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2015

## Turner Center Binder 10 2015

Turner Center for the Arts

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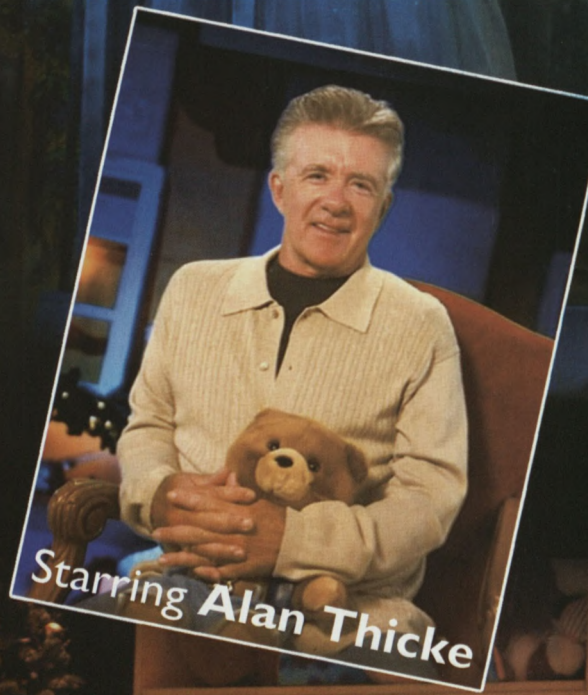
# THE TOY SHOPPE

Tuesday, December 8

7:30pm at Mathis City Auditorium, Valdosta

Tickets: \$49, Children (ten & under): \$20  
Contact the Turner Center for the Arts for  
tickets & information: **527 N. Patterson Street**  
**229-247-ARTS (2787) / [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org)**

An optional pre-show dinner will be offered at 6pm  
for \$16 for adults and \$8 for children  
(RSVP and advance payment required)



Starring Alan Thicke

ANNETTE HOWELL  
**TURNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS**



# MIXED MEDIA

## Artist makes the time to keep art alive

by DEAN POLING

**M**any young artists draw, paint and sculpt throughout their childhoods and youths.

They go to school. They may or may not earn degrees in art. They get jobs that may or may not be related to their art. They marry. They take out loans for cars and houses. They have yard work. They have children. Their art becomes a thing of memory. Old paintings gathering dust in a closet.

Derek Schaper is not that artist.

He's worked a full-time job with The Valdosta Daily Times since August 2004. He designs the look and builds the page layouts for numerous publications including every issue of Valdosta Scene magazine.

Even after the onslaught of deadlines, writers, editors, photographs and stories, Schaper still finds time to pursue his art and launch exhibits.

Two years ago, Schaper and two friends exhibited their works in a three-man show at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Through early January, Schaper's work is on exhibit in Josette's Gallery in the arts center.

The one-man show is multi-media. The exhibit features drawings of ships, a series of full-color "scourges," mounted character heads, wooden sculpture, furniture designs.

As Schaper says in his artist's statement: "This exhibit is a reflection of my varied interests and pursuits in art over recent years. I have been working toward developing my skill and techniques in hopes of arriving at a personal style that is recognizable no matter the subject, format or materials used. This body of work was done without a real unifying theme in mind — just creating whatever I feel inspired to work on at any given time — often animals, monsters and imaginary creatures."

The exhibit is also a reflection of an artist dedicated to pursuing his art, while managing the responsibilities of his day job.

A few years ago, Schaper concentrated on the goal of exhibits to push him to pursue his art. He entered pieces in the arts center's Spring Into Art and Drawproject exhibits.

In 2013, Schaper joined artist friends Ben Blanton and Dennis Roth-



Mae Beth Dean and Derek Schaper at the Turner Center for the Arts opening reception

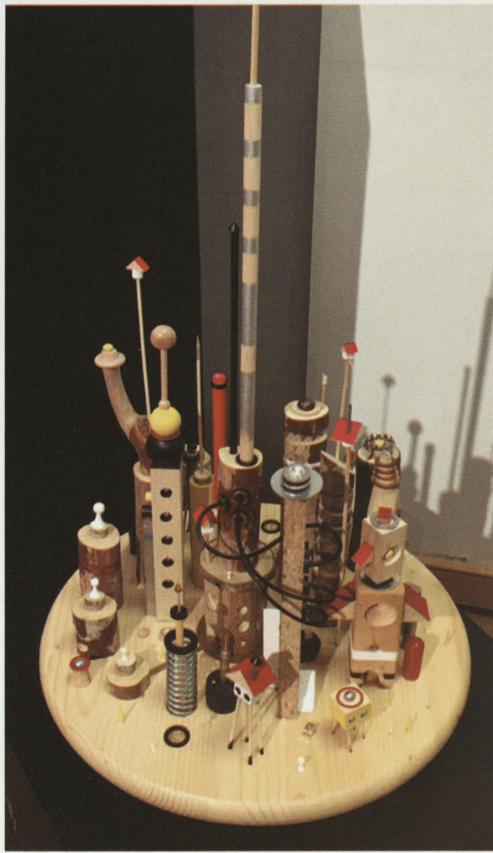
fuss for the "Animalogues" exhibit at The Turner Center.

