Welcome

Welcome to the spring semester! It was a busy fall, and we are excited about the new year.

In the fall, we hosted the Society for Photographic Education Conference, which included many lectures and workshops. See photos and read more from the event on Page 5.

Our December graduating seniors impressed us as always with their final exhibitions, and we are excited to see where their futures take them. Read about this year’s group on Page 2.

We are especially excited to welcome artist Bill Dunlap to Starkville as our first artist in residence. Dunlap will be working with students in the studios, hosting lectures and will have an exhibit from Feb. 21–April 5 in the Depot Gallery.

Lydia Thompson
Department Head

FROM THE DEAN

For creative individuals it is not the works we have just finished that occupies our minds but what we are now planning and making. The faculty and students in the Department of Art, housed in the College of Architecture, Art and Design, are these types of individuals.

While the accomplishments, experiences and recognitions outlined in the first of this newsletter are quite extraordinary, it is the future to which we are looking and where we focus our attention. Our minds have moved on to “what have I done today, and what can I do tomorrow?”

This concise document provides you with a brief glance back and more importantly a glimpse of the semester to come. It is rich with the prospect of working and learning with world renown artists, of hearing lectures on great Mississippi artists and of experiencing the best work of our students across the Department. I would additionally challenge you to engage in the rich educational opportunities that present themselves in the College of Architecture, Art, and Design.

Jim West
Dean

Contact

Please send awards, honors, job openings, internship opportunities, or other items of interest to

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Professors Brent Funderberk and Lori Neuenfeldt recently took their students in the Bachelor of Fine Arts Research, Thesis and Photography classes on a field trip to Alabama. Students were able to get a feeling for Alabama’s art scene and answer questions about life after graduation. The first stop on the trip was the University of Alabama, where students got a behind-the-scenes tour of the Department of Art facilities and found out information about the Master of Fine Arts program. Next, the group visited the Tuscaloosa Museum of Art and got to see works by American artists John Singer Sargent, Albert Bierstadt and Duncan Phyfe. The final stop was the Birmingham Museum of Art, where students went on a guided tour of the museum’s modern and contemporary collections.
Funderburk: Senior capstone project ‘brings it all together’

In the Department of Art, senior year is anything but a break. “We jam pack a lot into the senior year,” said Brent Funderburk, professor for the senior thesis course.

Students are expected to not only present a final professional show of their work but also must learn how to research, present and market that work and also learn how to present themselves as a professionals.

In the thesis course, Funderburk has students keep a journal that serves as a daily conversation for them about their thesis and their lives.

Students are also put in charge of the whole process of their final exhibition, which includes organizing the reception, documenting work, creating an identity and design for the show and publicizing the event.

Throughout their time in the advanced studio, students have been working with their emphasis professor on what they hope will be their thesis body of work. Then, senior year, they are expected to complete around 10-15 works of art for the final exhibition in about two months.

Students are guided and critiqued on this work by a committee of three faculty members of their choice that they meet with four times a semester.

Funderburk said students often choose someone who challenged them and/or someone they like. They are also encouraged to have a dynamic committee and include professionals outside of the Department of Art.

Many professors serve on several committees outside of their ordinary teaching duties.

“It’s a part of our service load to volunteer,” he said. “We want to continue to help guide our best students.”

Funderburk also wants to make sure students are prepared for whatever path they decide to take after graduation. He has them all apply to a national competition and “fake apply” to a graduate school.

“The world is kind of a changing target, and we’ve got to make sure to prepare them for this world,” he said.

Check out what this year’s fine art, photography and graphic design seniors have been up to! (Click on each headline below for more.)

Lots of fun at graphic design senior show

A reception was held on Nov. 27 for the Graphic Design BFA Senior Portfolio Show, Oh Snap! Work such as posters, packaging, web design, illustration, identity, ad campaigns and more was on display, and a photo booth was set up for everyone to enjoy.

• See more work at www.ohsnapmsu.com.

Students, professor featured on WCBI

Professor Brent Funderburk and students Rebekah Trotter (photography) and Charlotte Smith (sculpture) were featured on the WCBI Mid-Morning Show with Andrea Nov. 15 to publicize their senior show. Watch the video.

