SUNY Potsdam's Department of Art will purchase new equipment thanks to the recent grant of more than $88,000 from an anonymous foundation. Marc Leuthold, Associate Professor and head of the Ceramics program at SUNY Potsdam, applied for the grant. Leuthold is the project coordinator of this equipment enhancement initiative.

Funds for replacing equipment in the Department of Art have been needed for many years. “Due to budget constraints, the College has had difficulty in addressing equipment needs,” said Leuthold. “Most of the equipment in the department dates back to 1968, when Brainerd Hall, which houses the College's arts studios, was constructed. Now 40 years old, much of the equipment is subject to breakdowns or is irreparable.”

The most expensive item earmarked for replacement will be a gas kiln for the ceramics studio. This kiln will enable students to fire their stoneware work with improved results in a state-of-the-art kiln. Other items that were budgeted for replacement were a table saw, 25 easels, sculpture equipment, electric kilns and wheels. In addition, digital printers and projectors will be purchased.

"I am elated and proud of this success," said Mark Huff, chair of the Art Department. "This will be a huge shot in the arm for Ceramics. I know I speak for the entire department when I express my sincere appreciation for Marc Leuthold’s efforts to elevate the entire Art Department."

Potsdam is one of three designated arts campuses in the 64-campus SUNY system. The Potsdam Department of Art serves more than 200 majors and is the second largest department in the School of Arts and Sciences. A Bachelor of Fine Arts degree was recently added and existing programs in Art Education and Studio Arts have been expanded. Enrollments in the department have doubled in recent years. For more information about the Department of Art, visit www.potsdam.edu/art.
Meet the Art Department

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<td>Professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edwin Clark</td>
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<td>Helen Bush</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<td>SUNY Potsdam</td>
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Visiting Sculpture Professor
Peter Arcidiacono

This year Peter Arcidiacono joined the faculty at SUNY Potsdam as a visiting Professor of Sculpture while Doug Schatz was on sabbatical leave. Peter taught classes at Potsdam as well as St Lawrence University.

Peter was born and raised in Houston, Texas. Following a prolonged stint as an undergraduate, which included time working in freelance film production and building furniture, he received a BFA in Sculpture and a BA in Religious Studies from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1993. While at CU Boulder, he studied in Costa Rica at the Universidad de Costa Rica. Peter received an MFA in Sculpture from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque in 1997. After moving back to Colorado, Peter taught for five years at Front Range Community College and exhibited his sculptural installations.

While at SUNY, students in Peter’s advanced sculpture class organized “Dimensions,” an exhibition of their work at the Creative Spirit Art Center in Potsdam. The exhibit featured a large collaborative installation addressing the contemporary “digital” classroom juxtaposed with the pre-industrialized learning environment, several individual student installations and multi-media artworks, and several of Peter’s recent sculptures were also on display.

While in Potsdam, Peter’s work appeared in the Faculty Art Exhibition in Albany for 2008. His work will be on display at Water Street Artist at Stable Gallery in Damariscotta, Maine this summer. Peter and his wife JoLea, a ceramic sculptor, will be attending a residency at Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts this July.

In the summer of 2008, Peter and JoLea moved to the hill country of Texas to set up studios, splash around in the Blanco river, and engage in the avid pursuit of outstanding BBQ and Mexican food.

Art History News

A banner year for Art History ended with a record number of graduating students - 16. We now have so many that we had to drop the idea of a sit-down dinner - no-one has a house big enough! We had a lovely and lively reception/buffet lavishly produced by Tracy Watts at her riverside home in Raymondville. We remember years of 2 or 3 students graduating, and are very pleased to welcome so many new students. Currently we have about 35 majors, so we can expect more big graduating classes in the future.

Our faculty have been very active this year also. Morgan Perkins had a full-year sabbatical, part of which he spent continuing his research in China. MaryJo McNamara had a semester-long sabbatical to continue her research on Rodin and next year Tracy Watts will be undertaking new research on 18th-century art.

