From Department Head, Ricki Klages

The new Visual Arts Facility allows the Department of Art to grow from our previous space in Fine Arts of 26,000 square feet to 79,000 square feet. The building features a new Visual Arts Gallery, a large 100 seat lecture hall, two student galleries and the space all studio and art history areas need to accommodate our growing undergraduate art students. The Visual Arts Building also features the natural light and incredible views so treasured in Wyoming. A tremendous amount of work has gone into this project and we all feel very fortunate in the Department of Art to have had support across the state for this much needed and much appreciated new facility!

The Department of Art continues to enjoy the benefits of the Excellence Endowment shared with Music, Theater and Dance and Art. This endowment has enabled the department to bring in a series of artists and lecturers who are leaders in their fields. This past academic year we had a total of 11 visiting artists, including John Wenger, Painting, Leslie Mutchler and Corin Hewitt for Foundations, Printmaker Bill Hosterman, Bethany Springer and Jason Urban, Sculpture and Installation, Anne Stanton, Art History, and Renee Zettle-Sterling, Metalsmithing. Faculty and students are inspired and stimulated by visiting artists from many different disciplines. We are thankful to have such wonderful support with the Visiting Artist endowment, which enables us to bring in such diverse and thought provoking artists and lecturers.

We have also benefitted from some recent hires. Rachel Sailor (art history) joined the department of art in the fall of 2011. We are excited to add to our current offerings in Art History and create more breadth within this important part of our department.

Studio offerings in the Department of Art have been traditionally limited to painting, drawing, printmaking, graphic design, sculpture, ceramics and foundations. Five years ago we added metalsmithing to the department, and the enrollments from interested students increased from semester to semester in this area. This year, we are proud to announce the addition of photography as a studio program. Bailey Russel will be offering a full sequence of photography courses this academic year in a specially designed photography darkroom and studio in the new Visual Art Facility. We are very excited about this new area in the department!

Last year, our BFA Post Baccalaureate students were accepted into the graduate schools of their choice. This is an amazing accomplishment and speaks directly to the superb and focused mentoring our undergraduates receive in the Department of Art. We are very proud of all our students!
Judy Pfaff, Eminent Artist in Residence, Joins the Art Department for Spring 2013

Judy Pfaff loves tools and the act of making art. When describing her work she has a wonderful sense of humor: “I’ve always done prints and drawings, always. No one buys those installations, so when you see things that are portable that I’m not attached to, they’re probably two-dimensional. If you get an installation of mine, you inherit (my assistant) Ryan, myself, a crew, the dog, the noise, the dirt. We wreck the house. So if you don’t want that, then you get prints and drawings.” Actually, she is known for those energetic and eclectic installations as well as works on paper. Her direct, no-nonsense approach to making art and speaking about art, has made her a valued speaker.

Although born in London, Judy moved to the US as a teen and studied at Wayne State University and Southern Illinois University with a BFA awarded by Washington University in St. Louis and the MFA earned from Yale University. She is a recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship (2004); Guggenheim Fellowship (1983); National Endowment for the Arts grants (1979, 1986); member, American Academy of Arts and Letters. Her resume includes numerous solo exhibitions and group shows in major galleries and museums in the United States and abroad. Commissions include Pennsylvania Convention Center Public Arts Projects, Philadelphia; large-scale site-specific sculpture, GTE Corporation, Irving, Texas; installation: vernacular abstraction, Wacoal, Tokyo, Japan; and set design, Brooklyn Academy of Music. Judy has work in permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art; Whitney Museum of American Art; Brooklyn Museum of Art; Detroit Institute of Arts; and many other respected collections. Currently she is on faculty at Bard College where she Chairs the Studio Art.

We are delighted that Judy will be teaching in the University of Wyoming Department of Art for the spring semester of 2013. To become better acquainted with Judy and her work, please consider watching this brief video:  http://www.pbs.org/art21/artists/judy-pfaff

International Studies in Art: North India in 2013

Professor Mark Ritchie and Associate Professor Leah Hardy offered Art 4650 International Study of Art for a fourth summer. Every other summer since 2005, Ritchie and Hardy have taken students to India to be immersed in Indian culture, study traditional art forms, experience historic and contemporary art and architecture, engage in meeting Indian artists, create art based on experience, and of course, savor delicious Indian cuisine. For three courses running, the itinerary has been exclusively in south India: Kerala and Tamil Nadu. In May and June 2011, the course was offered in north India: West Bengal, Madya Pradesh and Delhi. Highlights included taking a terra cotta workshop in Shantinekitan; visiting the 16th and 17th century terra cotta temples in Bishnupur, West Bengal; getting up close to tigers in Bandhavgarh Tiger Preserve; walking inside of the temple complex at Khajuraho, Madya Pradesh; and experiencing museums and archeological sites, and doing hands-on wood block textile printing in Delhi. Art 4650 will be offered again in North India for May/June 2013.

