Message from the Chair

Greetings to friends and alumni of the Gonzaga Art program! Inside this inaugural issue of the Art Department newsletter, you will find an abundance of exciting and inspiring news about student, faculty, and alumni activities over the last year. I would like to extend a special “thank you” to the alumni who shared their recent and upcoming professional activities for this first issue. I am truly astonished at the remarkable range of professional journeys so many of you have taken, and I hope that other alumni reading this newsletter will share with us your professional news for future newsletters.

As many of you may already know, the Art Department has undergone several significant changes in a very short span of time. In addition to the retirement of Terry Gieber and Gina Freuen, we also lost long-time painting professor (and lifelong Boston Red Sox fan!) Robert Gilmore. These changes and loss have certainly been an adjustment. But our new full-time faculty, Mat Rude (ceramics) and Laura Truitt (painting/drawing), have effortlessly transitioned into the department and have fearlessly spearheaded or collaborated on several new initiatives and projects that have been phenomenal learning experiences for both students and the broader Gonzaga community. Indeed, we are one of the most impactful programs not only on campus but also in the region, thanks to our dynamic faculty and wonderful students, despite being one of the smallest academic departments at GU. We may be small but we are mighty! Finally, I would be remiss if I did not express the deepest gratitude for the staff whose contributions to the department too often go unheralded: Program Assistant Laurie Hitchcock and Art Department Technician Abbey Plankey-Smith. In addition to their regular duties, they assembled the content of this newsletter and managed its layout and design. Thank you, Abbey and Laurie!

Shalon Parker, Ph.D.
Art Dept. Chair
Art Department News

ZagFam Open House
In fall 2017 the Art Department hosted its first ever open house during Zag Fam Weekend (formerly known as “Fall Family Weekend”). A collaborative effort that entailed both faculty and student-organized art activities, this tremendously popular event gave Gonzaga students and their families a chance to paint their very own “GU Starry Night,” make monotypes in the printmaking studio, watch and participate in ceramics and paper making demos, and create memories in the art-themed photo booth.

Empty Bowls
In another first, the Empty Bowls fundraiser was on campus this spring and included a silent art auction, with all proceeds donated to Campus Kitchen to help fight hunger in Spokane. This event was a resounding success, raising more than $5,000! Many thanks to Aubrey Purdy Rude and Mat Rude for their tireless efforts in putting this event together and to the community partners, including Zag Dining Sodexo (Best Soup EVER!) and Cravens Coffee, whose generous in-kind donations were essential for making this such a successful event.

Senior Art Exhibition
For the second year in a row the Richmond Art Collective, a downtown Spokane art gallery, hosted the senior art exhibition. The six seniors featured in the show [Danielle Forrest, Liz Harrison, Lindsey Johnstone (senior art award recipient), Laura Marck, Nicole Wallace, and Camille Walther] designed and installed the exhibit all on their own, under the guidance of the senior seminar instructor, Laura Truitt. The students created tremendously thoughtful pieces that demonstrated a wonderfully eclectic range of ideas, interests, and processes. Brava, Class of 2018!

Shoebox Gallery
In addition to the annual senior exhibition, the Art Department is now sponsoring short-run installations of art in what is a brand new venture this year, a “shoebox” gallery (formerly a small computer and storage room) in the Jundt Art Center. Students have responded enthusiastically to this unique opportunity to install a work in this space and compose a statement about the work and their creative process. They are already signing up for exhibit time slots for 2018-19.

Northeast Community Center Mural
The Kreielsheimer Visiting Artist program is still going strong with seven visiting artists in 2017-18 alone, including Elaine Green, Archie Bray Foundation resident artists Myung Jin Kim and Nicholas Danielson, and local muralist Daniel Lopez. Daniel, in collaboration with Laura Truitt’s painting students, designed a mural for the Northeast Community Center in the Hillyard neighborhood of Spokane. The students painted the mural over two drizzly days in March and did a fantastic job. Another great addition to the Spokane mural scene!

Adjunct News
Lisa Soranaka has a show at the terrain gallery in the month of June and has an opening reception June 1st. It’s a group show with Mariah Boyle, Meghan Flynn, and Meghan Hedley.

