

June 2015

In this Issue

[Award winners talk about BSA & the arts](#)

[Building with Habitat](#)

[Student Filmmakers recognized](#)

[BSA In the News](#)

[What are you reading this summer?](#)

[Nutcracker is back at BSA](#)

[Alumni in the area](#)

[The year in photos](#)

Dear Friends,

From the Opening of the [Center for Collaborative Arts & Technology](#) in September to an amazing alumni reunion in October; from *The Nutcracker* with the BSO to new partnerships for [TWIGS](#); from the world premiere of [Imagined Worlds](#) to national press coverage on the [PBS NewsHour](#) -- the 2014-15 school year was packed with excitement and accomplishments. Every step of the way, students and faculty were exceeding expectations, alumni were contributing time and talent, and the community offered moral and financial support.

This has been a year of bold steps forward for BSA and, as is often the case, bold steps are exciting and demand tremendous energy and commitment. Our community came through again and again with both. As Tim Smith noted in the [Baltimore Sun](#), **"If more high schools enjoyed even a fraction of the imagination and commitment the BSA demonstrated with 'The Codex Project,' we wouldn't have to worry so much about the state of education in this country."**

We're able to stride forward because of our people--So thank you to the **kids** for looking forward and digging deep to meet the challenges set before you; to the **faculty and master teachers** who set the bar very high and help students reach higher; and to our **families, volunteers, alumni, board members, sponsors, partners, and friends** who help to provide the tools that make this place work.

I hope that you all have a fulfilling and restorative summer as we move on to our separate activities. Please know we'll be eagerly awaiting those first events of the school year, whether it's a Tune Up class during the week of August 24th or the first full day of classes on August 31.

Hope to see you soon,

Chris Ford, Director, BSA



News & Thanks from the BSA Foundation

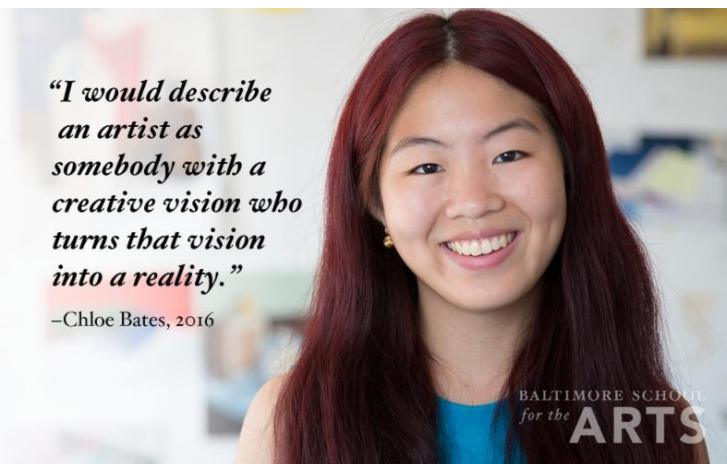
We celebrated BSA's **34th Commencement** on Sunday, May 31. In addition to the more than \$11 million in scholarships and merit aid earned by the graduating seniors, the BSA Foundation awarded 40+ graduates **special scholarships and awards** made possible by donors to BSA. This year we presented the first **Alumni Scholarship** with gifts from BSA grads collected at the 35th Reunion. All of these "last dollar" prizes make a real difference for our graduates who can use them for tuition, books, computers and other college-related expenses. For a list of named college awards, [click here](#). For our college list, [click here](#).

Students reflect on BSA & the arts

Our students accomplished many wonderful things this year, in both academics and the arts, and we're really proud of all of their efforts and recognition. We had a chance to catch up with a few award-winners and they shared their thoughts with us.



Saxophone player **Tasja Slaughter** was one of twelve finalists selected in the [Words on Wheels](#) poetry competition. Her poem - "Who Will Cry?" - is featured on MTA buses in Baltimore City. "My creative work has influenced who I am because my creativity is what landed me at BSA. Without BSA, I honestly would not be who I am, mentally." Headed to University of Maryland this fall, Tasja advises current students to "go against the grain."



"My art has helped me develop my understanding of the world and the role I want to have in it," says visual artist **Chloe Bates**. Chloe is the winner of the 2015 [Fred Lazarus IV Artscape Prize](#), a member of the National Honor Society, and Web Editor of the school's literary magazine. Her work will be on display at a solo show at MICA this summer (June 16-August 2). "To me, art is the intentional and skillful execution of an idea expressed in a medium or media. It doesn't have to be tangible, aesthetically appealing, original, or easily understood."