We welcomed a new adjunct, Kamille Parkinson, who commutes from Kingston, Ontario. A dual citizen of the U.S. and Canada, she wrote her doctoral dissertation on 19th-century British landscape painting. Kamille taught three classes for us last semester, a herculean task - and yet she was still willing to return in the fall, when she will be teaching Idea and Image.
Alumni News

**Catherine Eichenberger** has been accepted into the Master of Arts program in Art History at SUNY Binghampton for Fall 2008. Kate was a Teaching Assistant for numerous faculty and served as an Art History tutor for many students while at Potsdam.

**Tanya Gadbaw** has been admitted to the University of Southern Illinois MFA program in painting. Tanya will receive a major fellowship and and a teaching assistantship in the Fall.

**Heather La Force** had her work exhibited in the Governor's Mansion Show in Albany NY. She will be attending the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, MA.

**Cheryl MacFadden** graduated in 2002 with a BA in Studio Art with a certification minor in Education and a minor in Psychology. All three of her children are currently students at SUNY Potsdam.

**Colden McClurg** was awarded a staff position at Watershed Center for Ceramics where he will spend the summer working and making ceramic art.

**Andrew Minnery** was recently awarded the Ceramics Fellowship from the Handweaving Museum and Art Center of Clayton, New York. The position is a newly established one-year award that will provide Mr. Minnery with the opportunity to teach community classes and work on his own art. Mr. Minnery is a 2008 graduate of SUNY-Potsdam’s Art Department. He took four semesters of Ceramics at Potsdam.

**Phyllis Shafer** (1980) has been painting stylized interpretations of the Western landscape and teaching full-time at Lake Tahoe Community College in California. She was recently included in an exhibition titled, “Yosemite: Art of An American Icon” which was organized by the Autry National Center in Los Angeles, CA.

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**Art Department Hires Visual Resource/Studio Technician**

This year the Art Department Faculty at SUNY Potsdam welcomes Nathaniel Infante to fill the new position as Art Studio Technician / Image Resource Manager. This Instructional Staff position was created in order to help organize and maintain the studio spaces and slide library to meet the needs of the growing Art Department.

Nate grew up in Potsdam and enjoyed the area so much that he decided to attend the State University of New York at Potsdam where he received his Bachelor of Art degree in 2004 with dual majors in Art History and Art Studio.

While attending SUNY Potsdam Nate was interested in drawing, photography and painting, but soon found that all three media could be combined through various printmaking techniques. In 2005 he was accepted into the Graduate program at the University at Buffalo and in 2007 he received his Master of Fine Art degree with a concentration in Printmaking.

During graduate school Nate taught two undergraduate courses: Intaglio Concepts and Lithographic Concepts and worked as a Printer for various local artists. After graduation he moved back to the area in order to gain experience as an Adjunct Instructor at SUNY Potsdam, teaching Drawing 1 and Life Drawing, and working at the Gibson Gallery as an Installations Assistant.

Nate regularly displays his prints and drawings, which can be characterized as social commentaries based on various aspects of modern consumer culture. His depiction of scenarios and dramatic events often contain unusual imagery and motifs that mirror reality by creating a satirical image of the world as seen through critical, yet curious eyes. Some themes explored in his images include: man’s relationship to the environment and to animals, the impact of technology, consumerism, media and entertainment.

Nate says that he is very excited to begin the new position and is “grateful to be a part of the same University that inspired me so much in the past.”
It's All Greek To Me

Forget Cancun, Daytona Beach for Spring Break… Art Department students Kaitlin Dempsey, Kate Eichenberger, Jessica Ferrar, Rachel Gebhardt, Sarah Haze, Jamal Murray, Kayla Purcell, Helen Schmutzler, and Josh Taylor, accompanied by Art professors Caroline Downing and Joe Hildreth and their daughter Kate, spent a magical nine days touring Greece. Some students from other departments joined us, Katy Goloski and Tiffany Tersptra, as well as Professor Curry from Philosophy and one of his students, Scott Murszewski. Arts and Sciences Dean’s secretary, Marilyn Fayette, came along, her friend Mary Jane Watson, and Cynthia Morin, yoga instructor at SUNY Potsdam.

