As Scout Marshall wraps up her studio art degree this semester, she fondly recalls her two-week experience last summer at the Doel Reed Center for the Arts. Thanks to the Smith and Nancy Holt Scholarship, she took “The Artist’s Sketchbook: Learning about Taos through Drawing” in July.

“I couldn’t afford to go without that scholarship, so I’m very grateful to Dr. and Mrs. Holt,” Marshall said. “There is truly something special about Taos. There is a reason that Georgia O’Keefe and a lot of other artists decided to settle there when they could have gone anywhere in the world.”

There were many things Marshall will never forget, including visiting the Earthships and Taos Pueblo. She was thrilled to learn from instructor Liz Roth as well as Sara Schneckloth, the 2015 Smelser-Vallion Visiting Artist who heads the drawing program at the University of South Carolina. On her final night in Taos, Marshall enjoyed a group conversation around the fire pit and then walked 10 steps to watch “the most beautiful sunset in the entire world.”

But what meant the most was laughing and talking about what art meant to each person in attendance. “The Doel Reed Center for the Arts definitely gets the whole point of community and artists helping each other,” Marshall said. “It also reminds us that there are so many different things to see and do outside of Oklahoma. It’s a base outside of the state in one of the most beautiful places in America.”

Marshall grew up in Enid, Oklahoma. After taking OSU courses in Taos and Italy, she has set her sights on pursuing an art career more than 1,000 miles from home in New York City.

Thanks to the Holts and other scholarship supporters, Marshall is among a growing number of students who enjoyed a life-changing experience at the Doel Reed Center for the Arts.
Dear Friends,

As the new Director of the Doel Reed Center for the Arts, I have the happy task of celebrating the outstanding accomplishments made possible by two of my predecessors—Sally McLear, the founding director who worked closely with Martha Reed to understand her vision and to shape an educational center that would honor Doel Reed, and Ed Walkiewicz, who for years supervised the construction and development of the property and worked to expand the academic programs. What they put in place has enabled us to celebrate an amazing set of accomplishments this summer and fall, and we look forward to continued growth next year.

Next summer, in addition to offering three new credit courses, we plan to develop a cooperative seminar with the University of New Mexico, which will bring together faculty and graduate students from each university.

In summer 2015, we notably increased our non-credit leisure learning classes, thanks in large part to the generous efforts of Doel Reed Advocacy Committee member Holly Goddard. Next summer we hope to expand on this success by offering a variety of classes in summer 2016 and possibly adding weekend activity-based classes at other times of the year.

Fall Fly Fishing or spring New Mexico Cooking anyone?

Center’s Summer and Fall Full of Successes

The Doel Reed Center for the Arts enjoyed many highlights over the past several months. It began with a record 50 people participating in a total of six academic and leisure-learning courses. They covered a variety of topics, including culture, drawing, food, and literature.

“We offered more classes on more topics and served more students, alumni, friends and community members than ever before,” said Carol Moder, who became director of the Reed Center this summer. “Not only were the classes great, but we’re getting more and more interest from faculty members across the university who want to teach different courses. We’re getting so many that we are looking into offering fall courses in the future.”

The 2015 Jim & Linda Burke Visiting Artist was Sara Schnechtloth, head of the drawing program at the University of New Mexico. While in Taos, she also participated in a public lecture and run a collaborative drawing workshop with students.

“What makes the Doel Reed Center for the Arts such a unique experience is that one has the opportunity to create artwork in direct communion with this humbling and inspiring environment, while being generously supported by the OSU community,” Schnechtloth said. “I worked with the students, both in the workshop and during class, met so many dedicated OSU alumni and supporters, and, in addition to creating a series of new drawings, finished a draft of a children’s book about emotions. In three weeks, it felt like I was able to accomplish an entire season’s worth of work.”

Schnechtloth then visited OSU in September to give a public lecture and run a collaborative drawing workshop with students.

“Sara was vibrant, energetic and really enthusiastic,” Moder said. “She worked incredibly well with the students, and the leisure-learning class loved her. Several participants bought some of her work.”

In September and October, the Doel Reed Center for the Arts was featured in the exhibition “Pressing Through Time - 150 Years of Printmaking in Taos.” The Center was open for tours and an exhibition of selected prints, and former director Ed Walkiewicz spoke about Doel Reed at the Harwood Museum.

“Completing the renovations is huge,” Moder said. “We can now house three people at a time at the Center as opposed to having to pay for lodging elsewhere. It makes it much easier to offer multiple courses in the same session without dramatically increasing expenses. With visiting artists and scholars able to stay at the property, it creates more spontaneous interactions that will greatly benefit the students.”

She added, “We are so grateful for all of the donor support we have received. Through extremely generous contributions, we have realized Martha Reed’s vision of creating this amazing place. Now our focus shifts to funding the enhancement and expansion of programs, which will add even more value to this unique project.”

The 2015 Smelser-Vallion Visiting Artist was Tara Schnechtloth, head of the drawing program at the University of New Mexico, which will bring together faculty and graduate students from each university.