



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 3, 2014**

**WHAT: 25th Annual Friends of the Fine Arts Center Gala & Auction**

**WHEN: Saturday, February 1, 2014, 6 p.m. - Midnight**

**WHERE: Student Union Ballroom, UMass Campus**  
Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or  
go online to [www.fineartscenter.com/Online/gala](http://www.fineartscenter.com/Online/gala)

**IMAGES: To download images relating to this press release please go online to <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/PressImages>**

### **THE 25TH ANNUAL FRIENDS OF THE FINE ARTS CENTER GALA CELEBRATES SILVER ANNIVERSARY**

It's time for the 25th Annual Friends of the Fine Arts Center's Benefit Gala, Auction and Preview at the Student Union Ballroom, Saturday, February 1st, 6 p.m. to Midnight. It's hard to believe that 25 years has passed since the first gala in 1989. Since then the Gala has become a renowned glamorous and fun networking party in the Valley while also benefitting access to the arts. This year the Gala will keep with the same format it moved to last year with reserved tables for dinner provided by the UMass' award winning Catering Services plus live music during dinner, a silent and live auction and then dancing to a DJ from 9:30 until midnight as well as music by UMass' own student jazz quintet and a special appearance by the award-winning UMass Marching Band. According to Development Director John Ebbets, "This is the premier winter event in the Valley. The Gala enters its 25<sup>th</sup> year with all the magic that has made it such a fun event over the years. Put on your dancing shoes, your finest wear and come enjoy

the party. You'll also be providing future access to the arts for many throughout the Valley.”

The evening begins with cocktails, appetizers, and music in the Student Union Foyer and Cape Cod Lounge. Guests will be able to view the live and silent auction packages throughout the Student Union. Dinner starts at 8 p.m. with a sneak peek of the Fine Arts Center's 2014-15 season. Dancing to DJ Dan Hendrix/Entertainment Solutions follows the live auction in the Ballroom. The auction will be busting with plenty of treasures of fine art, original creations, getaways, vacation homes, themed baskets and more all donated from local businesses and artists.

The Gala raises funds to provide access and deeper engagement with the arts to our diverse and the multi-generational communities throughout the Pioneer Valley in a variety of ways?. Every season, the Fine Arts Center's Angel Ticket Program provides complimentary tickets to residents in the tri-county area whose financial and/or social situation would otherwise prohibit them from experiencing live performances. Funds also go to support the Global Arts programs for K-12 student performances, artists-in-residency workshops, Jazz in July scholarships and internships at the University Museum. Volunteers and board members Elaine Palmer and Justin Pelis are co-chairing this event. For those can't make it to the event but would like to support those programs, please consider the FAC's FUND-A-NEED program. Details available online at [www.fineartscenter.com/development/give](http://www.fineartscenter.com/development/give) or by calling 413-545-4253.

Tickets for the Gala event are \$125 per person and includes a \$75 tax-deductible contribution. Corporate sponsorships are available starting at \$500. For more information, please call the Friends of the Fine Arts Center at 413.545.4253. For tickets to the event, call the box office at 413.545.2511 or 1.800.999.UMAS. For more details about the event go online to [www.fineartscenter.com/gala](http://www.fineartscenter.com/gala). Free Parking—valet or self-park available in Campus Center Garage. For those who would like to stay the night the UMass Hotel is offering a special “Gala” accommodation package available by calling the hotel at 413-549-6000.

Presenting sponsors for the Gala include, United Personnel Services and UMass Catering Services. Leading Sponsors are Steven Daury/United Wealth Management, Dale A. Frank Insurance and John McCarthy, Vice Provost & Dean of the Graduate School. Additional sponsor support comes from the Daily Hampshire Gazette, Baystate Medical Practices, Davis Financial Group, Fallon Community Health, Finck & Perras Insurance, Florence Savings Bank, Ian H. Fraser & Pamela Bartlett, PeoplesBank,

Robinson & Donovan, P.C., Sarah & Mark Tanner and WEIB 106.3 FM and Performance Foods.

Press release text and press-quality images are also available on our website at <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/PressImages>.

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