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Kaleidoscope, Spring 2012

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As part of its continuing growth, the Department of Art & Art History has begun offering new “specialist” degrees in graphic design, photography, painting and drawing, printmaking, and sculpture. The Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) is a professional degree that focuses on intensive work in the visual arts; in fact 68% of the course work is in art and art history. For students who want to dedicate themselves to a particular area of art, are planning to get an MFA, and/or want to have a strong portfolio in order to begin exhibiting straight out of their undergraduate experience, this degree is ideal.

Joe Holdren, who was admitted into the program of Fall in 2011, says:

"The BFA came just in time for me—I will better prepared for graduate study and taking more studio classes is great because that’s what I love doing! Having all the degree opportunities helps to diversify the university, and I am glad to see the university putting more resources into the art program. The BFA is bringing even more energy and creativity to the program."
In January of 2009 the department made the big move into a spacious new facility, especially designed for studio and art history classes. The newly renovated building doubles the department’s space and includes two dedicated state of the art computer labs for graphic design and digital photography. The space for darkroom photography is unequalled in the state, with both a large group darkroom and individual ones for advanced students. A well-equipped lighting studio plus a big classroom round out the area. The printmaking studio is also outstanding. It comes with the largest etching press in the state, and in addition to facilities for silkscreen and relief, we have added a second lithography press this year. The building houses a dedicated drawing studio, two painting studios, two multipurpose studios, and a special critique room. Art History has a comfortable modern lecture hall and seminar/library room. The centerpiece of the new facility is a beautiful new exhibition space, one of three galleries on campus. Our outstanding sculpture facilities remain at Roberts Hall, where students can do bronze casting, carving, woodworking and welding. Students are thrilled with the new space but also recognize the heart of the program.

Recent graduate Sheena Setayesh Bove puts it this way:

"The new facilities at UAH are fantastic, but it’s the professors and staff in the art department that really separate UAH from other university’s art programs. Every professor in the department has an obvious passion for art and for teaching... they worked with me on a personal level to help me develop my skills as an artist and prepare me for work or continued education after graduation. My experiences with the art department at UAH will be with me forever; the professors inspired me to do what I love and never give up on it. They encouraged me everyday and gave me the feedback I needed to prepare for the "real world" after school."
Student News

The College of Liberal Arts' Faculty selected graduating senior Elizabeth Addison as their top student for fall graduation. Elizabeth, in addition to being a straight A student, won “Best in Show” in the 2010 Annual Student Exhibition and has been selected for Photographer's Forum's “Best of College Photography” two years running! UAH Art students continue to gain recognition for their work, and for service to the community. Five photography students, Justin Clay, Kathleen Posey, Tyler Gilmore, Christopher Prince, and Michael Barnes were selected for Photographer's Forum “Best of College Photography.” UAH design students stood out at last year's ADDY awards. Justin Clay received a Silver Student ADDY for his UAHuntsville HPE Poster Illustrations, and Matt McDaniel took a Silver Student ADDY for his Gershwin Tobacco Shop Website and a Gold Student ADDY for the Gershwin Tobacco Logo. Over the summer students in graphic design courses created 20 Space Shuttle Models to commemorate the last 30 years of the Shuttle Program. They are on display at the Space and Rocket center through the end of the year, and will ultimately find a home at the Huntsville Museum of Art. Design Student Justin Coggin won the Rocket City United mascot contest. Eric Coleman received a Research/Creative Experience for Undergraduates grant to work with Professor Brandon Gardner on large-scale woodcuts. Alex Godbold was selected for the HOUND OF IT at Garage Gallery, in San Diego—the show features sound art in the spirit of John Cage. The UAH Student Art Organization is fundraising for a spring trip to New York City, as well as sponsoring community figure drawing nights, planning the annual “Halloween in Spring” dance party and more. Pamela Wang, Jessica Ramsay, Rachel Gardner and Tara Anzalone are continuing the highly successful collaboration between the department and Merrimack Hall. They are serving as interns teaching art classes for children and adults with disabilities. Be on the lookout for a special exhibition of their students’ work opening May 9!

Explore Your Inner Indy

Have you always been intrigued by the mysteries of archaeology and the allure of a dig? The Department of Art and Art History sponsors a local chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) here on campus. Chartered by the US Congress over 100 years ago with a mission to engage in public education and outreach, the Archaeological Institute of America is the oldest and largest archaeological organization in North America. Its members are both professional archaeologists as well as community members who are fascinated by archaeology.

