington, D.C. president, Deidre Casey look forward to welcoming you to the city.

Look for Call to National Meeting newsletter that will be mailed very soon, with more details about the meeting schedules and planned activities.

I hope all is going well with your annual competitions. If you haven't held your competitions yet, and you are having trouble finding applicants, please reach out so we can help you. It is important to find the exceptional talent that is in keeping with our NSAL standards.

75 Fund Reminder

Our 75 Fund Letter will be delivered the week of Valentine's Day in honor of our love of the arts and for this organization. Please consider a gift of \$75, \$750, \$7500, or whatever you are comfortable giving. We hope to make our 75th year our biggest one yet, one that will help us keep our exceptional programs going.

Exciting Developments

Marketing Video

The marketing video that Judy Park mentioned in last year's 75 Fund letter is now in production, with the editors busy cutting footage we have been accumulating since last May. The producers will conduct an interview with Megan Hilty in Los Angeles, tomorrow, February 8.

Interviews that do not make it into the first series of video shorts will be added to future videos. We are dedicated to making this an ongoing effort, so please continue to share highlights of your chapter's activities and the outstanding talent you are serving so we can continue to build our NSAL script. Testimonials directly from the young people and former winners who have benefitted from our support are very powerful communication tools for connecting us to future contestants, as well as to potential new members. The interviews with our past award and scholarship recipients will be a living reminder of all we have done and can do for another 75 years.

Professional Administration

Many of you recall from prior annual meetings, that a discussion has been under way about the need for an experienced, professional, non-profit administrator to manage a central NSAL office full time. After months of discussion by the Strategic Planning Committee, a proposal was put forth to the executive and national boards for a vote to begin the process of planning the search for an executive director. Both boards voted unanimously in favor of moving forward on this action. A task force is being organized by the executive board to organize the search. An HR expert will be included as a consultant on employment policies and other legal issues around hiring a full-time employee. Optimally, we will be able to hire a new director between six and nine months from the date of posting in a professional non-profit arts publication.

Contestant News

Many of you have said how much you enjoy being updated on news from our past contestants. I'm happy to say we continue to receive exciting developments in their careers. The following information was recently sent from Dorothy Lincoln Smith regarding her 2018 DLS Award Winner, Anthony Ciaramitaro and Doug Bosley, our 2013 National Winner of the Winston 2-D Art Scholarship, sent an outstanding testimonial, including his many recent career successes he attributes to what our organization allowed him to achieve.

News about our 2018 NSAL/Dorothy Lincoln Smith Classical Voice Award Winner, Douglas Ciaramitaro

"Our first place Classical Voice National winner in 2018, Anthony Ciaramitaro, telephoned his good news that he will be in the METROPOLITAN OPERA semi-finals on March 24!! NSAL shines again and I will be in attendance! Hoping your competitions are going well.

Joy to you,
Dorothy"
Dorothy Lincoln Smith

Updates from Our 2013 National Visual Art (Printmaking) First Place Award Winner, Douglas Bosley

"Hello, Doni,

"Please forgive me for taking so long to get back to you. I hope it isn't too late to offer you my testimonial. I participated in the printmaking competition of 2013 which was an outstanding experience. The other competitors turned out to be wonderful people of extraordinary talent, and getting to know them and their work during the masterclass, workshops and studio visits was an unparalleled experience. Those workshops were highly instructive, and in addition to meeting working professionals, gallerists and curators, we gained insights into the practical matters that must be considered to make it as a working artist. A few of us have kept in contact, and it's been very rewarding to be a member of such an excellent group of peers and keep up with their accomplishments. Since then we have collaborated on projects, participated in shows together, and presented at professional meetings.

"I cannot understate the impact that the NSAL's generous prize has had upon my career. Such a prize

quickly gains and holds attention. Immediately after receiving the first place award local and regional media outlets picked up the story. Within the artistic community, such news travels quickly, and it was not long before I received invitations to give lectures and demonstrations as a visiting artist at various institutions. Over that summer I was picked up by Davidson Galleries, one of the premier print dealers in the country. Around the same time, I was hired to lead a workshop for Frogman's Print and Paper Workshops, and the director specifically mentioned the competition as influencing his decision. In these regards, the NSAL was instrumental in establishing my credentials.

"Following the competition, I decided to make use of the award itself as project funds. This allowed me to take advantage of several opportunities that I simply wouldn't have been able to otherwise. After working on an art project for the Society for Ecological Rejuvenation, I was invited to visit the conservation laboratory in Western Australia of a researcher I had worked with and stay for two months as a visiting artist. Similarly, after working on a portfolio with members of Cork Printmaker--a studio collective in Cork, Ireland -- I was invited to stay and work with them at their studio. Were it not for the NSAL's generous prize these trips would have put me through considerable financial strain, and having project funds available gave me the confidence and the resources to accept these and similar opportunities without reservation.

" Thank you!
-Douglas Bosley

"P.S.

Over the summer my wife and I moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan and before the end of the year, we purchased our first home. In the fall, I started teaching part-time at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit. Within the coming months, I will be building an art studio in the basement of our new house."

(Douglas later added that his wife is in a residency and fellowship at the University of Michigan hospital.)

Communication and Solutions

Chapter presidents, I encourage you to share any stories that demonstrate the remarkable work your past contestants are doing. It would be uplifting to all members to read that our contestants are always grateful for the opportunity we provided them.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to let us know how the national organization can best help you. We may not have an immediate solution, but we will begin to understand your needs and how national (and the new director, once hired) can create improvements that will strengthen chapters -- especially those short on membership and funds. We are committed to discussing all your concerns in our ongoing committee meetings.

2019 is looking to be a year of positive change.

All best,
Margaret
Margaret Johnson
National President, NSAL

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