Student Artwork on Display in the Dean’s Office

Each Fall, the department of art and art history furnishes the dean’s office with new student artwork. Artwork on display is created by art majors who were selected for talent scholarships.

The Dean welcomes you to stop by our office and view these masterpieces!

Rising by Kim Link
ELM Scholarship Recipient

Ellis Pond by Edmund Merricle
Kimm Kiser and Artsgala Scholarship Recipient

Forest Fungy by Mary Ransdell
Artsgala and Art Department Scholarship Recipient

Growing Pains by Katy Nelson
Artsgala Scholarship Recipient

Untitled by Shannon Grecula
Artsgala Scholarship Recipient
Fall Quarter 2008 began in late August with Wright State University hosting its second regional summit: Access, Innovation, and Impact: Partners for the Future of the Dayton/West Central Ohio Region. Speakers included Eric Fingerhut, Chancellor of the University System of Ohio; David R. Hopkins, President of Wright State; and Bruce Johnson, President of the Inter-University Council of Ohio. When classes began, the College of Liberal Arts led WSU in recording its second highest enrollment in history, a significant increase over the previous year and a beginning of our fulfillment of Governor Strickland’s goals for the University system of Ohio.

The many students who studied in CoLA this fall had a wealth of opportunities for learning. With an historic presidential election underway and having had the opportunity to hear both presidential candidates speak on our campus, CoLA students had access to enlightened discussions of the issues in the classroom and out. Special events relating to the election included a panel discussion led by the communication department’s journalist in residence Jeff Bruce and associate professor Mary Rucker, a Friends of the Libraries’ lecture by Paul Leonard (political science) and an election watch on election day led by Guy Guzzo (sociology).

Under the general theme of freedom of speech, presidential lecture speaker Azar Nafisi (author of Teaching Lolita in Tehran) praised “the passion of science and the certainty of art.” Her eloquent speech promoting global learning had many reflections in learning opportunities for CoLA students this fall. Our Title VIA grant to promote studies of China began with new course offerings including a new full time faculty member in Mandarin. Offerings in Russian studies also expanded. Enrollment of international students increased this year as well. Of particular note is the growth of our LEAP program.

United with global learning and leadership in the local community, the master plan for the new University System of Ohio challenges universities to expand learning in science and technology. CoLA faculty in the arts have taken this challenge seriously and inaugurated a unique program, STEAM3, which uses art and music to teach science. Funded by a private donor, the program features classes for art and music education majors and a lecture series for the entire university community. The importance of the arts at Wright State was further manifested in a major gift to the Creative Arts Center renovation and expansion project by leading Dayton philanthropist, Dr. Benjamin Schuster.

Offering students a comprehensive and expanding range of learning opportunities, the core business of CoLA prospered this fall.
Chair Highlight—
Dr. Melissa Spirek

Dr. Melissa Spirek brings passion and experience to her position as Wright State’s new chair of the department of communication. As the department chair, Spirek works with both faculty and students to ensure the department is top notch. Her job description has many different facets including advising and scheduling students, hiring faculty, and budgeting. She also makes sure the curriculum is current and advises Wright State’s weekly newspaper *The Guardian*.

Spirek is a native of Seven Hills, Ohio, a Cleveland suburb. Her passion for communication all started when she was a child with her dream of becoming a reporter. Spirek received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in communication from Cleveland State University. She then earned her Ph.D. from Purdue University, where she studied media effects on people’s emotions.

Before coming to Wright State, Spirek worked at National Public Radio (NPR) in broadcasting and as an investigative reporter for *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*. She also served as an associate professor at Bowling Green State University prior to joining WSU.

“America with the freedom of press is truly great,” stated Spirek.

Spirek said that one of reasons she was attracted to Wright State was the diversity of the students and staff which set Wright State apart from other universities. She also feels that the faculty are able to reach out to a diverse group of students.