A year ago, Schaper proposed and was accepted to present a multi-media exhibit at the arts center.

The goal of a show kept Schaper's head and hands in the art game.

As the months and weeks ticked away, as the show clicked closer, Schaper often worked on his art three or four hours into the evening after a full day of work at The Times.





"The great thing about showing the work is it makes you focus," Schaper said.

Preparing for an exhibit is a heavy load, but it's one Schaper bears to ensure he keeps the creative spark burning. Art has always been part of his life, an integral part of what makes him Derek Schaper.

"I've always made artwork," he said. "Since I could hold a crayon, I always had a knack for it."

The son of Chris and Barbara Schaper, Derek is the oldest of three brothers. Younger brothers are Austin and Marshall. Derek Schaper is a self-described military brat as his father's Air Force career took the family from Utah to England to Japan to Boston to Valdosta.

Derek spent the majority of his elementary school years in Britain. The Schapers moved to Valdosta when Derek was in sixth grade. He graduated Lowndes High School in 1997.

He attended Valdosta State Uni-

versity as an art major but he left school when his father's career provided the opportunity to live again overseas. Derek moved with his family to Japan.

Following Japan, the Schapers returned to South Georgia. His parents and brothers moved to the Carolinas. Derek stayed in the Valdosta area. He is engaged to Mae Beth Dean.

He did not return to art college but he continues refining and defining his art.

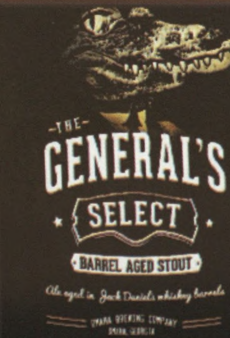
"Basically, it's what I do with much of my free time right now," Schaper said, "but at some point, I hope it's what I'm doing full time."

Until then, Schaper will continue seeking inspiration and time to pursue his work. He and artist friends hope to forge an artistic group to challenge and inspire one another.

And he plans to keep putting in the time to find his focus, to find the time for his art. **VS**



# OMAHA BREWING COMPANY GEORGIA

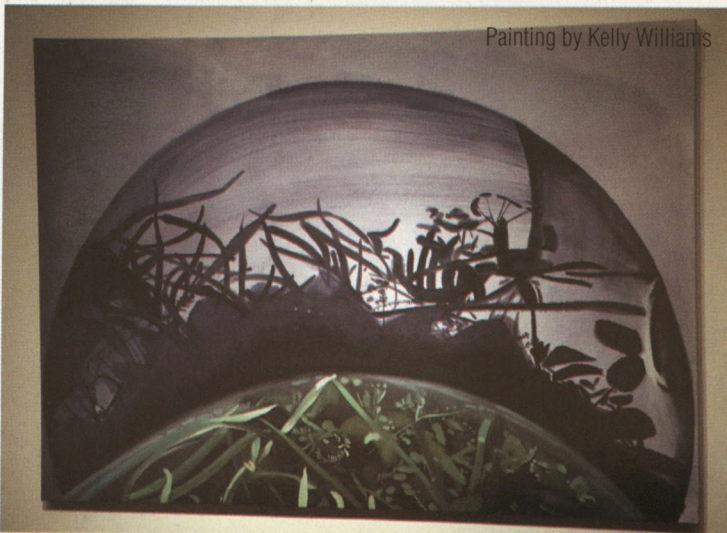


**SMALL TOWN • BIG BEERS**

# Opening Reception at The Turner Center for the Arts

Artists: Robert Coon, Derek Schaper and Kelly Williams

photos by **STUART TAYLOR**



Painting by Kelly Williams



Sculpture by Derek Schaper



Valdosta State University dancers perform in front of a screen in choreographer Melissa Pihos' 'The Onset of Alzheimer's' in the 30th Anniversary Dance Concert in Sawyer Theatre.

Choreographers Sarah Wildes Arnett, Eric Brandt Nielsen and Melissa Pihos present a Valdosta State University dance concert that marks a beginning and end in the VSU dance program.



