

**THANK YOU, DONNA WISSINGER, FROM ARTIST TO ARTIST...**  
**Comments from St. Petersburg College Preservice Teachers**  
**in the College of Education**  
**Compiled by Dr. Cher Gauweiler**  
**September 6, 2012**

✚ We have learned in the College of Education that a passion for teaching matters. Your passion did not waver and today after five hours...you wanted a few more minutes! And... we wanted to give it to you! I cannot wait to try some of the strategies you used today in my classroom. What I enjoyed most of all, however, was how you got me to think about my own “story” and how I’m still writing it. Thank you so much for your time and **energy.**

*Nancy Davenport*

✚ Ms. Wissinger was so engaging, talented and caring that I'm sure I could attend many more times and feel that it was a new experience each time. I really came away feeling like she genuinely cared about each and every one of us and the children that we're going to be teaching. She is such an intelligent and multifaceted person that I can hardly remember all that she taught us. However, the parts that have stuck with me the most are the ones about using the arts in an integrated fashion to make every subject fun, interesting, and physically engaging for the students. I also really appreciated the advice on how to keep ourselves physically and mentally fit and fully engaged in what we're doing. I think I've told everyone I've come across about her and how much I learned. I would definitely recommend her for professional development and as a wonderful guest for students.

*Sandra Paulik*

✚ Thank you so much for broadening our horizons when it came to both the arts and social studies. Your workshop was both informative and interesting. I really appreciate you taking the time to share your experiences! Thank you!

*Rachael Sauer*

✚ Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to visit my classmates and me. I really enjoyed your passion and enthusiasm for learning. Most of all, thank you for letting me keep my quote! Thank you!

*Krystal Quinn*

✚ I had such a wonderful time. Donna, you are a wonderful artist. I learned so much to take into my classroom. I am an ESE major and I know that all of this knowledge of the arts will only enhance my teaching abilities. This will allow me to connect with my students in many ways. I applaud and honor you as a person and a professional for inspiring the educators of the future. I appreciate being part of this workshop. Thank you!

*Amy DeFilippis*

✚ It was an honor to be there and absorb all of that amazing information. Ms. Wissinger...what can I say? You are an amazing artist!! The qualities of an individual that you showed today was truly inspiring. You made everyone in that room become an "artist", even though some (me!) do not have any artistic abilities. The sounds coming from your instruments were beautiful and heartfelt. The inspirational cards allowed us to dig deep within and really see what matters most to us on an individual basis. The classroom activities are something that we ALL will take back with us and use in our classrooms...you have a life changing effect on people....and I want to THANK YOU for that. Be well in all that you do. You truly are an inspiration for all. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

*Bill D'Ambrosio*

✚ I really enjoyed today -- I had a lot of fun, and I learned a lot! Not only are there little ideas flowing about how to integrate the arts into lessons, but I also found out some tidbits of history that were new to me. I know I will remember them, too... because we had fun while "noticing" the material in a movement based way. :) We had enough activities that the long stretch of time just flew by. I really wish I could have stayed after!

*Mary Ellen Ariotti*

✚ Thank you so much for the workshop today. I truly enjoyed your music and your insight on teaching to our students. I know that one day I will be using some of the information you taught us today and paying it forward to my students. Thank you so much!

*Mary Wightman*

✚ Thank you for being a guest in our classroom. We all appreciate the time and effort you put into your performance. We all feel that we have a better understanding of the arts and how to incorporate them into any lesson we may be teaching.

*Kristen Blair*

- ✚ Thank you so much for taking the time to come out and visit us. Your presentation has given me a whole new insight on how to use art and music in the classroom. It was awesome to see your passion come through today. Thank you again and I look forward to incorporating what I learned today in my future classroom!

*Karina Rodriguez*

- ✚ Thank you so much for today. It was a wonderful experience that I will carry with me on my journey. I learned things I never thought I would about the arts. I am excited to explore more. Also, you are a wonderful flutist! :) Thanks again!

*Jessica Grandmason*

P.S. I loved the business cards with quotes!

- ✚ Thank you so much for traveling to St. Petersburg College today and allowing us to be a part of your presentation. You are a wonderful artist and have inspired me to strive to be the best me I can be. You are so passionate about what you do and it is truly inspiring. Thank you again for speaking to us!!

*Katie DiPolito*

- ✚ I was delighted and inspired with your workshop. From the time you entered the room until the time we left, I was entertained. During your workshop I learned and reflected on ways to integrate art into lesson. You made the idea of integrating arts seem doable. Thank you!

*Kimmera McCarthy*

P.S. I bragged to my family how I met a famous flutist!

- ✚ Thank you so much for coming all the way to our college to teach us such wonderful things! Your activities were creative and will stick in all of our minds for many years to come! Thank you for taking the time to share your big wealth of knowledge with us!

*Tabitha Owens*

✚ Thank you very much for spending your day with us. I know I can speak for all of us when I say we really enjoyed learning from all of your brilliant, warm, and engaging strategies. Our experience with you has further invigorated me to get into the field and become an excellent educator. You have helped to show me how many fun and relatively easy ways there are to integrate multiple subjects along with art. It is so important that we allow students to evoke their artistic side. So many students are never given an opportunity to do so. I cannot wait to get into the field and allow students to see how fun (and non-threatening) these integrations can be. Thank you for all that you do.

*Jennifer Branton*

✚ The time spent in your workshop was thoroughly enjoyed and inspiring! I have always been a proponent of the arts and appreciate the many ways we learned about how to incorporate the arts into other content areas of school. Children love art of all types and I can definitely see how stimulating all the senses through music or visual creativity can help them learn better and have more memorable experiences. Thank you for your time and for sharing your beautiful music with us.

*Heather Gazlay*

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*FINALLY...don't professors always receive the last word? 😊*

✚ I knew that having you visit our classroom would be special – but, I had no idea how special! I find myself thinking back on comments that you said, and I know that this experience will resonate with me for many years. You truly have a gift (that's more than just music). It's wonderful that you use your talents to lift everyone up. Thank you for taking the time to share your music and creativity with us. It was our delight and privilege to spend time with you. 😊

*Cher Gauweiler*