Meagher Family Endowment for Art History

Christopher and Ellen Meagher this year made a very generous donation to the Art Department to endow a fund for Art History. Christopher and Ellen made the endowment, in the words of the endowment’s Memorandum of Understanding, “in appreciation for the outstanding education received at SUNY Potsdam by their son Christopher, a summa cum laude graduate of Art History and Archaeological Studies in 2015.” The memorandum continues: “In particular, the Meagher Family wishes to honor and thank Drs. Caroline Downing, Teresa Watts, and Mary Jo McNamara, a “remarkable trio of professors” whose mentorship of Christopher meant so much to him and his family.”

The fund is to be used to enhance student experiences each year, as determined by the Art History faculty. Examples of such experiences are research, field work, internships, study abroad, and conference participation. All in the Art Department are very grateful to the Meaghers for their generous gift, and we look forward seeing our students’ opportunities expanded as a result.
Meet the Art Department

Dr. Caroline Downing
Art Department Chair
Distinguished Professor
Art History
PhD, Indiana University
Bloomington, IN

Claudette Fefee
Secretary
ARTNEWS Editor
Art Museum/Art Department
Potsdam, NY

Iggy Beerbower
Assistant Professor
Photography
MFA, Minneapolis College of Art & Design
Minneapolis, MN

Bethany N. Haeseler
Assistant Professor
Foundations/3D Design
MFA, The Ohio State University
Columbus, OH

Joe Hildreth
Distinguished Professor
Printmaking
MFA, Pratt Institute
New York, NY

Mark Huff
Professor
MFA, Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA

Nathaniel Infante
Visual Resource Manager/Studio Technician
MFA, University of Buffalo
Buffalo, NY

Marc Leuthold
Professor
Ceramics
MFA, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
NC

Dr. Mary Jo McNamara
Professor
Art History
PhD, Stanford University
Palo Alto, CA

Claudette Fefee
Secretary
ARTNEWS Editor
Art Museum/Art Department
Potsdam, NY

Faculty and Staff News

Iggy Beerbower has shown her work in numerous gallery exhibitions this year. She was a ground crew volunteer for Sea Shepherd's Operation Jairo in Utila, Honduras the summer of 2015 and this year her photographs were published by the organization to update and promote the campaign. She hosted photographer Douglas Beasley for a three-day event during the 2016 LoKo Festival of the Arts which included a presentation, photography workshops, and critiques of student work.

Caroline Downing completed her first term as chair, and was re-elected to a second term. This year she will be working on the departmental assessment plan, and preparing the department to apply for accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. She completed two book reviews for publication.

Laura Fair-Schulz participated in the SUNY Potsdam Faculty Art Exhibit at the SUNY System Administration Building this February, and had a one-person show at the Katya C. Greer Memorial Art Gallery at Creative Spirit in downtown Potsdam. She has been creating illustrations used by Logos: A Journal of Modern Society and Culture, and the Institute of Working-Class History, Chicago.

Bethany Haeseler has exhibited in numerous juried exhibitions across the country including curating a three-person exhibition at the Urban Arts Space in Columbus, Ohio titled “Repetition & Isolation: The Abundance Within” with printmaker Danielle Johns and sculptor Molly Jo Burke. Last spring, she gave a glass demonstration at Hocking College.

Joe Hildreth had a busy year continuing his activities as the Art Curator for the SUNY Exhibition Series. He organized, installed and hosted three SUNY-wide exhibitions in Albany, and organized, transported and installed a larger abstraction exhibition in the SUNY Global...
Center in Manhattan. He also serves SUNY as the Artistic Director for the Thayer/Ross Fellowships. Finally, Joe served as a panelist at the Council of Art Department Chairs meeting in FIT in March, 2016. During the 2015/2016 academic year Joe created a large series of abstract charcoal drawings. In May, he had an artist’s residency at the Electronic Print Institute at the Alfred College of Ceramics, where he created 14 new plates. The prints from these plates will be exhibited in the Gibson Gallery in 2017.

Mark Huff initiated the first year of courses and majors in the fledgling Graphic Design and Media Arts BA and BFA, and also chaired the successful search for a new Assistant Professor of Graphic Design and Media Arts. He mounted a one-person show of photographs from his sabbatical leave in the Yucatan, Mexico in the Hosmer Gallery. Mark also shepherded five students through the Art Education certification program.

