Dear Friends,

In the summer of 1999, Alison Hall arrived at Chautauqua with a few drawings and considerable uncertainty about whether or not she could pursue art as a career. Growing up in a small, working class town in Virginia, she spent hours drawing in order to escape what she considered to be a mundane life. She was the first generation in her family to attend college, where a visiting art professor, recognizing her talent, had encouraged her to apply to the Chautauqua School of Art.

It was here, surrounded by a community of people as invigorated by their art as she was, that she was handed a paintbrush and encouraged to paint. Finishing her first painting was a ground-breaking moment. She cried with joy, realizing for the first time that her life could take an entirely different direction to the one she had imagined as a child.

Today, Alison is a successful artist, exhibiting throughout the US and Europe, but she has never forgotten her transformative experience at Chautauqua. She continues to return to the School of Art as a faculty member and guest speaker, sharing her passion for art and inspiring the next generation of students. I share Alison’s story with you because her participation as a student here at Chautauqua, would not have been possible without the financial support provided by the scholarship funds raised through the dedicated efforts of the VACI Partners.

Become a member of VACI Partners today!
Make a difference in an art student’s life!

Last year we raised over $30,000 for visual art student scholarships. Our goal in 2015 is to continue to grow that amount. By becoming a VACI Partner’s Member and by supporting our summer events, you can help students like Alison realize their dreams.

VACI Partners is a membership-driven organization committed to the creative vitality of the Visual Arts at Chautauqua Institution. Membership has its benefits:

• A 10% discount on full priced items in the Gallery Store at the Strohl Art Center, available Wednesdays for regular members, or everyday for VACI Plus Individual and VACI Plus couple membership levels.
• Advance email notification to special VACI Partners Events.
• Free subscription to our VACI Partners on-line newsletter.
• The opportunity to become involved as a volunteer at one of our many VACI Partners events.
• Exhibition privileges in the annual VACI Partners Open Member’s Exhibition.
• And the best benefit of all: You will make a difference in the lives of future generations of artists for whom Chautauqua will be both life-changing and career building.
This summer’s exciting VACI Partners events!

- **“Friends of an Art Student”** Picnic Dinner - Thursday, July 2
  Join us for a Picnic Dinner at the Art Quad and become a “friend” to one of this summer’s 38 art students. This program connects the visual art students with individuals or families who are willing to share some Chautauqua hospitality for the summer.

- **Art in the Park** – Sunday, July 5 & Sunday, August 9
  Head down to Miller Park where you can wander amongst the stalls and tables of area artists and local craftsman as they display a wide variety of items for sale. Even some of the summer’s visual art students come to display and sell pieces they’ve made in their studios at the School of Art.

- **“En Plein Air” Art Event** – Sunday, July 26
  Come and watch as local artists spend the afternoon painting in the open air in and around the grounds of Chautauqua. The finished work will be generously donated to the auction at this summer’s Stroll Through the Arts Gala. If you are an artist who would be interested in participating, we want to hear from you!

- **Stroll Through the Arts Gala & “En Plein Air” Art Auction** – Saturday, August 1
  Our biggest fundraiser of the summer! It’s always a lively evening with delicious food, great wine, unique auction items and live music. All proceeds from this event directly benefit the visual art student’s scholarship program at Chautauqua.

- **Open Studio Night** – Monday, August 10
  The art students will open their studios at the School of Art and invite everyone in to see their work and to talk about what they have been working on all summer. Visitors will have the opportunity to purchase student works, which often helps our visual art students to return home at the end of the summer!

Come and visit the many ongoing exhibitions at the Fowler-Kellogg Art Center, the Strohl Art Center and the Melvin Johnson Sculpture Garden throughout the summer.

Experience the free, twice weekly VACI Lecture Program!

This summer’s exhibitions promise to delight as much as challenge with their visual diversity and engaging subject matter. Be sure to stop by the galleries to see one or more of the eleven scheduled exhibitions. This summer’s fifteen VACI lectures will give Chautauquans the opportunity to hear leading contemporary artists, museum directors and curators talk about their work first hand. From painters and sculptors to political artists and art professionals, each lecture will give you a deeper and more interesting perspective on the world of art as it exists today.

With all that we’ve planned for this summer, I look forward to meeting you at one or more of our events! Make this your summer to join a dynamic community of people who are passionate about the Visual Arts at Chautauqua Institution. **And remember, when you become a 2015 VACI Partner, you’ll be making a difference in the life of a visual art student like Alison!**

Sincerely,

Betsy Vance
President, VACI Partners