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State of the Art, Fall 2007

University of Alabama in Huntsville

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Special thanks to Cathy Chan for her donation toward the acquisition of the large-format press!

A crane lifts the new press into the print-making studio.
Photo: José Bentancourt

STATE OF THE ART

The Newsletter of the Department of Art and Art History at UAHuntsville | FALL 2007

Student news



Moscow Subway, Roman Alokhin

Photography student **Roman Alokhin** was chosen for the **Photographer's Forum Best of College Photography 2007**. This prize is given to the top 20% of entries into this prestigious annual juried contest. His work will be published in the hard-back annual coming soon to a library near you. Next he wants to travel to Ghana to document FOCOS, a medical organization that helps the people of Ghana with medical care.

Print students managed to raise enough money last semester to send three of their own to Frogman's Print and Paper Workshop. At the prestigious workshop **Stephen Claybrooks**, **Rachel Lackey** (see article), **Brian Walker** and **Nancy Graham** studied and experimented with various printmaking techniques over a two-week period. They also got to meet students, faculty and independent artists from across the country. Collections for next year's Workshop have already been initiated by the "Pennies

for Frogman's Fund" as well as other fundraising activities. UAH senior, **Stephen Urabe** was invited to mount a solo exhibition of his drawings at **Alabama A&M University**. The show ran September 4th through 27th. A&M Professor and Gallery director **Scott Smith** invited Stephen to exhibit after seeing his work at Panoply! UAH students **Emily Cooper**, **Heath McClain**, **Nancy Graham**, **Stephen Claybrooks** and **Andrew England** have been selected to show in the Huntsville Arts Council's annual **pARTy** fundraiser. The salon style exhibition is an exclusive invitation-only affair where collectors peruse works by artists from all over the southeast. Photo student **Jonathan Forsythe** recently won numerous awards at Birmingham's Sidewalk Film Festival. "Cutting Teeth," in which Jonathan worked as actor, grip and writer, was completed in 48 hours and won prizes for editing, directing, inspiration, and was the audience's choice!

Faculty News

José Betancourt, who recently joined the faculty as assistant professor in photography, is currently collaborating with New York artist **Susan Weil**. Their cyanotype prints of trees are slated for exhibition on Earth Day, April 22, 2008 in the **Sundaram Tagore Gallery in New York City**. He also exhibited work at the Society for Photographic Education, **South Central Region, The Regional Photography Faculty Exhibit**, Vanderbilt University, Nashville TN and had work published in **American Art Collector** and **The Distillery**. Intrepid staff assistant **Marylyn Coffey** successfully defended her thesis on Calamity Jane and will be awarded her **MA in English** from UAH this December. **Glenn Dasher**, professor of sculpture, has been appointed Acting Dean. He has also had a solo exhibition at Huntsville's **Artistic Images Gallery** and participated in a number of invitational and juried exhibitions including the **Red Clay Survey, Alabama Sculptors Invitational** at the Eastern Shore Art Center in Fairhope, AL, **Alabama: Nature Industry and Art**, Jule Collins Museum of Fine Art in Auburn AL, **Southworks 2007** Oconee County Art Foundation Art Center, Watkinsville GA, **Mid-South Sculptors Awards Exhibition** at Chattanooga State Technical college, Chattanooga, TN and **Alabama Originals: Classical Approaches** at the Alabama State Arts Council Arts Gallery, Montgomery, AL. Assistant professor, **Brandon Gardner**, obtained a UAH Research Mini-Grant to attend the **Frogman's Print and Paper Workshop** in Vermillion, SD, where he expanded his research of waterless lithography and woodcut relief printing. Over the past year Professor Gardner was invited to participate in **Colorprint USA** as well as the **Red Clay Survey, Strange Figurations** and he "rocked the house" at this year's SGC Conference in Kansas City, MO by coordinating two shows for the **Bastards of Print Society**. Gardner was invited back to the **Kansas City Art Institute**



Catchandrelease, mixed media drawing by Professor Kathryn Jill Johnson

to demonstrate printing large woodblocks with a steamroller at the **Beaux Arts Festival**. In addition, he collaborated with **Cannonball Press** for a show at the **Oppikoppi Music Festival** in Johannesburg, South Africa. Studio/gallery technician and part-time lecturer **Monique Givens** teaches intro drawing and has stepped in to help cover 3-d design and stone carving this semester. She also helps install shows at the **Union Grove** and **UC Galleries**. Monique is a Board Member and Exhibitions Coordinator at the **Flying Monkey Arts Center** where she won the "people's choice" award in this year's

