



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

## Art and Museum Studies

*Issue 2, Spring 2016*

Dear Art and Museum Studies Students, Faculty, and Alumni,

I was pleased to hear from so many alumni upon the publication of our first issue of the newsletter. I hope you will keep the news and updates coming.

This fall, we saw the introduction of a new course, *Curating Art Museums and Galleries*, taught by Professor Sarah Newman. Students visited a new exhibition at the Hirshhorn and got to hear a first-hand account of its installation from curator Evelyn Hankins. They also travelled to Civilian Arts Project to meet its dynamic founder and director, Jayme McLellan, and to Glenstone to see its new Fred Sandback exhibition.

In the fall, students in Museum Studies Foundations had the opportunity to collaborate with their colleagues in Special Collections and the Communication, Culture, and Technology Program to create four documentary videos about Henry Mosler paintings in Georgetown's collection. They researched the paintings, wrote scripts, and were interviewed for the films, which will be available on a project website this spring.

In October, the program had its first "Careers in Museums and the Arts" panel discussion, co-sponsored by Jacki Banks of the Cawley Career Education Center, and moderated by Lia Trangucci (MA'16). The panelists included Dana Allen-Greil (please see below) and Jayme McLellan, as well as Lauren Collette, Manager, Annual Giving, National Museum of American History; Channah Norman, Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice, and S. Scott Scholz, Deputy Director & Curator, Dumbarton House. The program had a record 45 attendees, including many current and former Art and Museum Studies students.

We capped off our semester with a lecture by Elizabeth Merritt, Founding Director of the Center for the Future of Museums at the American Alliance of Museums, followed by a holiday reception. Ms. Merritt spoke about museum trends and took questions on topics such as non-profits status for museums, and the place of art museums in the age of Google Art.

The search for a Director for Georgetown's new Maria and Alberto de la Cruz Gallery is underway and should be completed by the spring. In addition to their duties in the Gallery, the Director will also teach in the Art and Museum Studies program, and will work with graduate student interns. Gallery construction will begin as soon as this summer, and is tentatively scheduled for completion by Spring 2017.

I would like to close by encouraging all of you to attend our Art and Museum Studies M.A. Program Tenth Anniversary Reception in the Walsh Building at Georgetown on February 4 (today!). I hope to see you there!

Best regards,

Dr. Lisa Strong

Director, Art and Museum Studies M.A. Program and Associate Professor of the Practice

## Welcome Dana Allen-Greil



This spring, **Dana Allen-Greil** joins our adjunct faculty to teach a new course, Museums and New Media. Professor Allen-Greil is currently Chief of Web and Social Media at the National Archives. Previously, she served as Senior Digital Outreach Producer at the National Gallery of Art; Account Director at Ogilvy Public Relations; Chief of Digital Outreach and Engagement at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History; and Online Communications & Publishing Coordinator at the Kaiser Family Foundation. Professor Allen-Greil holds a B.A. in English from St. Mary's College of Maryland and an M.A. in Museum Studies from The George Washington University. She has taught museum studies

courses in technology as an adjunct for George Washington University and Johns Hopkins University.

Her course will consider how, within the span of just a few decades, new media technologies have made a profound impact on museum operations and the visitor experience. With an emphasis on interpretive uses of new media, this course will explore the impact of technology on museum approaches to collections, exhibitions, and education. A variety of new media platforms will be covered, including websites, social media, in-gallery interactives, and mobile devices. With the help of case studies, guest speakers, and field trips to local museums, students will explore what's possible—and what's challenging—when it comes to museums and technology.

## Faculty News

**Al Acres** became Chair of the Department of Art and Art History in July, upon John Morrell's completion of six years leading the department. Professor Acres continues work on his manuscript for a book on Jan van Eyck.

**Alison Hilton** has been studying relationships among the arts of Eastern Europe and Russia, and is teaching a new seminar on this subject. She organized a session on "Exploring Native Traditions in Eastern Europe and Russia" for the College Art Association's annual conference in Washington, D.C. this February.

**Michael Lesperance** is currently serving as Chair of the American Alliance of Museum's LGBTQ Professional Network. He is co-author of "Setting the Standard for LGBTQ Inclusion" in AAM's publication *Museum* (January/February 2016)

**Elizabeth Prelinger** is just returning to teaching after a wonderful year-long sabbatical. Among many varied activities, she traveled, wrote some book reviews, completed the background research for an article on French WWI prints, and tried her first corn dog at the Texas State Fair.

