From Department Head, Ricki Klages

As I draft this letter for our fall newsletter, the first measurable snow of the year is falling. I can appreciate this now after such a beautiful and warm fall. Our year has started with a series of celebrations. September 1st was the ground-breaking ceremony of the new Visual Arts building, next to the Centennial Complex. The reality of seeing actual heavy equipment pushing that red earth around still seems surreal after so many years of planning. It was also on this day that UW President Tom Buchanan announced the extraordinary gift by Neltje to the visual and creative writing arts, of her ranch and artists’ residency in Banner, Wyoming. All the faculty in the Department of Art were touched beyond words at this extraordinary gift.

We have a lot to be thankful for and a lot to work towards as we progress to the next stage of the Visual Arts Complex: moving in next fall and teaching classes in this new facility starting spring 2012. We are also in our third year with the Excellence Endowment shared with Music, Theater and Dance. This endowment has enabled the department to bring in a series of artists and lecturers who are leaders in their fields. This fall we have had a total of eight visiting artists, including Art Historian David McCarthy, Metalsmith Susie Ganch, Graphic Designer Bill Gardner, Printmaker and Ceramist Paul Wandless, and artist couple Hunt Clark and Deborah McClary Clark for Painting and Sculpture among others. A similar number are scheduled for the coming spring. The benefits to the Department of Art are many-fold for both the students and faculty.

Looking to the future, we are currently in the midst of a search for an Art Historian with an emphasis in 20th century art. We are so excited to add to our current offerings in Art History and create more breadth within this important part of our department. Kudos to all Department of Art faculty who continue to raise the bar in expectations for department service, teaching and superb research standards; and congratulations to Associate Professor of Sculpture Ashley Hope Carlisle, who received tenure last spring. Well deserved!!
University of Wyoming officials have announced that the university has received the largest estate gift in its history, a bequest that will transform the university’s role in the arts in Wyoming and across the United States. The estate gift is from Wyoming artist, Neltje, a prolific abstract expressionist whose works have been described as an “exploration of making the sensed visible.” The gift includes all financial and land holdings save for those going to her children and a select few personal donations. Additionally, the gift includes a world-class collection of contemporary, tribal and ethnic arts collected by Neltje over a lifetime of travel across the globe.

The gift will enhance the UW Art Museum and the university’s visual and literary arts programs, and it will enable UW to provide talented students with once-in-a-lifetime arts education opportunities unmatched in the United States. When this gift is realized, her home will become the heart of the UW Neltje Center for the Visual and Literary Arts, a place to honor and showcase the contemporary visual and literary arts and an educational facility for residencies, workshops, symposia, conferences, art exhibitions and literary readings.

The Neltje Center will be open for UW activities related to the arts and also to the public for special events, conferences and celebrations. It will celebrate an expansive, sophisticated awareness of the arts and includes both the literary arts as well as contemporary art. The gift includes a partnership with Jentel, a private foundation established by Neltje in 2000 that is located adjacent to her home. Jentel provides on a working ranch a residency program for visual artists and writers from across the country. The foundation strives to protect the pristine natural environment of the Piney Creek Valley.

Ground was broken September 1, 2010 at the University of Wyoming for a new visual arts facility that will expand teaching space and provide additional rooms for student projects.

The 79,000 square foot Visual Arts Center will provide expanded teaching studios and spaces for art history, ceramics, drawing, foundations of art, graphics, painting, printmaking, sculpture and small metals. In addition to the basic teaching studios, the facility will provide administrative offices, a large student commons area, a gallery for exhibiting students’ work and to support the Visiting Artists Program, and a large lecture room for art classes and other programs.

Individual studio spaces and offices for faculty will supplement the teaching studios. The ceramics area will have an exterior workspace for large gas-fired kilns. The sculpture space will have an exterior workspace for raw material storage, foundry for metal casting and construction of large work. Studios will have daylight or north light as appropriate for the medium being taught.