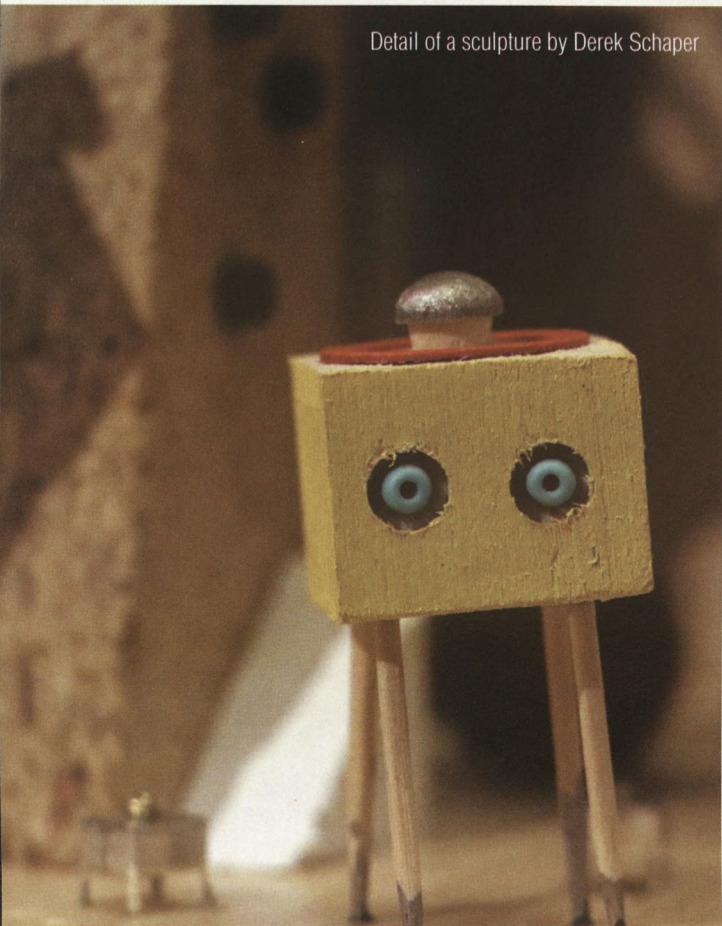
Opening Reception at  
The Turner Center for the Arts

Edward, Erin and Marigold Mackie check  
out a sculpture by Robert Coon.

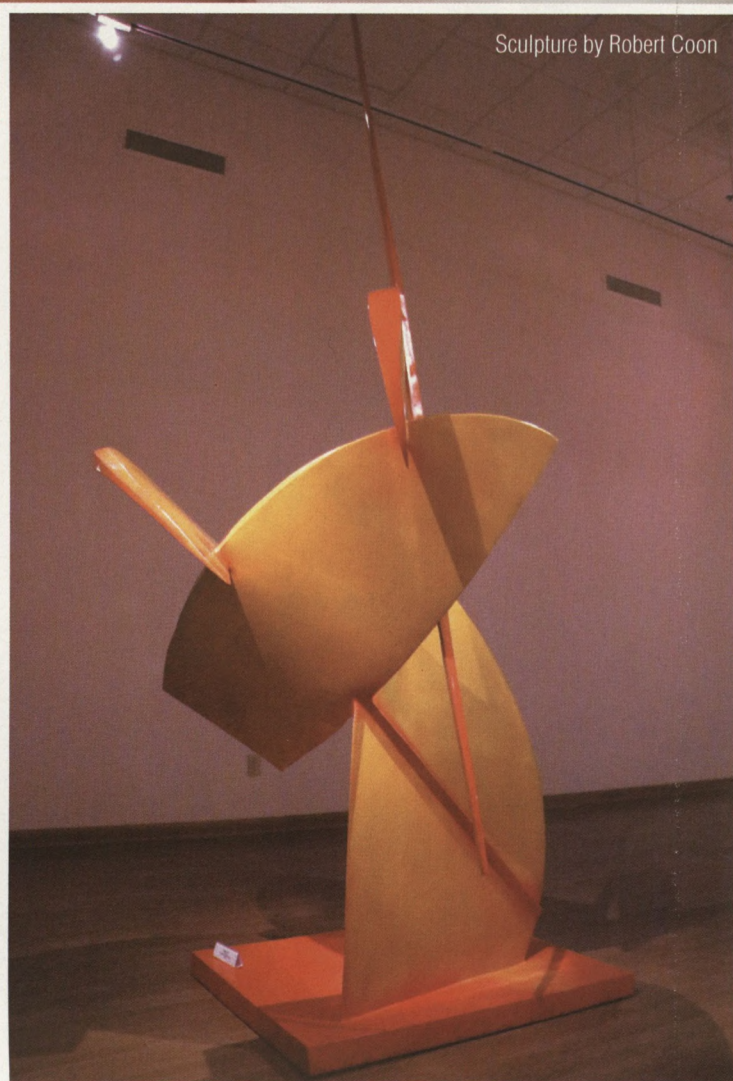




Jessi and Levin Gray check out some of Derek Schaper's paintings at the reception.



Detail of a sculpture by Derek Schaper



Sculpture by Robert Coon





JIM ZACHARY | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Hank Longley (played by Alan Thicke) tries saving 'The Toy Shoppe.' The nationally traveling holiday show stopped Tuesday night in Valdosta as part of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series.

## In the 'Thicke' of it

'Toy Shoppe' takes  
on cheerful tone

**INSIDE:** See more photos on **Page 9A.**

**BY DESIREE CARVER**

[desiree.carver@gafnews.com](mailto:desiree.carver@gafnews.com)

VALDOSTA — When I was a little girl, I spent time in Longley's Toy Shoppe, listening to stories that were passed down from generation to generation. This was a tradition for my family.

