Would You Like to Study in Italy?

Have you ever dreamed of studying the arts in Italy? The Art Education program in the College of Education at Wayne State University is proud to announce a new study abroad program in Italy beginning in the summer 2010. This initiative, in recognition of the long and illustrious history of the arts in Italy, has been funded through the generosity of Blanche Cannarsa-Elliott and the estate of her late sister, Aida Cannarsa-Snow.

The Art Education program has created the first annual competition for two $6,000 scholarships to pursue a course of study in Italy. The competition will be open to all undergraduate students prior to the start of their student teaching experiences and to all graduate students prior to beginning their master’s essay (ED 7999). Interested students must complete an application and provide a detailed proposal for their course of study. The proposal should include an itinerary of museums, architectural sites, schools and other institutions to be visited, the student’s goals for the study abroad program, and a proposed method of documentation. Applications that include proposals for unique and innovative studies that will advance the student’s understanding of visual arts will be given priority consideration.

At the completion of their study abroad, students will be required to write a paper to fully explicate their learning. Students will present their paper and a slide or PowerPoint documentation to students and faculty upon returning to the university. Students desiring to earn academic credit for this study abroad program must consult with their advisor.

Watch for further announcements from the Art Education program and the College of Education about guidelines and application dates at www.coe.wayne.edu.

Invitation to Alumni

We would like to invite all alumni to consider becoming a part of this publication. Because we send the newsletter to all alumni electronically or by mail, we would love to have an article for each edition (Fall/Winter and Spring) written by or about a graduate of one of our programs. The content might be biographical, it could be about an exhibition of yours or your students’ work, or about a project that you or your students have undertaken that is noteworthy. What you have accomplished is of interest to the entire collective of current and former students. We can all learn and benefit from your experience and knowledge. Articles should be relatively brief (consider the sizes in this edition) and submitted electronically in Microsoft Word format to Dr. Jim Brown at ap7377@wayne.edu or Dr. Holly Feen at hfeen@wayne.edu.
Faculty Feature
Debra Graham

Debra Graham began her academic career at Schoolcraft College, earning an associate's degree before transferring to Michigan State University where she completed a BFA in Printmaking with a minor in Art History. Subsequently, Debra enrolled in graduate courses at Eastern Michigan University and eventually transferred to the University of Michigan, completing a Master of Arts degree in Education.

Debra began her teaching career in Detroit Public Schools where she taught for over eight years before taking time off to start her family. When Debra returned to teaching, she was hired at Redford Union High School as an Alternative Education teacher where she taught for one year before moving on to South Redford Middle School, where she taught Alternative Education and Art for six years. She has now been teaching at Lee Thurston High School in Redford for the last seven years.

In addition to public school, this is Debra’s third year as an adjunct faculty member at Wayne State University where she teaches the Art Teaching Laboratory course, also known as Saturday Art School, a pre-student teaching experience. Long popular in the Art Education unit, this class teaches students to develop lesson plans and to teach to children ages 6-18 who come to campus on Saturdays to learn about and create art. Debra really enjoys seeing the lessons created by her students as well as the artwork made by the children enrolled in the program. She also loves to see her students’ excitement when they become certified and find teaching jobs. In addition to teaching Art Teaching Laboratory, Debra will begin teaching a new course next semester called “Integrating the Arts into the Elementary Classroom,” (AED 5050) a class for non-art teachers on how to include the visual arts, music, theatre and dance into the elementary curriculum. Debra is also the co-chair for the Awards Committee of the Michigan Art Education Association. We are so pleased to have her as part of our Art Education “family!”

New Course: AED 5050

Beginning in winter semester of 2010, The College of Education’s Art Education program will offer a new course specifically for students who are preparing to be elementary school teachers. The course, “Integrating the Arts into the Elementary Classroom,” is one for which Dr. James Brown has advocated for many years. Changes in State of Michigan standards for Elementary Certification have finally aligned with this goal, and it is now an approved and required course for all elementary education students. Initially the course will be taught by Debra Graham, who conducts the Saturday Art School (see article above), but enrollment projections suggest that as many as four sections per semester will be needed in the future.
Student Feature
Christina Liau

In late August of this year, Shiue-Jia “Christina” Liau traveled from her hometown in Nantou County, Taiwan to Detroit, Michigan. She had been admitted to the MA in Counseling with Concentration in Art Therapy program, and she began taking classes almost immediately upon her arrival.

Since high school, Christina has painted to help relax and to record her feelings. A high school counselor told her that what she was doing was a form of art therapy. However, because no art therapy education programs exist in Taiwan, Christina majored in Youth and Child Welfare at Providence University. After completing her undergraduate degree in 2006, Christina worked as an after school teacher (similar to day care) for a short time, and then as a Child Protection social worker.

