

# New York State Media Arts Teachers Association

*Our mission is to promote media literacy and encourage our young emerging media artists to be the creative, critical thinkers of the 21st Century. We foster collegiality among our members and actively support the New York State Summer School of Media Arts.*

AUGUST 2012

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EMAIL your news to  
mealia.mata@gmail.com



**Meet Sara Fittizzi**, newly appointed **Director of the New York State Summer School of the Arts**. A graduate of Syracuse University, Sara comes to us from the NYS Office of Legal Counsel. We had the pleasure of meeting Sara at the summer NYSMATA meeting on the SUNY, Oswego campus and found her to be delightful, enthusiastic and ready to

maintain the NYSSSA program at 'full speed'.

Sara succeeds Mary Daley, who retired last year. Mary continues, for now, as a volunteer consultant.

NYSMATA wishes Sara the best in her new position.

*Photo by Mike Witsch*

## **Bob Reals Honored at Summer School**



Following the NYSSSA Media Arts video and film intermission, NYSMATA Co - President, Mike Witsch presented Robert (Bob) Reals with the **NYSMATA Award for "Leadership in Media Arts Education"** noting Bob's many years of inspiration and distinguished service.

A long-time resident of Jamesville, N.Y., Bob was educated at SUNY, Albany and has been involved in the public schools all his adult life. He retired from his position as Supervisor of Arts and Humanities at the NYS Education Department twenty years ago.

Dedicated to Media Arts education in NYS, Bob was one of the organizers of the NYS Media Arts Teachers' Association and a long - time proponent of the NYSSSA in Media Arts. A dedicated adjudicator, he attended all the March media shows for years. He saw the early animations of Chris Wedge at the Syracuse technology conference in the 70's and lobbied to have Media Arts added to the summer schools of the arts.

*left: Bob Reals  
right: Mike Witsch  
photo credit: Greg Shapland*

Although retired, Bob remains an inspiration to teachers and students, through his encouraging words and very presence.



What I Did on My Summer Vacation!  
NYSSSA / Media Arts / 2012  
SUNY, Oswego



## WALKER EVANS

*On July 15, in 1936, photographer **Walker Evans** began work on a project documenting the Great Depression. He was working for the photographic section of the Farm Security Administration, and he requested a leave of absence to work on a summer assignment for Fortune magazine. He was granted the leave on the condition that the photos he took would be considered government property. Evans, along with writer James Agee, went to Hale County, Alabama, to document the effects of the Great Depression on poor tenant farmers. For two months that summer, they traveled among the poor white cotton farmers, and got to know three families, whom Agee referred to as the Gudgers, the Ricketts, and the Woods. Their goal was a purely documentary one; they didn't want the images to be used for political or artistic purposes, but rather as an unflinching record.*

*Fortune wasn't happy with the outcome, declining to publish the piece, unless Agee rewrote it. He refused, and eventually Agee and Evans published it as a full-length book in 1941. It didn't sell well, and went out of print, but it was reissued in 1960, three years after Agee's death. The photos are now among the most famous images of the Great Depression.*

*Walker said: "Stare, pry, listen, eavesdrop. Die knowing something. You are not here long."*

*courtesy: Mike Witsch*

## Tom Swifties

This classic style of pun was invented in the 1920s.

"I can take photographs if I want to!" Tom snapped.

"I'm waiting to see the doctor," said Tom patiently.

"I have only enough carpet for the hall and landing," said Tom with a blank stare.

Got a clever "Tom Swiftie?" Send it to us and we'll include it in our September issue.

*from: Mike Witsch*

## Teacher Forum

The NYSMATA online discussion forum is located at the following link. Copy and paste the URL into your browser.

<http://galileo.dcbooces.org/icampus/course/enrol.php?id=150>

It is easy to create your own account. Follow the online instructions and use MATA as the enrollment key.

To participate in a discussion group, select it and click on 'subscribe to this forum'. You control which discussions you are interested in joining. Postings are sent directly to your e-mail.

Contact me with questions or comments:  
[mealia.mata@gmail.com](mailto:mealia.mata@gmail.com)

## NYSMATA OFFICERS

### Co-Presidents

Michael Witsch      [mjwitsch@optonline.net](mailto:mjwitsch@optonline.net)  
Margaret Mealia      [mealia.mata@gmail.com](mailto:mealia.mata@gmail.com)

### Secretary

Robyn Talbot      [robyn.talbot@wappingersschools.org](mailto:robyn.talbot@wappingersschools.org)

### Co-Treasurers

Mike Townsend      [MATATOWN@aol.com](mailto:MATATOWN@aol.com)  
Dana Allen      [DanaAllen@k12.ginet.org](mailto:DanaAllen@k12.ginet.org)

### Web Site

[www.nysmata.org](http://www.nysmata.org)

### Web Master

Domenic Licata      [dom@licatadesign.com](mailto:dom@licatadesign.com)

### Newsletter

[mealia.mata@gmail.com](mailto:mealia.mata@gmail.com)

### Teacher Forum

<http://galileo.dcbooces.org/icampus/course/enrol.php?id=150>

Please join us. NYSMATA is a non-profit, volunteer organization. We depend on your membership dues to sustain the website, publish this monthly newsletter, our online forum and advocate statewide for the media arts in education. Thank you for supporting YOUR Media Arts Teachers' Association!



**New York State**

## **MEDIA ARTS TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION**

*Promoting Media Literacy, Critical Thinking, Creative Expression*

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School or Organization \_\_\_\_\_

School/Org. Address \_\_\_\_\_

School/Org. Email \_\_\_\_\_

School/Org. Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ ext. \_\_\_\_\_

\*Home Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

I teach/work with (check all that apply)  photography  video  filmmaking  computer art  copier art   
creative sound  holography (Other) \_\_\_\_\_

What I'd like from my MATA membership:  newsletter  exhibitions  competitions

instructional workshops  networking  \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

I can help MATA reach out to some colleagues in my district or geographical area.

\* Needed for communication during school breaks and summer months.

Please enclose \$20 annual dues (checks payable to MATA) and mail to:

MATA  
c/o Robyn Talbot  
John Jay High School  
2012 Route 52  
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

Join now, \$20 membership  
extended  
until March 2014