Where is Longley's Toy Shoppe?

Well, Tuesday night it was on stage at Mathis City Auditorium for the "The Toy Shoppe" play, which was part of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series.

The arts center's synopsis of "The Toy Shoppe": "This enchanting family musical focuses on Longley's

Toy Shoppe, a place filled with magic, wonders and miracles for nearly 100 years. Here, toys come to life and children gather to hear stories by owner Hank Longley (Thicke). Longley's Toy Shoppe is threatened by big business, progress and a fast-paced changing world. But Hank hangs on with his group of kids and a bit of magic in a place where the little things are important."

What was unexpected for me was a chat with my editors asking if I would like to play a reporter opposite Alan Thicke. I pretend to be a reporter every day, so it didn't seem like too far fetched of an idea. However, I was unaware I would be given a script two hours before curtain nor that the first time I would meet Alan Thicke would be on stage in front of hundreds of people.

Leaving The Valdosta Daily Times office at 5 p.m., I immediately began running lines with some friendly cast

folk. My lines were minimal, but it was enough to remind me that I am indeed not an actor. Stumbling through every single attempt at practicing, I soon found myself on stage, holding a microphone and hoping for the best.

Thankfully, I successfully managed to do my mock interview with Thicke on stage and deliver a quick monologue about my time in the toy shoppe as a little girl.

Although this was a fun experience, I think I will stick to my day job.

The entire show went off without a hitch, with the audience being captivated by the beautiful singing, colorful costumes, skilled dancing and touching story. Post show, the cast, including Alan Thicke, made time to meet with the audience for photos and autographs. The next Presenter Series show will be "The Hit Men" on Feb. 16. For tickets or more information, visit [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org) or call (229) 247-2787.

