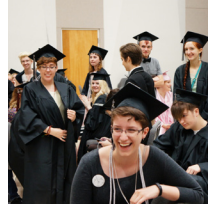


June 16, 2015



Commencement: A celebration on many levels

One hundred-thirty students celebrated completion of their two years at Perpich Arts High School on June 5 at Ted Mann Concert Hall on the campus of the University of Minnesota. It was a celebration of the 25th class to graduate from Perpich as well as a celebration of the 30th anniversary of Perpich Center for Art Education's creation. As tradition dictates, each arts area used the ceremony to provide entertainment and reflection through demonstrations of the skills they had gained during their time at Perpich. Gabby Abrams, dance student, served as MC and also presented the senior student speech. Craig Farmer, art history and museum studies teacher, gave the faculty speech. Best wishes to all of our graduates and their families! Stay in touch!



Perpich student wins state theater honor

Halle Chambers, a theater senior from Milaca, has been awarded the Minnesota Scholars of Distinction in Theater Arts Award. She won in the category of Comprehensive Theater for demonstrating excellence in two theater areas, playwriting and acting. The Theater Arts Award is supported by the Perpich Foundation and the Communication and Theater Association of Minnesota. Halle was honored May 16 at Perpich Center for Arts Education along with students from schools throughout Minnesota who have demonstrated excellence in leadership, math, science, social studies, and STEM as well as in theater arts.

The Scholars of Distinction is a program of the Minnesota Department of Education.



Media arts teacher and five Perpich students are showcased in Minneapolis

Rebecca Bullen, media arts instructor, and five Perpich students are participating in the Best Buy Made Here Youth Edition Artist Mentoring Program. The Made Here show had its grand opening June 3. Their student installation is at 730 Hennepin Ave. and will be available for viewing all summer. The students are Astraëa Smart, Ashley Brewer, Max Hart, Jackson Dungan and Satya Varghese Mac, all graduating seniors in media and visual arts. The project, which is part of the fourth major round of "Made Here" art-in-storefronts window displays, is called "Intersections: Made Here". It is structured as an urban walking gallery of 30 windows featuring Minnesota art by more than 58 artists inspired by the creative interpretation of "intersections." Thirty teenagers, including those from Perpich, were paired with "prestigious artist mentors" such as Bullen to create art for the program. Find more information about Bullen and the students' installation [here](#).



Micro Orchard will provide lasting recognition of the artsience program

The artsience program may not be continuing in 2015-16, but its current students spent a day in early May planting a “micro orchard” on Perpich Center grounds, the trees of which will be a reminder of the almost 50 students who passed through the program, many of them interested in and pursuing “green” projects during their time in artsience. The orchard sits on the peak of the hill rising from the back of the high school toward the Gaia Building in the southeast corner of campus. The trees and shrubs—all fruit-bearing—were donated through a grant secured through the Golden Valley Community Foundation by a local resident, Margaret Beegle. The students also crafted a “green” table with plants inside a terrarium-type glass dome located in the upper atrium. Their final projects, presented May 21, focused on growing and using fresh greens, herbs and vegetables in school settings.

Inaugural award honors graduating seniors in visual arts

Three visual arts seniors were honored May 18 with a newly established recognition, the Distinguished Senior Leadership Awards. They were each presented with a certificate of recognition and \$50. The students are:

Jackson Dungan, who has “demonstrated leadership on many different levels. During class meetings he would find ways to make sure people were heard and their opinions respected. He was quick to help others and be a positive presence in the art department.”

Jane Gadbois, who as student gallery coordinator, “tirelessly coordinated all student gallery committees to insure tasks were completed and shows went up, problem-solving along the way.” She gave “outstanding, conscientious attention to the care for the gallery and presentations and working with students to insure excellence.”

Deseray Jones, who as student gallery media coordinator “would organize all media aspects to the exhibitions, set up tag systems, email students for statements,” and “constantly brought a rigor and determination for excellence in the print and media aspects for all the exhibitions.”

Congratulations to these senior leaders in visual arts!