Art students participate in ART 4650: Summer in Turkey: A Creative Journey through Anatolia

International Study in Art: Summer Travels in Turkey Associate Professor Doug Russell taught ART 4650: Summer in Turkey: A Creative Journey through Anatolia for a month spanning May-June 2012. This was the third 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 2012 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 can take part in a specially focused one credit follow-up course. Their refined and redefined creative responses culminated in an exhibition on the UW campus in December.

Right: Meredith Bell draws Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Turkey - Summer 2012
Art Department News

“Metal Inkorporated” featured as the Inaugural Exhibition in New Visual Arts Gallery

The primary mission for the Visual Art Building Gallery is to enhance the learning environment at the University of Wyoming. Exhibitions are coordinated in conjunction with the Department of Art’s visiting artists, thus allowing the Gallery to function as a laboratory and as an extension of our teaching spaces.

The Gallery presents a range of contemporary art - from the traditional display of two and three dimensional work to installations and new media including video, technology-based works, and performance.

Every spring, the Gallery hosts a capstone BFA exhibition. This allows our finest students the opportunity to exhibit work that represents a culmination of their time in the Department of Art.

Academic Year Schedule: Fall - 2 visiting artist shows; Spring - 1 visiting artist show, 1 BFA show
Summer - Variable; 1 open call (artists responsible for transport and installation)

Associate Professor Leah Hardy curated a collaborative project entitled “metal inkorporated” involving fifteen metalsmiths paired with fifteen printmakers from across the U.S. Each artist was asked to etch a copper sheet to then trade with his/her partner who then responded by printing and/or fabricating the sheet into a new work of art. The resulting collective body of over thirty pieces of work was featured as the inaugural exhibition in the new Visual Arts Gallery March 1-30, 2012. Full-color catalogs are available through the Department of Art for $16.00. Shown here is the collaboration between UW Art faculty members Mark Ritchie (printmaker) and Leah Hardy (metalsmith).

Photography courses now being offered in the Art Department

The art department is offering Photography this year for the first time. A space was set aside in the new building for a small traditional black and white darkroom and a computer lab devoted to photographic post-production, with brand new computers and printers supplied by a generous grant from the Student Computer Fee. Intro level classes, however, focus on the black and white wet lab where students use traditional, film-based processes and spend the semester building a body of black and white work. They look at alternate developing processes, pin-hole cameras, and large-scale printing while being exposed to the history of photography in bi-weekly slide shows. The lab has been a great asset for the department as it allows for entirely new ways of thinking about photography, along with space for visiting artists to explore some of the more arcane photographic processes.
Art Department welcomes new faculty

David Jones, originally from Augusta, Georgia, received his BFA in sculpture from the University of Georgia in 2000. For the following year he resided in Birmingham, Alabama where he worked in the Sloss Metal Arts Artist-in-Residency program casting iron before going on to pursue his masters degree. In 2004 he received his MFA in sculpture from the University of Tennessee and then moved to the Rocky Mountain west in Laramie, Wyoming. David has resided in Laramie for the past seven years working as a professional artist, a Preparator for the University of Wyoming Art Museum, and for the Department of Art as a part time instructor in Foundations and Sculpture. The western landscape and its man-made surroundings have proved to be a strong influence on the aesthetic and themes of Jones’s more recent work. David has exhibited his work nationally, including the Mountain West in cities such as Denver, Colorado and Santa Fe, New Mexico. He was a recent recipient of the Wyoming Arts Council Visual Arts Fellowship in 2010 and in the Summer of 2011 completed an Artist-in-Residency at the Center for Land Use Interpretation in Wendover, Utah.

Bailey Russel grew up in New Jersey and attended Princeton University for a BA in Art History. After spending a year working in Malaysia, he attended a joint NYU / International Center for Photography MA program in photography. He worked for a number of years in New York City for an array of artists and museums (spending a year at the Met), before moving to Seattle for two years. He moved to Laramie in the Fall of 2011. Bailey has shown at private galleries in New York and extensively in Seattle, particularly at the Seattle Art Museums Gallery. His work mostly features large cameras, either constructed of plywood or rooms that have been darkened, in which he exposes huge sheets of color negative photo paper for unique color images.