Christina liked working with children, but was interested in learning art therapy. Thus, she saved her money while she investigated potential art therapy programs. Although she considered programs in the United Kingdom, Australia, and other programs in the United States, Christina chose Wayne State. Not only is this Christina’s first time in America, it is her first time outside of Taiwan, away from her family and friends. Christina is looking forward to a career in art therapy and she likes her new professors, enjoys her classes, and has made many friends already. Christina studied English in Taiwan, and although her English has improved in the short time she has been here, she states that many people in Michigan speak a vernacular form of English that can be difficult to understand!

Christina is currently enrolled in three classes: two in art therapy and one in counseling. Christina also spends a few weekends a month in Ann Arbor where she goes to church and spends time in the city with her friends.

The Infamous “Bill”

William Ebersberger, better known as “Bill,” has worked as a student assistant for the Art Education ceramics studio for three years. Bill usually goes above and beyond the call of duty, helping students in programs in and outside of Art Education, and he is always eager to talk about ceramics. Bill grew up in Detroit and attended general education classes at Highland Park Junior College, Michigan Lutheran College, and Wayne County Community College. Bill is currently a ceramic student at Wayne State University. He prefers ceramics and poetry to other art media, and his motto is, “Ceramics is a metaphor for life. When you are centered everything else will be as well.” Bill is especially passionate about Raku firing. He facilitates several Raku firings every semester, in an outdoor kiln located at Wayne State’s foundry, which is located just East of the Palmer and Cass intersection, behind guest parking lot #23. Bill has been experimenting extensively with the Raku method in his own work and happily shares his knowledge with others. Bill has proven himself to be a great asset to our program.
Particular skills are considered important to achieve success as a university student. Research has shown that students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) can also achieve success in high school, and potentially in college, if provided with opportunities to develop these skills as well. The number of individuals with ASD who will pursue higher education is expected to increase. Through efforts underway in a pilot project with a Lincoln Park, MI high school, it is believed that many students with ASD will have a chance to successfully pursue postsecondary education.

This pilot project, coordinated by College of Education art therapy faculty and students, has explored how university resources might be used to develop a higher education access program for students with autism. Art therapy master’s degree student-facilitators Jenny Elliott and Becky Kontny, with assistance from the first-year class, member Kira O’Donnell, played a key role in creating and implementing an art-based curriculum using art therapy philosophy and techniques aimed at developing cognitive and affective skills as part of this pilot project.

The program began in fall 2008 with seven high school seniors at Lincoln Park High School who have ASD. Eleven high school students are presently enrolled. The students travel by bus weekly to the Wayne State campus to attend classes. One of the students who graduated last year is attending Henry Ford Community College this year.

The art therapy component of the Avenues at Wayne program has been the initial dimension of the pilot program. A proposal is being developed to expand the program, and ultimately to establish ongoing inclusive learning opportunities at the university for students with academic challenges. The project has been beneficial not only to the high school students but also to the university students who have developed and implemented it. A paper titled How Art Therapy Supports Access to Higher Education for Students with Autism, describing the ongoing progress of the Avenues project, was accepted for a presentation at the annual conference of the American Art Therapy Association, November 2009 in Dallas, Texas.

Jenny Elliott and Becky Kontny presented their work with the Avenues at Wayne program along with Holly Feen, at the annual conference of the American Art Therapy Association this past November in Dallas. Also presenting at the Dallas conference was WSU Art Therapy alumnus MaryAnn Aitken (M.Ed., 1997), who showed a video she created about the artist Cordula Volkening.
December 2009

Art Education Students’ Fibers Display from Summer Class 2009, Art Education Hall Showcases, now until the end of December. For more information, please call 313.577.5469

Detroit Collects, Part 1: The Nature of Art, Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, now until December 18th. For more information, call 313.577.0770

Works by Peter Gilleran Art Department Gallery, now until December 18th. For more information, call 313.577.0770

Family Day, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Sunday, December 20th from 12-4pm. For more info visit www.mocadetroit.org

Art For The Holidays, Detroit Artists Market, now until December 23rd. For more information visit www.detroitartistsmarket.org

WSU will be closed for the Holidays, December 25th until January 1st, 2010.

Alexander Gutke and Ann Lisiegaard: 2062, MOCAD, now until December 27th. For more information, please visit www.mocadetroit.org

Detroit Film Theatre 2009/2010 Schedule is available on their website www.dia.org/dft

January/February 2010

LEGO Castle Adventure, Henry Ford Museum, now until January 3rd. For more information, please visit www.thehenryford.org

WSU MFA Thesis Exhibition I, Art Department Gallery, January 8th until February 5th. Opening Reception: Friday, January 8th, 5-8pm. For more info. call 313.577.0770

The Servant of Two Masters by Garson Kanin, Hilberry Theatre, January 9th until April 11th. For more information, please call 313.577.2972

Michigan Annual XXXVI, Anton Art Center, January 22nd until February 27th, Opening Reception: Friday, January 22nd, 6-9pm. For more information please visit www.theartcenter.org

Saturday Art Therapy Workshop for adults and children, beginning January 23rd until April 3rd Cost: $25. For more information, please call 734.355.8660

A Midsummer Night’s Dream by William Shakespeare, Hilberry Theatre, now until January 29th. For information call, 313.577.2972

