



Message from the Chair

Greetings, alumni and friends, of the Gonzaga art program. I sincerely hope that you have been able to bounce back in 2021 after 2020 tested all of us in countless ways that few could have ever imagined. Since the last time we sent you a Gonzaga Art Department newsletter in early fall 2019, a global pandemic has shown us how interconnected our lives and worlds really are. It brought new levels of uncertainty and sudden change to daily life--and loss and grief for far too many families. Of course, the pandemic continues to impact and shape the current moment. But life does seem to move a bit closer each week in fits and starts to a "post-pandemic" existence. Here at the Jundt Art Center we are especially delighted to welcome all students back to the physical classroom in late August and without social distancing. You can certainly understand how exciting this full return to the classroom is for a department whose vitality and strength largely depend on face-to-face interaction with students and personalized instruction.

Despite the many challenges of the last year and a half, art students, faculty, and staff engaged in a number of exciting creative projects and activities in 2020-21 and overcame many of those challenges. Indeed, throughout 2020-21 most of the Gonzaga art classes included varying degrees of in-person instruction. Indeed, the painting students were able to continue the annual tradition in recent years of completing a mural for a local non-profit organization. One of the highlights for the creative and performing arts at GU since fall 2019 has been the opening of the Gonzaga University Urban Arts Center (GUUAC), a downtown Spokane arts space that is now home to the annual senior art exhibition and the site of contemporary art exhibitions organized by GU art faculty. Some exciting shows are planned for the GUUAC in 2021-22, including a fall exhibition featuring the work of recently retired emerita professor Mary Farrell and that of several of her former students. I hope that those of you in the Pacific Northwest will be able to see this exhibition and possibly others on the GUUAC's calendar in the upcoming year.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not share with you the news of the passing in February 2021 of emeritus professor Terry Gieber. (See p. 3 of this newsletter for a tribute to Terry written by Brian Joyce, one of his former students.) Many of you at one time or another took a ceramics class and/or art appreciation class from Terry during his 30+ years at Gonzaga. He and his wife Kim had returned to the Spokane area in 2019, so his sudden passing was a deeply sad loss for the local arts community. Soon after Terry's retirement in 2014, he and Kim established the Gieber Art Scholarship for a Gonzaga student majoring in art. If you would like to contribute to this scholarship in honor of Terry's memory, please go to the following link: [Gieber Art Scholarship](#).

Let us hope that this time next year the global pandemic will be largely behind us, but the lessons learned from this experience will still be with us. Until then, I wish you all the very best!

Shalon Parker, Ph.D.
Art Department Chair

IN THIS ISSUE:

2
Art Department
News

3
Terry Gieber Tribute

4-5
Faculty & Staff News

6-7
Senior
Showcase

8
Alumni News



ART DEPARTMENT NEWS

For the first time ever, the senior art exhibition was held at the new Gonzaga University Urban Arts Center (GUUAC), a gorgeous gallery space in an historic downtown Spokane building. Under the guidance of Laura Truitt, the seniors organized, curated, and installed their excellent show, entitled "Introspection." In lieu of an in-person walkthrough of the show, the exhibiting students led an informative and lively webinar about their work. Kudos to the 2021 Seniors!!

The Art Dept. launched its Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree in fall 2020. The BFA degree has been a long-standing goal of the department since at least the early 2000s. Despite the launch of the program in a pandemic year, a few current students have already made the switch to the BFA program. We look forward to welcoming freshmen and transfer students to this program in the coming years.

The Art Department sponsored nearly a dozen visiting artist talks this past year, most of them via Zoom. Seven of the talks were given by artists of color whose work often addresses matters of race, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality. In March 2021, the Art Department was honored to host Native American artist Charlene Teters (Spokane Tribe). Ms. Teters, recently retired from her position as dean at the Institute of American Indian Arts, spoke to art students via Zoom but also in person to the advanced painting class. The Art Department hopes to feature Ms. Teters's work in a solo show at the GUUAC in the near future.

In partnership with Gonzaga's Center for Community Engagement (CCE) and the Logan Neighborhood Council, art faculty Laura Truitt and Lena Lopez Schindler organized this past April the painting of an 87-foot-long outdoor mural by Gonzaga art students, both majors and non-majors, for the Global Neighborhood Thrift Store. This project took the entire academic year to plan and entailed extensive feedback and dialogue with members of the Logan neighborhood who voted on their preferred design from three different options designed by the students and art faculty. This collaboration marked the third mural project Prof. Truitt has initiated and coordinated while at GU.

Film/photography faculty member Matt McCormick taught and mentored the film students who directed and produced the documentary *Humanizing Spokane*. The students behind this deeply moving and well-crafted 26-min. documentary about homelessness and affordable housing come from a variety of majors and backgrounds. To watch the documentary, go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yr_NffmjYpE.

