

## Alabama Art Education Association 2006-07 Award Recipients

Art Educator of the Year	Kelly Campbell -Busby
Art Educator of the Year Elementary Division	Phyllis Horne
Art Educator of the Year Middle School Division	Amanda Darby
Art Educator of the Year Secondary Division	Juli Day
Art Educator of the Year Supervision/Administration Division	Vicky Cook
Art Educator of the Year Museum Division	Stephanie Burak
Art Educator of the Year Category I, Outside the Profession	Diane McLendon & Pam Penick
Art Educator of the Year Category II, Outside the Profession	Ken Proctor
President's Award of Excellence	Betsy Logan
Perspectives Award of Excellence	Larry Percy
Youth Art Month – Early Bird Award	Sherry Bittinger
Youth Art Month – Elementary Award	Ramona Hall
Youth Art Month – Middle School Award	Melissa Stuart
Youth Art Month – High School Award	Christy LeGros
Youth Art Month Award of Excellence	Christy LeGros
Visions Award of Distinction	Gabby James
Distinguished Arts and Education Colleague Awards, Art4U Conference	
Allyson Comstock, Auburn University Art Department, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Art, Opelika Art Association	
Distinguished Arts and Education Colleague Award, Scholastic Art Awards The Armory Learning Arts Center	
Scholastic Art Awards of Alabama, Distinguished Partner Awards	
Strauss Awnings, Air Flow Awnings, The Alabama License Plate Committee, Dr. David Bowman and the Wayne L. and Ida S. Bowman Foundation, Dr. Samuel S. and Mrs. Angie Cousins	



**2006-07 AAEA Art Educator of the Year Nominees**

Kelly Campbell-Busby, Janice Cook, Juli Day, Beelee Tullos

**2006-07 AAEA Art Educator of the Year**

**Kelly Campbell-Busby**

Hall-Kent Elementary School, Homewood, AAEA member – 11 years, Art Educator – 11 years

The most memorable experience as an art educator would

actually be a combination of experiences. Those moments when the light bulb goes off and the kids actually get whatever you're trying to teach them is still great. Recently a group of second graders came back after one week of working on a project to tell me how several of them, not just one, but several, had gone home and taught their parents and siblings how to do the project! I was shocked and flattered they had gone home and done the project again! I was a proud art teacher that day!

**Janice Cook, 2006-07 AAEA Art Educator of the Year Nominee**

Having the privilege to teach art for 28 years gives me many memorable moments, but the two years I taught David Grimes were filled with them. David had cerebral palsy and was confined to an electric wheelchair but that didn't dull his smile. When I asked him and his aide if he would be interested in trying art, David said, "SURE!" His aide said I was CRAZY! But I could see the artist in David's sparkling blue eyes. He loved watercolors and could make beautiful, fluid paintings that very quickly won him awards and the respect of his classmates. His mother was totally surprised that a teacher could bring out that "hidden" talent but it was David's desire and dedication that was an inspiration to his classmates and a motivator to me as a teacher. I think being a part of the remarkable young man's success and development of his talent was truly a special time for my educational career.

Juli Day, 2006-07 AAEA Art Educator of the Year Nominee

One of my most memorable experiences as a teacher was having a former student come to visit and thank me for pushing her. She said it gave her so much confidence. I require senior AP students to have a student show – each student finds a business to host them, design invitations, get music, food, prepare and hang their work. This particular student procrastinated, complained and had many excuses. She pulled through and was so ecstatic the night of her show. She was so proud to show her work and be the center of attention of her family, friends, peers and the public. She sold work and has gone on to Savannah College of Art and Design and was featured in a local magazine.

Barbara “Beelee” Tullos, 2006-07 AAEA Art Educator of the Year Nominee

My first week at The Montgomery Academy, a student asked if his grandfather could bring some of his Rembrandt etchings to share with the class. It was arranged and Mr. Weil brought 30 etchings (not behind glass but only matted) and placed them on the art room tables and shared his love of Rembrandt with the students. Several weeks later, Mr. Weil died in a car crash. It is my hope that a few of my students saw the love the Mr. Weil had for art. They will hopefully become artists, art historians or collectors.