Receptions held for COMMUNE

Eight fine art and two photography students came together to create the Mississippi State University BFA Fine Art and Photography Thesis Exhibition, Commune, displaying a culmination of years of hard work and study. Receptions were held on Nov. 15 at the Department of Art Gallery in McComas Hall, in the Colvard Student Union Fine Art Gallery and in the Visual Arts Center Gallery. See more work at www.bfacommune.com.

• Read the story by Margaret Kovar | MSU University Relations
• Read the story by Matt Crane | Starkville Daily News

The eight graduating seniors in graphic design were Stephanie Faerber, Joseph Johnston, Allison Keller, Jillian Matthews, Helen Simpkins, Richard Soto, Kelsey Stephens and Clara Thames.

Professors Brent Funderburk, Jamie Mixon and Soon Ee Ngoh had fun in the photobooth at the graphic design senior show.
Whitten Sabbatini selected for international and national photography exhibitions

Whitten Sabbatini has had two photographs accepted into *Portraits 2013* at The Center for Fine Art Photography in Fort Collins, Colo. The juror, Charles Guice, selected 57 images from 44 artists from seven countries.

Sabbatini, a senior photography student, will be exhibiting two images from his current body of work. “Tim’s House” and “Jeffrey and Jr. Skinning a Deer” are both digital images that explore ordinary life around Starkville. Sabbatini is the only photographer from Mississippi to be accepted into the exhibition.

“Two images accepted into an international exhibition is fantastic,” said Professor Marita Gootee, the coordinator for photography in the Department of Art. “To be selected by a juror such as Charles Guice is extremely impressive and could really open doors for Whitten. Whitten was born a photographer. As a photography professor, the goal is to nurture and focus his raw talent, so he can be successful. It is totally Whitten’s vision that makes his work so provoking.”

Sabbatini has also recently received a travel scholarship from the Society for Photographic Education to attend the national conference in Chicago in 2013 and had work selected for two exhibitions.

He was also recently accepted into the national exhibition, *Picture This, What We Photograph*, at the Mpls Photo Center in Minneapolis, Minn. The exhibition will run Jan. 18 through March 2, 2013, with an opening reception on Jan. 18.

Department of Art students and students from the Apparel, Textile and Merchandising program in the School of Human Sciences recently took a papermaking workshop with visiting artist Mary Hark. Paper from the workshop was made into a quilt (right) and put on display in the Visual Arts Center Gallery. Thanks to Professor Robert Long, the work was put on display at the Meridian Museum of Art through the end of December 2012.
**Lippillo in national photography journal**

Art Professor Dominic Lippillo has been featured in the fall 2012 issue of *exposure*, The Journal of The Society for Photographic Education. The work, “Anti-Local,” was a collaborative photography project by Lipillo and his peer, Mark Schoon.

“Floating from Afar 1,2,3” | 4’ x 5’ x 3” | ceramics and paint | 2012

**Thomson exhibits at Ohr-O’Keefe Museum**

Lydia Thompson will have an exhibit of her work on display with the Ohr-O’Keefe Museum of Art at the Beau Rivage Resort & Casino Gallery in Biloxi though June 1, 2013. The head of the Department of Art, Thompson’s exhibit is titled *Roots, Connections & Pathways* and is part of the Expanding Traditions gallery. *Roots, Connections & Pathways* includes a series of diverse works in various media. Read the article in the Sun Herald.

**Thompson presents exhibit at Delaware State**

Department of Art Head Lydia Thompson recently presented new work in solo exhibition, *Roots, Connections and Pathways*, at the Arts Center/Gallery at Delaware State University in Dover, Del. The 14-piece exhibition included a combination of ceramic sculptures and collage works, that reflect an examination of organic formations.

**Lippillo has solo show at Estrella Mountain Community College**

Artists Dominic Lippillo and Mark Schoon’s photography will be on display at Estrella Mountain Community College in Avondale, Ariz., through Jan. 31. In their exhibit, *Defining Place*, two images come together to form a dialogue about proximity, locality and space versus place.