IN MEMORIAM: TERRY GIEBER, 1948-2021

Terry Gieber will be remembered broadly as a ceramic artist and a potter of great merit. While his mastery of the medium was self-evident to the public in his colossal forms, for his peers and students, it extended into every aspect of the clay world. He was an expert in myriad firing techniques and a multitude of kiln construction methods. He also had a perfect memory for chemical knowledge and art history, which bordered on legend. He could tell you the mole weights of dozens of different compounds from memory. He could look at a piece spinning on a wheel and tell you the dimensions of it down to an eighth of an inch. You'd think he'd memorized Gardner's "Art Through the Ages" the way he could spout art history off the top of his head. While all these abilities were remarkable, they are not what I will remember about him the most. Gieber — as students were instructed to call him — was a storyteller. He taught through stories, and so it is only appropriate that I relate a story to you.



I was a relatively new ceramics student and was just beginning to get a good feel for wheel throwing. Gieber had told us in class that he would keep the studio open on Saturday mornings, and anyone was welcome to come in and work. Saturdays were Gieber's day to work on his own personal art. He would not assist us on those mornings, but even in his own personal studio time, he allowed us students to come in and work beside him. It probably seemed small to him, but it meant a lot to me and the others who would show up. These were the days when I got to see an artist at work. This was not classroom demonstration, but the raw, non-performative work, where an artist struggles toward something higher than what had been previously achieved. Gieber let us be there as he himself experimented and altered his forms. It was inspiring. At one point on a particular morning, he looked over at me as I was struggling to pull up a cylinder for a mug.

"You want to know the difference between a piece of functional ware and a sculpture?" He said.

I don't remember how I responded, but I said something like, "You can eat off functional ware?"

"No." He chuckled, "You stick it in a gallery and double the price."

We both laughed and then went back to work. If you knew Gieber, you know that he constantly made jokes like this. And yet, as I reflect on the encounter, I believe he was revealing more about himself in this joke than he or I realized. Gieber brought the same level of skill and passion and attention to detail to his bowls and mugs that he brought to his 12-foot tall tornado jars. For him, his work was all or nothing. The point was to make it the best. In his studio there were no accidental pieces. If you wanted to stick it in the kiln, you had to be able to replicate it. He taught us never to be satisfied with where we were and pushed us — sometimes gruffly — to always do the best we could. He was on this journey with us, and often told me that if he ever made a piece he was happy with, he'd stop working in clay and move on to something else.

Gieber, you've moved on at last. Maybe it's true that an artist's work is never completed, but only abandoned. I wish it were not the case. Even at the end, there was still so much you wanted to explore. Gieber, know that you are sorely missed. Know that your fierce passion for art and all aspects of clay lives on in the countless students you brought up. Until we meet again, keep it simple, Teacher.

—By Brian Joyce, 16

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS



Shalon Parker

Shalon Parker was on sabbatical in 2019-20 and spent part of that time in New York City (pre-pandemic) doing research on the photographs of the American photographer Consuelo Kanaga at the Brooklyn Museum. In June 2021 she presented a paper on Kanaga's work at the annual conference of the Space Between Society, a scholarly society devoted to the study of literature and culture in the period between the First and Second World Wars. Her paper, entitled "Blackness and Beauty in the Photographs of Consuelo Kanaga," examined three series of portrait photographs taken by Kanaga in the early-mid 1930s of African American male sitters, including the Harlem Renaissance poet and writer Langston Hughes. She is looking forward to the upcoming academic year, especially having all students in class again (Yay!) and the opportunity to team teach with Dr. Jessica Maucione of the English Department the second half of their course Race and Art in the Americas.



Tobe Harvey

Artist and Art Dept. Adjunct, Tobe Harvey, was selected to have work on view at *Now & Then: an MFA Alumni Exhibition*, curated by current MFA candidates at WSU between January-March 2020. Tobe also presented an exhibit entitled *New and Old Discoveries* in August of 2020 and will be featured again in 2021. Tobe's watercolor painting, *Globular Sepals*, was featured in the GUUAC Regional Faculty Exhibition in the Spring of 2021. Elsewhere, his watercolor painting, *Weedy Garden*, was accepted into Umpqua Valley Arts Association Artwork Northwest Biannual Exhibit, Roseburg, Oregon, juried selection 2021.



Mat Rude

Mat Rude is currently the appointed Leo Kreielsheimer Professor of Fine Arts. In 2020, he received the Honorable Mention Award at *Filled Up – a Ceramic Cup Show*, New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art, University of Southern Indiana. In 2021, he also received the Honorable Mention Award for his work at *Social Change*, the In Gallery (online).



Lena Lopez Schindler

At the end of Spring Semester, Lena Lopez Schindler (Art Department), Professor Veta Schlimgen (History Department), and Professor Heather Crandall (Communications) culminated "[19th & Counting: Steps to Solidarity](#)" with a digital parade celebrating 100 years of women's suffrage and the adoption of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Originally scheduled for March 2020 as a week-long celebration with lectures, performances and the parade including a marshal and a woman on a white horse, it had to be postponed and modified but the spirit of the event remained. Lena was responsible for three "[Makers Events](#)," hosted in Jundt design classroom, participants made parade sashes and parade banners. Sam Morehouse, CAS Digital Humanities intern, photographed all the participants in their costumes, with sashes and banners. All of the research, stories, and faculty reflections plus the digital parade are all saved by Gonzaga University in the digital archive.