Nathaniel Infante recently received permanent appointment and title of Instructional Support Technician. He continues to teach various classes as needed such as Basic Photography, Printmaking and Foundations of Drawing. Nathaniel has completed several new prints and drawings and is working on another series of prints to explore new printing methods. He exhibits regularly and has focused his research on learning various processes in printmaking such as polyester plates, positive plate lithography and screenprinting.

Danielle Johns recently showed her work in Ley Lines: Connecting Media, Process, Imagery and Concept Across Contemporary Drawing, an exhibition at the Hammond Gallery in Jacksonville, Alabama. Her prints are currently being shown in FLUX: A Contemporary Print Exhibition, a traveling exhibition that originated at the Bevier Gallery in Rochester, NY. To continue her work creating drawings and prints she was awarded a Research and Creative Endeavors Grant from SUNY Potsdam.

Marc Leuthold was awarded a sabbatical for the first time since 2005. Marc was invited to be artist-in-residence at the Archie Bray Foundation of Montana, the Vermont Studio Center, Rochester Institute of Technology, Shanghai Institute of Visual Arts, Yingge Museum of Taiwan, and Shangyu International Center for Ceramic Arts in China. He also opened a two-person show with Peter Callas at the
Continued, Faculty & Staff News

Marianne Heller Gallery in Dusseldorf, Germany. Prior to the sabbatical, Marc taught all ceramics courses and mentored local artist Ray Whelan to teach Ceramics during the sabbatical. Marc has kept in touch with Ceramics alumni and helped Brooke Armstrong secure a year-long artist’s fellowship at Mendocino Arts Center in California. Brooke was also invited to participate in the upcoming 21st International Ceramic Symposium in Serbia at the suggestion of Marc who attended last year’s Symposium. Potsdam alum, Emily Glass, invited Marc to give a lecture and demo and crits at RIT where Emily is a Visiting Asistant Professor of Painting. Emily, (see picture, Page 7) spoke glowingly of the Department and Professors Swartelé, Yeomans and Downing.

Mary Jo McNamara was on sabbatical in the spring semester doing research on Rodin. Her work took her to Los Angeles and Mexico City.

Morgan Perkins has turned his attention to a number of museum and art projects that address migration and human rights. For a retrospective exhibition at the Queens Museum, he contributed a book chapter on art and agency in the work of the Chinese artist Zhang Hongtu, who migrated to the United States. Along with a group of curators from museums around the world, he received funding from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research for a 2017 workshop at the School for Advanced Research, to begin a long-term project, entitled Borders: Museums in the Age of Migration. He recently presented on this project and others for the first annual, Arts and Human Rights Summer School, at the Human Rights Research and Education Centre, at the School of Law of the University of Ottawa. To address the relevance of migration to the Potsdam community, he supervised the design and installation by SUNY Potsdam Museum Studies students of a new exhibition at the Charles T. Weaver Museum of Anthropology: On the Move: An Exhibition on Human Migration in a Global and Local Context. This exhibition has a particular focus on the current refugee crisis, as well as a section that explores migration as a component in North Country and SUNY Potsdam history, and its relevance to current social and cultural dynamics in our region..

Doug Schatz had a productive year in 2015-16—he was able to show his work internationally in Canada as well as down South in Tennessee. His endeavors starting a sculpture park in Quebec have been very rewarding and exciting as the project continues to advance. In addition to his own work, sculpture students enjoyed putting on another Festival of Light this past year for the LoKo event on campus, with great success all around.

Amy Swartelé exhibited her paintings at the AIR Gallery, the Fridge Art Fair, and the Governor’s Island Art Fair in New York City, as well as internationally at St. John’s Art Gallery in Waterloo, Belgium. She received a Research and Creative Endeavors grant to support her work in fall 2015. Amy concluded her 5-year term as representative to the LoKo Festival of the Arts committee, where she advocated effectively for the Art Department.

Tracy Watts In these days of cutbacks for faculty research, Tracy Watts considers herself very lucky to have received the Faculty Award for Professional Development. The resulting research into new teaching and learning methods will be put to good use over the next few semesters. In February she presented her latest research on Reference Books by Horace Walpole to the Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies. Studies of different museum collections are part of the mission study for her work on the President’s Task Force regarding collection and conservation. This charge led her to studies from the world famous Boston MFA exhibit of Dutch Painting in the Age of Rembrandt and Vermeer, to smaller venues such as National Watercolor show in Old Forge.