Spirek strongly believes that in order to make it in the field of communication, students need to develop unique skills that set them apart from others. She states “packaging is everything” when it comes to finding a career. She suggests that students participate in internships and begin reading journalism magazines to help them prepare for their careers after college. Spirek also states that in order to have a successful communication career it “must be a passion and hunger, not just a job.”

Program Highlight—
Liberal Studies

The liberal studies degree program, which currently has 120 active liberal studies students, recently appointed a new director, Dr. Valerie Stoker. Stoker, who took over the position this past fall, is motivated and dedicated to student growth and new opportunities: “The main goal of the program is to help students who feel too limited by traditional majors develop a personal course of study that feels right for them.”

Stoker is in her sixth academic year at Wright State, in the department of religion, following her service at the University of Pennsylvania. “My main responsibility is to advise the students in the program. I also deal with the filing system and teach courses that count toward the liberal studies major.”

The liberal studies degree is a great choice for many students because it prepares them for a variety of different career options. These options include journalism, museums and art gallery research, marketing and management. The program makes this possible through the flexible structure of its requirements.

To complete the degree, students must complete six lower division courses in three general areas in liberal arts: fine arts, humanities, and social sciences. From there, students choose one of the general areas as the focus of a concentration consisting of nine upper division courses.

In addition, the program requires students to complete three professional component courses that have practical application, two interdisciplinary courses, and all other university and college level requirements.

For more information about the liberal studies program, please visit 370 Millett.
Faculty Highlights

Dr. Marjorie Baker—Working Smarter

People appreciate a helping hand, and Dr. Marjorie Baker, associate professor of social work, has been honored for doing just that. Last April, she received the 2008 Kim Goldenberg Quest for Community Award for creating and directing the WorkSmart program.

WorkSmart, a program designed to help African American female students graduate from the social work program, began in fall 2007 and proved extremely successful, exceeding even Baker’s expectations. “I had envisioned at least nine students,” she said, referring to the number of participants estimated to take part. “By the end of the year, we had 47.” The growth did not stop, as many African American female students from other majors heard about the program and wanted to participate.

Baker chose her former social work graduates who were single moms as students to be community partners. This decision connected the program to the participants. In addition, a writing consultant was hired to help students who needed to improve their writing skills. For its members, the WorkSmart program has turned out to be more than just a tool to help them graduate. As Judy Thomas expressed, “I can call my mentor for help on papers, advice, or to just chat.”

Baker, who earned her B.A. from WSU in 1972 before finishing her Ph.D. from the Ohio State University thirteen years ago, is no stranger to earning recognition for her endeavors in the field. She was named the Ohio Social Worker of the Year in 2001 by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and received this year the Mary Scott Legacy Award.

Bergdahl Attends Ohio Academic Leadership Academy

Making schools a diverse and evolving place to learn is key in the 21st century, and Wright State University is trying to become head of the class. The current global environment presents serious challenges to higher education leaders. Some of these challenges include globalization, rising tuitions, increasing population diversity, increasing competition for faculty and students, and technology.

To cope with these challenges and to lead successfully within an evolving environment, the Ohio Inter-University Council offers the Ohio Academic Leadership Academy (OALA) to prepare future administrators of Ohio’s colleges and universities. Last August, Wright State University professor Jacqueline Bergdahl was selected to attend OALA. Bergdahl is an associate professor of Sociology and has been teaching at Wright State since 1991.

This appointment is a prestigious honor that is only awarded to one person from each of Ohio’s twelve state universities. The goal of OALA is to diversify administration as well as expand knowledge on higher education issues. Participants in this program will develop leadership skills before making the jump from faculty to administration.

Bergdahl was selected to complete an internship at Miami University and was paired with Lee Harrington, chair of the Sociology and Gerontology department at Miami University. Once a week, for an entire academic year, Bergdahl drove to Miami University to shadow her mentor. She attended chairs meetings, faculty meetings, observed the hiring process, and met with students and teachers. Bergdahl watched Harrington in action as she represented the department. “I learned a lot about Wright State University from the questions that people at Miami asked me,” she said.