“The Department of Art is overjoyed at the prospect of housing our entire department in one building that will accommodate an increasing student enrollment, growth in studio areas, new technologies and expanding programs,” says Ricki Klages, head of the UW Department of Art. “Our close proximity to the Centennial Complex will encourage more cross-over of exhibitions, visiting artists and students’ use of the collections. We hope that, once we are moved into the new building, we can establish a hub of creativity that will draw visitors throughout the state and attract even more national and international art students.”
Across the Pond: Ricki Klages on the London Semester

The London Semester is a competitive opportunity for UW faculty to live and teach in Central London and to interact with faculty from other universities across the US. I had to adapt my normal subject matter to the specifics of the London environment, which meant adapting a studio course to a small classroom in the student Union of the University College, London. I also had the opportunity to teach a course I had never taught before, Art History 2020, Survey II.

Although I was familiar with London from many other previous trips, teaching Art History allowed me to visit museums and galleries several times a week throughout the three months I was teaching. What an amazing gift to a visual artist! The support while I was there was impressive, and I was especially happy to be there with a colleague, Margaret Wilson, from Theatre and Dance. A record number 26 students from UW also attended.

Round and Round: UW Fine Arts Bus is Ready to Roll

A 58-passenger Motor Coach Industries bus is now designated as the Fine Arts bus that will extend UW cultural offering across Wyoming and beyond.

Oliver Walter, dean of the UW College of Arts and Sciences, says the vehicle strengthens UW’s long-standing commitment to share its rich array of cultural assets.

"The addition of the Fine Arts bus will greatly expand our ability to take student and faculty productions from three departments-Art, Theatre/Dance and Music-around the state," Walter says. "Educationally, it is a wonderful opportunity for our students. Moreover, it will provide us with the ability to share with the state the great talents we have in these departments."

The bus was decorated at Wyoming Technical Institute with graphic art designed by UW’s Institutional Marketing personnel with input from faculty in the fine and performing arts. When it’s not being used for fine and performing arts functions, the bus is also available for use by student organizations such as the debate team, club sports teams and other campus units for statewide and regional travel.
**Faculty News**

**Ricki Klages**, Head, Department of Art, has a solo exhibition of her paintings at Western Wyoming Community College. The exhibition, titled, “Memento” will be on exhibit from Oct. 4 through November 19th.

**Mark Ritchie**, Professor, Department of Art has work included in the “2010 MAPC Member’s Exhibition”, Murphy Gallery, St. Catherine University, St. Paul, MN and in the portfolio, “It Looks Pretty Good….” Invitational Portfolio, both exhibited in conjunction with the 2010 MAPC Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

**Ashley Hope Carlisle**, Associate Professor, exhibited at the Kansas City Artist Coalition August-Sept 2010, Space 301 in Mobile, Alabama from September- November 2010, Goodstein Art Gallery at Casper College from November-December 2010, and Space 333 in Santa Fe, New Mexico from December-February 2011.

She also received the College of Arts and Sciences Student Council Thumbs-up Award in recognition of Outstanding positive contributions to the University of Wyoming.

**Jennifer Venn**, Assistant Professor, was awarded the Outstanding Educator Award at the Art Directors Club of Denver Annual Student Show.

Venn was awarded an American Inhouse Design Award from GDUSA Magazine for her design work “InProfile”.

Venn’s design work “InProfile” was featured in the July/August Issue of GDUSA Magazine. 600 works were adjudicated for publication out of 4000 entries.

Venn’s design works “InProfile” and “Tea is for Tracie” were adjudicated into the 2010 Art Directors Club of Denver Annual Show.

Venn presented work “Cutcakes” in the Designer’s Marketplace at the 2010 HOW Design Conference in Denver, CO.

Venn is under contract as Graphic Designer for New Life Records, Wichita, KS.

Venn is under contract as Graphic and Web Designer for Jewelry by Laurel Nash, Nashville, TN.