Rachel Sailor earned a B.A. from Oregon State University, an M.A. in Art History from the University of Oregon, and a Ph. D. from the University of Iowa in 2007. She teaches nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first-century American and European art history courses, but her area of research is nineteenth-century photography of the American West. Previous to her position at the University of Wyoming she taught in Oregon, Iowa, and at the University of Texas at Tyler. She is currently working on a book manuscript concerning local landscape photography in the American West, and is beginning a new project on western Pictorialism.

Wallis Osborn joins the Art department as a Temporary Lecturer Assistant in Graphic Design. He was born and raised in Loveland, Colorado. After high school he attended Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas where he received a BFA in Graphic Design. The next seven years were spent as an Art Director at Leo Burnett, Chicago working on accounts that ranged from Altria, and Commonwealth Edison to The National Cattleman’s Beef Association and The PGA of America. Finally, his entrepreneurial spirit got the best of him and he returned to Northern Colorado and start his own design, advertising and consulting company. He’s excited for the opportunity to share his real world experience with the Graphic Design department while this new chapter gets off the ground.

Alumni News

Danielle Alvarado-Speager was hired as Graphic Designer for the High Plains Library District, Greeley, CO

Steven Neuberger was hired as Graphic Designer for Bandujo, NY, NY.

University of Wyoming Department of Art
1000 E. University Ave., Dept. 3138
Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-3269; faoffice@uwyo.edu; www.uwyo.edu/art
Ricki Klages, Art Department Head, Professor, had two paintings juried into the “International Painting Annual” an international exhibition in print, produced by Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, OH. Out of 1500 entries from around the world, only 80 paintings were accepted for the book. “The International Painting Annual” will be released this spring, 2011. Klages had two paintings accepted to “Persona”, an International juried exhibition in London, UK, spring 2011. Klages received the top award for painting.

Ricki Klages, had a painting accepted into the exhibition, “WideOpen”, at the Brooklyn Waterfront Arts Coalition, Brooklyn, NY. Over 1600 entries were submitted and a total of 141 artworks were selected. Nathan Trotman, Curator of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum was the juror. The exhibition was from March 12th through the 27th, 2011.

Klages has five paintings featured in a group exhibition at Galerie Knud Grothe, Copenhagen, Denmark. The annual exhibition, titled, “Fantastica Figurationer”, features realism paintings from artists all over the world. The exhibition is up for the month of February.

Klages had a solo exhibition of 40 paintings at the John Day Gallery, University of South Dakota. Tied to the exhibition, an international composition for musicians was held. Musicians were asked to compose a one minute piece based on Klages’ paintings and the winning compositions were performed by USD music faculty at the exhibition’s closing. The exhibition was from January 9 - Feb. 5, 2012.

Klages, has a solo exhibition at Galeria Colorida, Lisbon, Portugal. The exhibition, titled, “Restless Traveler” opened Sept. 24th and runs through the middle of October.

Klages had a solo exhibition at North Bank Artists’ Gallery, Vancouver, WA. The exhibition, titled, “Weird Sisters” featured three artists in three separate galleries. The exhibition ran through the month of October 2011.

Leah Hardy, Associate Professor, exhibited her work in “Conversations”, a two-person exhibition with Mark Ritchie, at the Art Association’s Theatre Gallery in the Jackson Center for the Arts in Jackson, WY, June 22 - July 20, 2012.

Hardy’s piece “Flower: Fruit”, was juried from national and international submissions into the book 500 Beaded Jewelry by Lark Books. The publication was available in bookstores in August 2012.


Hardy’s piece, “Flower: Fruit”, was juried into the national exhibition, “Adorn the Form: New Directions in Fiber and Jewellery”, at Larson Gallery, Yakima, WA, April 13 - May 12, 2012. Her piece earned the “Larson Gallery and Staff Award”.

Hardy curated and participated in “metal inklorporated”, a collaborative art project between 15 metalsmiths and 15 printmakers from across the U.S. The resulting artwork was featured in the UW Department of Art Visual Arts Gallery’s inaugural exhibition March 1-30, 2012.

Hardy was invited as one of eighteen artists showing work in “A Feast of Beads” at Faccé Gallery in Seattle, March 26 - April 16, 2012. The exhibition curated by Gail Brown was held in conjunction with the 2012 NCECA/National Council for Education of the Ceramic Arts Conference in Seattle, March 28-31, 2012.