A good time was had by all despite some rainy weather. Our last days were spent in Athens, visiting the museum and other sites, including the late-19th century Olympic Stadium. We got drenched looking for Plato’s Academy, because the fearless leader took a couple of wrong turns in the rain, so we ended up sheltering on the porch of a church while Professor Curry gave his report on the academy. We got even wetter in the Athenian agora, looking for the prison of Socrates, which we did eventually find. In the evenings we went to two traditional Greek restaurants that featured local foods. One night, our local guide, Niko, bought us a lot of traditional drinks, as well - which inspired Professor Downing to give a very strong warning about not picking up stones on the Acropolis the next day.

Each student (plus Marilyn and Mary Jane!) gave an excellent report in situ, in such places as the palace at Tiryns and the sacred sites of Olympia and Delphi. In the photo you can see the Parthenon on the Acropolis at Athens, the day we had the best weather of all. On our last night, we were even joined at our festive dinner in a taverna by Potsdam student Andrew Brouwer – and yes, we have pictures of students dancing!

Our next trip will be to Berlin, Munich, and Vienna, led by Professor Watts during Winterim. We have many more exciting travel plans for the future, so keep watching this space!
Faculty and Staff News

Caroline Downing felt very honored to receive the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching this year. As her students would say, the Art Department rocks! Along with teaching, Caroline has been serving as the Director of General Education, a position that actually takes her away from teaching some courses. But working with the curriculum at that level also has its advantages, as well as many challenges. This summer, Caroline was a participant in the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar at SUNY Potsdam, which was entitled Art, Labor, and Working Class Cultures, and led by well known Art Historian Frances Pohl, of Pomona College, California.

Joe Hildreth had another active year. In addition to his teaching responsibilities in the Art Department, Joe is the Art Curator for the SUNY System. In this capacity he organized, designed and installed the Fall and Spring SUNY Art Student Exhibitions in Albany. This year Joe created additional art exhibitions for 5 SUNY Art Departments, an exhibition of SUNY art for the I LIVE NY Conference in Cortland, a SUNY Exhibition for Governor Patterson’s Mansion and a Best of SUNY Exhibition now on display at the New York State Museum.

Ginny Layne was on sabbatical leave fall semester 07. While on leave she kept busy doing research on a history of digital imaging paper. This research covered, chronologically, the major events from 1954 to present and included contemporary artists and their works. This was compiled into a manuscript to be added to her digital imaging courses. Ms. Layne attended the Photoplus International Conference in New York City. She also attended a workshop at the Technical Digital Imaging System’s Professional-Graphics Center in Elmsford, NY. Her images were exhibited in a solo exhibition at the Hudson Gallery in Sylvania, OH and at the International Juried Exhibition at the Frederic Remington Art Museum in Ogdensburg, NY. She has an upcoming exhibition in June at the Schweinfurth Memorial Art Center, Made in New York, in Auburn, NY.

Marc Leuthold was invited to China last year and created a large installation at the American Museum at the FULE International Ceramic Art Museums in Fuping, China. He also was included in a 4 person show at PS1/MoMA in New York City. Marc also created a 30’x35’ painting on the floor of the Mark Potter Gallery in Watertown, CT. This past year, Leuthold worked with the Handweaving Museum of Clayton to set up a Ceramics Fellowship for Potsdam graduates. Leuthold took students to the annual NCECA conference, this year in Pittsburgh.