**Adrienne Callander’s work featured in Kentucky gallery**

Adrienne Callander, lecturer in the Department of Art, was recently part of an exhibit at the Huff Gallery at Spalding University in Louisville, Ky. The show, titled *With Child: Art & Parenting*, opened Oct. 15 and ran through December.

**Click here** to visit our website, or click on the headlines above to see photos and read more.
Society for Photographic Education South Central Regional Conference held at MSU

The 2012 Society for Photographic Education South Central (SPESC) Conference, Nothing Ventured/Nothing Gained: The Creative Risk, was held at Mississippi State University from Oct. 25-28. The event focused on the risks artists take in the conceptual and technical aspects of their work and the challenges they overcome in their visual research. It featured many events to promote an awareness of photographic art on a national, regional and local level. Department of Art Professor Dominic Lippillo served as co-chair of the conference, which was supported by funding from the Mississippi Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. The conference also include a high school educator and student panel discussion, where SPE members addressed integrating photography and photographic technology into the Mississippi high school art curriculum. Click here for more photos from the conference.

Honored educator discusses preserving biodiversity

Dornith Doherty was chosen as this year’s honored educator for the SPESC conference. A 2012 Guggenheim Fellow, Doherty is currently working to photograph various seed banks that have the goal of preserving biodiversity for the future.

Department of Art holds graduate school panel

The Department of Art held a graduate school panel on Oct. 26 in the union for students interested in pursing a Master of Fine Arts (MFA). In the informal session, two MFA candidates and a professor gave students advice and told them their different views about graduate school.

Keynote speaker describes past, current work

Todd Hido, the keynote speaker for conference, began his lecture by discussing the importance of education and said he would probably not be where he is today if it were not for the encouragement of a high school teacher.
Grant makes Chicago trip a reality for 3D students

Critz Campbell, professor of sculpture in the Department of Art at Mississippi State University, recently secured a $30,000 grant. Campbell said the grant’s overall goal is to increase students’ exposure to the outside world.

Twenty percent of the funds have already been allocated to the College of Architecture, Art and Design’s Visiting Artists Committee, which will begin to bring artists in for lectures and workshops this spring.

“I wanted to spend half the money bringing artists to the students but also half of it taking students to the art,” Campbell said.

So, the professor used another portion of the money to take eight 3D students in the Department of Art, whose emphasis of study is either sculpture or ceramics, to Chicago from Nov. 1–4.

Fulbright Ambassador shares experience with art students

As a child, Rachel Stevens entertained herself by building forts and tree houses. The daughter of a single mother without a lot of money, Stevens said she got creative in her sources of entertainment. Though, she said, “I probably would have done that anyway.”

Stevens, who is now a sculptor and professor at New Mexico State University, said her childhood definitely shaped her future. “My approach to my career has been very resourceful,” she said. “I’ve always sought out opportunities.”

One of those opportunities came through a Fulbright grant she received to do research in Nepal.

2013 Artist Galleries, Lectures

January 8–February 23
New Associations: Works by New Faculty in the Department of Art - Adrienne Callander, Neil Callander, Gregory Martin &, Suzanne Powney
Department of Art Gallery in McComas Hall
• Roundtable – Jan. 16 in Giles Hall auditorium, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
• Reception – Jan. 17 in the Department of Art Gallery in McComas Hall, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

January 15–March 23
Richard A. Lou: Stories on My Back
Visual Arts Center Gallery
• Lecture – March 7 in Giles Hall auditorium, 3–4:30 p.m.
• Reception – March 7th in the VAC Gallery, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

January 24
• Lecture by Professor Brent Funderburk
Fazio Jury Room, Giles Hall, 3:30 p.m.

