

Pianist Stan Ford Named 2017 Returning Artist

Stan Ford, University City High School (UCHS) Hall of Famer, has been selected as University City's 2017 Returning Artist by the University City Municipal Commission on Arts & Letters. The program features artistically renowned UCHS graduates whose primary careers are in the Arts.

In February, he will return to UCHS to work with students in a week-long seminar, exposing them to various arts disciplines and working on interactive projects.

Ford, equally at home in solo and chamber music as well as accomplished in the fields of musicology and pedagogy, is a U City native and 1975 graduate of UCHS. He attended Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, majoring in piano performance, chamber music, pedagogy and music education and graduated with highest distinction in 1982 under the tutelage of Ruth Slenczynska.

A two-year Fulbright scholarship afforded Ford further study under Hans Leygraf, Alfons Kontarsky and Christoph Lieske at the "Universität Mozarteum Salzburg" in Salzburg, Austria. Upon completion of his studies in 1986, Ford accepted a professorship on the distinguished piano faculty at the Mozarteum, becoming the first African-American in Austrian history to hold such a prestigious position. Ford is the recipient of numerous awards including a Resolution from the Missouri House of Representatives, a 2002 International Who's Who in Professional Business and 2000 UCHS Hall of Fame.



Pianist Stan Ford, UCHS Class of 1975 and 2000 UCHS Hall of Fame inductee, will visit classrooms across the District as University City's 2017 Returning Artist.

UCHS Student Alana Collier Receives Dance St. Louis Career Award



Dance is Alana Collier's hope, it keeps her going each day. It is a part of who she is.

Collier, a senior at University City High School, recently received a 2016-17 Dance Career Award from Dance St. Louis. Recipients of the award receive guidance and support towards intensive dance training and careers in the industry. In addition, they are offered assistance with audition preparation, choosing a college, gathering recommendation letters and networking. Dance St. Louis also contributes financially and seeks additional support for the awardees from dance schools, colleges and professional dance companies.

Heidi Morgan is the dance teacher at UCHS and has been teaching in the district for 26 years. She has been Collier's teacher since her freshman year and could tell right away that she was talented.

"Alana is always enthusiastic about dance. She works hard to continually improve; she loves all styles of dance and is a good leader who is always willing to help others in the class," Morgan said. "It is fun teaching her. She takes corrections well and is open to anything new and different."

Collier started dancing when she was about four years old after her mom enrolled her at Ames Elementary, a visual and performing arts school.

"It's a part of my life. For me, without dancing I wouldn't have a voice" she said. "It just really brings so much, so much joy to my life. When I think about it, when I do it, when I write about it, anything. It's just something that means so much to me."

Alana practices dancing for hours every day and sees a future for herself in the industry. After high



Alana Collier received the 2016-17 Dance Career Award from Dance St. Louis.

school, she plans to attend Howard University to study dance and eventually open a dance studio or school.

"You can see and feel her potential when she dances in class," said Morgan. Collier's fervor and skill have opened doors for her to pursue a professional career in dance. She recently participated in a three-week Bill T. Jones / Arnie Zane Company Residency through the Monsanto Dance Education Residency Program at Dance St. Louis. During the program, Collier and other high school students were encouraged to apply for a Dance Career Award.

"The arts offer life-changing experiences for young people. This award recognizes that youth who are talented and motivated may not always receive the support that they need to excel," said Kathryn Bentley, education coordinator for Dance St. Louis. "This award helps them to see the possibilities for a future career as an artist."

Eight other UCHS students have received the award, including Class of 2018 alum Nia Spencer last year.

**Next Kinesis
Dance Concert
May 6, 2017**