The Visual Arts Education and Art Therapy Department will present its annual student exhibition from June 5th until July 3rd in the Art Department Gallery, in the Community Arts Building. This exhibition showcases the breadth of exploration and talent in both programs.

In conjunction with this year’s reception, the Department will present its annual Community Service Award. The Community Service Award is given to current students or recent graduates of the program who have demonstrated a commitment to advancement in their selected field of art education or art therapy and active involvement in their community. This year the department will be honoring Jacqueline Duncan.

The opening reception, for the exhibition is on Friday, June 5th, from 5-8pm and the Community Service Award presentation will be from 5:30-6:30. This event includes a strolling buffet and is free to attend. Please call 313.577.5469 for more information.
Faculty Feature: Dr. Jim Brown

Dr. Jim Brown is the Coordinator of the Visual Arts Education Program at WSU. He believes the arts are the most important courses in any curriculum at any age. This is due in part to the higher order thinking involved with solving visual problems, but also due to the use of fine and gross motor movements, which facilitate kinesthetic learning. He has been teaching for 28 years, including 10 years teaching art in primary and secondary schools in Massachusetts, and 18 years of teaching at the college and university level, with 8 years of practice using Art as Therapy with children between 5 and 12. His educational background is quite extensive, having earned a B.F.A. in painting, M.A.T. in Fine Arts, C.A.G.S. in Education, Psy.S. in Humanistic Education, and a Ph.D. in Psychology, Education, & Qualitative Research. Having heard from respected members of the community that the Visual Arts Education program has improved significantly, his goals for the Visual Arts Education Program are to continue to improve the curriculum, based on assessment and current research, and to improve how he teaches through reflection and study. His hobbies outside of making art include, redesigning and rebuilding a 100 year-old house, writing poetry, cooking and drumming, although not simultaneously.

The most memorable moments Jim has experienced while teaching has been observing his students develop deeper understandings and connections between their artwork and their conceptual and affective knowing. Above all, he believes his primary goal is to support WSU learners in facing their own hurdles and becoming highly skilled in their chosen profession.

Student Feature: Jenny Elliott

Jenny Elliott recently graduated from WSU, with a BFA in Photography and is currently, in her first year of the M.Ed. in Art Therapy. Jenny is a highly motivated individual with a willingness to take on any obstacle that is presented to her. She has always had a love of the arts and working with people, especially children. Her excitement for Art Therapy stems from her own personal experience of watching Art Therapy’s effect on herself.

Although it’s difficult to maintain a lot of hobbies while being in school full time, she loves movies and spending time with friends and family, as well as outdoor activities such as bike riding, walking, and being near water. She has a strong desire to break boundaries and do whatever she can to make people realize the power of healing through art. She wants to help in the fight for Art Therapy licensing in MI and to make the profession more, well known and not something that needs to be explained.

Student Feature: Becky Kontny

Currently in the Counseling and Art Therapy Program, Becky Kontny has received a BFA in Sculpture with a minor in psychology and functional arts from Kendall College of Art & Design. When not in school, she enjoys making sculpture, going to church, and outdoor activities, such as hiking and kayaking. She is passionate about working with people and working directly with the community, promoting art therapy. She has had the good fortune of working with Tessa Bird from FAR, at Vista Maria, and with Jenny Elliott, working with students who have autistic spectrum disorder from Lincoln Park Public Schools.

Working with the students from Lincoln Park Public Schools has been a memorable experience for her as she observed the students become more receptive to art, the progress in their work and seeing art therapy in practice.
WSU Art Therapy Offers Pilot Program to Students With Autism

By Holly Feen-Calligan

Students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) often have access to accommodations and special services in their public education, but what happens after high school? Traditionally, it has been assumed that many individuals with ASD do not have capacities to attend university courses and be part of university life. However, new ways of thinking are that when access and support are provided, individuals with ASD and other cognitive disabilities can learn and expand their life possibilities through participation in university settings.

In recent months, faculty and staff from Wayne State University and Lincoln Park Public Schools have been involved in a dialog to explore how university resources might be mobilized to develop a postsecondary education program for students with ASD. During fall semester 2008, initial classes, including art therapy, were offered at Wayne State University as part of a pilot post-secondary educational program for seniors from Lincoln Park Public Schools. Art therapy graduate students Jenny Elliott and Becky Kontny have had a key role in a pilot program at Wayne State, through developing and facilitating the art therapy “classes.” Seven high school seniors have participated in the pilot program during the 2008-09 academic year. Becky and Jenny created and implemented an art therapy-based curriculum aimed at developing both cognitive and affective skills, as well as social skills necessary for university life. Serving as mentor is Susan Minard, WSU art therapy alumnus, and art therapist for Lincoln Park Public Schools.

