Ben Goldsmith

Benedict Goldsmith, 94, a 28-year resident of mid-coast Maine, died Saturday morning, April 2, 2011, at his daughter’s house in Scottsdale, Arizona. Ben and his wife, Dorothy, moved to Camden upon retiring in 1978 from his position as Professor Emeritus and Director of the Gibson Gallery at the State University of New York, Potsdam, where they had lived since 1950.

Ben worked as a commercial artist for the Blackstone ad agency in New York. He then enrolled at Columbia University and tried his hand at a music career but ended up settling on an art career instead. After graduating in 1950 he accepted a teaching job in the budding art department of Potsdam State Teachers College (now SUNY Potsdam) and he and Dorothy moved the family to the North Country where he stayed until his retirement in 1978.

While at Potsdam he was an art professor, jeweler, sculptor and Director of the Gibson Gallery of Art from 1968 through 1978. He was the organizer and first president of the New York State Gallery Directors Association. He regularly designed sets for theatrical and musical productions. Ben will be sorely missed by everyone who was close to him and his passing leaves a huge hole in all our hearts.

"Best Of" SUNY Student Art Exhibition

Liza Labarge, a Junior BFA Major at Potsdam, won a $1000 SUNY Scholarship for her large scale charcoal drawing. On June 6, 2011, during a reception held at the New York State Museum, Liza was presented with the award by SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher. Her drawing was selected from over 144 works from across the SUNY System. In addition to Liza, SUNY Potsdam had several other student artists selected for the Best of SUNY Art Student Exhibition. These students were Paige Potter, Aimee Gonthier, Chance Winkler, Carli Rentsch and Jazon Reuss. SUNY Potsdam is very proud to be represented by Liza, Paige, Aimee, Chance, Carli and Jazon.

Liza LaBarge receives her award from SUNY Chancellor Zimpher
Meet the Art Department

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

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

Morgan Perkins
Assistant Professor
Anthropology & Art
PhD, Oxford University
Oxford, England

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

Douglass Schatz
Associate Professor
Sculpture
MFA, University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY

Lindy Strauss
Adjunct Instructor
Printmaking & Foundations
MFA, Vermont College
Montpelier, VT

Mark Huff
Chair
Art Department
MFA, Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA

Amy Swartelé
Associate Professor
Painting
MFA, University of Buffalo
Buffalo, NY

Michael Yeomans
Assistant Professor
Foundations
MFA, University of Buffalo
Buffalo, NY

Ginny Layne
Associate Professor
Photography
MFA, Virginia Commonwealth Univ.
Richmond, VA

Dr. Teresa Watts
Professor
Art History
PhD, University of Toronto
Toronto, Canada

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

Marc Leuthold
Associate Professor
Ceramics & Foundations
MFA, UNC Chapel Hill, NC

Edwin Clark
Adjunct Instructor
Foundations
MFA, Universidad de Guanajuato
San Miguel, Mexico

Helen Bush
Secretary
Art News Editor
Art Department
BA, SUNY Potsdam
Potsdam, NY
Faculty and Staff News

Joe Hildreth  In his position as Senator, Joe was an active participant in the First and Second Convening of the Innovation and Transformation Teams for the SUNY-wide Strategic Plan. Joe designed and organized four SUNY Art Faculty Exhibitions and two large SUNY System student exhibitions.

Mary Jo McNamara made four trips to New York visiting galleries and museums and one trip to Los Angeles where she photographed a number of buildings that are taught in Art in America.

Amy Swartelé has exhibited her work in thirteen exhibitions this year across the USA. She is currently working on a corporate commission and preparing for a two-man show that will take place in Belgium in September - October 2011.

Tracy Watts conducted her yearly student trip to Rome, Florence, Pompeii and Assisi. Her article on ancient vases in the eighteenth century is being published this September in the Neoclassical volume of University College Dublin. She is currently writing about Gothic Revival architecture and decoration in St. Lawrence County and an analysis of Sir Henry Englefield’s unpublished letters in the British Library.

Caroline Downing spent an enjoyable sabbatical semester completing research on the late Roman paintings from Stobi, Macedonia. She presented the some of the results of her research to Dr. Jessica Suchy-Pilalis’s Byzantium: Religion and the Arts course at the Crane School of Music. She has missed seeing her students, and looks forward to teaching again in the fall.