Recycled Art Exhibition. Her alter ego **Tura Terror** burns up the rink as a "blocker" in Huntsville's own **Dixie Derby Girls** roller derby team. **Kathryn Jill Johnson**, assistant professor of painting and drawing, spent the summer completing an artist's residency at the **Cooper Union School of Art in New York City**. There she met with successful contemporary artists including **Hans Borek, Anna Conway** and **Steve Dibennedetto**. The residency concluded with a group exhibition. Much of that work was on view at **University of North Alabama Gallery**, where she had a solo exhibition Aug 31st through Oct. 5th. Johnson also exhibited work in **American Portfolio X** at Chemeketa Community College Gallery, Salem, OR, **Dislocations** at Cade Center for the Fine Arts Gallery, Arnold, MD and won an honorable mention in **The Valdosta National**, Valdosta State Gallery, Valdosta, GA. In addition to his freelance design work, graphic design professor **Keith Jones** has been making mixed media "fine-art" pieces. The work involves the creation of conceptually based pop-culture pieces using watercolor and digital images. The images have a surrealistic appearance and a dream-like quality. The body of work uses documentation of old advertising campaigns, iconic images, and stories from people who maintain the essences of cultural change. [continued on page 8]



Professor Brandon Gardner with his steamroller prints

Toyin Odutola Selected for Yale-Norfolk Summer Program

Senior art student Toyin Odutola attended the prestigious Yale-Norfolk Summer Program this year and had the experience of working with Yale graduate students, as well as well-known artists. This summer's faculty included Katherine Kuharic, Sam Messer, Norm Paris, John Lehr and Michelle Grabner. Students also met with prominent visiting artists and critics including Mark Strand, Carroll Dunham and John Pilson.

The program recruits about 26 undergraduates from all over the world. Around since the 1940s, the six-week program began as a forum formed by a group of Yale graduate and undergraduate students who wished to discuss their work with peers as well as professional artists. Famous alumni of the program include the artist Chuck Close and the writer Mark Strand.

Acceptance into the program is extremely competitive. Toyin reported that, "When you get the acceptance letter...the first thing you have to do is stop yourself from screaming at the top of your lungs and doing silly dances all over!" Toyin is the second student accepted in the program from UAH in the past three years. She and Ian Magargee '06 are the first students to attend from Alabama. When asked about her experiences this summer Toyin said, "I learned through this program the importance of an artist's willingness to learn new ways of expression, new techniques, and most importantly, not to be afraid of change...I really didn't think my work would hold up against my peers from such well-known schools as Yale, SVA, Berkeley, RISD, Pratt Institute, Vassar, Boston University, Washington University, SCAD, and UCLA. When I was there, I learned how to hold



mixed media drawing by Toyin Odutola

my own and I was honestly proud of my school and where I came from." Toyin is working hard this semester preparing for her senior exit show, which is scheduled for March 3rd-14th at the University Center Gallery.

AlumniNews

Kelly O'Toole '07 completed a set design residency at the **Champagne Urbana Staten Theater** last spring. She designed sets for the **Madison Children's Theater's** production of "Honk Jr." She was chosen as an **artist in residence at Catholic High School** during October and November, and had a painting accepted for the **Red Clay Survey** at the **Huntsville Museum of Art**. Kelly's work was also on view during the **Summer Sidewalk Arts Strolls** in Downtown Huntsville. **Tammy Smith '07** is working full-time at the **NSSTC** as a graphic designer. Tammy says, "I'm really loving my job so far. I have an office with a window and pretty much have free creative reign!" **Jennie Landis '07** began the MFA program at the **University of South Florida** this fall. In addition to her

classes **Jennie** was awarded a graduate assistantship. **Ian Magargee '06** who enters his second year of graduate studies at **Ohio State University** completed a short residency at the **Idylwild Arts Program**. In addition to working with program head **Roland Reiss**, Ian was able to work with **Dana Shutz**, **Berry Schwabsky (Vitamin P)**, **Clarence Morgan**, **Nicola Staeglich**, and **Matthew Ritchie**. **Jenni Higginbotham '06** is also beginning her second year of graduate school at **New Mexico State University**. Jenni reports that she serves as a graduate assistant, teaching both drawing and painting. She says she really likes teaching and has "become a pro at handling stress!" **Rachel Gutierrez '05** is another UAH alumni featured in the prestigious **Red Clay Survey** at **Huntsville Museum of Art**. Rachel, who is also star