So far, specific art therapy strategies seem to show promise for developing social and communication skills, adjusting to the university environment, and for developing organizational, problem solving, decision-making, and self-advocacy skills. The pilot program will continue in the fall 2009, with expanded programming, while efforts continue to be explored for more permanent post-secondary offerings.
April

**Happenings**

**Current Highlights**


**I Have A Dream: An International Tribute to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** began March 18 and runs until May 3 at Museum of African American History. For more info visit www.maah-detroit.org.

**One Who Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest** by Dale Wasserman opens April 3 at the Hilberry Theatre, and runs until May 8, 2009. For information, please call 313.577.2972.

**Nice People Dancing to Good Country Music by Lee Blessing** at the Studio Theatre, April 9-11 & 16-18. Call 313.577.2972 for info.

**Ragtime the Musical** at the Bonstelle Theatre, April 17-19, 24-26. For more info call 313.577.2960.

**Waynemania: 2009 Undergraduate Exhibition** runs April 17-May 22 in the Art Department Gallery. Opening reception April 17. Please call 313.577.2423.

**Sounds of the Earth: Performances of Prose, Poetry and Music Dedicated to our Planet.** Thurs. April 23, 6 - 7:30pm in the Community Arts Auditorium. Free & open to the public. Call 313.577.5550 for more info.

**Time and Place: Art of Detroit’s Cass Corridor from the Wayne State University Collection** at the Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, from April 24 – June 26. Opening reception April 24 5 – 8pm.

May/June

**Black Is, Black Ain’t** and **I Repeat Myself When Under Stress** began February 13 and runs until May 3 at MOCAD. Visit www.mocadetroit.org for more information.

**All My Sons, by Arthur Miller** began February 20 and runs until May 16, at the Hilberry Theatre. Purchase tickets online or call 313.577.2972.


**2009 WSU Visual Arts Education & Art Therapy Exhibition** at the Art Department Gallery from June 5 – July 3. Opening reception, June 5th, 5-8pm. **Community Service Award** recipient presentation 5:30 – 6:30 pm. For more info call 313.577.5469.

**In Memoriam**

On Jan 8, 2009, retired Detroit Public School Art teacher and faculty of WSU Art Education Dept. **Gwendolyn Hogue**, died at the age of 86. Throughout her life, she was an advocate for art education and was extremely active in many organizations. Her vast contribution to art education was influential to many.

On March 21, 2009, retired Detroit Public School Teacher and WSU supervising teacher, **Irving Berg**, died at the age of 88. A lifelong educator in the arts, upon retiring, he volunteered as a docent at the DIA and was an active supporter in many organizations here and in Israel. His contribution to arts and culture was immeasurable.
Visual Arts Education:
A Landscape for 21st Century Learning
National Art Education Association Conference

The National Art Education Association Convention is the largest professional development gathering of art educators, school administrators, art specialists, professors and museum educators worldwide. This year’s event, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota is focused on the important role of art education in developing student potential and fostering creative problem-solving skills.

The five-day convention includes over 1,000 hands on workshops, panel discussions, seminars, research reports, exhibits and tours. This year’s featured keynote speakers include, Eric Jensen, Mark Bradford, Kay WalkingStick and Judy Chicago.

If you’re not a member of NAEA or MAEA, become one today and meet other students and educators who share your passion for art education.

For more information visit www.arteducators.org

Two Fundraisers Sponsored by SMATA

SMATA is sponsoring two fundraisers: an art therapy experientials book and a sweatshirt and tee shirt order. These fundraisers are to support a WSU lecture series in Art Therapy.

The experientials book will be a compilation of our favorite experientials (like a cookbook) that we will sell at the AATA conference. Original experientials are best, with acknowledgement of the source of the original inspiration, if known.

If you would like to purchase an Art Therapy sweatshirt ($35) or white tee shirt with the logo ($20), or submit to the Art Therapy Experientials book, please contact Jenny Elliott at ar9377@wayne.edu.

From left: Emma Faraulo, Sarah Lydick, Jenny Elliott
Master of Arts in Counseling/Art Therapy Concentration

We are extremely excited to announce that the Educational Approval Board (EPAB) of the American Art Therapy Association (AATA) has granted full Approval (accreditation) to Wayne State University’s Master of Arts in Counseling/Art Therapy Concentration program.

This is the second degree program in Art Therapy that has been granted full Approval. The M.Ed. in Art Education with Art Therapy has been Approved since 1994. Thus, of the 33 AATA – Approved Graduate Art Therapy programs, two are Wayne State programs!

Newsletter for the WSU Art Education and Art Therapy Community

Note to Alumni

In an effort to reduce the amount of paper mailings, we would like to begin emailing the newsletter to those interested.

Please email your name and email address to, Juliana Schewe: dx9303@wayne.edu

Visual Art Education/
Art Therapy
Wayne State University
163 Community Arts Building
Detroit, MI, 48202