

Fall 2011

Honors student presents 'Art in Motion'



Nalani DeMarco Clisset performs at the Power Art Gallery

Nalani DeMarco Clisset presented her thesis project on Friday, December 2 at the Power Art Gallery. The presentation, *Art in Motion*, featured Nalani's original art work and jazz music presentation of cover songs and Nalani's original compositions. The performance featured Nalani on bass and vocals, along with several other William Paterson music students: Dylan Anderson, Tenor Saxophone; Will Dougherty, keyboard; Dan Filipak; bass, Errold Lanier, drums; and Kevin Sanchez, Alto Saxophone.

Nalani, a senior jazz and vocal major, completed the project as one of the requirements for completion of the Honors Independent Track. Students pursuing this track work with the Honors College Director, Dr. Susan Dinan, to design a track that suits their needs. Students then proceed under the guidance of one or more faculty members from appropriate academic departments who provide expertise and mentor the students as they work toward completion of a thesis or final project. Nalani worked closely with Dr. David Weisberg, Charles Magistro, Armen Donelian, Marcus McLaurien, Janet Reeves, and Dr. David Demsey on this project.

Nalani DeMarco Clisset was born and raised in Niwot, a small town near Boulder, CO. Her first exposure to jazz and improvisation was in her private voice lessons with Marguerite Juenemann, a vocalist from the acclaimed jazz group *Rare Silk*. She further developed her talents through the mentorship of Grammy-winning, Victor Wooten, after attending a bass/nature camp when she was fifteen. Nalani chose to attend William Paterson University and study Jazz performance because she wanted to challenge herself in a rigorous program that would allow her to study both bass and vocals. Her intention was to gain a working knowledge of this complex art form, and to be able to apply it to the development of her own musical path.

While at William Paterson, Nalani has had the privilege of studying with Marcus McLaurien, Nancy Morano, Karen Born-Cafaro, Janet Reeves, and Armen Donelian. She has taken advantage of many diverse opportunities such as performing with the William Paterson Symphony Orchestra, The Latin Band, where she

played both percussion and bass, and as pit band bassist for the theatre debut of *Disenchanted*. She also pushed for different concepts for ensembles such as The Stevie Wonder Concept group that she formed in fall 2010. Nalani constantly seeks inspiration and knowledge, which is why it only seems natural that she reaches into other creative outlets and is involved in so many facets of the university and the music world. Nalani entered the Honors College as a first year student in 2008. She serves the campus as a resident assistant, a peer health advocate, and as one of the Student Representatives on the William Paterson University Board of Trustees. She is a recipient of the Dean of Students Award. This summer, Nalani completed an internship at Sirius XM radio Real Jazz in New York City. She has also worked with engineer Gus Skinas in re-mastering some Blue Note Recordings to Super Audio CD. Painting was something that Nalani discovered quite young, when a neighborhood artist introduced her to the joy and freedom of the medium, and she was reminded of its ability to be a tool for raw expression when she took a painting class at William Paterson in the spring 2011 as one of her requirements for the Honors Independent Track. At that time, Nalani began to see the beautiful correlation between the art forms and decided to explore the creative source in which all art is born.