**2006-07 AAEA Elementary Division Art Educator of the Year Nominees**

Mary Jane Coker, Alicia Hames, Phyllis Horne, Judy Humphrey, Tammie Jacob, Mary Jones, Ella Smith

**2006-07 AAEA Elementary Division Art Educator of the Year**

**Mary Jane Coker**

Shades Cahaba Elementary School, Homewood/Birmingham

AAEA Member - 5 years, Art Educator - 5 years

During my first year, I did an extensive study on the art of Henry Moore with my first graders. They were working on a sculpture project and we viewed a lot of his work via Power Point. I wasn't completely sure they made the connection until after Spring Break when the mom of one of my students called to tell me about their trip. They had been to Washington, D. C. and were going to breeze through the sculpture garden, when they were walking through, Adam began identifying pieces by Henry Moore and telling his family everything he had learned. His parents were so pleased with what he had learned and Adam felt pleased because he could teach his family something. Adam is now in fifth grade and can still tell you everything about Henry Moore.

Alicia Hames, 2006-07 AAEA Elementary Division Art Educator of the Year Nominee

After 18 years of school art shows, I was growing weary of traditional formats that usually encouraged mounting one piece of art for each child, placing a name tag in the lower right corner and hanging it on the wall. Often people would walk up to find their child's one piece 'ooh and ahh' over it and leave. My solution: 'Art in the Dark' an art show that is an interactive experience for my whole school and community. Taking a theme approach that was very broad allowed me to connect with many areas of curriculum that we teach daily. I selected a topic for each grade level to explore that related to nighttime, fluorescent light or settings and events that happen in the dark. The results: parents, grandparents, teachers and friends roamed the whole school several times to enjoy the complete amazement of art in a multi-sensory environment. Now, I work just as hard on preparing the art show but with much more pleasure and satisfaction that others are able to see what I see every day – the joy and excitement that students get out of learning about art!

Phyllis Parker Horne, 2006-07 AAEA Elementary Division Art Educator of the Year Nominee

The everyday experience of seeing understanding and excitement on the faces of my students still excites me. Watching them beam with pride at a job well done is every teacher's dream. But when they come back or write to you later, it makes your heart almost burst with love and satisfactions that you have touched that life in a positive way. Last year after I received the Art Teacher of the Year Award, I received a note that included the following paragraph. "As one of your many students who has gone on to pursue a career in an art-related field, I am forever grateful for the time, energy and passion that you shared with each of us. I only hope that my children are lucky enough to be taught by an educator who loves her subject matter as much as you." Others who call and reminisce and ask if I remember a particular project and how we did it because he or she wants to do it with their children or students is so exciting – what a joy!

Judy W. Humphrey, AAEA Elementary Division Art Educator of the Year Nominee

Witnessing a child's joy when he/she makes a personal connection with an art project, medium or experience gives me my most memorable moments. Collaborating with Eastern Shore Art Center teachers Susan Barfoot (1996, 1997, 1998) and Nancy Raia (2004, 2005) provided memorable experiences for my students and me. Both women were/are teachers at The Eastern Shore Art Center. Mrs. Barfoot shared her knowledge and enthusiasm for clay and sculpture. Students who had not previous exposure to clay or the Art Center were introduced to a whole new world. Published and sought-after potter Jake Ollinger, a 2006 graduate of Bayside Academy, had his first clay experience with Mrs. Barfoot when she visited my third graders in 1997. Our ESAC connection continues with exciting and expressive visits from Mrs. Raia. Students created emotional art pieces inspired by her hurricane healing sessions, which touched, many through the newspaper, television and ESAC exhibits.