Many of BSA's rising seniors are attending **summer programs with stipends** also made possible by donors to BSA. We're looking forward to hearing about their adventures when they return from Chicago, New York, Nashville, Boston, Indiana and even Bavaria, Germany! These summer study opportunities are enriching for not only our students, but for the community as whole!

We're more than halfway to our \$10 million goal for BSA's Endowment Campaign!

In addition to a banner year of annual and capital fundraising (including grants for the CCAT and upgrades to the Schaefer Ballroom; an incredible [Expressions](#); and some wonderful personal gifts) generous commitments were also made to BSA's **Endowed Fund for the Future**. On behalf of Campaign Chair David Nelson and all of us at BSA, **thank you to all of the donors who have invested in the school's future**. We've surpassed \$5 million!

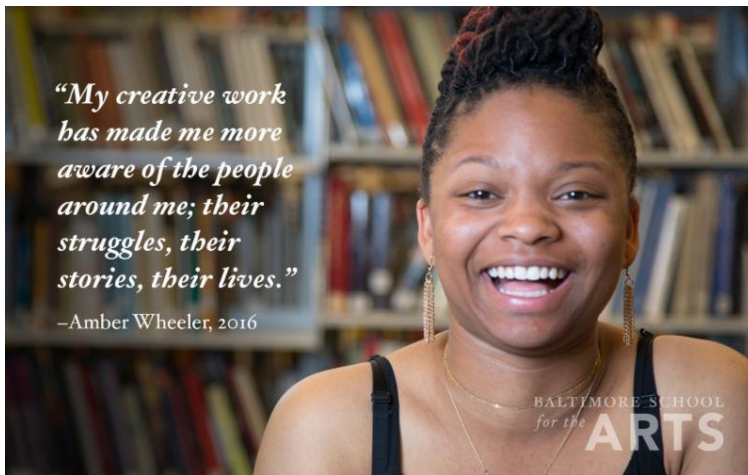


YOUR LEGACY THEIR FUTURE





Cellist **Emily Cornett** is a [National Merit Scholarship Winner](#) and valedictorian of BSA's senior class. She believes that "Art connects all people. It's a manifestation of the common understanding and expression of the human experience. The emotions within music, for example, are preserved for hundreds of years, and we listen to the same melodies that moved and inspired people throughout history." Emily will continue her studies at Yale University this fall. What she'll miss most? "There is so much love at BSA."



Actor **Amber Wheeler** describes an artist "as someone who has found a way to articulate their inner thoughts through some creative medium." One of the ways she expresses her inner thoughts is through writing and this year she was honored in [Center Stage's Young Playwrights Festival](#). Her advice to classmates: "Do not procrastinate! It will destroy all of the hard work you've put in previously, and it will stress you out; avoid it at all costs." Amber plans to continue playwriting, to become an English teacher, and to act on the side.

We're also delighted to announce the establishment of [The Legacy at BSA](#) stewarded by longtime BSA advocate Alexander Baer. The Legacy is an important circle for those wishing to include BSA in their estate plans.

For more information about either the Endowed Fund for the Future or The Legacy at BSA, please contact Caroline Senatore at csenatore@bsfa.org. To join our annual fundraising efforts or to sponsor Expressions, please contact Carter Polakoff at cpolakoff@bsfa.org.

ALUMNI IN THE AREA

Join alumni **Tim Green & Dontae Winslow** for jazz this [Friday, June 19](#) at 8pm at Maryland Art Place 218 W Saratoga St. Tickets : \$20 (\$17 in advance) timgreenmusic



Actor **Susan Rome** is the lead in *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* at [TheatreJ](#) in Washington, DC. Through July 5.

Dance alumna **Portia Putney** is Tiger Lily in J.M. Barrie's classic tale *Peter Pan* at [Threesixty Theatre](#). June 24- Aug 16 Tysons Corner, VA.

Visual artist **Sara VanDerBeek**'s work is on display through September 20th at the [Baltimore Museum of Art](#).