Bergdahl was required to complete a project that fulfilled the needs of the university as well as meet her own personal goals. She interviewed 14 faculty members in Miami University’s sociology department about their experiences with the mentoring program. Her project was well-received and she gained a new appreciation for the benefits of mentoring: “I learned about the strengths and weakness of both Miami and Wright State but I also learned about my own strengths and weaknesses.”
Jeffrey Bruce has been working in journalism for almost 40 years. His passion began while working part time during college at the Tampa Times. “I instantly fell in love with it,” said Bruce. “I was looking for some kind of employment where I could write and they had this job at the newspaper; it was just serendipity.”

Bruce became a full-time teacher this fall quarter at WSU, after having taught one semester at the University of Dayton. Of WSU, Bruce declares: “I am delighted to be here. I got my feet wet at UD and decided if I am going to teach, I am doing it on a full-time basis.”

He taught three courses this quarter: two courses in basic writing in communication classes and the other a one-time course based around the election. For this class, he was able to use his direct experience from covering the political conventions for the Dayton Daily News. As for his other basic classes, Bruce says it is one thing to know something from decades of experience, but it’s completely different to be able to deconstruct it and teach it. “You take for granted what you know. Everything talked about is done in short hand with your colleagues.”

“It’s been a terrific learning experience for me as well having to look at it from the other side of the barrel; it’s been very interesting and stimulating,” said Bruce.

So what does a lifelong journalist bring to the table of WSU? Decades of experience covering political conventions, super bowls, and years of experience as an editor. More importantly, he brings a desire to share that knowledge with students and teach them how to transform their skills as writers into the skills of a journalist. Bruce has already made plans to adapt his teaching techniques and passes on his sympathy to the guinea pigs of his first quarter teaching Basic Media Writing at WSU!
Love of All Things French

Barbara Galbraith, lecturer in French, has an undeniable passion: she loves France and its culture, and she looks for as many opportunities as possible to visit the unforgettable “City of Lights.” Galbraith’s passion began at a young age when her family spent eight years living in Paris. “This experience influenced me significantly,” said Galbraith. “When I became an adult, I wanted to teach the most beautiful language in the world.”

Teaching at Wright State University since 1989 (full-time since 1999), Galbraith offers courses in beginning and intermediate French, literature, culture, and phonetics. She also takes students on yearly summer study abroad trips to Paris and the Pays Basque. While there, students are given a broad exposure to and appreciation of French culture and improve their language skills as well. She is an amazing advocate of study abroad and has been responsible for taking many Wright State students abroad, most for the first time in their lives!

Galbraith doesn’t introduce only students to her beloved Paris; she also organizes trips for adults in the community who are interested in visiting France. In early December she led five women on a one-week trip to see many spectacular sights, including Notre Dame, the Sacré Coeur, the Arc de Triomphe, the Louvre, and of course, the Eiffel Tower!

Galbraith’s love for France is contagious. She openly shares her passion with her students, colleagues, and friends, and instills in them the desire and the opportunity to discover and to learn the French culture first-hand. C’est la vie!

Lynn Disbrow Recognized for Her Efforts

Dr. Lynn Disbrow, assistant professor of communication, has quite the resume. She has served on the advisory board for the National Communication Association (NCA) since 1985 and is currently involved with the Educational Policies Board of the National Communication Association, serving a three-year term as director. This board reviews undergraduate curriculum across the country and directs money to support communication education and the creation of educational materials. The board is also responsible for the overall development, support, and implementation of policies and projects related to the educational process at any level of academic study or inquiry. Disbrow is the first professor from Wright State University to be appointed to this position.

Beginning in the late 1990s, Disbrow worked with people within the NCA to create Sigma Chi Eta, a national honorary society for communication majors in two-year colleges. As one of the founders, she served for a time on the advisory board while Sigma Chi Eta was established. Because of this, the Sigma Chi Eta Lynn M. Disbrow Advisor of the Year award was named in her honor.