Marc Leuthold has continued to be professionally active. Last summer, he and 11 other artists were invited to participate in an American Ceramists’ Symposium in Hungary. Directly afterwards, he traveled to the Czech Republic to participate in the 24th International Ceramics Symposium in Bechyne. Exhibits include an upcoming one at the Museum of Applied Arts in Prague. At the most recent NCECA meeting, he gave a lecture titled, “Rococo Ceramics.”

Doug Schatz competed in the National Snow Carving Championships in Lake Geneva Wisconsin for the third year in a row. Fellow carvers on Team NY were Tom Sperduto 02 and Jay Wells 09. Prof. Schatz also completed his first full year on the Board of Trustees of the International Sculpture Center. Prof. Schatz’s sculpture “The Crucible” was the inspiration for a production of Macbeth at Josephine Sculpture Park in Frankfort KY. The sculpture was used as the set for the performance.

Faculty Exhibition at SUNY

The SUNY Art Department faculty exhibited their work in the SUNY System Administration Plaza Art Gallery in Albany, NY. The exhibition ran during the months of August and September, 2010. The artists featured in the exhibition were: Ed Clark, Joe Hildreth, Mark Huff, Nate Infante, Danielle Johns, Marc Leuthold, Doug Schatz, Lindy Strauss, Amy Swartelé and Michael Yeomans.

The work consisted of a floor-to-ceiling sculpture by Doug Schatz, a circular ceramic sculpture by Marc Leuthold, constructions by Mark Huff, prints by Danielle Johns, Joe Hildreth, Nate Infante and Lindy Strauss, prints on hand-made paper by Ed Clark, a large abstract painting by Michael Yeomans and a large surreal painting by Amy Swartelé. Many visitors to the exhibit commented on the aesthetic quality and diversity represented by the various works.

The Plaza Art Gallery is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:00 am-5:00 pm. It features work by artists working within the SUNY System. Additional information on the SUNY Art Exhibition Series can be found by going to www.suny.edu/artgallery.
The academic year ended on a highlight for eleven students who accompanied Dr. Tracy Watts to Italy, visiting Rome, Florence, Pompeii, and Assisi. Each student participated in the trip by researching a work of art or architecture and delivering a presentation at the site of the item in question.

Rachel Kmack took us back to the time of gladiators and the architectural wonders of the Coliseum. Also in Rome, Marie DiLorenzo described the complex history of the Trevi fountain with its colossal statue of Neptune.

The following day, the travelers visited what was unquestionably the most impressive of the sites on the entire trip: the Vatican, the world’s smallest city state, nestled in the heart of Rome. At the Vatican museum, Elizabeth Sokol told the story of the Laocoön and explained how this Late Greek sculpture had been restored. The group was then guided through a series of rooms adorned with Renaissance frescoes, leading to the Sistine Chapel. Elissa Donohue’s presentation revealed the beauties of Raphael’s painting The School of Athens. The viewing of the Sistine Chapel, most notably the works of Michelangelo, Botticelli, Ghirlandaio, and Perugino, was an experience no student will forget. Finally, in a small chapel inside the magnificent St. Peter’s Basilica, Colleen Knapp explained the poignancy of Michelangelo’s Pietà, a sculpture of the Virgin Mary holding her dead son.

No visit to Italy would be complete without a visit to catacombs. Andre Hill chose to present the catacombs of St. Domitilla, the only catacomb with its own underground basilica, a half hour’s bus drive from Rome on the Via Appia. The next trip was to Pompeii, a full day visiting this famous site while the sun baked the ruins and our intrepid travellers. Jared Muehlbauer’s enthusiastic description of Pompeii’s amphitheater and its resurrection from the ashes of Mount Vesuvius by archaeologists and other interested parties brought the place alive again. It also helped revive the spirits of the students.