Michael Yeomans participated in several exhibitions, including Hand-Pulled Prints in Brooklyn, New York. He coordinated the Potsdam Prints National Print Show, inviting juror Harvey Breverman to visit campus to work with students during the LoKo Festival. Michael is currently exploring ways to apply traditional drawing ideas to the digital medium. Michael is the department’s representative to the Faculty Senate.
Letter from the Chair

Greetings to all from the Art Department. We hope you have had a great year.

We have been very busy this year building our new Graphic Design and Media Arts program. We already have about 50 students in the program, which just began officially in fall 2015. Our search for a new faculty member to teach in the program was a success, and Charlotte Qin has joined us for the fall semester. Read more about Charlotte, below.

This year, Distinguished Service Professor Joe Hildreth announced his retirement after 45 years of service to the college. He will be on leave in the fall, and returning for his final semester teaching next spring; his retirement will be official at the end of August 2017. I encourage all of Joe’s former students to contact us and share some of their memories of his classroom, to be featured in the next newsletter. If you’re going to be in the area next spring, stop by to say hello!

Thank you to our ArtNews editor this year, Claudette Fefee – great work!

Please stay in touch, and let us know about all of your life events and career accomplishments. We always look forward to hearing from you.

Charlotte Qin joins Art Department faculty

We are pleased to welcome Charlotte Qin to the Art Department. Charlotte will be teaching in the Graphic Design and New Media program. A native of Shanghai, Charlotte earned her B.A. in Advertising from Shanghai Normal University, and her Master of Design degree in Graphic Design from the University of Illinois, Chicago. Most recently, she has been teaching at Columbia College in Chicago. Charlotte has extensive experience in advertising, and specializes in both print and time-based communication. We are very much looking forward to seeing what she and her students can create at SUNY Potsdam.
LoKo (Lougheed-Koefed) Festival of the Arts

The LoKo (Lougheed-Koefed) Festival of the Arts is the result of the generous gift of Donald Lougheed and his wife, Kathryn Koofed Lougheed, SUNY Potsdam class of 1954.

The Festival encompasses all forms of artistic expression, with an emphasis on cross-disciplinary artistic experiences and takes place each year in the spring. With this gift, the Lougheeds are intent on creating an "umbrella" for the arts by providing financial support for an array of arts-inspired activities, performances and scholarly activity leading up to and exhibited through a nine-day Festival. The Festival culminates each year with the Dorothy Albrecht Gregory Visiting Conductor leading Crane Chorus and Symphony Orchestra in a performance.

The LoKo Festival of the Arts resurrects the tradition of a dynamic and comprehensive campus spring festival, to include theatre, dance, vocal and instrumental performances; visual arts exhibitions; creative writing programs; and guest artists and presenters.

This spring, the festival was held from April 29 - May 8, 2016. Art Department hosted the Alumni Showcase in the Art Museum featuring works by: Tesfa Alexander, '02, photography; Torrance Fish, '97, sculptor; Heather LaForce, '07, painting; Nate Infante, '04, printmaking. Other events included a presentation by renowned photographer Douglas Beasley, who also conducted photography workshops and student critiques. Painter Mia Brownell spoke about her work and also met with advanced painting students. Martin Kruck gave an artist's talk entitled Habitorium, and Caroline Ramersdorfer presented on her sculptural works.

Festival of Lights

During the 2016 Lougheed Festival for the Arts, Bethany Haeseler and Doug Schatz organized the Festival of Lights. Potsdam community members were invited to attend and interact with the artworks. Sculpture and Color & Design students created illuminated artworks out of nontraditional and recycled materials. Materials were partially funded through the LoKo (Lougheed Festival). The event of the Arts was well attended and greatly enjoyed by college and community members.
Alumni News

Jessica Bellingham, ('12) is working as Assistant Registrar for the Lumiere Group, a collections management firm in Seattle, currently managing Microsoft's art collection.

Allison Benincase, ('16) is the new Elementary Art Teacher at Harrisville Central.

Emily Cady, ('13) has finished her curatorial internship and a collection management academic year internship at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery. She is enrolled at the University at Buffalo to pursue her MA in Critical Museum Studies.