Disbrow earned her Ph.D. from Wayne State University in Detroit where she graduated in 1989. She has also taught at the University of Dayton, Sinclair Community College, and Indiana University. She is the author of many published articles and is a regular presenter at professional conferences. Disbrow was also recognized in Ohio Magazine’s 2005 Excellence in Education Edition. She offers, “I love what I do. I will make sure communication stays a part of all I am involved in.”
Faculty Attend Boot Camp

While it may seem to some that the average academic life is blessed with an abundance of available free time, for many faculty at Wright State, finding time to write can be quite difficult. Between planning, teaching, grading, conducting research, advising students, serving on committees, keeping up-to-date on what’s going on in higher education – not to mention maintaining a healthy life physically, mentally, spiritually, and emotionally – writing is often pushed aside. Whether it is for a book proposal, a scholarly article, a conference presentation, a poem, a story, or a novel, spending a week at the WSU AIC (A** In Chair) boot camp may be just the opportunity faculty members need to get something done.

First offered in August 2008 and then repeated in December 2008, the AIC boot camp is designed to provide a formal structure, a quiet location, a commitment to the work at hand, the support and encouragement of other faculty, and the bit of fun that is needed by many writers to stay focused and motivated to complete a writing project.

Participants set public goals; share caffeine, snacks, and lunches; receive and give small prizes, encouragement, and advice to other “boot campers”; and celebrate when anyone achieves a goal or milestone toward a goal. For one week, participants show up at 8:00 am ready to work steadily on their writing until 4:00 pm. Except during a few scheduled breaks, boot campers are not allowed to check email, answer cell phones, surf the web (unless the search is directly related to the writing project in which they are engaged), send or receive text messages, or simply chat.

At the end of the week, Dr. Joe Law, coordinator of writing across the curriculum, presented each member of the camp with a certificate of completion. And, as is shown by the number of boot camp graduates who have continued to meet on a regular basis long after the week has ended, the concept has proved to be quite successful.

Leadership Dayton

Nan-c Moss, director of development for the College of Liberal Arts, was honored by being selected to attend Leadership Dayton and graduate with its Class of 2008. Leadership Dayton is the premier leadership development program designed to identify, educate and motivate a network of community leaders and increase the individual’s capacity to serve the Dayton region.

As the only delegate representing Wright State, Moss was honored to be surrounded by many community leaders. Moss was impressed by certain individuals. Debra Downing, a Wright State graduate, stood out because of her dedication to the service project that each class is assigned that will benefit the community. This year’s project was improvement efforts for St. Vincent De Paul.

The Leadership Dayton program values diversity in the Dayton community and of its members, much like Wright State values the diversity of its students. By sharing goals, Moss believes that we will be able to make a deep connection with the community. “I would like to see WSU have more community connections and become a more visible partner within the community,” Moss said. “By recognizing our differences and valuing our diversity we can make the Dayton region a better community for all.”

Program participants meet one day a month for eleven months and are given the chance to experience the community through a new perspective. Each day of the program is focused on a different aspect of leadership and community. Moss states that her favorite day was the economic day. “This day was most helpful because it showed us a good overview of what was happening in the area. It also showed us what needed to be done.” Moss was able to see how Wright State can help in these community efforts by providing quality education to the community. She was also excited about the wealth of opportunities this region has available to its citizens in arts and culture.

The Leadership Dayton program allowed Moss to see the Dayton community with a new outlook. Through the program, she was able to discuss with other community leaders exactly what needed to be done in order to build Dayton into a healthier community. “This allowed me to be more committed to Dayton. It was also refreshing to find others with the same commitment.”
Student Highlights

Model UN Excellence—the Tradition Lives On

This year marked the 29th consecutive year that WSU’s Model UN team earned top awards at the National Model UN conference held in New York City, having competing with over 350 colleges and universities.