Florence, the second major city of the trip, provided a quieter, slower pace preferred by many. Noëlle McCall lead us through the quiet halls of the San Marco monastery, where she expounded on the beauties of Fra Angelico’s Annunciation. The following day was spent at the Uffizi Gallery, one of the finest western art museums in the world, started by a gift of artworks donated by the de Medicis. Here, Shelby Tomko guided us to Leonardo’s The Adoration of the Magi, where she described his unique interpretation of the story, and the underlying techniques of his unfinished masterpiece. And further down in the same museum, Margaret (Twiggy) Bassler delivered a presentation on Caravaggio’s frightening and Baroque vision of Medusa. The final student presentation by Brooke D’Ambrosio, demonstrated her knowledge of Michelangelo’s marble sculpture of David, discussing its colossal size, beauty and meaning. Every day in Florence, it was impossible to leave the hotel without passing numerous museums and churches but most notably the magnificent Duomo, the Baptistry and the Palazzo Medici.

This was by no means the entire trip. Dozens of churches and museums were visited. Our days were filled with long walks and relief could often be found at Italy’s ubiquitous fountains. And student learning was not limited to visiting institutions. Every corner of Italy produced surprises. Italian cuisine provided a welcome alternative to Jrek’s Subs; students discovered (and marveled at) Italian delicacies. Many of the group could be found sketching in the gardens and piazzas in an effort to absorb Italian influences. In summary, beginning to understand the art, culture, and political intricacies of Italy was an integral part of this travel seminar. In each of these ways, it can be said that the tour was a great success.
Daniel E. Stetson (1978) has worked in the museum field for 30 years now. Currently he is Executive Director of Polk Museum of Art, Lakeland, FL and has begun his 15th year in this position. PMoA is a nationally accredited art museum located in central Florida. This Fall (end of September) he will begin his second year as the President of the Florida Art Museum Directors Association and stand for election as President of the Florida Association of Museums. Dan is also humbled to be honored in October by the Florida Art Educators Association with the “Friend of Art Education Award”, a state wide honor. This summer he was selected for, and participated in, the Getty Leadership Institute/Museum Leadership Institute Program (L.A.) of Claremont Graduate University with 30 senior museum professionals from around the world. He states that his success in this field is “directly related to the incredible art history and full education he received at Potsdam and then Syracuse University. Jack Riordan was a great mentor and inspiration to me, as was the entire faculty at the time. Roland Gibson was a friend and additional inspiration.”

Robin Annlot (1997) is working full time as the Order Processing Manager at Screenvision Direct in Rochester, NY. She has continued to paint and draw as a hobby, and has continued her art education through multiple classes at the Memorial Art Gallery’s Creative Workshop. Eight of her original oil paintings are currently on view at a Rochester pub, the Tap and Mallet. This is her first show. The paintings were completed over the course of the past 5 years and can be described as abstracted still life.

Barbara Levin Morrison (1978) was recently recognized as New Hampshire Art Educator of the Year 2010-2011.

Tanya Gadbaw is in her final year of Graduate School at the Southern Illinois. She has been the teacher on record for drawing classes, while taking care of the Grad Art Association, participating in fundraising events, and arranging out-of-state exchanges.

Melissa Tinklepaugh (2009) graduated from Syracuse University’s Newhouse School in July with a Masters in magazine, newspaper and online journalism. She has been living in NYC since mid-August, interning for the Magazine Industry Newsletter.

Emily Glass recently held her Masters of Fine Arts show “Fine Animals for Sale” in the Chapman Gallery, Manhattan KS. This show was exhibited from April 4th-15th.

Hong (Kaelynn) Hong was accepted into the MFA program at the University of Georgia and received a full assistantship.

Sebastian Stoddart is currently attending Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi. He is an MFA candidate concentrating in Sculpture. He has just finished his first semester and is looking forward to the next.

Krystal Stowe held her Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition at the Alice and Horace Chandler & North Galleries. She also exhibited at the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art at the State University of New York at New Paltz in May 2011.

Megan Hooper will be attending Boston College this year for a MA in English Literature and taking Latin classes to continue collecting her dead languages.

Elizabeth Hayes (MacDonald) is now married and living in Richville, NY.

Megan Keenen is currently enrolled in a graduate program in Bozeman, MT.
Katya Greer Memorial Scholarship for Art Educators

Last year several Art Department faculty members, along with a local art teacher, launched a fund drive to establish a scholarship in memory of their former student, colleague and dear friend who passed away in 2009.