Tamara (Tammie) Bruton Jacob, AAEA Elementary Division Art Educator of the Year Nominee

I teach at two Title I schools and my students rarely see anything (or any place) new. Linda Miller and I arranged an arts festival to celebrate our year's study on East Asia so that they and three other schools could experience the performing arts of another culture. The students knew a great deal about East Asia from our visual arts studies and from the pictures I took on my December trip to China. A class of kindergarten students stepped off of the bus on the day of the festival and said, "Oh Ms. Jacob, is this China?" while another said, "Oh Ms. Jacob, Thank you for taking us to China!" And in a way, I had. After all the hard work and stress, a child brought home the reason we had planned the festival to begin with. And they you remember why it is that you teach. Joy!

Mary Jones, AAEA Elementary Division Art Educator of the Year Nominee

My most memorable moment. How can I choose just one? It could be the time I met a young man in uniform coming on campus about a year ago. I thought he was a parent of one of our students, but he was here for a meeting. While showing him the way to our president's office, he suddenly turned to me and said, "You're Mrs. Jones, aren't you? You were my art teacher at Davis Hills Middle School back in the 70's. You might not believe this, but I still have that papier mache fish we made. I loved your class." Perhaps it would be the year that the senior yearbook staff dedicated the yearbook to me. I had not had these students since they were in the sixth grade, so for them to honor me in this way was humbling. They did so in front of the entire school body who stood up and cheered. I was overwhelmed. Or perhaps it was the time I met a former student, who upon realizing who I was said, "You saved my life, literally." I was so proud the time a parent told me that her little girls, after we had been studying Monet, chose to go visit Monet's gardens rather than go to Euro Disney. Above all my memorable moments, the bright faces of my little students coming into art class, excited to be here, giving me hugs and saying over and over, day after day, "I love art class!" will always be my most treasured moments.

Ella A. Smith, AAEA Elementary Division Art Educator of the Year Nominee

My most memorable experience as an art educator occurred during a December and many Christmas plans were abounding. The PACE students were studying Russia and I was making plans with them. We concentrated on the Russian artist Marc Chagall. The focus shifted to his stained glass work. I was thrilled to weave the lesson so perfectly with the Russian folk tale Babouska and the Three Kings. Why, not only was it Russian, but it was a Caldecott Medal winner, it focused on the traditional Christmas story and it resembled stained glass! We delightfully transformed the foyer with “stained glass” interpretations of the story. All who traversed were mesmerized. “Ooh, ah!” they murmured. Art is great!

**2006-07 Middle Division Art Educator of the Year Nominees**

Amanda Darby, Larry Gibson, Melissa Stuart

**2006-07 AAEA Middle Division Art Educator of the Year**

**Amanda Darby**

The Montgomery Academy, Montgomery

AAEA Member – 6 years, Art Educator – 6 years

My most memorable experience as an art educator is when I introduce students to a new concept or technique and they become excited about how they will apply this to their own project. This experience helps me see my students as unique artists, not just regular middle school students.

Larry Gibson, AAEA Middle Division Art Educator of the Year Nominee

My most memorable experience as an art educator would have to be when the school’s yearbook was dedicated to me. I was chosen by the yearbook staff and received this prestigious award in front of the entire student body. My classes had just completed a massive scale mural project in our gym just a few weeks earlier. The mural, titled “Another Face in the Crowd,” took over six weeks for my all-year eighth grade classes to complete, including after-school hours. The mural features many famous faces, school employees, and

over 250 spectators painted above the existing bleachers. This filled “upper deck” has received numerous compliments over the years and makes the Pizitz gym not only unique, but always seemingly busting at the seams due to the painted crowd!

Melissa L. Stuart, AAEA Middle Division Art Educator of the Year Nominee

The most memorable experience to me as an art educator is to hear a former student say, “I saved all of the artwork that I did in your class.” They not only saved it, but many times the artwork is still hanging in their house. Now, you have to realize this student is a senior in high school and they came back to their middle school to visit! This experience has happened many times in my teaching career. It lets me know, as an art educator, that creating the artwork meant something to the student or students.