Representing the country of Canada, the team won the Outstanding Delegation award, the highest honor. The team also won Outstanding Position Paper which analyzed issues such as health services, the economy, and national security. The teams are evaluated by their ability to represent the country assigned to them, how well they portray the policies of that country, how well they articulate the issues, and how involved they are in the creation of resolutions. The various assignments allowed the students to negotiate and research, and let the team see problems from another perspective.

In October, the Model UN team held a reception to recognize and congratulate the new, current, and past members of the teams. Nearly eighty people reconnected, and all had the opportunity to meet President David Hopkins, Provost Steven Angle, and Senior VP Lillie Howard, who have all supported the team for many years.

In November, the Model UN team headed to Xian, China for an international conference. The event was a pilot program of the National Model United Nations and was held in partnership with Northwestern Polytechnical University. This trip was the first time the WSU team had attended a conference outside of the United States. “This was a capstone experience for the delegates, most of whom had not traveled outside of the U.S.,” said Dr. Donna Schlagheck, professor and chair of the department of political science. Delegates worked extremely hard for the duration of the conference representing Belgium, Germany, and Egypt and were awarded three Outstanding Position Paper awards, Honorable Mention for Belgium and Egypt, and Distinguished Delegation for Germany. Although they worked diligently to earn top honors, the team had time to enjoy site seeing as well.

In existence since 1974, the WSU Model UN program is a four credit hour seminar run like a committee. Team members are chosen based on an oral interview, writing and speaking skills, research abilities, and role-playing. No experience is needed to join the team and all students of any major may apply.

“It is a great learning experience,” said Schlagheck. “Students who have been a part of this team are well prepared to work in careers as diverse as the FBI, the government, or financial sectors. The Model UN also prepares students to succeed in graduate or doctoral programs.” Alex Elkins, head delegate, can attest to that: “Despite many experiences in other groups and organizations on campus, Model UN has truly been the best experience I have had at Wright State University.” Elkins has been a member of the team for the past four years and is currently working on two master’s degrees, international and comparative politics and public administration.
Ambassador Trip to Japan

Nine students accompanied by Dr. Carl Brun traveled to Japan last summer through an international education abroad program sponsored by Wright State University. Students from all majors were encouraged to apply and were asked to write a paper explaining why traveling abroad would benefit them in their major.

This experience was Brun’s first leading a trip overseas. As chair of the department of social work, Brun teaches a class called “Cultural Competency in a Diverse World.” While in Japan, this class focused specifically on immersion into Japanese culture and required students to write weekly journals about their experiences and to gather for frequent discussions about the American and Japanese culture and customs.

The Wright State cohort was joined by ten students from the University of Findlay and two additional universities from Brazil. The 40 member group was hosted by the Kake group, an educational institute consisting of universities, high schools, and vocational schools. The Kake group promotes peace by having students get to know different people and cultures. During their 30-day stay, the group traveled by bus from the most southern parts of Japan to north of Tokyo. Accompanied by an English interpreter, they visited five different universities and they met and spoke with the governor of Okayama, as well as the Mayors of Okayama and Nobeoka.

Brun said that the biggest culture shock for him was realizing that Japanese technology is much more advanced than ours. He also noted that the Japanese are very environmentally conscious. According to Brun, they tend to conserve water, recyclables, and energy. Air conditioners are rarely used, and not nearly as many people drive cars in Japan as we do in the United States.

Brun said the trip has changed him; he and the students learned a lot from the experience. “The people there treat everyone with respect and kindness. They’re very considerate of each other,” said Brun. “If given the chance, I would certainly go again.”

The COLA Dean's Office is currently accepting applications for two scholarships for 2009-2010: the Liberal Arts Student Leadership Scholarship and the Liberal Arts Study Abroad Scholarship, which is new for this year. Applications are due to the Dean’s Office by April 3, 2009. For the upcoming academic year, funds may be distributed among multiple recipients with individual scholarships typically ranging from $1,000-$2,500 each.