Lenora J. Lopez Schindler recently closed an exhibition of new paintings and drawings at the Dare Gallery in Vino, Spokane, WA. She is also exhibiting with fellow regional artists at the Eastern Washington University Fine Arts Gallery until the end of April. Her new work explores how myths and local histories are depicted in antique vessels and architecture. This is Ms. Lopez Schindler’s third semester teaching at Gonzaga.
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Mary Farrell

Professor Mary Farrell had two prints in the recent Out of Print show at the Saranac Gallery in Spokane. She also won second place in the 8th Painting and Mixed Media Exhibition at Lessedra Gallery in Sofia, Bulgaria. Her work was included in Paper West-National Works on Paper Exhibition at the University of Utah, The 3rd New York International Miniature Print Exhibition at the Manhattan Graphics Center, the Northwest Printmakers Show at the RiverSea Gallery in Astoria Oregon, New Works by 13 Artists at the Art Spirit Gallery in Coeur d’Alene, and Marias Press 20 Years Collaboration at Loyola University in New Orleans. She will also have two woodcuts included in the show CLOSE IN: 1st Inland Northwest Juried Landscape Exhibition at the Jundt Museum this summer.

Mat Rude

Professor Rude, along with his wife Aubrey Purdy Rude, collaborated with Sodexo, the Center for Community Engagement, Campus Kitchens, and many other local artists for an Empty Bowls Hunger Awareness Luncheon charity fundraiser which occurred during the annual “Spokane Gives” month of April. The event took place April 25th in the Globe Room at Cataldo Hall. One hundred percent of the proceeds were donated to the Campus Kitchen at Gonzaga, which serves over 3,000 meals every month to after school programs, low income seniors, and homeless shelters in the Spokane community. This event featured handmade bowls from over a dozen local artists, the Gonzaga Clay Club and community volunteers. Four delicious locally sourced soup choices donated by Sodexo. The event also included a silent art auction and live music performed by local singer/songwriter Dario Ré. Professor Rude also collaborated with English Professor Meagan Ciesla on outreach programs that incorporated papermaking and creative writing. With the help of a Faculty Award from the CAS Dean’s Office, Dr. Ciesla and Professor Rude worked with middle school students in the Gonzaga mentoring programs Campus Kids and Connections, and also conducted a four-week papermaking session with a local Hospice grievance group. Gallery, Coeur d’Alene, ID.

Shalon Parker

New Faculty Profile

Assistant Professor Laura Truitt exhibited her paintings and drawings in a show entitled Declutter at Eastern Washington University’s downtown student gallery in March. She has two paintings in the annual painting survey INPA 7 published by the Manifest Gallery and will show one work in the Jundt Art Museum’s upcoming Inland Northwest Juried Landscape Art Exhibition. In July 2018, she showed a small group of drawings at Vino.

STUDENT MURAL PROJECT

Assisted by Laura Truitt, Assistant Professor of Painting and Drawing, and Kreielsheimer visiting mural artist Daniel Lopez, 11 Painting students designed and painted a mural on the North wall of the Northeast Community Center’s entry corridor depicting safety, love and support; values that the center projects through its programs and services. Students, in the pouring rain, were cheered on by community members who use the center for its clinic, daycare, senior services, youth services and various other programs.
Katherine Copple Potter ’96. Graduated with an Art minor. Almost 20 years later, I became an art teacher at Westwood Middle School in the Cheney School District. I am currently teaching about 120 students a day in a wide variety of visual arts classes, including drawing, painting, sculpture, and ceramics. We have our annual Art Night on April 30th. To continue my professional development, I am working toward my National Board Teaching Certificate and hope to achieve it by the end of 2019. Much thanks to the Gonzaga Art Department for opening an amazing career in the visual arts to me.

Aaron McComas ’97. Let’s see... recently ... the past 12 months, I’ve done visual effects work on the Marvel feature film “Spider-Man Homecoming” and am currently doing visual effects on the animated feature “Smallfoot” that comes out in late September. I’ve also been working on some developing projects with fellow art alum Ben Joyce.