Debra (Catlin) Copeletti, ('76) recently retired from a Design & Management career in the commercial packaging field. She has since moved to Saratoga Springs, NY.

Gabrielle Gapczynski, ('14) is starting a job as the middle school art teacher at Gloversvile Enlarged School District in the fall.

Kate Gesel, ('11) has been chosen to exhibit her work in the Printmaking Triennial in Krakow, Poland. 104 artists out of 600 were accepted; of those, 9 artists represented the United States.

Aimee Gonthier, ('12) received her MFA in Printmaking in spring 2015 from Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia, PA. She has worked as an intern in a print shop, and as an adjunct instructor. While at Potsdam, Aimee exhibited her work in the SUNY Student Art Exhibit in Albany, New York.

Carolyn Herrera, ('15) is working at both Madelyn Jordon Fine Arts, Dia:Beacon while she continues to volunteer at Peekskill Clay Studios.

Christina Ely Millman, ('99) has been promoted to Curator at Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown.

Alexandra Morris, ('12) will be attending NYU in the fall for an M.A. degree in Museum Studies. She has been continuing her research on Alexander the Great, and this year has presented two papers on the subject.

Joshua Sperling, ('06) first class graduating with a BFA from SUNY Potsdam had an art opening in the Chelsea area of Manhattan last January. He works for Brian Donnally known as KAWS in Brooklyn New York.

Ceramics News

Ceramic professor Marc Leuthold with alum Emily Glass, Visiting Professor of Painting, Rochester Institute of Technology

Local artist and teacher Ray Whalen taught Ceramics in the Department last spring. Ray grew up in Potsdam - just down the street from the College. As a youngster, he roamed the halls of Brainerd looking at the works of art and studios, feeling right at home. Ray exhibits his work and teaches at Parishville-Hopkinton School. He also helps with exhibition installation at Brush Gallery of SLU. Whalen is a graduate of SUNY Oswego and was certified at SLU. His Master of Fine Arts Degree is from Cranbrook Academy of MI. Whalen has two sons and a daughter.
Art History News

This year four students graduated from our program: Amanda Barrett, Alison Benincase, Katrina Rigsbee, and Will Suarez. Cassandra Flihan will complete her degree in the fall. Professors Downing, Perkins, and Watts hosted the annual Art History Dinner at the home of Professor Downing, and all involved enjoyed a turkey dinner and lively conversation (see photos). We missed Professor McNamara, who was on sabbatical, and look forward to having her back in the fall.

Winner of the John C. Riordan Book Award for Excellence in Art History this year was Cassandra Flihan. Cassie chose a book on women Impressionist artists. Recipient of the Nancy and Andrew Ramage Travel Award was Joanna Holden, who will be traveling to Ireland this summer to train as a supervisor on an archaeological excavation.

We are also most grateful for the generosity of our donors Christopher and Ellen Meagher, who have endowed a fund for the use of the Art History program. We promise to make very good use of the fund to enrich the experiences of all of our Art History students. We are planning a field trip to Ottawa for the fall.

A celebratory dinner was held at the home of Professor Caroline Downing

A Thank You to Our Donors

We are most grateful to all who donated to the Art Department last year. These funds help us fund programs for our students, such as bringing outside speakers on art topics to campus, helping students with the Student Art Association ‘zine, and many other activities.

Debra M. Copeletti
Kenneth Cutway
Suzanne Danehy
Diane Day
Vincent Diamonti
Lorraine DiBello
Estate of Stuart Sheedy

Jean Fallon
Robert Gillespie
Jerry Jacobson
Diane Kolber
Jo’El P. Kramer
Elizabeth MacDonald
Christopher & Ellen Meagher

Roland Pierce
Eleanor Rosenthal
Bonnie J. Spear
Robin Tauss
Margaret Tobelman
Karen Tripp
James Wawrzewski
Michael Yeomans & Amy Swartelé
Photo Donation Opportunity

Many of our art students hesitate to take photography because of the cost of the equipment needed. Consider making a tax-deductible donation of your unused photo equipment to help them out. We are in need of:


**35mm Film Single Lens Reflex (SLR) Camera with a lens**- needs to have full manual exposure controls (f-stop, shutter speed, ISO).

