The teaching model in the school of art and design embraces a number of approaches, but the core of our learning involves studio practice accompanied by critique, and assessed by portfolio. This process is a natural fit for the QEP, involving the integration of research (both traditional and creative,) hands-on activities, the use of tools and materials, communication skills, and the consideration of audience and point of view. While our disciplines have been taught this way for many years, the QEP has encouraged us to make the most of our methodology, and to bring our engagement out of the studio and into the world.

**Integrating Information from a Variety of Contexts**

Interdisciplinary work across the arts was part of the QEP for the College of Fine and Performing Arts. As part of this initiative, the SoAD has continued to offer Art 191: Integral Arts, a course for first year students that involves music, art and theater. Students and faculty from the SoAD were also heavily involved with the College sponsored DADA festival this fall. The historical art movement was discussed in classes from the foundation to advanced levels, with specific assignments in art history, studio art and graphic design courses that related to it. Students in the visual arts and design also attended the music, theater and dance performances that were part of the festival, and the related exhibition in the Fine Art Museum. During this period student work was displayed in the hallways, relating to the influences of DADA such as collage, photograms and experimental typography.

Some fine examples of student work that involve synthesis of information, would be from MaryAnna Lafratta’s Motion Graphics classes. Students not only gain technical skills in digital media, they also learn how to research, organize, display and communicate information effectively. After learning about copyright issues, students in Motion Graphics have collaborated with music students from Bruce Frazier’s electronic music class so that their animation pieces include original music and high quality sound elements. One project involved using information and data, along with original graphic forms, to explain the Tohuku earthquake in Japan. Works from these classes were chosen for the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, and for the Controlled Chaos Film Festival.

**Practicing Civic Engagement**

The best examples of the ways in which the SoAD practice civic engagement would come from our association with the Jackson County Green Energy Park. We hosted the Youth Art Festival there, which involved undergraduate and graduate students, along with faculty and alumni from our programs, offering demonstration of glassblowing and pottery making, along with hands-on activities for children and their families, such as drawing, face painting, printing and the building of a mosaic wall. In addition to the YAF, students under the Direction of Prof. Richard Tichich competed in the Social Business Competition in Raleigh, presenting the work of the SoAD at the Green Energy Park as a model of collaboration that could serve as a business incubator for small business ventures in art and fine crafts.