Preston M. Smith ’01. The last twelve months I have participated in 12 art exhibitions, including the infamous La Luz De Jesus gallery. I was interviewed by Artfinder, for Steve Molter’s “Five Questions” series, the Vegan Business Talk podcast, and more. My art and mindset was the subject of a short documentary entitled “Negativity to Creativity” directed by Tony Lugo. Recently my art was chosen as a winner of the 1st 2018 Artslant Prize Showcase. Coming up is a group exhibition at the bG Gallery, a silent auction art fundraiser and an exciting new series of paintings is in the works as we speak!

Sean Patella-Buckley ’02. I’m very proud to share that my illustrations will be featured in book three of G. S. Denning’s Warlock Holmes book series, titled Warlock Holmes: My Grave Ritual, available in May from Titan Books. The series is a fantasy parody of Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes stories. I’ve been extremely fortunate to have been the interior illustrator for all three novels, although the task of imitating original illustrator Sidney Paget’s brilliant sketches is a daunting one to say the least. I’m looking forward to illustrating books four and five, which are scheduled to be published in May 2019 and 2020, respectively.

Sarah Gilcher ’02. My passion is to invest my time in my home, husband, children, and church. I have used my graphic design skills to start a home business where I sell printable planners for women, as well as Excel documents for home and business finances. I sell these as instant downloads, meaning customers can purchase and download the documents without me spending time on customer service or shipping - perfect for a busy mom. This year I hit 10,000 total sales in my Etsy shop, which was a big milestone for me!

Kelli Wescott McCannell ’02. Runs a feminist nonprofit, Hardy Girls Healthy Women that engages girls in social justice work. She lives in Maine with her husband and three sons. For release, she creates with her kids and writes, braids rugs, quilts and carves wood/lino blocks.

Erin Straw ’02. I have been working as a teacher for over 13 years now teaching grades preschool through first grade all at Catholic schools. I have been involved in volunteering in my community doing volunteer firefighting, search and rescue, and training my chocolate lab as a therapy dog. I live in beautiful Monterey where every day is a life at the beach!

Lawrence Cenotto ’06. I am currently the Event & Group Sales Manager at the Seattle Art Museum. In terms of interesting/entertaining things in my professional career in the last year I would say: I have been involved in VIP tours for A-list celebrities but the highlight of my work life to date was last summer when I got to meet Russell Wilson and Ciara when they had a private after-hours tour of the Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors exhibition.

Michael Baldwin ’08. Over the last six years I’ve been working in the advertising industry as an Art director and Sr. Designer. I’ve worked on a number of large client accounts like Alaska Airlines, Philips, Philips Sonicare, Adidas, Coleman, Bowflex, and Nautilus, to name a few. I still paint and draw in my free time when I can find the time, but most often my artist expressions are used for client work. I recently accepted a new job at Strategies 360 in Seattle, WA. I’ll be a part of their internal agency called, “The Hilt Agency”. Two years ago I won a Silver Addy in Seattle with my client work. I recently accepted a new job at Strategies 360 in Seattle, WA. I’ll be a part of their internal agency called, “The Hilt Agency”.

Cat Daze ’08. Earned a MSc in Event Management and has moved from working in Asia and Europe for the last 10 years to Boston, MA. She has since managed and worked on several craft and art fairs and art conferences in Ireland and most recently in Philadelphia and Boston. She has also arranged and managed business conferences for a Destination Management Company (DMC) and keeps her art making as a hobby and interest connected in the background of her work.

Ann Kilzer ’08. This year I moved to Tokyo, Japan, where I will be working as a software engineer at a small startup. In my free time, I am studying Japanese calligraphy and shibori dyeing with indigo.

Hannah Souers ’16. Since graduating from Gonzaga with my art degree (and a biology degree), I have been teaching high school English Language Arts. However, my adventure in art is just beginning! I will be moving to Beijing, China this fall where I will be teaching visual arts at an international boarding school. I am excited to bring art into a more primary focus of my life! I will be teaching drawing, painting and multimedia to students from over 20 countries. My goal is to also incorporate printmaking into the curriculum. Xiè xiè, thank you GU’s art department!