"jammer" for the **Dixie Derby Girls Roller Derby Team**, paints arresting portraits of friends and family. **Jason Anderson '04** is pursuing a master's degree in Art History at **University of Alabama in Birmingham**; his primary area of study is Asian and Buddhist art. He works as a graduate assistant and says that while he enjoys the new 'view' of graduate school he "cannot forget, and daily call upon, my experiences and knowledge gained at my alma mater!" **Hugh Wilburn '79** is Librarian of the **Frances Loeb Library** and an Assistant Dean for Information Services at **Harvard University**. He recently made a generous donation to the department in memory of Professor Jack Dempsey. Hugh recently visited campus and was delighted with the growth of the department and the quality of the students' work!

Art Club: It's cooler than you think

The uah student art organization has a big year ahead! The club continues to host figure drawing nights (open to both students and community artists) and also plans to present a series of professional practices workshops. The first, held Friday November 2nd, featured photography professor José Betancourt speaking on photo documentation for artists. On Thursday, November 29, Dan Halcomb from the Arts Council will talk about a variety of topics related to public arts administration, grants, and development. Two more talks will be presented in spring with topics and speakers TBA. Students will again take part in the Emerging Artists Tent

at Panoply, and plan to repeat their successful participation in the summer Sidewalk Art Strolls downtown.

The club will also be fundraising for two big events, a trip to NYC in May, and to assist students who wish to attend the Frogman's printmaking workshop over the summer. Fundraising events include the annual holiday show and sale, as well as several bake sales throughout the semester. This year a silent auction of artworks by faculty, students and alumni will be presented in conjunction with the Women's Studies "Change of heART" events in November. Tickets for the wine tasting and silent auction, which will be held at the Wild



Kinetic installation in the University Center Gallery by visiting artist Martijn Van Wagtenonk

Flour Bistro on November 14th from 4-6, are available by calling 824-6210. The cost is \$20 with a reduced ticket price of \$10 for those on limited budgets.

For more information about Art Club events call faculty sponsor, Jill Johnson at 824-2592 or visit www.myspace.com/uahartclub.



painting students in action

Scholarships for Art Students

Alumni and supporters who are interested in helping provide scholarships should contact Dr. Lillian Joyce, Acting Department Chair at 824-2588 or joycel@uah.edu.

Scholarships are available for art and art history students at UAH. These are just some of the many scholarships offered. High school students can submit portfolios through the Alabama State Council on the Arts or win scholarships through a jury award at UAH's annual Academic Tournament Day. The Jeffery Bayer Memorial Scholarship is a scholarship awarded to students through participation in the Annual Student Art Show. Students with a strong academic record are eligible for consideration for the Lella C. and Frank H. Bromberg Jr. Endowed Scholarship. Students interested in study abroad may apply for the Ina Clark Global Studies Scholarship. The Bill Dale Scholarship may be given to art majors or minors who also play in the UAH Wind Ensemble. The Shelby J. King award is a need- and academically-based scholarship for students



The spring 2007 student art show

majoring in art studio or art history. Students pursuing a minor in Women's Studies may win the Kathryn L. Harris Women's Studies Award. The Suzanne Kay & Gregory Ford Memorial Scholarship is given to students with strong ACT scores and with leadership potential. The Dr. Daniel G. Hays Memorial Scholarship is especially for students with an interest in psychology, who demonstrate need and show leadership potential. For students

with an interest in education, the Martin Family Trust Scholarship or the Irene Wright Scholarship can provide financial assistance. Specific details on these and other scholarships are available through the Financial Aid Office. Remember, to be considered for any scholarships at UAH students must complete a FAFSA form and scholarship application through the Financial Aid Office, 824-6241, due Dec. 1, 2007.