**Doug Russell**, Assistant Professor, was invited to be a part of a four person group exhibition, entitled L-Mode and R-Mode, at the Hewitt Gallery of Art, Marymount Manhattan College, New York, NY. Russell also participated in an ongoing online invitational collaborative exhibition, entitled Show and Tell, and curated by poet H. L. Hix. As Hix describes, “in this ‘virtual exhibition’ writers are asked to respond to work by artists, with the artist’s and the writer’s work then displayed together. The idea is to create circumstances in which the visual work and the verbal work communicate, not based primarily on expertise (as when an art critic is asked for critical commentary on an artist’s work) but on attunement (resonance created when a sensibility that shows itself in one medium responds to a sensibility that shows itself in another).” Russell’s work is featured with a response by Andrew Joron at: www.hlhx.com/inquire. Russell is also having a solo exhibition at the Curfman Gallery of Art at Colorado State University in Fort Collins running January through February, 2011. Russell’s creative work can be viewed online anytime at www.russellfineart.com.

**Diana Baumbach**, Assistant Professor had work on display in August and September 2010 in a solo exhibition entitled “Heimlich ReSet” at Penn State University in Altoona, PA. Her exhibition proposal was selected as part of the Ivyside National Juried Exhibition Competition.

Baumbach received an Honorable Mention for the “Visual Arts Fellowship” the Wyoming Arts Council.

**Shelby Shadwell, Patrick Kikut and David Jones** exhibited their work in the three person show, “Westwork” at 333 Montezuma Annex in Santa Fe, NM this summer. This show subsequently was retitled “Isolation/Industry” and was exhibited at the Bagwell Gallery at Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville, TN this fall.

**Lisa Hunt**, Assistant Professor, delivered a paper, “Pricking the Hero: Penetrating and Suturing Masculinity from the Margins of Gothic Romances,” at the Thirty-Seventh Annual Saint Louis Conference on Manuscript Studies, Vatican Film Library, Saint Louis University.
Shelby Shadwell, Assistant Professor, had work juried into the “21st International Juried Exhibition” at the Veridian Artists Contemporary Art Gallery in New York, NY. His work was also selected for the “7th Annual International Juried Exhibition” at the Shore Institute of Contemporary Arts in Long Beach, NJ.

Shadwell received the “Visual Arts Fellowship” from the Wyoming Arts Council.

Pat Kikut, Assistant APL Extended Term, has work included in the upcoming show: “Ucross: 26 Years of Art Exhibits”, at The Nicolaysen Museum, Casper, Wyoming.

Kikut will have a solo exhibition at the Goldstein Gallery in Casper.

Kikut’s work is going to be included in “Isolation and Industry”, Hawthorn Gallery, Knoxville, TN.

Kikut’s work was included in the 23rd Annual McNeese State National Works on Paper Exhibition in Lake Charles, LA.

David Jones, Adjunct Professor, received the “Visual Arts Fellowship” from the Wyoming Arts Council.

Assistant Professor Shelby Shadwell, Academic Professional/Lecturer (APL) Patrick Kikut, and Adjunct Professor David Jones had their proposal for Artists in Residence at the Center for Land Use Interpretation (CLUI) in Wendover, UT accepted for the Summer of 2011.

Diana Baumbach spent two months as in Artist in Residence at ARE Holland (www.areholland.com) in Enschede, the Netherlands. Baumbach’s project proposal was entitled “Repurposed Ephemera,” and involved the investigation of Dutch design through the use of disposable objects. Her project culminated in a solo exhibition at B93 and a two person exhibition at Dynamo Expo, both in Enschede.

Associate Professor Margaret Haydon installed a solo exhibition at the International Ceramics Studio in Kecskemet, Hungary in June. The sale of her work raised funds for HAKI, the National Research Institute for Fisheries Aquaculture and Irrigation in Szarvas, Hungary. The funds supported sturgeon research and were used to purchase brood stock Huso Huso, Gueldenstaedtii and Stellatus species of sturgeon from Romania. Haydon also gave a presentation on her work with sturgeon and art during HAKI NAP or HAKI Scientific Days at the institute to an audience of scientists and fish farmers.

In July this year Haydon installed an exhibition at the Nanaimo Art Gallery in Nanaimo, British Columbia. Her work was exhibited with the sturgeon collection of Gordon Edmondson of the International Centre for Sturgeon Studies. Two of her pieces were selected for installation in the new Sturgeon Centre, under construction and slated for completion in October. Two pieces were also selected by the Nanaimo Art Gallery, for their permanent collection. Funds raised were donated to sturgeon research in Nanaimo, and to the Visiting Artist Program at Vancouver Island University where she worked as a visiting professor for 3 months in the fall of 2009.