Sarah Jessica Parker visits Turnaround Arts: Minnesota school

Star of television and movies Sarah Jessica Parker is a strong arts advocate and sits on the President’s Committee for the Arts and the Humanities. In that role, she is “adopting” Bethune Community School in Minneapolis, one of the four Turnaround Arts: Minnesota schools chosen by Perpich Center for Arts Education to participate in the national program aimed at increasing student achievement, school culture and parent and community involvement through the arts. As part of her adoption, she visited Bethune in mid-May to chat with students, visit classrooms, read with the kids and be a part of the audience for an assembly designed to illustrate what the students have been working on this year in art integrated lessons. Local news media showed up to film and interview Parker about her involvement. You can see her on [WCCO](#) and read more in the [Star Tribune](#).

Perpich Foundation board is full of fresh faces

The Perpich Foundation has been in a building phase and is announcing new officers and members. They are:

**Rob Jacobs, president**

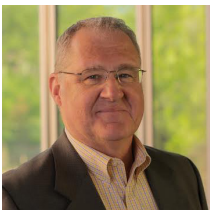
A serious photographer since the age of 13, Jacobs is a graduate of Minnesota State University-Moorhead with a degree in mass communications and pursued special studies at the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies in Oxford, England. He worked as an advertising and public relations manager for several mid-market companies before venturing out with his own marketing communications firm, which he operated for 10 years. Currently serving as the president and CEO of Smart Infrastructure, Jacobs is working with a consortium of companies to bring improved transit technologies to the North American market. His son Adam is a 2013 graduate of Perpich in media arts.

**Sandra Valentines, vice president**

Sandra Valentines lives in North Minneapolis and is currently employed by Wells Fargo Human Resources and as an independent consultant with Tastefully Simple, a direct food sales company based in Alexandria. She worked as a registered music therapist for many years, primarily with populations in long-term care, has a B.A. in music from Macalester College and also completed coursework for the equivalency of a B.S. in music therapy at the University of Minnesota. Her love of music is also expressed as a member of the Basilica of St. Mary's Cathedral choir and the Schola Cantorum. She is the parent of a 2014 graduate of Perpich Arts High School's music program, Ashton Valentines.

**Kathleen Malecki**

Malecki is a registered nurse retired from Children's Hospitals and Clinics. She is now an RN elected as a government action commissioner with the MN Nurses' Association doing citizen advocacy at the state level. She also works with MNA and a coalition of other groups toward universal single-payer healthcare, especially at the state level. As an artist and as an experiential learner, she learned art in the public school system and through community education and finally with a solid handful of college-level art courses. She has enjoyed the making and occasional showing of art in the Twin Cities, working primarily with drawing and painting.

**Tom Schmidt, treasurer**

Tom Schmidt is a 30-year veteran of the air transportation industry. He has worked for major airlines as well as regional carriers, including serving as CFO for Sun Country Airlines and Mesaba Aviation, corporate controller for Endeavor Air (formerly Pinnacle Airlines), and assistant controller for Northwest Airlines. He also has served as chief operating officer for Management Partners & Associates, a Twin Cities based consulting firm, and CFO for Regional One, a regional aircraft distributor located in Miami, FL. Schmidt is currently CFO for Smart Infrastructure, a locally based company marketing personal rapid transit systems. He holds an MBA from the University of Minnesota and a bachelor's in business administration from Marquette University.

**Gretchen Heath**

A career educator, Heath taught high school English, speech and theatre for 35 years at and served as an instructor for Bemidji State University and the College of St. Catherine. Past president of Minnesota Alliance for Arts in Education (MAAE) and the Communication and Theatre Association of Minnesota (CTAM), she is currently co-director of Minnesota Scholars of Distinction Program - Theater Arts. She is a member of the Minnesota State High School League Hall of Fame. A co-founder of Rainy Lake Playhouse, Heath performed, acted and directed shows for the Minnesota Chautauqua. She was a charter member of the Guthrie Education Advisory Council, Hennepin Theatre Trust Spotlight committee and FAIR school planning commission. She has been honored by CTAM, the Classic Lake Conference, Minnesota Speech Coaches, Minnesota Educational Theater Association and Comprehensive Arts Planning Program (CAPP) for her work in arts education.