The application forms are available in the Dean’s Office, 163 Millett, and online on our home page, http://www.wright.edu/cola/.

http://www.wright.edu/cola/admin/scholarships/lead_sch_cola2009.pdf (leadership scholarship)
http://www.wright.edu/cola/admin/scholarships/abroad_sch_cola2009.pdf (study abroad scholarship)
WSU’s Student Philanthropy Project Makes a Difference

Philanthropy is in the hearts of us all, so let’s take action to make a difference! Shamera Totty, MPA 2008

During the 2008 winter and spring quarters, WSU students experienced the wonderful gift of giving to others. With support from Mr. Roger Grein, a Cincinnati-area businessman and philanthropist, students were given a unique opportunity to explore philanthropy from a very special perspective – they became donors.

WSU’s Student Philanthropy Project was designed to provide students with a hands-on experience of the philanthropic process, from fundraising to grant making. The project was implemented through a sequence of two courses: fundraising and philanthropy.

The project’s mission was to expose students from all disciplines to the merits and impact of philanthropy on the community and, in so doing, cultivate a new generation of philanthropists. The experience introduced students to their own role in the philanthropic process.

Goals and objectives of the project included:
• Teaching students about the non-profit sector
• Engaging students in the process of grant making and fundraising
• Engaging students in thinking about their personal role in supporting community organizations
• Providing a creative approach to learning so students use cognitive reasoning and communication skills
• Exposing students to unfamiliar communities to increase their appreciation of the diversity of the region
• Discussing the impact of philanthropy and civic engagement
• Developing a good community with corporate citizens and partners

On June 10, 2008, students from the two classes met and were inspired by Dr. Grein, who made it possible for them to award $1,000 each to eight local, non-profit organizations:
• Big Brother Big Sister of Miami Valley Area
• Community Action Partnership of Greater Dayton Area
• Dayton Urban League - STARS Program
• Honor Flight, Inc.
• Children’s Hunger Alliance
• Compassionate Friends
• KIND
• Project Impact

In an article from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Grein states: “All through my life, angels have interceded on my behalf. Some stayed around a while, some appeared briefly and left. Angels helped me get a college education, helped me become a coach, helped me start a successful business. Sure, I worked at it all. But I’m under no illusion I succeeded on my merits alone. The wings of angels lifted me.”

The Student Philanthropy Project will continue during the 2009 winter and spring quarters.
A Trip of a Lifetime—Tea with Tom Hanks in Rome

What would you give to meet Tom Hanks in Italy on the site of his new movie, Angels and Demons? This was the question that Mike and Holly DiFlora asked themselves in April of 2007 while attending ARTSGALA, an arts extravaganza held each spring on the campus of Wright State University. More than 600 patrons attend this prestigious event each year, which provides scholarship support to students studying the arts at Wright State. Guests select from an amazing variety of art, music, and theatre performances, as well as fine dining and an enticing silent auction. A trip to Rome to meet Tom Hanks was the featured auction item at the 2007 ARTSGALA.

Dr. Stuart McDowell, chair of theatre, dance and motion pictures, played an integral role in securing this trip. Having met and worked with Hanks in New York in 1979, McDowell has maintained contact with him over the years and even helped establish a Tom Hanks scholarship fund at Wright State. Mike DiFlora, a Wright State alumnus of the College of Engineering and Computer Science, and his wife Holly were the highest bidders for the trip, which auctioned for $41,600. Accompanied by McDowell and his wife, the DiFloras and two other family members departed for Rome one year later, after patiently awaiting the end of the writers’ strike in Los Angeles which had delayed the filming of Angels and Demons.

According to the group, the trip was well worth the wait. They arrived in Rome on June 13 and that very night, they went to the set of Angels and Demons, the sequel to the box-office hit, The Da Vinci Code. “We spent several hours watching Hanks shoot a scene,” said McDowell. The next day, they all met for tea at a hotel where Hanks brought his son and a bodyguard. On the third day of their trip, the DiFloras and McDowells watched Hanks film another scene in Rome. The remaining four days of their trip were spent in Tuscany.