Amy Swartelé exhibited her paintings in a solo show at the Cecilia Coker Bell gallery in Hartsville SC in fall 2007. While there she gave public lectures on her work and on the painting process. She exhibited in the Florence Biennale in December 2007, a very different kind of opportunity. In 2008 she had a solo exhibition in Paris at the Andree Mace gallery. This was very well received and she had the opportunity to speak with French art critic Bruno de Laubadere who later lectured on her work to the group Art Process. As part of this exhibit, she also created a video ‘gallery talk’ in both French and English. Following this she exhibited at Llei D’Art in Lerida, Spain and was awarded the "Premi de la obra Figurativa" by the Fondacion de las Artes. She was invited to lecture and publish an article in their catalogue in conjunction with this exhibit. Her solo exhibit in Viroflay, France, opened in June at which time she will also lecture on her work. Amy looks forward to continuing her travels and exhibitions in the US and abroad.

Teresa Watts attended two conferences in Dublin one at the National Gallery of Ireland which focused on the Dublin Townhouse and the other at Trinity College Dublin entitled “The Lure of Greece.” The third purpose of her trip was to attend the book launch of Studies in Gothic Revival which includes her essay on “New York Ecclesiologists and Potsdam Trinity church.” Plans for a student trip to Germany and Austria are in the works.

Remembering Bill Gambling

William Thomas “Bill” Gambling, 90, passed away January 9, 2008 at Mesilla Valley Hospice La Posada in Las Cruces, New Mexico from natural causes.

Mr. Gambling was one of the founding members of SUNY Potsdam’s Art Department. Bill helped to establish our foundation program. He taught Drawing, Color and Design and several Art History courses for over 30 years.

Bill and Helen Gambling established a scholarship awarded annually to an outstanding Art Studio or Art History Major. We thank the Gamblings for their generosity and our memories of Bill will be with the Art Department forever.
Adjunct News

Emily Bennett Beck recently moved to Potsdam and has enjoyed teaching at area universities. At SUNY Potsdam, she taught Color and Design in the fall semester, and Drawing 1 and Painting 1 in the spring. She looks forward to teaching two courses this coming fall. Emily is a figurative painter and is in the process of preparing for a show this fall in Montreal.

Ed Clark has been teaching Color & Design in the spring 2008 semester and will be teaching his Handmade Paper Class in the summer 2008 semester. He will be teaching Drawing again in the fall 2008 semester.

Kamille Parkinson joined the Department as Adjunct Faculty in January 2008, taking on three courses and a steep learning curve. In the fall 2008 term she will teach two sections of ARTH-100, and in the spring 2009 term will again teach a section of ARTH-101.

Laura Fair-Schulz loves the North Country, since arriving in 2006, and has very much enjoyed her students while teaching Idea and Image. This fall she will also teach studio and “can’t wait!” This year she was included in the National Gallery of Canada’s database of Canadian painters.

Lindy Strauss has had another year of teaching Foundations and working in the studio making prints, her idea of a good time. At present she is in the midst of matting and framing past student art which will illuminate and decorate their home and vacation place. Many thanks to her students who have so graciously shared their efforts and remarkable talent.

Gibson Gallery

Maggie Price, Curator for Collections & Outreach - Gibson Gallery
MS, University of Southern Maine
MA, Virginia Commonwealth University

Romi Sebald, Registrar/Preparator
Gibson Gallery
BA, SUNY Potsdam
Potsdam, NY

Claudette Fefee, Secretary
Gibson Gallery

Gibson Gallery Welcomes New Director
April Vasher-Dean

In January, 2008, Gallery Director Thomas Piché left SUNY Potsdam to assume the directorship of the Daum Museum of Contemporary Art in Sedalia, Missouri. The Gibson Gallery welcomes its new Director, April Vasher-Dean on July 1, 2008.

Since 2002, Ms. Vasher-Dean has been the Director of the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art in New Harmony, Indiana, and the Manager of the Permanent Collection for the University of Southern Indiana. She received her BA in Art History from UCLA and her MA in Art History from California State University at Northridge. She will be coming to Potsdam with her husband and three children and is looking forward to settling into the community. The Gallery staff extends a warm welcome to all of them.
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 are very proud of the accomplishments of these students and wish them great success in their future endeavors.