Hardy exhibited her work in "Unspoken", a two-person invitational exhibition and gave an artist lecture and gallery talk at Western Wyoming College Art Gallery in Rock Springs, Wyoming August 25 - September 29, 2011.

Hardy had two pieces juried into the national exhibition, "Jewelry + Objects", sponsored by the Michigan Silversmiths Guild at the Alden B. Dow Museum/Midland Center for the Arts July 13 - September 25, 2011.

Mark Ritchie, Professor, exhibited the following:

“metal inklorporated”, invitational collaborative project and exhibition, University of Wyoming, Main Gallery

“East/West, Exchange Portfolio” organized by the University of LA at Lafayette, traveling exhibition, 2011-2012: Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL, University of Louisiana, Lafayette, LA; Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, LA

“MAPC Member’s Exhibition”, National Juried Exhibition, Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, MO

“32nd Annual Southeastern Montana Juried Exhibition”, Juried Exhibition, Custer County Art & Heritage Center, Miles City, MT
Doug Russell, Associate Professor, had solo exhibitions at the Cuffman Gallery of Art at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO and at Casper College in Casper, WY in 2011. Russell was also invited during 2011 to return to his undergraduate alma mater, Columbia College, in Columbia, Missouri and joined fellow alum, Randy Arnold, for the Master Artist Series exhibition.

In 2012 Russell had a solo exhibitions at the Missoula Art Museum in Missoula, MT and at the Hartmann Gallery at Bradley University, Peoria, IL. In the summer of 2012 Russell was part of an invitational group show, entitled "M(i)(a)cro: A Contemporary Drawing Exhibition", at the New Art Center in Newtonville, MA. The exhibition brought together a group of six artists with similar aesthetic and conceptual approaches. The group will next exhibition at the Lawrence Art Center in Kansas in 2014.

Russell and fellow drawing professor, Shelby Shadwell, have launched a new blog about the drawing program at the University of Wyoming – www.uwdrawing.wordpress.com. The blog serves as a drawing resource with course information, work by current and former students at UW, and links to related artists and websites. Russell’s creative work can be viewed online anytime at www.russellfineart.com and on his blog: www.russellfineart.wordpress.com.

Ashley Hope Carlisle, Associate Professor, was awarded a residency at the Jenetl Artist Residency Program in Banner, Wyoming during the Summer of 2011.

Carlisle received the honor of being named a “Top Prof” by the UW Mortar Board Senior Honor Society.

Carlisle completed and installed her outdoor permanent sculpture on UW's campus entitled, “Support of an Educator” created for retired professor Ronald Beiswenger.

Carlisle will be the Small Cupola Contest Coordinator for the 2012 Biannual Western Cast Iron Art Conference to be held in May in Hays, Kansas. This Conference will occur at UW in 2014.

Carlisle will exhibit in the Biannual WCIAA Board Members “Pearl Snaps” Exhibition held in conjunction with the 2012 Cast Iron Conference in Hays, Kansas.

Carlisle has been nominated for the third Contemporary Northwest Art Awards 2013.

Margaret K. Haydon, Associate Professor, had work featured in a Sturgeon Exhibition during the 4th Annual Sturgeon and Paddlefishes Conference of the North American Chapter of the World Sturgeon Conservation Society at the ICSS in Nanaimo BC Canada in July 2011. Two of her pieces were installed in the newly completed International Centre for Sturgeon Studies.

Haydon participated in "Fish Stories", an exhibition at the Custer County Art and Heritage Center in Miles City, Montana, July-September 2011, and installed a solo exhibition titled "Philosopher Fish" at the Port Moody Art Centre in Port Moody BC Canada.

Haydon participated in a fund raising benefit for the Northern Plains Resource Council in Miles City, Montana in September of 2011. Funds support research on pallid sturgeon habitat, a highly endangered American sturgeon species.

Haydon was accepted as an artist in residence at Medalta in Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada where she will be researching and developing work on lake sturgeon. Her work will also be featured at the 7th International Conference on Sturgeon in British Columbia, Canada.

This fall 2012, The University of Wyoming Art Museum invited Haydon to be a speaker at "Never Drink Downstream: Factual Tales and Artful Musings on Wyoming Water".

Rachel Sailor, Assistant, Professor of Art History published “Public Works of Art Project: Intention and Reception in 1934 Tyler, Texas,” in the Fall 2011 issue of the American Studies Association of Texas Journal. This fall, she will also publish the essay “Returning to Move Forward: Ansel Adams and New “Old Photography,” for the online Italian journal Crepuscoli Dottorali. As well, Sailor’s book, Meaningful Places: Local Landscape Photography in the Nineteenth-Century West and its Legacy will be published in 2013 by the University of New Mexico Press.