February 21–April 5
Look At It – Think About It: Bill Dunlap at Mississippi State University
Depot Gallery in the MSU Welcome Center
• Reception – Depot Gallery in the MSU Welcome Center, Feb. 21, 2013, 5:30-7:30pm

March 5–March 28
MSU Student Show
Department of Art Gallery in McComas Hall
• Reception – March 7th – Department of Art Gallery in McComas Hall, 5:30-7:30pm

April 9–13
MSU Bachelor of Fine Arts, Fine Art & Photography Thesis Exhibition
Visual Arts Center Gallery, Department of Art Gallery in McComas Hall & Colvard Student Union Art Gallery
• Reception – April 11

April 19–26
MSU Foundations
Depot Gallery in the MSU Welcome Center

April 16–20
SAAC Cotton District Arts Festival
Visual Arts Center Gallery

April 23–27
MSU Bachelor of Fine Arts, Graphic Design Exhibition
Visual Arts Center Gallery & Department of Art Gallery in McComas Hall
• Reception – April 23

June 4–August 23
Pressed Wood, Pressed Word II
Visual Arts Center Gallery
Representatives from all across campus as well as members from The Golden Triangle Quilt Guild showed up for the first meeting of Mississippi State’s new Fiber Club. According to Department of Art Professor Adrienne Callander, the club is open to everyone. “The only requirement is that you want to do something fiber related,” she said at the club’s first meeting in the Barnes & Noble Cafe. That can include anything from sewing, knitting, felting, weaving, quilting, fabric dyeing, paper making and more.

The club meets from Tuesday nights from 5–8 p.m. in the Barnes & Noble Cafe. Find them on Facebook!

Mississippi State University recently hosted several different opportunities for volunteers to make bones for the One Million Bones project, the social awareness campaign calling attention to the mass genocides occurring in places such as the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia. The clay bones made by volunteers at the three workshops, like the ones above, will be fired in kilns in Mississippi and transported to Washington, D.C., where they will be on display at the National Mall. Read more about the Department of Art’s involvement in the project.

Good turnout at first Fiber Club meeting

Reception held for Betty Press exhibit

Photographer Betty Press and her husband attended a book signing and reception in the Colvard Student Union Art Gallery on Sept. 27 from 5:30–7:30 p.m. Read more.

Ceramics artist holds demonstration, lecture

John Oles, ceramics artist, visited Mississippi State from Oct. 15–16 to deliver a short lecture and demonstrate some of his techniques to students in Professor Robert Long, Lydia Thompson and Critz Campbell’s ceramics classes. Click here to read more.
McDaniel highlighted for aerial mass-transit idea

Michael McDaniel, a 1998 graphic design alumnus from the Department of Art at Mississippi State, has recently been highlighted for his aerial mass-transit proposal for 21st century cities.

McDaniel, a principal designer at frog, said the side project began as a way to teach junior designers “how to do design research and break up complex problems into attackable chunks.”

He was invited to speak about the concept at the PSFK conference in San Francisco on Nov. 1 and said the project has since taken off.

Check out his interview with Fast Company.

Read the feature by PSFK.

New ideas give Whitley’s Flowers a facelift

After 65 years, it’s time to freshen up a bit. While seven other neighborhood floral shops have withered away, Whitley’s Flowers on Lakeland Drive has blossomed. Thanks to some fresh ideas, the business, begun at the Kind Edward Hotel in 1947, is getting a facelift.

Back in February, Dave Whitley, son of owner Rob Whitley, and Dave’s girlfriend, Kate Thomas, began noticing the need for an update. “She would come in, and walls were dark,” Dave says. “She wanted to change it, make it better and open it up.” Kate, owner of Little Things Studios, a custom stationery and paper goods business, felt she could lend that creative touch.

Click here to continue reading the story at finditinfondren.com about alumni Dave Whitley and Kate Thomas.

Jenkins talks with design students about lessons learned in life, work

Ben Jenkins, a 1996 alumnus of the Department of Art at Mississippi State and a former baseball player, was back in Starkville recently for a baseball alumni event.

Jenkins, founder of OneFastBuffalo, which develops brand strategy and brand design for companies and products, spoke to a group of graphic design students on Oct. 12.

Click here for more from the visit.

Read more recent news featuring Ben Jenkins:
- Best Stuff of the Year 2011 | GQ Magazine
- “Bat Crazy” | centraltrack.com