In December 2010 Haydon will be installing a solo exhibition titled Philosopher Fish at the Port Moody Art Center in Port Moody, British Columbia, Canada.
**Graphic Design Students Compete at Student Show**

Fifteen UW Graphic Design students participated in the 2010 Art Director’s Club of Denver’s Student Show in October. They were teamed up with fellow students from Colorado Institute of Art, Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design, Metro State Denver, Colorado State and University of Northern Colorado. Each group had the awesome opportunity to work with actual Art Directors from various design firms in Denver.

UW Graphic Design was represented in all three of the groups selected as finalists including Margot McFaul’s group which won the competition. The runner-ups were: Dani Alvarado, Sam Vogel, and Courtney Conrad.

**Student Art League Arrives in Denver**

The Student Art League (SAL) is a UW recognized student organization (RSO). APL, Patrick Kikut is their Faculty Adviser. The SAL is an enthusiastic and motivated group that organizes exhibition opportunities, travel to Denver and Santa Fe to see art, and awards cash prizes for deserving art students. SAL students make it a priority to see world-class contemporary art and to stay informed on what is happening outside of Laramie.

Last spring SAL students traveled to the Denver Art Museum to see the exhibit “Embrace.” “Embrace” asked artists to “embrace” the unique architecture of the new addition to the DAM with installation art.

**Congratulations...**

To current Student Conor Mullen, a finalist with the Amnesty International T-Shirt Design Competition. He was brought to San Francisco this fall for the recent Amnesty Conference.

**Outdoor Studio Inspires Summer Students**

The 2010 Outdoor Studio course was taught by Patrick Kikut, who guided students to locations throughout Albany County. Students responded to the landscape and produced works of art in a wide range of media. Also, there was a wonderful week long trip to the AMK ranch in Teton National Park. The work that was produced in the course was featured in a handsome exhibition at the UP Gallery in the Fine Arts building.
International Study in Art: Summer Travels in Turkey

Assistant Professor Doug Russell taught *ART 4650: Summer in Turkey: A Creative Journey through Anatolia* for a month spanning May-June 2010. This was the second time this course had been taught and offered UW Art students a chance to explore Anatolian Turkey while responding to the experience through drawing, photography, and journaling.

This three credit course is the middle of a complete three semester program. A one credit course in the spring of 2010 introduced the students to the cultures, sites, language and art they would experience during the summer. During their time in Turkey, creative studio time and discussions were interwoven with explorations of a small mountain village, a coastal Aegean town, Bursa, Istanbul, ancient Greek/Roman sites, imperial Ottoman mosques, as well as many museums, art galleries, great music and food. In the fall students took part in a specially focused one credit follow-up course. Their refined and redefined creative responses culminated in two exhibitions on the UW campus in December.

This Ain’t Your Mama’s Cast Iron

Mini semi-trucks, a student’s cast arms, abstract forms in swirls, and a chest of drawers; this is just some of the imagery created at the 7th Annual Iron Pour on Saturday, October 2, 2010. UW students taking sculpture classes, alumni, and schools from around the region were able to participate in recycling 2000 lbs of 2700 degree cast iron in the name of art. An economical way to create metal castings, the process of iron casting allows artists to recycle iron donated to the department, work together in an environment as a team, and produce works that will withstand the test of time.

This process occurs once a year every fall before the snow hits, but we are looking forward to pouring several times a year once the new Fine Arts Facility is finished. Scratch blocks and t-shirts are sold to help support the area, and the public is always welcome to come make and watch the iron flow.
Hilery Walker was hired as the Alliance for Historic Wyoming’s Executive Director in October. Founded in 2005, Alliance for Historic Wyoming is a leading voice for the protection of Wyoming’s built environment and cultural landscapes.

Katherine Kerber (2010 graduate) is teaching English in Busan, Korea.

During the second week of October, nine UW printmakers made a short trek over to Minnesota’s Twin Cities for Mid America Print Council’s 2010 conference entitled “Old World/New World”. Although the conference was held in October, preparation began several months before with a series of a new in-house tradition of Print and Pint Nights.