One year later, the group is more than halfway to their goal of endowing the Katya Czerepak Greer Memorial Scholarship Fund at $20,000. Katya was a 2002 graduate of the SUNY Potsdam Art History program and an art teacher at Potsdam High School.

According to Dr. Caroline Downing, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor/Art History, Katya’s scholarship will be SUNY Potsdam’s first scholarship for an art education student. Dr. Downing and Art Department Chair Mark Huff, who spearheaded the scholarship drive, will create selection criteria for the scholarship.

In addition to the $10,368 that has been received thus far for the scholarship, a $6,500 pledge has been received, to be paid over a period of five years. Once endowed at the $20,000 level, the fund will generate approximately $1,000 a year for the scholarship award.

About one-fourth of the amount raised thus far is due to the hard work of Mrs. Leslie Strong Sutter, Potsdam High School Art Teacher, and the school’s Artistic Congress. Mrs. Sutter and her students hosted a successful art auction in May to benefit the scholarship fund, and they also held other fund raisers throughout the year for the scholarship fund.

In November a scholarship benefit was held at the Creative Spirit Art Center in Potsdam, organized by Otto Czerepak, Katya’s father and noted local artist. The benefit featured five groups of musicians who donated their time and talent for the event, including Salvatore and Oscar Sarmiento, LocalMotive, Ten Speed Taxi, Northbound and Len Mackey.

Donations to the fund are welcome and appreciated. Checks should be made payable to the Potsdam College Foundation/Katya Greer Scholarship and may be mailed to the Potsdam College Foundation, SUNY Potsdam, Potsdam, New York.

Secure on-line donations may be made on the College’s web site at https://secure.potsdam.edu/giving. For information about the scholarship fund, please contact Nancy Griffin at (315) 267-2112 or griffine@potsdam.edu.
In April of 2011, SUNY Potsdam once again held its annual Very Special Arts Festival. The Art Department at SUNY Potsdam along with various other donors sponsors this program. A Very Special Arts Festival is a fair type program in which music and crafts are incorporated to children and adults who have special needs. It has been in operation since 1978 and admits hundreds of special needs children and adults every year. A Very Special Arts Festival is run on a strictly volunteer basis. This year’s program received many volunteers mainly from the Art Department and several from the Special Education Department. It was especially nice to see previous year’s volunteers return to the program.

This year, A Very Special Arts Festival received a new sponsor in addition to its main donor, Community Bank. The Potsdam Elks Lodge # 2074 along with “Elroy the Elk” donated $500.00 to the event and a check was presented to Coordinator Helen Bush at the festival. Donations are the only monetary sources that fund this event year after year. The Potsdam Elks Lodge and “Elroy the Elk” also made presentations for drug awareness. A very special thanks to our donors to this event.

This year’s theme was “Welcome to the Jungle,” which involved music and costumes. Professor Schatz’ Sculpture students dedicated their time and abilities to the festival and constructed the set for the presentations, which included tigers, elephants, toucans and a giraffe.

The Coordinators of A Very Special Arts Festival would like to convey many thanks and sincere appreciation to all of the students and professors who assisted in the construction and for allowing students to have the time to dedicate their abilities and hard working capabilities to this program. Thanks to the organizations and people who donate funds or items to this event. We would also like to extend a very special thank you to all of the volunteers; the program would not run without you. We truly and sincerely appreciate all of the hard work that everyone has provided to make this event A Very Special Arts Festival.
BFA Thesis Exhibition

This year’s Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition upheld our proud tradition in the Art Department at SUNY Potsdam, a tradition of quality and success demonstrated by the achievements of our students. The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree is the professional undergraduate degree in the Visual Arts. The faculty is very proud of the accomplishments of these students and wishes them great success in their future endeavors.

This year the BFA Thesis Exhibition works from: Aimee Gonthier, Angela Heisch, Kaelynn Hong, Deborah Lewis, Melissa Marschner, Kirsten Moore, Jacob Offeld, Paige Potter, Chase Winkler, and Jay Tyndall. On behalf of the Art Department, congratulations to these students.
Art Attack is Gibson Gallery’s annual juried student art exhibition. This has been a campus tradition for over 30 years. Its goal is to acknowledge the accomplishments of the college’s student-artists and to offer them concrete encouragement as they pursue their studies.