Amazing Experiences Abroad: UAHuntsville and Cortona

UAHuntsville students now have the opportunity to travel and study abroad in Cortona, Italy

Sculptor Glenn Dasher successfully arranged for UAH to have an institutional affiliation with the University of Georgia's Studies Abroad Program in Cortona, Italy. Cortona, a well-preserved Medieval hill town in Tuscany, provides the ideal setting in which to study and create art. Professor Dasher has become an instructor in the program and taught courses in stone carving that also included trips to the famed marble quarries of Carrara. This summer, senior Michelle Wilson participated in the program. She found that the extensive touring around Italy brought her studio and art history courses to life.

For more information, contact Glenn Dasher at dasherg@uah.edu

Research Experience / for Undergrads

Rachel Lackey reflects on her participation in the Frogman's Print and Paper Workshop – an opportunity afforded her by the REU program at UAH

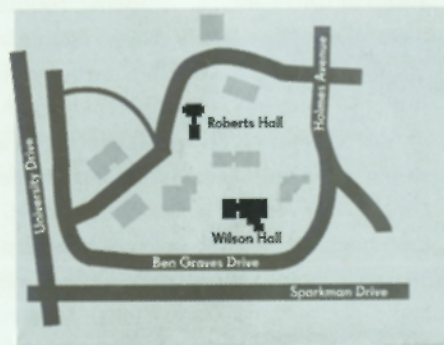
Rachel Lackey was selected to participate in the Research Experience for Undergraduates program administered through the UAH Faculty Senate. Funding from the program allowed Rachel to attend Frogman's Print and Paper Workshop, the premier national printmaking conference/workshop. There she worked with Professor Gardner demonstrating their new photo exposure process to the waterless lithography class, whose instructor, Jeff Sipple, is one of the pioneers of the waterless lithography process. For two weeks, she was immersed in a 24/7 printmaking frenzy. She reports that the workshops were intense, stating, "I feel I learned almost as much in those two weeks as in the past two semesters at UAH. I actually learned stone lithography in one week, including a brand-new method, and created a 6-color, 25-edition print!" In addition to the workshops, the program featured lectures by each of the instructors, all nationally and internationally recognized artists, as well as weekly portfolio viewing where participants displayed, sold

and traded work. Rachel comments, "I found this to be one of the most valuable aspects of the workshop; not only was I able to see what fellow undergrads, grads, instructors and professional artists were doing, but I was also able to discuss their work with them, and gain some valuable feedback about my own." She also points out that she was able to make

"The grant allowed me to focus all of my productive energy on learning, experimenting and creating." rachel lackey

important contacts for both graduate school and other artistic opportunities. She points out that "As a single mother working on my BA, I place a far higher value on the experience a program like this has to offer. The grant allowed me to focus all of my productive energy on learning, experimenting and

creating, rather than spreading myself thin between family, work, and school. It was so exciting to participate in research, developing innovative techniques in printmaking. Participating in this program resulted in my decision to pursue an MFA after graduation, despite the obstacles before me. I am very thankful that I had this opportunity, and I hope to see the program grow each year."



Art Department to move to Wilson Hall

The department will be moving into larger and newly renovated accommodations in Wilson Hall. We will occupy the first three floors of the north end of the building. Each area will have enhanced studio space tailored to its needs, all with important upgrades in safety. Additionally, we will have areas set aside for critiques, as well as a gallery space. Art History will have a lecture hall and a seminar room. The anticipated move date is some time in the 2009/2010 academic year.



Stephen Claybrooks and Rachel Lackey laugh it up at Frogman's



Angkor Wat, Cambodia at Sunset

Archaeology at UAHuntsville

Chartered by the U.S. Congress, the Archaeological Institute of America is the largest and oldest archaeological organization in North America. The department is proud to host the only local society in the state of Alabama. Throughout the academic year we bring in renowned speakers to discuss archaeological issues around the globe. This fall curator Maia Langley came from the University of Lisbon, Portugal to explore the lives of Roman women at the villa of Torre de Palma. She was followed by Dr. James Evans who talked about the instruments that ancient Greek astronomers used. Dr. Jean Turfa of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, an expert on Etruscan culture, gave the two final lectures of the fall. In the spring we will have speakers on the earliest architecture of Native Americans, and the divine nature of Egyptian pharaohs. With a grant from the UAH Distinguished Speaker Fund, Dr. Robert Brown, the curator of Southeast Asia Art at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, will come to UAH to talk about the site of Angkor Wat in Cambodia, and the development of Buddhism in Ghandara and Afghanistan. Many of our students take advantage of these opportunities to meet archaeologists and ask questions. Events are free and open to the North Alabama public. The AIA lecture series is one of the most well-attended events on campus.