Members of the community were asked to join us at Altitude Chophouse & Brewery for our first event of the season. Each future conference goer and a few non-goers made a total of thirty prints each. Patrons were able to pick and choose from a wide range of printmaking processes and subject matter. For each ten dollar print they also received a free pint of one of Altitude’s house brews.

The next Print and Pint Night was held at the Library Bar where we presented a new collection of prints as well as a discounted group of prints leftover from the first event. Our fund-raising efforts ended successfully at the Front Street Tavern where we not only presented a new series of prints, but also custom pint glasses and decals. Between our Print and Pint fundraisers and a generous contribution from the UW Paul Stock Award we were able to cover all costs before we arrived at the conference.

Along with professors, students and working artists from dozens of universities, UW students presented our prints and artists books at the open portfolio session. The event was an opportunity to gain feedback from professors, students, and artists from around the country, as well as gain insight into how the print program at UW fits into the national printmaking community.

Of the dozens of conference events—including workshops, panel discussions, and exhibitions—two speakers stand out as having significant impact on the UW student group. Activist artists, Josh MacPhee and Swoon added to discussions started back in Laramie about socially engaged art.

Steven Held was hired this fall by Avocet Communications in Longmont, Colorado as a Junior Graphic Designer. Their client list includes: ARC Thrift Stores, Pentax, Big O Tires, and Papa John’s Pizza.

Cody Hartley, (1997 graduate with an art history minor) is an Assistant Curator of Paintings at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Elizabeth Mitchell, has accepted a job at the Cantor Center at Stanford as the Burton and Deedee McMurtry Curator of Drawings, Prints, and Photographs.
In September, the art history area welcomed David McCarthy, the James Ruffin Professor of Art and Archaeology, Rhodes College, Memphis, Tennessee. Co-sponsored by the UW Art Museum on the occasion of its exhibition, *Iconic Mass Culture: Andy Warhol’s Portraits*, Professor McCarthy delivered a talk, “American Made, American Masquerade: Andy Warhol’s Democratic Portrait Gallery,” and had a gallery walk-through to talk about Warhol’s portrait methods and about the works in the pendant exhibition, *Cold War in America: Works from the 1950s – 1970s: Selections from the Art Museum Collection*. He also worked with students in the seminar course, “Pop Art & Criticism,” offered this fall with Assistant Professor Lisa Hunt.

The sculpture area was happy to host Hunt Clark and Deborah McClary Clark from Sparta, Tennessee in September 2010. Both are known for paintings, carved wood sculpture, and installations involving digital and mixed media. Hunt is well known for his chain saw carved forms which recently have been purchased for Yale University’s permanent collection. Hunt and Deborah joined Ashley Hope Carlisle at the Russin’s house in Centennial to look over a very large teak wood log brought in from South America for Robert Russin. The generously donated wood was exquisite in color and behaved appropriately until the carving commenced. Unfortunately, checking in the wood (small cracks) led to its demise. Regardless, the students were able to watch Hunt’s unique carving process, and the department inherited the prettiest sawdust now being used for metal patinas!

Thank you to the Russins for allowing us to partake in this material! It made for an interesting process for the students and an interesting ride for two folks new to Wyoming’s vast landscape.

The Graphic Design program hosted designer Bill Gardner in November, 2010. Students attended one of two sessions in which Gardner presented an in-depth branding lecture, before students worked on creating their own logo designs.

Gardner is President of Gardner Design and founder of logolounge.com. He is the author of the annual LogoLounge Logo Trend report, published by Graphic Design USA and other design publications throughout the world.

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The Art Department welcomed Petra Groen to campus November 9 - 12, 2010. Groen graduated from The Aki in Enschede, The Netherlands with a BFA and an MFA in the Mixed Media. During her study she attended a student exchange program in San Francisco at the San Francisco Art Institute. What started out as a three months period developed into a one-year stay at the SFAI.

Since her graduation, she has been exhibiting her work in the Netherlands and Berlin. Ms. Groen has received commissions for many permanent and semi permanent public outdoor art pieces throughout the Netherlands and the USA.