This year, 25 artists exhibited 58 works in the exhibition. Guest Juror for 2010 was Matthew Burnett, Associate Professor of Art at SUNY Canton.

The winners for 2010 Art Attack:

Art Department Award: Katherine Irwin, Quebec 2010, line etching and aquatint

President's Award: Donna Cappel, Griffin 2010, watercolor

Provost's Award: Melissa Marschner, Vessels 2009, stoneware

Dean's Award: Carlie Miller, Fear of Being Touched 2010, charcoal on paper
(pictured at right)

PACES Award: Chase Winkler, Brunette 2009, earthenware

Gibson Gallery Fall 2011 Exhibitions

9/15 - 10/15/11
Donald Fels
Reception - 9/15, 5-7 pm

10/27 - 12/3/11
Art Attack
Reception - 10/27, 5-7 pm

For more information on the Gibson Gallery please consult their website www.potsdam.edu/gibson
Zeta Alpha Rho Chapter - National Art Honor Society

Conducted by Jessica Bellingham, 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. Inducted this year were:

- Kari Abreau
- Lauren Dodaro
- Elizabeth LaBarge
- Jaime Martineau
- Justin Norman
- Sara Seferian
- Lauren Ward
- Jessica Bellingham
- Kristina Fahsel
- Jonathan Lalonde
- Noëlle McCall
- Meghan Place
- Megan Stephens
- Danielle Weires
- Marie DiLorenzo
- Kaitlyn Gesel
- Deborah Lewis
- Alexandra Morris
- Carli Rentsch
- Sara Tierney
- Rachel Woods

Art Department Senior Awards at the College-Wide Honors Convocation

The Art Department Senior Awards includes the Robert B. Dunn Award, for the outstanding senior art major, and the John C. Riordan Book Award, for the outstanding senior art history major, were presented at the College-Wide Honors Convocation on May 21st, 2011 by Dr. Teresa Watts. The faculty of the Art Department congratulate all the recipients for their achievements.
Art Department Scholarship Winners

SUNY Potsdam offers a variety of scholarships to deserving students. The Art Department awards were presented by Mark Huff, Chair of the Art Department at the School of Arts

The following is a list of winners for 2011-2012:

Andre Alexander & Patricia Sanford Scholarship:
Diana Sambula

St. Lawrence River Patrons of the Arts Scholarship in Painting:
Angela Marken

St. Lawrence River Patrons of the Arts Scholarship in Ceramics:
Kate Kuligowski

William Gambling Scholarship:
Jesse Millek

Ramage Art History Travel Award:
Noelle McCall

Noreen M. Canfield Scholarship:
Dan Romlein

D. Allen Edrington Scholarship:
Elizabeth LaBarge

Marty Phillips Scholarship:
Carlie Miller

Lucy Dai Scholarship:
Kathy Irwin

Robert B. Dunn Award:
Madeline Phillips

John C. Riordan Book Award:
Stefanie Clark

Departmental Scholars:

Jessica Bellingham          Hannah Lockwood          Brittany Shermerhorn          Marie DiLorenzo
Noëlle McCall            Lauren Dodaro                Justin Norman

Art History News

Two Art History students graduated this spring: Stefanie Clark and Madeline Phillips. Abeje Leslie plans to graduate in August, after completing some summer coursework. Ben Peery will be graduating in December. Last summer and over the break between semesters, Ben worked at the Guggenheim Museum in New York City, gaining invaluable experience in one of his fields of interest, Museum Studies.

The winner of this year’s John C. Riordan Book Award for Excellence in Art History was awarded to Stefanie Clark. She received a book on her favorite area of Art History, Modern Art. The Robert B. Dunn Award was received by Madeline Philips, for her service to the Art Department. We are very proud of our outstanding students!

Right after graduation, Dr. Tracy Watts took students on a wonderful overseas adventure, to Italy, the birthplace of Art History (see story on page 4). The group visited Florence, Assisi, Rome, and Pompeii, seeing firsthand the places on which they conducted research for their reports.
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
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