A Midsummer Night’s Dream by William Shakespeare, Hilberry Theatre, now until January 29th. For information call, 313.577.2972

Alumni Exhibition: WSU Art Ed. & Art Therapy, Art Education Hall Showcases, February 18th until March 18th. Opening Reception: Thursday, February 18th, 3-6pm. For more information please call (313) 577-5469

WSU MFA Thesis Exhibition II, Art Department Gallery, February 19th until March 19th. Opening Reception: Friday, February 19th, 5-8pm. For more information please call 313.577.0770

“Art is humanity’s most universal language. It is not a frill, but a necessary part of communication.” Ernest L. Boyer

Illuminations from Jane’s Tribe
The 2009 annual Art Education-Art Therapy Student art exhibit opened on June 12, 2009. Dr. Craig Roney, Assistant Dean, Teacher Education Division, offered opening remarks based on his personal experience with his children in the Saturday Art School held here annually each fall. The event was well attended, and featured works of art from ceramics, sculpture, printmaking, painting, collage and assemblage, applied design, fibers, photography, and art therapy media classes. This year many works were sold from the exhibition and the students receive 100% of all proceeds.

At the opening of the exhibition, Jackie Duncan was awarded the Art Education-Art Therapy Alumni Award for Community Service for her community service work in visual arts education. Ms. Duncan has been a DPS Visual Arts teacher for over 25 years. In addition, she has worked to provide student exhibitions, non-school arts programs for children, and has been very active working with MAEA. The Art Education-Art Therapy Alumni Award for Community Service was created in 2007, and is presented annually to an outstanding alumnus from either Art Education or Art Therapy who has not only an exceptional professional record, but also has demonstrated exceptional service to children, or local arts or professional communities. Anyone is eligible to nominate an individual, who in their opinion has performed exemplary service to their community. If you would like to nominate someone to receive the 2010 Art Education-Art Therapy Alumni Award for Community Service, please email Dr. Jim Brown at ap7377@wayne.edu or Dr. Holly Feen at hfeen@wayne.edu.
Of Interest to Currently Enrolled Students:

MTTC # 95 Visual Arts Education

Students planning to take the MTTC test for the major of Visual Arts Education are strongly recommended to take the Art Education program’s pre-test study session offered on December 17th, 2009. Although the material for the test is covered in parts in all of our courses, this review may make the difference between passing and failing for some students. Students will work individually and in groups to discuss and review the four content areas of the state exam. Test-taking strategies will be discussed in addition to the pre-test mock exam. This class is open to all Art Education students, and will take place in room 063 of the Art Building. Students should arrive promptly at 4:30 for the 1½ to 2 hour review.

- Dr. Brown

Advice to Students about the Plan of Work (POW)

Several times a year a student will arrive in my office for advising with a form titled “Plan of Work” from the college’s Academic Services division, which is not an official Plan of Work (POW), or with a report that they have taken classes recommended by other students. Frequently, this results in a student taking a course that is not appropriate for certification thus wasting their time and financial resources. This most often happens when students consult with each other rather than an advisor. Remember, there are three separate certification programs, each with varying requirements. If you are an undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, or MAT student, then you need to have a face-to-face advising session with either (and only) Beverly Schneider or Hal Dittenber, which can be scheduled by calling 313.577.0902 soon after your admission to the College of Education. During this meeting your individual POW will be developed and you both will sign this agreement, which outlines your specific requirements to achieve certification. If you are a M.Ed. student in Art Education, you will develop your Plan of Work with me. This is the best way to assure the timeliest completion of your program. As always, I am also available during advising hours to help students identify and avoid, this type of problem.

-Dr. Brown
MAEA Conference 2009
By Sam Rimi

As future visual art educators, the transition into professional roles can be overwhelming. The Michigan Art Education Association (MAEA) conference held in November 2009 in Kalamazoo was the opportunity many emerging teachers seek to become familiar with all aspects of art education, from teaching styles to dynamic art lessons, and everything in between. The 2009 conference offered many workshops and activities to inspire teachers and bring new ideas into the classroom. Furthermore, it gave novice teachers the opportunity to talk to experienced educators across the state, learn from well-known speakers in the art field, and build a collection of resources that can be used for years to come. Some of the highlights at this year’s conference included key note speakers such as the Guerilla Girls and Lee Sandstead, motivational workshops offered by teachers across the state, an art hop in downtown Kalamazoo, and the MAEA 60th year celebration event. The College of Education sponsored five Art Education students to attend the conference this year. Many student attendees felt that the conference helped them to generate a sense of advocacy for the field of Art Education. Next year’s conference will be held in Dearborn, MI, thus very conveniently located for people attending or living nearby Wayne State.

Note to Alumni:
Help us BE GREEN

In an effort to reduce the amount of paper mailings, we would like to move to a digital newsletter. If you are interested in viewing an online version of the newsletter in place of a paper copy, please email your name and email address to:

Kellen VanBuskirk:
arted_arttherapy@wayne.edu