In 2005 Ms. Groen moved back to the USA, and is now traveling back and forth between her Brooklyn studio and Amsterdam. In addition to her activities in her studio, she has also been a visiting artist at several universities in the Netherlands and in the USA, and leads workshops and projects with companies and schools.

Metalsmithing Visiting Artist, Susie Ganch

In its second year, the new Metalsmithing Program hosted its first visiting artist, Susie Ganch, October 4-8, 2010. Ganch presented a workshop for the Metalsmithing I/II students and gave individual critiques to art students across all media. Public events included Ganch’s artist lecture and her solo exhibition at downtown Gallery 211. Ganch’s steel, copper and mixed media works are “…driven by the idea that the web of life is an interconnected system. From molecules to atoms everything is structurally made of the same ‘stuff’. [Ganch] constructs forms that are comprised of multiple interdependent parts. …[which] offer us the opportunity to see and feel what we are made of. [Ganch’s] bracelet of ‘molecules’ sliding over the hand is a glimpse into what that might actually feel like. …”

Ceramic and Print Students Welcome Paul Wandless to Campus

Paul Wandless is an intermedia artist that combines print and ceramic techniques. He visited UW in October and both ceramics and printmaking students worked together during the workshop. For Mark Ritchie and Margaret Haydon, this was a launching of sorts for future curriculum that will incorporate the two disciplines. Says Haydon, “We are really excited about that.” Adds Mark Ritchie, “It will be exciting to see how his visit fosters greater communication between students in the two studio areas.”
Thank you to all of the good words, financial support and references that continue to support the UW Department of Art. The Department continues to grow in quality and in numbers. The Broderson, Catterall, Coe, Russin, Schwiering, and Weist scholarship funds continue to support our best and brightest students. Thank you to the Clays for their support of visiting artists. The Thieme and Edwards funds continue to help students attend conferences and travel abroad. This year they have aided students traveling across the US, to Asia, Africa and Europe. In addition to the Russin funds that support Post-Baccalaureate students in sculpture, we now have similar memorial funds to support the Post-Baccalaureate Programs in Drawing, Printmaking and Painting honoring UW Alumna Evelyn Corthell Hill and memorial funds to support the Wyoming student experience in honor of UW Alumni Bruce Lee. Thank you to their friends and loved ones who have created these living memorials.

If you would like to contribute to any of the funds or establish new scholarships or excellence funds, please contact Ricki Klages at rlk@uwyo.edu or Jane Bargothi at UW Foundations at jbarghot@uwyo.edu

Please accept my/our gift to the UW Art Department!

NAME: _____________________________________________

SPOUSE’S NAME: _____________________________________

ADDRESS: ________________________________________

CITY: _________________________ STATE / ZIP: _________________________

PHONE: _________________________ EMAIL: _________________________

☐ I would like to make a gift of $_______ to the Department of Art. Your gift is tax deductible as provided by law.

ONLINE: Make a payment online using our secure server: www.uwyo.edu/giveonline

PHONE: Call the UW Foundation office during normal business hours at 307-766-6300 or 888-831-7795

MAIL: Send your check to UW Foundation, 1200 E. Ivinson Ave., Laramie, WY 82070

☐ Yes, please send me information about planned giving (wills, trusts, etc.)

☐ Yes, UW is named in my will.

☐ Yes, my company matches my gifts. I have included a form from my company.

Thank you!
The John and Esther Clay fund was established to bring visiting artists to the Department of Art. This year, we are proud to announce the John and Esther Clay Inky Paper Visiting Artist Fund.

The first artist in the Clay Inky Paper Visiting Artist series, Sarah Smelser, will be on campus the week of February 21-25, 2011 with a public lecture at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 22. Sarah, a faculty member at Illinois State University, will have work exhibited in Gallery 211 in downtown Laramie throughout February. The Department of Art is very grateful for the wonderful donors who have helped fund developing studio areas, student travel, post-baccalaureates and visiting artists. Without their generous support, these outstanding programs would not be possible. THANK YOU!

Sarah Smelser. *Disco Version*, intaglio, 16 x 20 inches