**Medium or Large Format Film Cameras**- 645, 6x6, 6x7, or 4x5

**All kinds needed**: camera bags and straps

If you'd like to make a donation, please contact Claudette Fefee, Art Department secretary, at 315-267-2251, or fefeec@potsdam.edu

The Art Museum News

**Environmental Impact**
September 3 - October 31, 2015
Environmental Impact, produced by David J. Wagner, L.L.C., David J. Wagner, Ph.D., Curator/Tour Director.

**Art Attack**
November 19 - December 12
This year's Art Attack was juried by Alex Lee, Assistant Professor of Digital Arts & Sciences at Clarkson University. Congratulations to all our exhibitors.

**Award Winners**
President's Award: **Jonathan Ryan**
Art Department Award: **Kyle Derry**
Provost's Award: **Alison Benincase**
Dean's Award: **Amanda Dillon**
PACES Award: **Liam Kingsley**

**Potsdam Prints**
February 4 - March 26

**Gallery Hours**
Tuesday - Friday: 1 - 7 p.m.
Saturday: 1 - 5 p.m. and by appointment
(Closed during school recesses and between exhibitions)

**BFA and Alumni Show**
April 29 - May 21
Opening Reception: Friday, April 29, 5:00-7:00PM

**Sculpture professor Doug Schatz and sculpture alum Jonathan Lalonde pouring bronze**

**Jonathan Ryan, Experimental 2015, watercolor, chalk, pastel, charcoal, 23" x 30"**
Kappa Pi International Art Honor Society

Kappa Pi is an International Art Honor Society of which SUNY Potsdam is a member.

Conducted by Amanda Barrett, President, Kappa Pi inducted its new members. The ceremony was attended by most of the Art Department faculty. As usual, a lovely reception, catered by PACES, followed the ceremony.

2016 Inductees

Cassandra Flihan  Maria McAdam
Amanda French  Olivia Stoddard
Emilee Hazelden  William Suarez

Kappa Pi Art Auction Held

Officers and Faculty of Kappa Pi Art Honor Society, with assistance from some Student Art Association members, held an auction of student and faculty work in 2015, with all of the proceeds to be used by students for completion of art projects. The auctions are a great success, and the money raised is awarded to deserving students for their art projects.

Many student artists received support this year and last from funds raised by the Kappa Pi Art Auction. Artists receiving support this year were Kyle Derry and Abigail Toutain. The Department is very proud to have contributed to their projects.
2016 BFA and Alumni Show

**BFA student:** Khaska Dottin

**Alumni:** Tesfa Alexander, '02, Torrance Fish, '97, Heather LaForce, '07, Nate Infante, '04

Heather LaForce, It Must Be A Full Moon! 2015, oil on panel, 36” x 36”

Art Department Scholarships and Awards

SUNY Potsdam offers a variety of scholarships to deserving students. The Art Department awards were presented at the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Convocation and at the College-wide Honors Convocation.

**2016-2017**

Noreen M. Canfield Scholarship: Devyn Halter
D. Allen Edrington Scholarship: Andrew Norrell
Marty Phillips Scholarship: Amanda Barrett
Robert B. Dunn Award: William Suarez
Lucy Dai Scholarship: Caroline Pracht
Riordan Book Award: Cassandra Flihan
Andre Alexander & Patricia Sanford Scholarship: Abigail Toutain
St. Lawrence River Patrons for the Arts Scholarship in Painting: Kyle Pawlowski/Hannah Stollberger
St. Lawrence River Patrons for the Arts Scholarship in Ceramics: Jennifer Beaudoin
William Gambling Scholarship: Ashley Stay
Ramage Art History Travel Award: Joanna Holden
McCall Family Scholarship: Alison Thompson
Katya Greer Memorial Scholarship for Art Education: Brooke Allen

Departmental Scholars: Sarah Andrews, Kyle Derry, Clare Tremblay, Alicia Twoey
Attention Alumni

At SUNY Potsdam Art Department, we take great pride in having close relationships with our alumni. We would love to hear from you! Please answer the following questions and return the form.

Name and Year of Graduation

What you have been up to

Any news you would like to share

Anything you would like to see added to the Newsletter

Address or name changes

You can send your information via email to:

SUBJECT: Newsletter
artnews@potsdam.edu

OR WRITE TO:
Editor, Art Dept. Newsletter
218 Brainerd Hall
SUNY Potsdam
44 Pierrepont Avenue
Potsdam, NY 13676