**Lisa Strong** was interviewed for a series of documentary short films on the artist Alfred Jacob Miller in conjunction with the Buffalo Bill Center of the West's online [Miller catalogue project](#). This fall, she also worked with a group of faculty to design the Pilgrimage Project, a digital map of cultural collections at Georgetown. The project received support from an Initiative on Technology Enhanced Learning (ITEL) grant to support its first phase: collection and interpretation of information about the art and architecture of Old North. As part of the project, students from Museum Studies Foundations and the Culture, Communication and Technology M.A. program collaborated to produce four documentary films on paintings hanging in Old North.

**Michelle C. Wang** has received a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to support the hire of a postdoctoral fellow at Georgetown who will locate and research Chinese Central Asian manuscripts, woodblock prints, and other material artifacts in North American collections. This project is being undertaken in partnership with the [International Dunhuang Project](#), which is based at the British Library, and the information gathered will be added to the IDP's online database for scholarly access.

## Student & Alumni News

**Emily Banas (MA'12)** became Decorative Arts and Design Curatorial Assistant at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Providence, Rhode Island this November.

**Anna Boatwright (MA'13)** joined Special Events at the Frick Collection, New York, N.Y. this fall.

**Grace Dubuque (MA'15)** joined the Floater Programme at Sotheby's New York this summer and is currently placed in Museum Services.

**Tisha Greenwood (MA'15)** became VIP Manager, Photo LA, Los Angeles, California this fall.

**Alana Housholder (MA'06, MA'07)** became Assistant to the Program of Research/Center Report Coordinator at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA) at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. this fall.

**Mary Kathryn Jorgensen (MA'15)** became Development Assistant, Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Nashville, Tennessee this January.

**Bridget Mazet (MA'15)** became Development Associate, Archives of American Art, Washington, D.C. this fall.

**Caroline Passano (MA'15)** became Special Events Coordinator, National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C. in December.

**Lauren Reid (MA'14)** became Collections Technician at the New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, N.J. this month.

**Jessica Schmitz (MA'15)** became Collections Manager, Museum of Contemporary Art, Atlanta, Georgia this summer.

**Ann Scoggins (MA'15)** became Associate Exhibitions Project Manager, Traveling Exhibitions, International Art and Artists, Washington, D.C. this fall.

**Ann Wadsworth (MA'15)** became Gallery Associate at Joan Mirviss, Ltd., New York, New York this summer.

## Alumni Profiles

**Ashlea Guernsey (MA'10)** entered the program in August 2009 with a B.A. in Art History and French from Hope College. Her studies at Georgetown focused on ethical questions surrounding the acquisition and display of non-Western art, particularly African art. She also studied Styles in Asian Art at the Sotheby's Institute of Art in London. Ashlea's museum experience included internships at the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art in the curatorial department, and the Denver Art Museum in the education department, focusing on the American Indian collection. In 2013, she enrolled in the Ph.D. program in Native American Art History at the University of Oklahoma, where she is focusing on contemporary Native American artists and their artistic responses to nineteenth-century art events of the American West. This fall, Ashlea

interned in the curatorial department of the Fred Jones Junior Museum of Art, University of Oklahoma, while completing her doctoral coursework. In March 2014, she presented her paper "Violence, Marginalization, and Commemoration: Public Awareness in the Performances of Rebecca Belmore" at the Oklahoma Conference of Art Historians, held at Oklahoma State University, and in October 2015, she presented "Robert Houle's *Paris/Ojibwa*: Re/signifying the American West through Parody" at the 2015 Native American Art Studies Association Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

## JOIN US TONIGHT: Art and Museum Studies 10th Anniversary Reception

Please join us tonight from 6-8 p.m. for the Art and Art History and Museum Studies Reception in honor of the College Art Association Conference. The reception will be held in the Walsh Building at 1221 36th St., NW.

Art and Museum Studies will also host a reception during the American Alliance of Museums' annual conference in Washington, D.C. May 26-29. Details will follow.

*For general AMUS program information and deadlines, please consult our website [art.georgetown.edu](http://art.georgetown.edu). Send student, alumni or faculty updates to [gradamus@georgetown.edu](mailto:gradamus@georgetown.edu).*

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