Dr. Sailor presented “Ansel Adam’s West: From the Frontier to the Timeless,” at the Western History Association annual conference held in Oakland, CA, in October. She also spoke at the John F Kennedy Institute of North American Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin in an interdisciplinary conference titled “Making it Home.”

In October, 2012, Sailor will be speaking at the Southwest Art History Conference in Taos, NM, and is currently conducting research on the photograph collections at the American Heritage Center with a generous AHC Teaching Grant. She is currently working on a new project about Pictorialism and the American West.


Hunt presented a paper, “Fleshing Out the Romance: Nudity and the Construction of Masculinity from the Margins of an Illustrated Vulgate Arthur (BnF fr. 95 and Yale MS 229),” at the annual meeting of The Medieval Academy of America.

Hunt presented a paper, “Sleeping Around: Framing the Femmes Fatales in the Illustrations and Marginalia of the Vulgate Graal and Merlin (Bibliothèque nationale de France, fr. 95),” at the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies annual conference.
Jenny Venn, Assistant Professor, was accepted to the 2012 Impact! Design for Social Change Residency at the School of Visual Arts. One of fifteen designers selected internationally, Jenny will spend six-weeks in New York City designing for social change this July and August.

Venn received a Gold Category Award in Illustration for CurCakes at the 2011 Art Directors Club Denver Annual Show, Denver, CO.

Venn received an American Graphic Design Award for Biggy’s Kids Logo from GDUSA Magazine.

Venn received the Educator of the Year Award at the 2012 Art Directors Club Denver Annual Student Show, Denver, CO.

Venn is serving as a freelance graphic designer for Kumarian Social Justice Press designing the cover for, Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: International Law, Local Responses. Edited by Tonia St. Germain & Susan Dewey

Venn is serving as a freelance graphic designer for Southern Illinois University Press designing the cover for, Writing Studies Research in Practice: Methods and Methodologies. Edited by Lee Nickoson and Mary P. Sheridan.

Diana Baumbach, Assistant Professor, received an Individual Artist Professional Development Grant through the Wyoming Arts Council to fund travel to Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

Baumbach exhibited work in a solo exhibition entitled “Functionele Vormen?” at the Hudson Museum in Rotterdam, the Netherlands in the summer of 2011.

Baumbach exhibited a body of work in “Other Life Forms; Gina Alvarez, Diana Baumbach, James Thurman” at Wayne State University (Detroit, MI) in the summer of 2011.

Baumbach had three pieces selected for inclusion in the juried exhibition “My Place” at the Sweetwater Center for the Arts in Sewickley, PA in September 2011.

Baumbach had her proposal for “Camp Out,” a temporary public work, funded by the Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Ketchum, Idaho.

Baumbach had work juried into the group exhibition, “In, On, Of Paper,” at Paper Circle, Nelsonville Ohio.


David Jones, Instructional Art Technician, was in Pearlsnaps: The WCIAA Board exhibition in conjunction with the 3rd biennial Western Conference on Cast Iron Art. He also currently has a solo exhibition at the Moss Thorns gallery of art at Fort Hayes State University in Hayes, KS.

Assistant Professor Shelby Shadwell, Instructional Art Technician David Jones and Assistant APL Patrick Kikut exhibited their group show “GOLDMINES! A Record from Wendover, UT” at the Center for Land Use Interpretation in July, 2012.

Patrick Kikut, APL Extended Term, exhibited his Crest Kids portraits at the Goldstein Gallery at Casper College. His works from his Wind Damage series were curated into Ucross: 26 Years of Art Exhibition featured at the Nicolaysen Museum in Casper, and at The Big Red Barn, at the Ucross Foundation. Also, he had a painting juried into the 2011 Texas National Juried Exhibition.

Kikut was a visiting artist and a participant in Can/Am Unplugged (a symposium of American and Canadian studio artist) at Medicine Hat College in Medicine Hat, Alberta Canada.

Shelby Shadwell and APL Extended Term Patrick Kikut had work accepted into the 2011 Texas National Juried Competition at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX.

Shelby Shadwell, Assistant Professor, received the Second Place Award for his work shown in “Chowan University’s National Juried Exhibition” at Chowan University, Murfreesboro, NC. His work is currently being exhibited in the “Selections from the International Drawing 6” at the Manifest Creative Research Gallery and Drawing Center in Cincinnati, OH and in “Showcase” at the 333 Montezuma Annex in Santa Fe, NM. Shelby was also juried into the “Curated Artist Image Registry” through the Drawing Center in New York, NY.