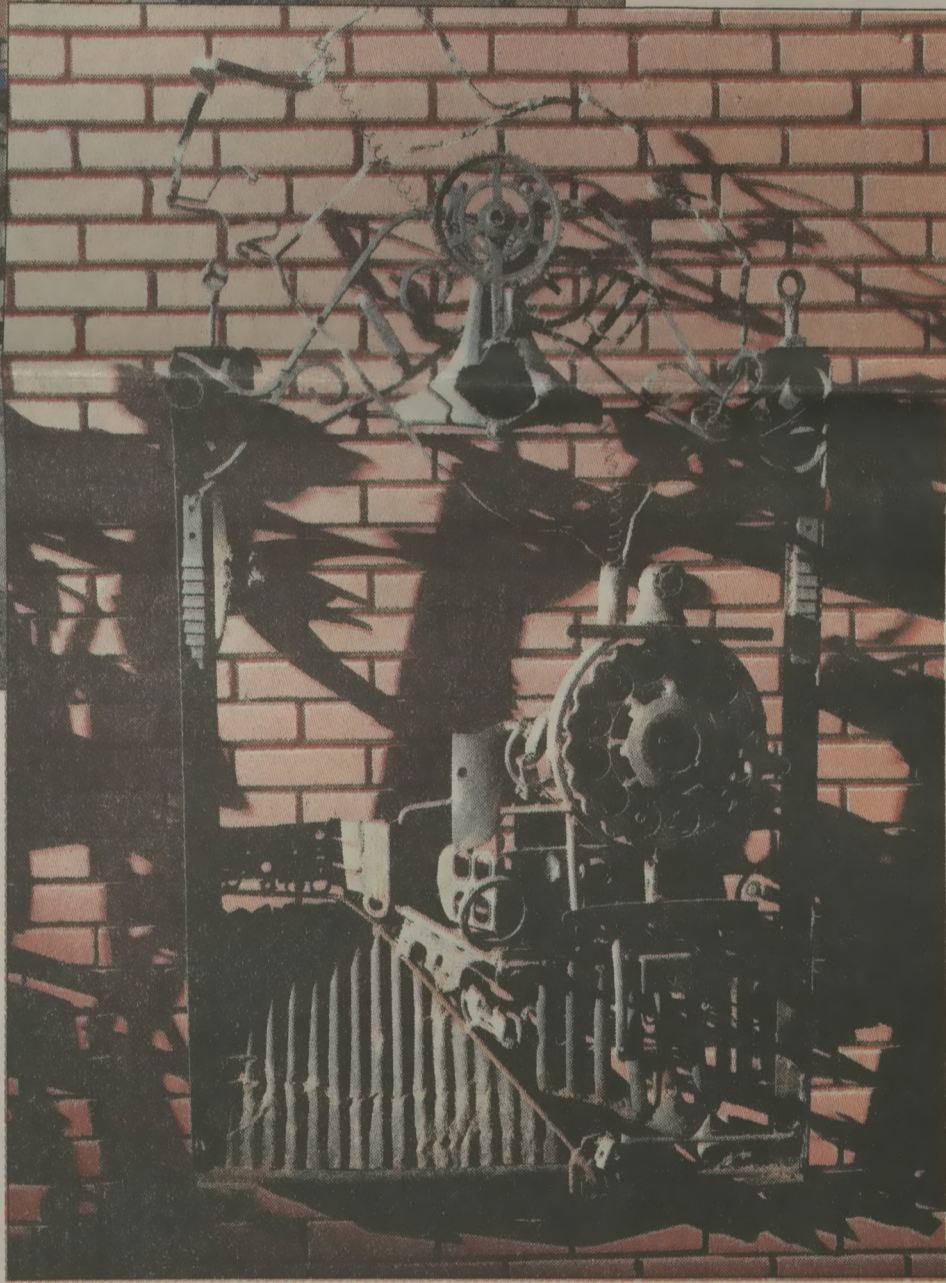


DEAN POLING | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Each side of Marty Haythorn's mosaic planter depicts images and words from Valdosta and American history. The planter is located in Downtown Valdosta.

DEAN POLING | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Below, detail of Joel Dion's artwork located in the alley in Downtown Valdosta.



Plaques will be mounted near the displayed artworks listing names of area people who participated in creating the art.

Boys and Girls Club students worked with the borders of each planter panel, Stephen Lahr, the center's project manager for the public art sessions, said in past interviews.

Lahr said the planter theme is "the art deco style with elements from buildings from the 1920 and 1930 period. For example, The 'Dosta Theatre is an art deco building."

The projects are the latest in a push to create and mount public art in the city, specifically downtown. Haythorn is the same artist who led the first project last year.

Haythorn and numerous artistic volunteers created the massive, three-dimensional mural "The River of Life in the Azalea City" installed on a wall along Bennie's Alley. Volunteer names are included on a plaque mounted with the mural.

For the new projects, Lahr said the Public Art

Advisory Committee and Turner Center selected Haythorn and Dion's projects from six proposals by regional artists.

A National Endowment for the Arts grant specified two projects this year from two artists, Lahr said of funding. The Price-Campbell Foundation of Valdosta provided matching funds the NEA grant. Edward Jones agent Royce Coleman provided funds for the raw materials for the mosaic planter. The arts center presented the finished works as a gift to the PAAC.

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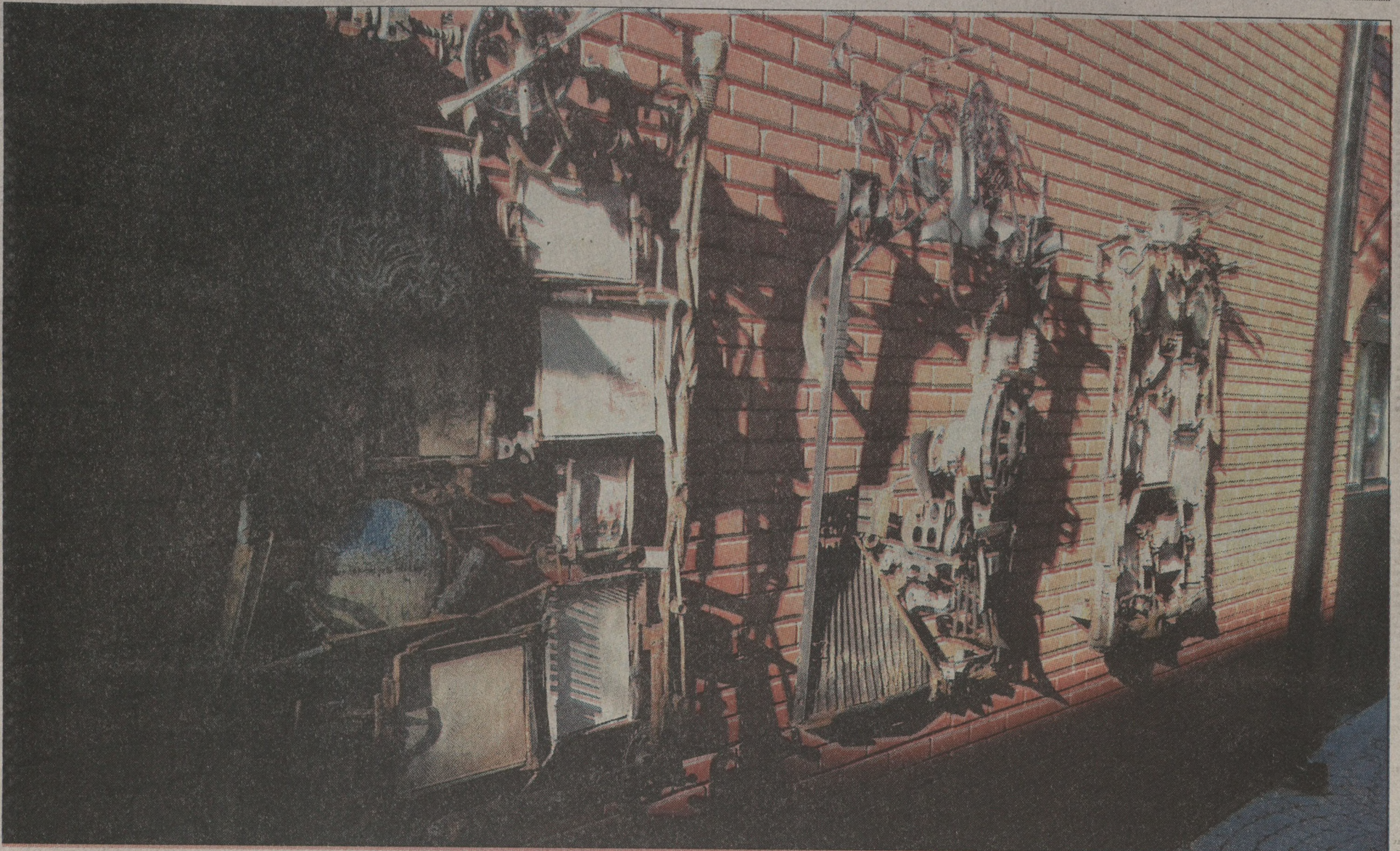
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# Celebrations & Lifestyles