**Marty Wetherall**

Since graduating from USC's prestigious film school and returning to his hometown of Minneapolis, Wetherall has produced award-winning Super Bowl commercials (including EDS "Cat Herders"), created a popular sports talk and variety show for KARE-11 (The Show To Be Named Later...), pioneered the use of Twitter by a TV series (for Syfy's Eureka), and founded a Y Combinator-backed tech startup (FanChatter). Now as director of innovation at legendary ad agency Fallon, he's helping promising crowdfunding projects tell their stories for maximum impact with Fallon StarterKit, all while trying to teach his two young daughters (and himself) how to write code and invent the future.

**Eric Eklund, secretary**

(Biography not yet available)

Summer campus construction projects begin

Just as there are two seasons in Minnesota (winter and road construction) there are two seasons at Perpich: school season and construction season. The dorm is having new electrical wiring installed throughout the building. Work began on the third floor in May and the second floor and ground floor work has begun. The power will be fully restored to the dorm in early July. There will be new smoke detectors and fire alarms installed in the main building. Work will begin on June 15 and be completed before school begins.

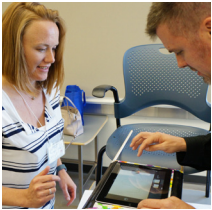
The old exterior lights in the parking lots will be removed and new poles and lights installed across campus and buildings. We also are replacing flooring in the Black Box Theater and the dance studio. Construction will start as soon as possible so that the majority of the work can be completed before the new school year. In addition, the elevators in all the buildings will be updated to meet elevator code. This project will be complete prior to the start of school.

Finally, the exterior of the dormitory is being evaluated. If budget allows, some work may be done this fall to replace, repair and clean the exterior walls and correct some grading issues to ensure water is moving away from the building. Any work not completed this year will be scheduled for next spring.



We're looking for a few great families!

If you are the family of a junior this year, please consider hosting one of our Chinese exchange students from our sister school in Luoyang who will be staying with us and attending classes here for three weeks in late September through early October. The tentative dates are Sept. 21-Oct. 10, which will be firmed up as soon as the students obtain their passports and visas. Eight girls and three boys will be here along with a male teacher and a female teacher. If you are interested in this terrific international exchange opportunity email [Mike Zabel](mailto:Mike.Zabel@perpich.org)



Perpich outreach projects celebrate with back-to-back conferences

Both the Turnaround Arts: Minnesota project and the Perpich arts integration project gathered at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design June 6-7 and June 9-10 for conferences, bringing in teachers and administrators from around the state to reflect and share.

Turnaround Arts: Minnesota, a national program involving four schools in Minnesota under the guidance of Perpich to use the arts to improve student academics, school climate and community and parent involvement, attracted almost 100 administrators, teachers, instructional coaches, paraprofessionals and behavior staff from the four schools in Minneapolis, Brooklyn Center, St. James and Red Lake. Participants shared ideas and successes from the first year, gave and gathered feedback, immersed themselves in arts experiences and collected ideas for the coming year.

The arts integration team, which has been working with Minnesota schools for five years, attracted about the same number of teachers from 24 schools in west central, southeast and northeast Minnesota. Participants shared more than 60 samples of arts-integrated curriculum and reviewed the results of 23 units through a panel review protocol.

Calendar

Dates

June 15–19	Native Studies Summer Workshop For Educators
June 23	Reading The Landscape: Summer Institutes
July 18	Perpich Alumni Reunion for Classes 91-94

Perpich Arts High School	6125 Olson Memorial Highway	Sue Mackert
Perpich Arts Outreach	Golden Valley, Minnesota 55422	Executive Director
Perpich Arts Library	perpich.mn.gov	763-279-4160

If you have news or events, please email: [Communications](mailto:Communications@perpich.org). Follow us on: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Pinterest](#)