**2006-07 Secondary Division Art Educator of the Year Nominees**

Juli Day, Rosie Dumoulin, Anne Frost, Ruby Lange, Ella Smith, Lynda Williams

**2006-07 Secondary Division Art Educator of the Year**

**Juli Day**

Bayside Academy, Daphne

AAEA Member – 8 years, Art Educator – 8 years

One of my most memorable experiences as a teacher was having a former student come to visit and thank me for pushing her. She said it gave her so much confidence. I require senior AP students to have a student show – each student finds a business to host them, design invitations, get music, food, prepare and hand their work. This particular student procrastinated, complained and had many excuses. She pulled through and was so ecstatic the night of her show. She was so proud to show her work and be the center of attention of her family, friends, peers and the public. She sold work and has gone on to Savannah College of Art and Design and was featured in a local magazine.

Rosemary Cowen Dumoulin, 2006-07 Secondary Division Art Educator of the Year Nominee

The Scene: Experienced art teacher (17 years). First year teaching high school art. New school with all advanced students. Painting class – mostly seniors. (My strongest areas are photo and ceramics – not painting.) Pressure to perform.

The Year: My students were accepting but cautious. Several had taken AP Studio the previous year. I worked through the year planning each assignment based on the personalities of the kids and the skills I knew they needed. I exposed them to every type of painting I could find. Most lessons were successful – but not all. We researched famous and not-so-famous painters. We listened to great music. We learned to trust each other. I kept my fingers crossed but worried all the time that I was not adequate.

Graduation: I sent them off to new adventures with Basquiat's book *I Am Not Afraid of Anything*.

Two weeks later: In the mail was a note from Louisa – bright, soul of an artist, gifted painter... Thanking me for guiding her back to the joy of creating art after a serious case of burnout. Calling me her muse and mentor. My tears of humble gratitude.

Lesson learned: The most important parts of teaching art are loving the kids and having a passion for sharing the joy found only in the creation of beautiful images.

Anne Frost, 2006-07 Secondary Division Art Educator of the Year Nominee

In considering my most memorable experience as an art teacher, I am always brought back to both the students and to the other art teachers who've been my support. I am also very conscious of gratitude for them and of the incredible fortune I've had to be able to share what I love and for the incredible fortune I've had to be able to share what I love (art) with people who then reveal to me new ways of seeing things. My memory is very general at my age. There have been, of course, students who have gone on to accomplish wonderful things, like Alan who is not the artist, Possum and Janet, who after going to ACA on a scholarship and leaving a job at CNN has published two books of photography. I've been gratified to see students with special problems succeed, like James who went to college and became a photographer in spite of the brain damage caused by having been shot in the head. And Keith, who, though he could not read, was able to be an illustrator and afford a house and become independent. I've seen the courage of young people who, when faced with the worst life has to slap them down with, fight back and not give up. I am so happy when my autistic student says he has really learned about art or kids put together ideas and with amazement say, "Oh, you mean...?"

I remember proudly, the students who have won awards and the award ceremonies we shared. The memory that is one of the best things for me is the feeling when the end of the year/term art show is finally up and I stand back and look. Then is when I can take it all in and see the progress that was made and be astounded at the quality and amount of work that was accomplished. Until then I am always focused on the details of teaching art and don't really see the big picture so well. That's when I know it was all worth it. Knowing that it is sometimes difficult though when it is not time for the final show. That is when the only people who can truly make me feel less alone is another art teacher. The conferences are memorable as a time of rejuvenation as a teacher and as a creative person. Since the support nurtures my soul, I pushed for a local organization. The first meetings we had are a special memory for me; it felt like coming home to my sisters.

Ruby J. Lange, 2006-07 Secondary Division Art Educator of the Year Nominee

When departing the store Best Buy about two years ago, a grown man stopped me and greeted me by name. He went on to tell me how much he had enjoyed and valued my monthly visits to his classes as a visiting artist with a lesson when he as a young boy in elementary school. He went on to say he had kept some of his work from that period and that contact had lead him to have a personal connection with art now. Other students have also related similar type of information to me. Working with young people and inspiring them to embrace and value their art experience to the point it has meaning in their life.