DEAN POLING | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Joel Dion's art incorporates scenic tiles depicting Valdosta history with a metal framework, which touches upon the importance of railroads to the city's past.

## Making downtown an arts center

**VALDOSTA** — Two more pieces of public art are on display in Downtown Valdosta.

Marty Haythorn's mosaic planter and Joel Dion's mural of ceramic and metal tiles will be presented in

a ceremony sponsored by the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Dion's piece centers on the metal framework of an abstract railroad engine design. Valdosta owes its origins to a railroad build-

ing tracks through the region in the mid-1800s. The various tiles portray scenes from the city's history and culture.

Haythorn's planter also bears numerous scenes from both Valdosta and

American history. The mosaic images are laid in tile along the planter.

Both Dion and Haythorn served as the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Art's artists-in-residence. They designed and led the

public art project.

The public facet of the project is more than just its downtown location. The public also helped Haythorn and Dion create their respective projects in a series of summer workshops

at the arts center.

All interested residents were invited to the workshops to learn and create the pieces of community-driven public art.

Continued on 8C



DEAN POLING | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Each side of Marty Haythorn's mosaic planter depicts images and words from Valdosta and American history. The planter is located in Downtown Valdosta.



Ryan Warren     Daryn Russell     Nikki Rodgers

Daryn Russell, President and CEO, is excited to announce Ryan Warren and Nikki Rodgers have joined our team! "I am thrilled to have both Ryan and Nikki join our CBC Team," Russell said. "They demonstrate the type of integrity, leadership and customer-centered focus that will complement the core values of our company."

Ryan, Chief Retail & Sales Officer/Senior Vice President, has 17 years of banking experience and Nikki, Mortgage Lender/Assistant Vice President, has been in banking over five years. With their commitment to the community and banking knowledge they are a great addition to the bank.

Stop by the Main Branch at 3462 North Valdosta Road & say hello!



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# Of another great evening in Valdosta

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series presentation of the "The Toy Shoppe" at Mathis Auditorium was a treasure.

The family musical featured Alan Thicke, was co-written by Kenny Rogers and delivered an inspirational message that delighted the audience.

Sometimes we take for granted the things we are accustomed to.

Because of the Turner Center, our community is accustomed to major theatrical productions coming to Valdosta.

Because of the Turner Center, our community is accustomed to fine arts shows, and a gallery that features quality works of art accessible to anyone.

Because of Valdosta State University, along with Valdosta and Lowndes high schools, our community is accustomed to amazing student productions and concerts that rival professional performances anywhere.

Because of Wild Adventures

Theme Park our community is accustomed to major musical concerts featuring headliners that would be expected in major markets at high-profile venues.

Because of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra we have — a symphony orchestra.

Seriously?

A community in the Deep South, the size of Valdosta and Lowndes County with a symphony orchestra is unbelievable.

But, believe it.

Not only do we have an orchestra performing classical music, we have a great orchestra with performances that do not in any way take a back seat to the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

All these things point to a quality of life that is quite unexpected in a town the size of Valdosta.



JIM  
ZACHARY

Yet, we too often take all these things for granted.

Very few cities the size of our town could boast these kinds of events.

As a community, however, we probably don't appreciate it as much as we could.

Bring these kinds of shows to any other city the size of Valdosta and it is likely they will sell out instantly.

So, after a year and half people still ask, "What do you love about Valdosta?"

That's the wrong question.

The question is, "What's not to love?"