AIA brings world-renowned archaeologists to campus to speak in classes, share their experiences, and talk about their discoveries. The talks have wide-ranging topics including human sacrifice in Peru, the battlefield of Little Bighorn, Ramses the Great, underwater archaeology, and the FBI Art Crimes team. On November 10 Dr. Patrick McGovern, author of the bestselling book Uncorking the Past, spoke about the history of alcohol and alcohol use. This spring were talks on the Maya and the Romans. For more information on events as well as articles on recent discoveries, see our local AIA website: http://excavate-aia.blogspot.com/.

Students working in graphic design lab
Alumni News

UAH Grads are making a splash locally and around the country. Lori Ary ('11) has entered the graduate program at East Carolina University and Matthew Knopps ('11) started his MFA at Louisiana Tech University last year. Tabatha Jarmulowicz ('11) has begun the multidisciplinary MFA program at Goddard College and is the director of the visual arts educational program at Merrimack Hall. She was also featured in "Our Town," a Juried Group Exhibition at ARTworks Gallery, Beaufort, SC. Chesney Matthews ('10) is doing Visual Merchandising at Belk and recently worked on a fashion shoot for The Huntsville Times. Recent Art History grad and current history graduate student, Jillian Rael ('10), has published an historical photography book about Lynchburg, TN. Terri Summer Davis ('10) continues her photography project, "The Big Secret," which brings women together over issues of body and health. Ankica Mistrovska ('10) started the graduate program at Wichita State University and has been in six shows since she graduated last December—Including "6x6x2011: Global," at the Rochester Contemporary Art Center in Rochester, NY. April Llwwellyn ('09) is working on her MFA thesis at the Columbia College Center for the Book and has begun her thesis research by traveling throughout the eastern US, visiting over 20 community arts projects. Her limited edition book on the project is coming out in early summer. Jessica Lund ('09) is working on her MFA at the University of Memphis, and recently had an exhibition at the Marshall Arts Gallery in Memphis. Ashley Pottenger ('08) is studying for her MFA at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, and recently exhibited in the MFA Open Studio exhibits. Toyin Odutola ('08) is in the graduate program at California College of the Arts and had a solo exhibition last fall at Jack Shainman Gallery in New York. Toyin was featured in the March 2012 issue of Art News. Anna O'Hara ('08) finished her MFA at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and was chosen to perform at Infr'Action 010, an international performance event in Sète, France. Rachel Lackey ('08) opened Green Pea Press, a community print shop in the Lowe Mill Arts Center, and she also received a scholarship to attend the Frogman’s Print and Paper workshop...
this summer. Marcia Freeland ('08) just became manager at Lowe Mill Arts and Entertainment, where she also has her studio. Kimberly Hart ('07) teaches at Greengate School in Huntsville and has an active studio practice in Lowe Mill—she has won scholarships from Arrowmont and the Penland School of Craft. In 2009, she won the AlphaHudson DNA award. Vania Barbieri Morris ('06) & Christine Sanderson ('06) have traveled across the US and to England, France, and Italy for their photography business, "Simply Bloom." Their work has been featured in over 18 magazines, including Brides and Cosmopolitan Bride. Heather Rose Legge-Click ('05) runs her "Mad Shiny Shop" on Etsy and just published a children's book Cadence And The Flutterbies. Ariana Pepper ('04) is the owner of the "Happy Cactus Shoppe" on Etsy, and is selling her handmade accessories at retail locations like BCC & Blush and Monique Given's ('03) store The Switchhouse. Mark Blevins ('03) Senior Illustrator at AdTran was one of the founders of the K.I.D artist collective at Lowe Mill where Nancy Graham ('07), Linda Walden ('04), and Ruth Ann Stephens ('00) have their studios. Ruth Ann was recently featured in the Energen "Wonders of Alabama" Group exhibition in Birmingham, and the Montserrat Encaustic Conference juried group art exhibition at the DeCordova Museum, Lincoln, Mass.

Faculty News

In addition to teaching, the faculty has been busy with research, creative activity, and service to the community. Brandon Gardner's national print portfolio, History of the United States Volume 2 has been selected for exhibit at the prestigious Frogman's Print and Paper Workshop at the University of South Dakota in 2012. The first portfolio, "History of the United States Volume 1," showed there in 2011. Professor Keith Jones and his student, Lori Zatchen have been volunteering to provide design help for the U.S. Space Rocket Center's renovation of the museum interior. Glenn Dasher, Kathryn Jill Johnson, Monique Given, José Betancourt and Roxie Veasey were included in the Gasdson Museum's "Alabama's Finest" exhibition. Kathryn Jill Johnson, José Betancourt and Marin Abell were selected for the "Art of the State" Exhibition sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art. José Betancourt won an Honorable Mention in the show. Nandini Makrandi, curator of contemporary art at the Hunter Museum of American Art in Chattanooga and assistant professor of art history at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, was the juror. The 2012 exhibition is scheduled for Tennessee Valley Museum of Art, Tuscumbia, AL, then on to Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts, Gadsden, AL, Johnson Center for the Arts, Troy, AL and finally Fayette Art Museum, Fayette, AL. José Betancourt's piece, "Winter Weave", woven cyanotype on paper was added to the permanent collection of the Portland Art Museum. In February, department Chair Dr. Lillian Joyce gave a talk at Arizona State University entitled "Amazons, Roma, and the Virtuous Breast." Kathryn Jill Johnson was accepted into "Armstrong Atlantic State University National 2-D Exhibition" in Savannah, Georgia. She also has a solo exhibition at the University of Wisconsin scheduled for July. Visiting Sculptor Marin Abell's recent small group exhibition, "Step and Repeat," at Toomer Labzda Gallery in New York City received a favorable review by critic Howard Hurst in the online Arts Journal HYPERALLERGIC. Dr. David Stewart presented his paper "Remembering our Post-Apocalyptic Decade" at the Forms of Life: Literature, Politics, Aesthetics conference at Binghamton University in March.