Ella A. Smith, 2006-07 Secondary Division Art Educator of the Year Nominee

My most memorable experience as an art educator occurred during a December and many Christmas plans were abounding. The PACE students were studying Russia and I was making plans with them. We concentrated on the Russian artist Marc Chagall. The focus shifted to his stained glass work. I was thrilled to weave the lesson so perfectly with the Russian folk tale Babouska and the Three Kings. Why, not only was it Russian, but it was a Caldecott Medal winner, it focused on the traditional Christmas story and it resembled stained glass! We delightfully transformed the foyer with “stained glass” interpretations of the story. All who traversed were mesmerized. “Ooh, ah!” they murmured. Art is great!

Lynda M. B. Williams, 2006-07 Secondary Division Art Educator of the Year Nominee

While I’m not certain I’ve had my most memorable experience yet, the excitement my students and I experienced at receiving national recognition on the Today Show for our Hurricane Art Project was “over the top” - a rewarding event! What began as a healing and therapy project – recording our memories of Hurricane Ivan on ceiling panels – turned into an exhibit and fundraiser for victims of the devastation and then this remarkable 15 minutes of “fame” – many students received commissions for other types of artwork for this event as well. The motivation that keeps me “keeping on” is the letters I get from seniors thanking me for inspiring them or hearing they’ve gone on to their own rewarding careers in art.

**2006-07 Supervision/Administration Division Art Educator of the Year**

**Vicky Cook**

Baldwin County Public Schools, Loxley

AAEA Member – 4 1/2 years, Art Educator – 25 years as Art Through Special Ed. Literature

Student experiences of elation during and upon completion of art projects rank at the top of memorable experiences along with students retelling their field trip experiences to classmates in the hallway when they see photos displayed of the class field trip to the museum.

It is the unsolicited student response to the art project you presented that makes it all worthwhile. Art allows you to travel down memory lane and escape the present when students (and you) need it the most.

**2006-07 Museum Division Art Educator of the Year Nominees**

Stephanie Burak, Nancy Raia

**2006-07 AAEA Museum Division Art Educator of the Year**

**Stephanie Burak**

Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art at Auburn University, Auburn

AAEA Member – 1 year, Art Educator – 3 years

In the fall of 2005, JCSM had the Quilts of Gee's Bend exhibition on display. As an art and museum educator, the show was an absolute treasure for teaching. Every school group we brought through the museum was a great experience, but the best one was when we had

kids from Gee's Bend come over and see their families' artwork hanging in a museum for the first time. The day when the third through eighth graders came, the museum was charged with energy and excitement. The students were eager to learn and to share their knowledge about quilting, family history and art. There was the enthusiasm of discovery, pride and the recognition that art can be anywhere and everywhere, including their own hometown of Gee's Bend.

Nancy Raia, 2006-07 AAEA Museum Division Art Educator of the Year Nominee

I have many memorable experiences as an art educator, but this year really sticks in my mind. After working with Hurricane Ivan lessons that I called Hurricane Healing, I thought I had seen a lot of ranges of expression from students who had been impacted by it.

Then came Katrina, and an influx of evacuees from Louisiana and Mississippi who were traumatized by their experience. We came together and talked about it, and then created Blue Faces of Katrina. The children were working together through the emotions still residing after the storm. The waters may have receded, but the impact on the children was nowhere diminished. One boy worked with me during several sessions, a normally bright, optimistic 12-year-old from Ocean Springs, Mississippi. He always led with a smile and positive outlook, encouraging the others to “see the future.” He did a watercolor hurricane hair self-portrait, that is normally a silly exercise, a final release to the emotions from the more serious pieces created before. He looked at it and said, “I thought I was feeling better, but look at my face. It looks still sad. My art doesn’t lie.” It was a profound moment, illustrating the truth behind children’s artwork. Art helps you know who you are, and where you are at the moment. It allows expression when no other way can. It heals.

**2006-07 AAEA Category I, Outside the Profession Nominees**

Ira Latham, Diane McLendon, Pam Penick, Dr. Beverly Thomas

**2006-07 AAEA Category II, Outside the Profession Nominees**

Alabama Humanities Foundation, Steven Atha, Louis Mapp, Ken Proctor