Our town has a vibrant arts community, quality entertainment, fine restaurants, nice parks, a great public university, great churches, libraries, coffee houses, plenty of places to shop, nice warm weather, wonderful people with a Southern state of mind, and if you get bored with all that I hear there is an occasional football game.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**President Joe Belson passes the gavel to 2016 President Franklin Richards.**

## **Leadership Lowndes holds annual class graduation**

The Leadership Lowndes Board of Trustees held its annual class graduation, on Nov. 19 at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. Each year the class members select a member from their group to award the Tess Price Cox Spirit of Enthusiasm Award and a Class President. The 2015 recipient of the Tess Price Cox Spirit of Enthusiasm Award was Scott James Matheson and the Class of 2015 President was Miranda Moore. During the ceremony 2015 President Joe Belson passed the gavel to 2016 President, Franklin Richards. For more information about Leadership Lowndes visit their website at [www.leadershiplowndes.com](http://www.leadershiplowndes.com).

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**OUR POINT OF VIEW**

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# A Round of Applause

Here's another round of applause for people and organizations doing great things in the community.

**The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series** hosted the national touring "The Toy Shoppe." The show featured television star Alan Thicke in a musical co-written by Kenny Rogers. For decades, the Presenter Series has brought professional productions to Valdosta. "The Toy Shoppe" was the latest in a fine tradition.

# Leadership Lowndes presents award

VALDOSTA — The Leadership Lowndes Board of Trustees honored Community Service Group 1 with the annual Leadership Lowndes Community Service Award during the class graduation, that was held Nov. 19 at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Each year, the class in divided into community service groups where they are asked to implement an entire project from start to finish for a local organization. Group 1 included Scott James Matheson, Barry Broome, Caila Anderson, Chad Pigford, Nicole Steel and Dr. Betsy Thacker. The group chose to host a Celebrity Art Auction to benefit LAMP.

“We were so touched by LAMP’s effort. It became our goal to raise as

ey,” said Matheson, member of the winning community service group.

The Changing Lives Dinner raised \$4,250 and the Celebrity Art Auction \$12,823.94. Through cash and in kind services, the entire project raised \$28,232.94. Following the graduation ceremony, the group made an additional \$500 for LAMP.

Matheson encouraged the community to remember, “This is a hand up, not a hand out.”

“The community service projects really add another level of excellence and leadership experience to the Leadership Lowndes program,” said Joe Belson, 2015 president.

This year, the Class of 2015 raised more than \$60,000 for various commu-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Leadership Lowndes Community Service Group 1 - Scott James Matheson, Barry Broome, Caila Anderson, Chad Pigford, Nicole Steel and Dr. Betsy Thacker**

nity organizations.

For more information about Leadership

Lowndes visit their website at [www.leadership-lowndes.com](http://www.leadership-lowndes.com).

# Believing in miracles

"I've had so many miracles in my life that I've almost come to believe in miracles."

I said those words out loud one afternoon, in the St. John's church's office, asking for a Mass to be said for a little girl, whom I didn't know but was told about at a Christmas party. Apparently she was very ill, and even a highly acclaimed medical center was unable to do anything to help her.

It's very strange that I said those words since I believe the exact opposite; I believe in miracles. And I've had a lot of them.

Starting when I was 10 years old in fifth grade, living on a farm in Live Oak, Fla. One night I swelled up like — as they say here in the South — "like a toad frog." My neck looked like a football player's, the glands in my armpits and my spleen enlarged and made me very uncomfortable, and the glands in my groin looked like little blue bird's eggs.

At the doctor's office, a Dr. Adams, (who had an interesting history of his own), examined me and said, "The last little girl I saw like this was dead in two weeks."

He went on to explain that there were several groups of unexplained cases of childhood leukemia in north Florida. Needless to say, my parents were shook up. They took me to Lake City to another doctor, and I was put in the hospital, where sternum, pelvic, and spinal taps were ordered, and a gland was taken out of my neck.

The verdict came back: I did have leukemia.

Since I was so anemic, between taps, my father gave me two blood

transfusions. It was over 50 years ago, and back then transfusions were done person to person. The tube ran from my father's ankle into my arm, a slow procedure, taking over an hour. Strapped to a stiff board, my arm ached.

To entertain me, my father told stories about how strong his blood was, AB positive, second to the rarest, just like mine. He said that he always came out on top. In the Air Force, he'd won a foot race in England, beating out everyone in his outfit. And in the summers, when he worked in the fields, the Bear never got him. (The Bear is a Southern euphemism for heat exhaustion).

He also told me how his blood, when it went into my veins, changed into Red Knights on Red Roan Chargers, and they skewered the white leukemia cells with their red lances. I was 10, he was my father, I believed him — and still do.

When he ran out of stories, he sang. "Come Holy Ghost, rouse your power and come," very loud. I liked that name, "Holy Ghost," saintly, yet funny, too. I was sure the nurses and orderlies out in the hall could hear, but no one ever came in to hush him up. When he was quiet, he was praying. I could tell: he crossed himself and his lips were moving.

Of course, What's the treatment? was the big question. There wasn't much. One doctor said that my parents, if they wanted, could take me to



ROBERTA  
GEORGE

Jacksonville where they were trying full-body x-rays.

My father asked whether that trip could be delayed, since he needed to get in the tobacco crop, so there would be some money. "No rush," the doctor said, "they're not saving anyone."