NEW FACULTY/STAFF



Assistant Professor Reinaldo Gil Zambrano joined the Art Department full-time in the Fall of 2020. In 2020, he was one of sixteen BIPOC artists to complete the Black Lives Matter mural in Spokane in conjunction with Terrain. Since then, he has hosted the virtual Kreielsheimer Visiting Artist Series throughout the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 Semester. In March of 2021, Professor Emerita Mary Farrell and Reinaldo opened a two-person show at the Saranac Art Projects. In May of 2021 he held an inaugural two-person exhibition at Emerge Gallery, Couer d'Alene with Melissa Maya Ramsey. In July he was appointed by Governor Inslee to the Board of the Art Commission for the state of Washington at ArtsWa. Welcome, Reinaldo!



Stephanie Doe joined the Art Department as a Program Assistant in the Fall of 2020. She has previously worked in Accommodation at Trinity College, Cambridge in the UK before moving to the US in December of 2019 (great timing!). She has a Masters in English Studies from the University of Lincoln where she also taught first year undergraduate Drama, Theatre, and Performance. Welcome, Steph!



Christopher Wagner is originally from Kentucky but was most recently the Instructional Technician at Mission College in Santa Clara, CA where he also taught Furniture Design and Woodworking. He holds a Master of Fine Art degree in Sculpture from Edinboro University along with a Bachelor of Art degree with an emphasis in Sculpture and Art History from Georgetown College. Welcome, Christopher!



SENIOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This year's Senior Art Award recipient is Olivia Isarankura. A studio art major from Seattle, Olivia discovered a passion for printmaking and life drawing while at GU. She spent a semester abroad in Florence where she first experienced life drawing and continued her study of such after returning to GU, excelling in both areas and bringing the two media together in her senior show project. Olivia is currently working for Ilee Papergoods printing handmade stationery. She plans to eventually earn a MFA in studio art and teach one day at the university level. Congrats, Olivia!!

SPRING 2021 SENIOR SHOWCASE

The senior art exhibition was hosted in the Gonzaga University Urban Arts Center for the first time this Spring. The five seniors in the show [Morgan Wald, Olivia Isarankura, Kenny Koning, Chelsie Sunde, and Katie Cara] created an outstanding and original set of artworks. They designed and installed the exhibit all on their own under the guidance of senior seminar instructor, Laura Truitt.





ALUMNI NEWS

Hannah Souers, 16. Hannah graduated from Gonzaga in 2016. In the chaos of 2020, she changed jobs and countries. She taught visual and digital arts at an international high school in Beijing, China from 2018-2020. In July 2020, she moved to Tokyo, Japan where she currently teaches digital photography, filmmaking, and graphic design at an international Catholic high school. In her personal time, she still sketches and paints. She is currently in the process of getting her printmaking supplies from the US to Japan to resume silk-screen printmaking.

Lawrence Cenotto, 06. Laurence graduated from Gonzaga in 2006 and is currently in his 10th year of managing private events at the Seattle Art Museum. In his spare time he continues to paint and his artwork can be viewed online at www.cenotto.com.

Sophia Maggio, 20. Graduated from Gonzaga in 2020 with majors in Psychology Research and Art. She now works as an Adult Case Manager in Philadelphia, PA at Women Against Abuse through Jesuit Volunteer Corps. The organization works with people experiencing homelessness due to domestic violence and connects them to various resources in the local community. She plans to continue working in social services for another year before pursuing an MA in Art Therapy.

Barbara Overson, 03. Graduated from Gonzaga in 2003 with a double major in Art and Psychology. She continued her studies in psychology for her master's degree (from WWU), and has recently returned to creating art. She has been participating in the First Friday Art walks in Bellingham where her exhibit, "Meditations in Printmaking" features work inspired by local landscapes, current culture, and mental health.

Preston Smith, 01. Preston Smith graduated from Gonzaga in 2001. In 2020, he broke a personal record and sold over 100 original paintings for the year. It was his best-selling year so far; much of it taking place during the pandemic. He also created, juried, and hosted more than 10 international exhibitions through ShockBoxx gallery. In March of 2020, he created the podcast *The Living Artist*, where he hosts original content and artist interviews. He has just published episode 70 and has interviewed 25 artists and gallery owners, as well as sharing his own thoughts and experiences as an artist. So far, the podcast has made two Top Artist Podcast lists (Feedspot and Artwork Archive), been the topic of an interview on Discover Pods, and has been broadcast live on KSPC through a non-profit organization called Prison Arts Collective. Finally, Preston's artwork was used as the cover art for an award-winning book of poetry entitled *Incandescent Visions*, as well as the CD book cover art for fellow alumnus William Drury's album *Joyride!*

In Memoriam

Christopher Miller, 01. It is with great sadness that the Art Department acknowledges the passing of Gonzaga Alumnus Christopher Miller, in December 2020. Christopher graduated from Gonzaga in 2001 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Arts. He went onto work in healthcare administration, retiring in 2018. Christopher remained an enthusiastic photographer throughout his life. He was a true Zag.