The trip was everything the group from Dayton could ask for. “It was fabulous to say the least. Tom Hanks is truly genuine and just a real human being,” McDowell said. The most intriguing tidbit he learned along the way? After reading the book Angels and Demons, McDowell discovered that the ending to the movie had been changed!

While the trip didn’t have a surprise ending, it certainly had a happy one—the proceeds provided more than $25,000 in scholarships for fine and performing arts students at Wright State.

The DiFloras and the McDowells enjoy an entertaining afternoon with Tom Hanks in Rome.
Full STEAMMM Ahead

Science, technology, engineering, art, math, medicine and music are all disciplines being taught separately at Wright State University. STEAM brings them all together. With funding from Dr. Edgar Hardy, the art and music departments started a new program this fall. Four music education and four art education majors were accepted to participate in the program. These future educators learned how to take science units and teach them simultaneously with art and music. Two students, one from each major, paired up and together they created a lesson plan to present to grade school students during winter break.

With guidance from William Jobert, assistant director of bands and instructor of bassoon, and Ben Montague, assistant professor of art and art history, the students spent countless hours researching topics for lessons. “We’re definitely forging into new territory here,” Jobert said. “We are excited to be at the front of a new concept; we could find no other university doing anything like this.”

One objective is to bring science and the arts together. Grade school children should be able to step into a science classroom and take a science concept and relate it to a music or art concept, thereby reinforcing the two. For example, a scientist might need to measure a beaker of water while a musician might need to measure pitch. STEAM blends these two ideas in one lesson. Another goal of STEAM in the classroom is to get younger students interested in science, as well as art and music.

The junior-level class will be taught for the next three fall quarters under the current grant. In the meantime, Jobert and Montague hope to get more students from different disciplines involved. “If we can bring in more science students, the program will be that much better,” declared Montague.

The class has been an interesting and challenging experience not only for the instructors, but the students as well. Student Kim Lank admitted, “I thought it was going to be fairly easy, but getting into it I found it was complicated. It changed the way I think about education.” The students will send their portfolios to Dr. Hardy at the end of the program so he may see their successful progress.

Photographs of Andy Warhol

Andy Warhol’s illustrious photography was on display in the Robert and Elaine Stein Art Galleries this past fall. The show, entitled “I Am a Camera,” was made possible through the donation of 155 original photographs by the Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts. The exhibit displayed these photographs taken throughout Warhol’s 44-year career as an artist. Of the photos, the most recognizable were those of Marilyn Monroe, Joan Collins, Sylvester Stallone, O.J. Simpson, and the controversial Nude Model - five fully nude photos of an unidentified man.

One of the most popular aspects of the exhibit was the “15 Minutes of Fame” photo booth. This booth was open to anyone visiting the show and allowed participants to have their photos taken in the 70s-style strip that Warhol loved. Visitors to the galleries took one strip with them, and the other was added to an ever expanding Wall of Fame of poses enjoyed throughout the course of the show.

Throughout his life, Warhol formed visual diaries of his personal life where he documented life through his own eyes. He also made a photographic sketchbook where he expressed many ideas he had for printmaking. Warhol was best known for his photography; to make his work stand out he used harsh light, randomness of photo booths, and later in his career he also used the Polaroid format.

In the 1970’s Warhol took his photography to the next level. He first began publishing Interview magazine and he renewed his focus on painting. Some of his famous works created in that decade were Mao, Skulls, Hammer and Sickles, Torsos and Shadows, and many other commissioned portraits.