I came home. In two weeks or so, the tobacco crop was gathered. The glands in my neck and sides subsided, but we still drove over to Jacksonville. More blood work, another painful spinal tap. No leukemia. No need to do the full-body x-rays that later would cause more cancers. My mother, pale and thin from worry, believed I was cured. My father found it hard to believe.

So our family moved to Houston, Texas, so I could be examined at the big Jeff Davis hospital. My father brought all my medical folders and all the glass slides to the appointment.

"She had it; the doctor said, "but she doesn't have it anymore. It's called a 'spontaneous remission.' That happens every now and then." He didn't seem surprised.

Later, it was thought that radon, released from the limestone under north Florida, caused those clusters of childhood leukemia. And much, much later, when I was a Teacher's Assistant at Florida State University, a janitor came into my basement cubicle, climbed up on a ladder, and pulled down a device. "What's that?" I asked the man. "Just keeping track on the radon," he said.

Believe me, I believe in miracles.

**Roberta George** is a resident of Valdosta.



# Artists wanted For Drawproject

VALDOSTA — Community, regional, and national artists have until Wednesday, Dec. 23, to enter Drawproject, an annual drawing invitational exhibition that raises funds for Valdosta State University Department of Art students.

Fifty submissions will be selected and framed for the event.

Hosted by the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts and sponsored by Classic Art & Frame Co., Guardian Bank, and Bush Wealth Management, Drawproject benefits two scholarships.

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Scholarship is awarded annually to support a VSU junior art, design, or art education major for meritorious production in the classroom and a commitment to service within the community.

The Danielle B. Harmon

Student Merit Scholarship recognizes departmental majors for superior classroom performance. Before her death in 2010, she was an associate professor in the VSU Department of Art.

“The Drawproject charity exhibition event is rooted in the support of the many community sponsors, donors, patrons, and artists who, year after year, give so generously of their time, talent, and financial resources,” said Michael T. Schmidt, head of VSU’s Department of Art. “Because of the strong community support for the Drawproject, we continue to make a long-lasting impact on our students, which is apparent each time a scholarship is awarded to a bright, hardworking, and dedicated VSU student-artist.”

Drawproject’s opening

reception and auction will be held from 5-7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. The exhibit will remain on display through Wednesday, Feb. 24.

Sales of artworks are through bids. All works begin with a minimum bid of \$40. Those that reach bids of \$80 or more will be closed at 7 p.m. the evening of the reception. Those that receive a bid of \$150 or more will be offered during a live auction near the conclusion of the reception.

Works that do not reach \$80 in bids during the reception will remain open to bidding until they either reach the \$80 mark or the show closes in February.

Drawproject is the brainchild of Jamie Harmon, former curator of the Annette Howell Turner

Center for the Arts.

Contact Bill Shenton at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts at (229) 247-2787 or [bshenton@turnercenter.org](mailto:bshenton@turnercenter.org) or Michael T. Schmidt at the VSU Department of Art at (229) 333-5835 or [mschmidt@valdosta.edu](mailto:mschmidt@valdosta.edu) for more information.

Details:

- Interpret the concept of “drawing,” using any medium, subject, style, and technical approach, and create an original artwork to be exhibited and donated for auction.

- Use any paper desired as long as it is 22 inches by 15 inches. Paper is available at no cost at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts or VSU Department of Art.

- Up to 50 pieces will be selected for framing during the exhibi-

tion and auction. Any additional pieces received will be available for purchase throughout the exhibit.

- Drawings must include the artist’s name, address, email, and web link, as well as the title of the work and the medium. Artists should submit a digital 3-inch by 5-inch high-resolution photo of themselves and have the option of also submitting a short biography, artist’s statement, or statement about the drawing, 50 words or less.

- Completed, unframed works should be delivered or shipped to the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts at 527 N. Patterson St., Valdosta, Ga., 31601, by Dec. 23. They may also be dropped off at the VSU Department of Art main office before 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 21.

# Celebrations & Lifestyles

www.valdostadailytimes.com

Sunday, December 20, 2015

5C

## Artists reveals 'Life Science'

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — Artist Kelly Williams uses a subtle palette, the play of lights and darks, and pure energy to capture the sparks of her paintings.

She brings an artist's eye and a scientific mind to her painted studies of plants and landscapes.

Williams' paintings are on exhibit in the Boyette Gallery, along with artist Robert Coon's sculptures, Price-Campbell Gallery; Derek Schaper's mixed-media exhibit, Josette's Gallery; the annual snow village display, Roberta George Children's Gallery. All in the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. The exhibits continue through Jan. 6. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays. Admission: Free. More information: Call (229) 247-2787; or visit [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org).



# Lifestyles

[www.valdostadailytimes.com](http://www.valdostadailytimes.com)

Sunday, December 20, 2015



'LAKE TUNKHANNOCK,' ARTIST KELLY WILLIAMS



'THE FLOATING ORB,' ARTIST KELLY WILLIAMS.