Students Cap Year with Workshops, Service Trip

For the last week of school, BSA students attended [workshops](#) exploring artistic disciplines other than their own, as well as social justice, robotics, biology, financial planning and more. Twelve upcoming seniors and juniors traveled to North Carolina with [Service Break Connect](#) to build two houses from the ground up in just one week! Says student Abby Pelton, "We learned a lot

about the impact [Habitat for Humanity](#) can have on a community. The trip has inspired me to give back and I plan to continue doing Habitat Chesapeake and would like to do anything I can to help others."

BSA Student Filmmakers Recognized

Several BSA students were recognized in the [Baltimore High School Film Festival](#). **Gaia Bethel-Birch** received the highest scores in **Advocacy** for *Just To Live* and **Stage Design and Production sophomores** received the highest scores in **Animation** for *Sleep*. These movies, as well as *Fractions* by **Angela Crowder** and **Mr. East's math class**, will be screened **Saturday, June 20 at the Charles Theatre from 10am - 1pm**. The festival is free and open to the public -- Join in to see our students' work and that of other young high school filmmakers. For a preview reel, [click here](#).

BSA in the News

>**Donald Hicken**, a finalist for the Tony Awards **Excellence in Theatre Education Award**, was profiled after his trip to the show at Radio City Music Hall in the *Washington Post* article [Broadway gives teachers their due](#).

>BSA alumni [Patrick Cook](#) (pictured right with BSA's Resident Costumer Norah Worthington at the BSO for *Candide*) and [Courtney Spears](#) (Ailey II) got recent shout-outs in the *Baltimore Sun*.



>Thank you to **Dr. Lillian Lowery**, Maryland schools superintendent, for selecting BSA as her top pick in the Sun's special [101 Days & Nights in Baltimore](#). "Every time I step through the doors of the Baltimore School for the Arts, I get the feeling that I may be about to witness the next big star. Perhaps it'll be a singer, dancer, or maybe an actor. Maybe a trumpet player or painter. The BSA is a very special place, drawing creative students from Baltimore and beyond. The school offers performances and exhibits galore for all to experience." Alum Josh Charles was also a "celeb" interviewed in the piece!



SUMMER AT BSA!

BSA will be bustling with activity this summer!

Dance Summer Camp
June 22-July 17. 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Email dsummersession@bsfa.org for more information or to register.

We'll be hosting the [BSO Academy](#) June 22-26

The CCAT Summer Program/Youthworks
June 29-July 31, 9am-3pm
A pilot program focusing on students' computer proficiency and tech awareness. This program is full but if you have any questions, contact Pat Galluzzo at pgalluzzo@bsfa.org.

Visual Arts & Photography Camps July 6-30. Email cbrisendine@bsfa.org for more information or to register.

Summer Academic Assistance for BSA students
July 13-30, 9-12 am. This program is by invitation but students may request to be a part of it if they feel they might benefit. Contact Tom Ventimiglia with questions at ventimiglia@bsfa.org.



Summer Reading

BSA students are assigned summer reading from a list of books. The top picks of our English teachers for this summer? Ms. Bacon suggests *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak; Ms. Gladney liked *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark

Haddon; Mr. Kessler was influenced by *The Illustrated Man* and Ray Bradbury; and Mr. Ventimiglia suggests *Moonwalking with Einstein: the Art and Science of Remembering Everything* by Joshua Foer. For a complete summer reading list and assignments for BSA students, [click here](#).

The Year in Photos

Enjoy this slideshow of photos collected from the year: [Click here!](#)



The Nutcracker Comes Home: Save the dates for the holidays back at BSA this December!

After three years of an exciting collaboration with the BSO at the Modell Lyric, BSA's beloved *Nutcracker* is returning to the Schaefer Ballroom.



We're excited to welcome guests home for the holidays. Lower ticket prices and the opportunity to reach more kids with special matinees are just two of the benefits of being back at BSA. Dates are: December 11, 7 pm; December 12, 11 am & 4 pm; December 18, 7 pm; December 19, 1 pm. Free matinees for Baltimore City kids: December 15 & 17, 10 & 11:30 am. See you in December for sugar plums and snowflakes!

Have a great summer everyone and we will see you back at BSA for the first day of school: August 31, 2015!



Join us @baltschoolarts on [Instagram](#)
There's always more at www.bsfa.org
Where the arts change kids' lives

Copyright © 2015. All Rights Reserved.