Winter Weave, José Betancourt

Did you know?

UAH faculty members are available to give talks at high schools and colleges about art careers, our program, and more! Call 256-824-6114 for more information
Photography was officially invented in 1839, or was it? As with most inventions, there is a curiosity to know how this discovery was made. How many experiments did it take to get there? Where did the inventors work on their experiments and who were these pioneers? Since 2009, students in the Historic and Experimental Photography class have traveled to England to experience the places and early techniques that contributed to the invention of photography.

Last summer ten UAH students and Professor José Betancourt traveled to London to research the printing techniques that began the long road to what photography is today. In England, William Henry Fox Talbot actually worked on a process that preceded the invention of the daguerreotype in France. His process produced brown images called photogenic drawings—contact prints of plants. Photography in 19th century England was very different than in France, and this is what makes this trip unique.

The group spent time in London working on photo assignments, seeing the sights, and visiting the Victoria and Albert Museum, which stores original 19th century photographic prints. After a week in London the class took a bus ride to the small medieval village of Lacock, in Wiltshire. A quick visit to Stonehenge was followed by arrival at their quarters in an old rectory near Lacock Abbey, the home of Talbot. For the next few days students visited his house, walked among his belongings—including his cameras and laboratory equipment—and participated in a workshop by the Talbot Museum staff. Students worked with the same formulas that Talbot used in 1835 to produce their own prints. They also had fun meeting the locals at the pub and getting to know the history and hidden secrets of this medieval village. UAHuntsville was the first school to be a part of the program at the museum, and will continue this partnership in summer. Students loved the hands-on learning experience and made some wonderful artwork that was exhibited in the Union Grove Gallery this past fall.

Get the latest photo news:
http://uah-photo.blogspot.com
CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE Two especially exciting courses that have been added are “Cross Disciplinary Studio,” a portfolio development class that helps students create a conceptually rigorous body of work, and “Professional Practices” which focuses on the business of being an artist. This course covers the practical aspects of a career in the arts, resume and grant writing, documentation of art works, ways to exhibit and sell artwork, how to get gallery representation, and the many job opportunities in the arts. The course culminates in mounting senior exhibitions and developing a professional portfolio.

Spaces Biennial Sculpture Trail

Collaboration created the Spaces Biennial Sculpture Trail that features the work of 15 sculptors from 10 states across the eastern US. The display of public sculptures in six location unites the campus of UAHuntsville with the city of Huntsville, the Huntsville Museum of Art, Lowe Mill Arts and Entertainment Center, and Alabama A&M University. UAH can be proud that the Art Department’s own Glenn Dasher played a key role in this collaborative venture. He believes in the importance of public art and worked tirelessly to bring public art to Huntsville. Today as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, he has reason to celebrate the 28 contemporary sculptures that weave our city together and stimulate thought, quicken minds, and enliven public places.

In concert with The Arts Council, The Downtown Forty-Seven, the Huntsville/Madison County Convention and Visitor’s Bureau, RBC Bank, UA Huntsville, Alabama State Council on the Arts, The Huntsville Times, Leadership Connect Class 11 and many private donors the Sculpture Trail came to life. As contemporary art, it is not limited to galleries and museums. It occupies the spaces where people gather, in a town alive with commerce, banking, retail, restaurants, conventions, attractions, and a vibrant and rapidly growing art scene. Tour the Sculpture Trail and see some of the best of contemporary art, and while you are at it, visit the Art Department that is doing its part to promote the arts in Huntsville and the rest of the Tennessee Valley.
Interested in contributing towards scholarships, show awards or simply help us to provide the best programs for our students and the community? Contact Department Chair Lillian Joyce at 256-824-6114.

A Special Thanks to Our Donors—We Couldn’t Do It Without You!

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