As a senior, each BFA candidate may choose one of three options as a capstone to the BFA program. 1) to continue to take advanced level studio courses in an area of interest; 2) to participate in a six-hour internship covering one or two semesters; 3) to complete a six-hour two-semester thesis project that culminates in a major thesis paper and the development of a significant body of work that will be displayed in the Senior BFA Exhibition. All three options are represented in this year’s BFA exhibition.

On behalf of the Art Department, congratulations to these students:

Tony Castro  Juliette DeClue  
Tanya Gadbaw  Colden McClurg  
Stephanie Oakes  Carley Young

For the Art Department, these students demonstrate the quality of the program at Potsdam and the true nature of the entire college as an “Arts Campus” within the SUNY system.

Gibson Gallery
Fall 2008
Shows & Events

September 12 – October 18
Paradox and Conformity for 20 Years: Paintings & Prints by Richard Deon
Opening Reception: Friday, September 12, 6-8 p.m.
Artist gallery talk: September 23, 5-6 pm

November 7 – December 6
Art Attack: Student Juried Show
All current students are invited to submit works to be juried for this annual exhibition.
Senior Honors Exhibition

The 2008 Senior Honors Show was held in April - May at SUNY Potsdam’s Roland Gibson Gallery. This year’s Senior Honors Show produced many intriguing works of Art from Seniors in the Art Program at SUNY Potsdam. The Art Department is very proud of the accomplishments of these students and applauds all of the hard work they have done.

As a senior, students must meet the following requirements: 1) must be a graduating senior; 2) must hold an average of at least 3.0; 3) must have an Art Studio concentration of at least 3 courses in 1 studio area. All three options are required for participation in the Senior Honors Show.

Listed below are participating students of the Senior Honors Show:

Brandy Brown            Alison Chiasson
Charity Crawford   Christiaan Hardy
Jennifer Niedermeier  Tracy Taylor

On behalf of the Art Department, congratulations to all seniors who participated.

"Best Of" SUNY Student Art Exhibition

The annual Best of SUNY Student Art Exhibition returned to the New York State Museum for the third consecutive year in May, 2008 showcasing the work of SUNY’s top student artists from across the state. At a reception, Interim SUNY Chancellor Dr. John B. Clark announced this year’s student winners of “Best in Show” and “Honorable Mention.”

Three student artists in the Best of SUNY Student Art Exhibition received “Best in Show” awards of $1,000. Laura Murphy with her work “Live in a Moldy Cup of Coffee” from SUNY Potsdam was one of those artists who took this award. Other SUNY Potsdam participants in this event were; Tanya Gadbaw, Carmen Dragone and Paul Ulrich.

The SUNY student art shows began in 2002 so that a wider audience would see the work of SUNY’s most talented student artists. Congratulations to all who participated in this event.
Art Department Scholarship Winners

SUNY Potsdam offers a variety of scholarships to deserving students. The following is a list of winners for 2008:

Lucy Dai Scholarship – Megan Hooper
Canfield Scholarship – Laura Murphy
Robert B. Dunn Award – Jennifer Niedermeier
John C. Riordan Art History Book Award - Catherine Eichenberger & Kaitlin Dempsey
St. Lawrence River Patrons of the Arts Scholarship:
Painting – Krystal Stowe Ceramics – Alex Minnick

Edrington Scholarship – Joshua Taylor
One Time Photo Award 1 - Mackenzie Reynolds
One Time Photo Award 2 - Jazen Reuss
William Gambling Scholarship- Carmen Dragone
Ramage Travel Award - Helen Schmutzler
Alexander and Patricia Sanford Scholarship -