Visit the blog at <http://excavate-aia.blogspot.com/>

coming up

A look at what's happening in the Department of Art and Art History in the coming months.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Senior Exhibition John Richardson / University Center Gallery Oct. 26 – Nov. 9

Senior Exhibition Nancy Graham / Union Grove Gallery Nov. 5 – 16

Dr. Jean Turfa AIA Lecture (Desperate Etruscan Housewives) Nov. 5, 7:30 pm
Chan Auditorium

Senior Exhibition Sarah Kittinger / University Center Gallery Nov. 12 – 30

Figure Drawing Night Nov. 8, 5-7 pm RH 325

POWER Arts & Music Festival Nov. 13, 1-4 pm University Center Outdoor Stage

Wine Tasting and Silent Auction (Benefit for Women's Studies and the UAH Art Club) Nov. 14, 4-6 pm Wildflower Bistro

Senior Exhibition Chris Murray / Union Grove Gallery Nov. 19 – Dec. 7

Art Club Holiday Show and Sale University Center Gallery Dec. 3 – 7

JANUARY

Faculty Show University Center Gallery Jan. 7 – Feb. 1

Senior Exhibition Teresa Zimmerman / Union Grove Gallery Jan. 14 – 25

Senior Exhibition Ashley Pottenger / Union Grove Gallery Jan. 28 – Feb. 8

FEBRUARY

Dr. David Anderson AIA Lecture (Ancient America) Feb. 4

Senior Exhibition John Lawing / Union Grove Gallery Feb. 11 – 22

Senior Exhibition James Kirkwood / Union Grove Gallery Feb. 25 – Mar. 7

MARCH & APRIL

Dr. Lanny Bell AIA Lecture (Egypt) Mar. 3

Senior Exhibition Toyin Odutolu / University Center Gallery Mar. 3 – 14

Senior Exhibition Holly Rodes / Union Grove Gallery Mar. 10 – 28

Dr. Robert Brown AIA Lecture (Angkor Wat, Buddhism) Mar. 27 & 28

Annual Juried Student Exhibition University Center Gallery & Union Grove Gallery Apr. 7 – May 2

The Art Department Website has a new look—and lots of info. Visit

<http://www.uah.edu/colleges/liberal/art/>

for the latest Art Department news plus links to

UAH and community arts sites.

Special thanks to Jonathan Forsythe and Ingati Olembo for the design of the newsletter

[continued pg 2]
Faculty News

Dr. Lillian Joyce has developed a survey of non-western art that is now a requirement for majors. She continues to serve as President of the **North Alabama Society of the AIA**, and she will also be the keynote speaker on November 18 at the **Huntsville Museum of Art's** upcoming exhibition on Italian landscape painting from the Uffizi Museum in Florence, Italy. In summer 2007 at Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Joyce continued her research for the book **The Breast Revealed**, a study of the significance of the exposed female breast in Roman art. In addition to his teaching

duties Dr. David Stewart coordinates and directs the department's high school Tournament Day, an annual event that allows local high school students to enter an art show juried by our faculty and visit studio and art history classes. Dr. Stewart's current research concerns the intersection between the Victorian Women's Rights Movement and Victorian Art. In particular, he is interested in the work of artist **George Frederic Watts**, a supporter of the suffrage movement who frequently painted works addressing women's rights. Lecturer **Roxie Veasey** has been working to revamp and keep current the department's website in addition to her drawing and graphic design

classes. She recently had a drawing selected for the **Drawing on Alabama Exhibition** at Auburn University and mounted a two-person exhibition **Recent Work** (along with professor **Jill Johnson**) at the University of Montevallo Gallery, Montevallo, AL. As lecturer, **Martha Vines** teaches and serves as curator of the Visual Resources Collection. Over the past few years, the department has been digitizing its slide collection. This new technology has revolutionized the way art history is taught and has provided students with an invaluable study tool. Martha also continues her work at the **Parthenon** in Nashville, TN. She helps teach a six-week session twice a year for new docents.



Wigwam I, José Betancourt

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