During the 1980’s, Warhol started his own personal exhibits and created two cable television shows. Warhol graduated from Carnegie Mellon University where he majored in pictorial design. He began his career as an illustrator for several magazines in the New York City area. His first assignment was for Glamour magazine for an article titled “Success is a Job in New York.” Warhol died in 1987 following gall bladder surgery but his work left a lasting impression on people everywhere. In May of 1994, the Andy Warhol Museum opened in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The Andy Warhol “I Am a Camera” exhibit was a success and more exhibits are to come. For more information on this exhibit and other future exhibits, contact galleries coordinator Tess Cortes at tess.cortes@wright.edu.
Monica Williams

Monica L. Williams is a graduate of Wright State University and New York University’s Graduate Applied Theatre program in which she created and performed, respectively, two original theatrical events on race: “Between Sisters: Healing the Wounds between Black and White Women” and “R.H.E.A: Racism in Higher Education Administration.” A theater artist, educator, activist and advocate for authentic cultural expression of marginalized communities, she believes in engaging various community constituents in the development of and even the performance of artistic events to inspire community well-being.

Currently Williams is working long-term with two communities: Children of Incarcerated Parents (CIP) and professional artists of color. Williams has engaged children of incarcerated parents through the arts for the past 5 years. Her national projects include the Youth Ambassadorship with Osborne Association, the NYC Youth Advisory Board for CIP consultant, and the Family and Corrections Network 2008 newsletter editor on media portrayal of CIP. She is also the national artistic advisor for the Kentucky Foundation for Women, in which she links artists with women, children, and the loved ones of incarcerated persons in the Louisville Metro Correctional Facility. She facilitates trainings on engaging arts activities as protective factors with families of the incarcerated for artists, activists and service providers.

For the past 12 years, she has worked diligently to connect artists at every level to resources and opportunities that will provide mainstream visibility and support cultural literacy. Williams is committed to social justice and believes that the arts play a vital role in our communities and our communities can cause change through the arts.

Marnie Leist

Family. Education. The love of art. All of these factors influenced WSU graduate Marnie Leist to follow her dreams – even if it meant moving to the other side of the country. Leist grew up in South Park Historic District in Dayton while her parents actively restored old houses in the community. She adopted this sense of preservation, which led her to obtain a degree in art.

After graduating from WSU with a B.A. in art, she continued her education at the University of Cincinnati and earned her M.A. in art history and a museum studies graduation certificate in 2005. While earning her M.A., Leist began the University’s first permanent display of its collection and temporary exhibit for a new gallery. After graduation she wanted to continue working in the field of art collections.

One of these opportunities was in Kodiak, Alaska. Without ever having visited the area before, Leist was offered the position and is now the registrar for the Alutiiq Museum.

During her time at the museum, Leist has left her mark. She initiated the installment of 260 new drawers that brought the museum into compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. She also developed an agreement for the care of archaeological collections, which was signed by such agencies as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, area Native Corporations, local governments, and more. Currently, the museum is seeking accreditation from the American Association of Museums.

Leist has also worked with her executive director, Sven Haakanson, Jr., who is famous for receiving the 2007 MacArthur Fellowship and was named “sexy anthropologist” by People in 2007. Leist jokes: “So, although it’s a long six-month winter and prices are ridiculous here, I have no reason to leave as of yet.”
Events

Jennie Cabrera and Rick Zech, of the dean’s office, assist students moving into their dorms in August as a part of Move In Day.

Stuart McDowell, Sonia Martin, Chauncey Jenkins, Joe Martin on the stage of the Broadway Theatre, where Chauncey (BFA Musical Theatre, ’96) was Lead Dancer in The Color Purple.

Dr. Sharon Nelson, Associate Dean, greets new graduate students during the 2nd annual Graduate School Open House held in November.

Dr. Carl Brun enjoys a visit with students during the Ambassador trip to Japan at the Choshi Street Festival in Yoshida.

Ernest Wiedemann, President David Hopkins, Mary Wiedemann, scholarship recipient Anthony Zdybek and Dr. Carl Brun meet at the College’s donor recognition ceremony held at the Schuster Center in November.

Barbara Galbraith and students visit Marie Antoinette’s hamlet at Versailles during their trip last summer.
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