Kappa Pi
Zeta Alpha Rho Chapter - National Art Honor Society

Conducted by student President Catherine Eichenberger, Kappa Pi inducted its new members. The ceremony was attended by both President Schwaller and Dean Pletcher, as well as most of the Art Department faculty. As usual, a lovely reception, catered by PACES, followed the ceremony. Inducted this year were:

James Bolen Jennifer Carmody Jessica Ferrar Jessica Gardner
Rachel Gebhardt Sarah Haze Megan Hooper Amy Januska
Megan Keenan Jennifer Millward Stephanie Oakes Ricky Phillips
Kayla Purcell Helen Schmutzler Sebastian Stoddard Alexa Tarantino
Joshua Taylor Chantel Torrey

The awards were presented by Mark Huff, Chair of the Art Department at the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Convocation on May 7th, 2008.
Art Faculty Receive Chancellor’s Awards

Four SUNY Potsdam faculty members were recently honored by State University of New York Interim Chancellor John R. Ryan with the prestigious 2008 Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence.

The Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence are system-level honors conferred to provide system-wide recognition for consistently superior professional achievement and to encourage the ongoing pursuit of excellence. These programs underscore SUNY’s commitment to sustaining intellectual vibrancy, advancing the boundaries of knowledge, providing the highest quality of instruction and serving the public good.

Through these awards, SUNY publicly proclaims its pride in the accomplishment and personal dedication of its instructional faculty, librarians and professional staff across its campuses. SUNY gives Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in Faculty Service, Librarianship, Professional Service, Scholarship and Creative Activities and Teaching. A certificate and a Chancellor’s Excellence Medallion are bestowed to commemorate these honors.

Dr. Caroline Downing has been a member of the SUNY Potsdam family since 1990 in the Department of Art. She has been director of the Teaching Circles Program, a member of the Honors Council, Director of the General Education Program, Director of Learning Communities and a co-author in a recent publication titled *Ideas That Work in College Teaching*.

Aside from her two awards as Distinguished Honors Professor of the Year, she has received a SUNY Potsdam President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2005 and in 2007 she was recognized with a Student’s Choice Award from the Office of Student Support Services.

In the past three years, she has been selected for inclusion in “Who’s Who in America,” “Who’s Who in American Education” and “Who’s Who of American Women.” She was elected to Delta Kappa Gamma Society International in 2003 and to Phi Kappa Phi International Academic Honor Society in 2002. Dr. Downing is a dedicated, reflective teacher and scholar who has continually demonstrated her commitment to students. Her efforts help to make Potsdam a truly teaching centered institution.

Mark Huff has been a member of the SUNY Potsdam family since 1998 as the chair of the Department of Art. Since his arrival, Huff has transformed his department into one of the most vibrant and successful departments on campus.

Huff has worked to enhance enrollments in Art Studio and Art History. Since his arrival, the number of majors has grown 60 percent from 127 to 219. He advises all students interested in the art program and maintains a regular load of 80 advisees. He meets with prospective students and their parents to talk about the programs, regularly conducts tours of the facilities for visitors and open houses, visits high school to reach out to teachers and students and has adjudicated high school art shows as a way of making the SUNY Potsdam art program known.

A few years following his arrival, he successfully proposed a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in studio art. This has attracted even better students to the program, whose influence is felt by improved achievements and even among students pursuing the Bachelor of Arts degree.

Huff has been a tireless member of the larger college community. He has made major contributions to the Middle States self-study, the Visioning and Re-Visioning Process and several search committees. Huff chairs the Teaching, Learning and Technology Roundtables and serves on the Faculty Senate Admissions Committee and the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee, among others.

He is advisor for the Kappa Pi Art Honorary Society and is a fellow of the First-Year Experience program. He developed and oversees the very effective arts floors in the residence halls, and he coordinates art studios First-Year Interest Groups. He is also a practicing artist of distinction; one of his works was the Purchase Award Winner at the 2007 North Country Regional Art Show at the Roland Gibson Gallery.
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