Shadwell had work accepted into “Chowan University’s National Juried Exhibition” at Chowan University, Murfreesboro, NC and “Fresh Air” at the Visual Arts Center at Boise State University, Boise, ID.

Shadwell received the “The Promoting Intellectual Engagement” (PIE) Award for the second consecutive year. This award honors instructors who inspire excitement, inquiry, and autonomy in first-year courses.

Shadwell exhibited his work in the two-person exhibition, “Drawing Large” at Western Wyoming Community College in Rock Springs, WY.

Assistant Professors Shelby Shadwell and Diana Baumbach and Instructional Art Technician David Jones are currently exhibiting their work at the Biennial Fellowship Exhibition at the Jackson Center for the Arts in Jackson Hole, WY.
“This” and “That” Galleries Provide Art Students Exhibition Opportunities

Within the new building, the art department now houses two new student art galleries. A contest was held in the Spring of 2012 asking students to name these spaces; Liam Stockwell, an undergraduate student majoring in Agroecology and Art, came up with the “This & That Galleries.”

Art students apply the semester before they want an exhibition slot, and once awarded a show, they are given three weeks for their show, with a shared opening held the second Friday of their exhibition time. In spring 2012, the department held sixteen shows in these spaces - lots of action for any gallery to see in five months! Consequently, the department has narrowed the timeframes so that we have eight student exhibitions held each semester. Many different mediums have been incorporated in work shown: video installation, painting, drawing, printmaking, and mixed media of all sorts.

These spaces offer students time to experiment, time to contemplate, and space for finished work that can then be photographed and placed in their resumes as vital experience in a young artist’s career.

Down in New Orleans...

Ten UW students attended the Southern Graphics Printmaking Conference in New Orleans this year. UW students were a fraction of the 800 plus artists sharing work during the Open Portfolio session. Students attended lectures, workshops, exhibitions, panel discussions and even a New Orleans-style printmaking parade.

Some like it hot...

On Saturday September 29, 20 students helped cast 2000 pounds of molten iron into molds made by 3D Design, Sculpture I, and Cast Forms course participants. By breaking down donated radiators stripped from buildings and offices in town, the UW sculpture area is able to offer hot iron at no cost. Each pour provides lots of sparks, a glowing pot of 2700 degree metal, and hard work that teaches lessons of teamwork and consideration for the time and effort each young artist has put in until this day their molds are poured. On top of their own work, RSO Wyoming Sculpture Society members helped create scratch blocks so that art students and the larger public could create a tile made in iron. This allows the viewers to become participants in the fun. We raised over $500 selling scratch block molds, and had 100% success in what was poured and what will be created from these castings. After 8 years, our “Big Red” Furnace is now retired, and a new one will be built that will tap out at 500 pounds in one run. The overall goal is to teach students how to cast at all scales but allow them the freedom and knowledge to cast large scale works for future outdoor viewing.

In 2014, students from all over the region will come to UW for a week to cast during the 4th Biennial Western Cast iron Art Conference. There will be workshops, demos, panel discussions, juried exhibitions, and performances all focused on the education and inspiration of cast iron in art and art-making practices. We are excited about this opportunity, particularly after the successes of this annual pour, and to be utilizing our new building and bridge crane within the outdoor sculpture area. The future is bright!
Graphic Design Students Claim Top Honors at Student Show

University of Wyoming students claimed top honors in two categories at Art Director’s Club Denver Student Exhibition in January. Nataliya Lityuk of Cheyenne won Best Logo Design and Gary Staebler of Powell won Best Publication Design.

"The event is the premiere exhibition for graphic design and advertising in this region," says Jenny Venn, assistant professor in the UW Department of Art. She received the club’s educator of the year award.

"University of Wyoming graphic design students have been preparing for this competition since their first day of Graphic Design I, and they did a stellar job," Venn says. "All of their long nights in the studio have finally begun to pay off. It’s great to receive recognition of this caliber, as the results speak highly about the quality of UW’s art program."

"The scope of work this year was stunning, specifically in packaging and poster design categories," says Ryan Bramwell, one of the competition’s four judges. "The range of exemplary styles kept judges on our toes and created a sense of excitement in seeing our industry’s next generation of artists. Great work to all entrants, as it was a very difficult process to narrow down the finalists."

The UW students claimed first place in adjudicated competition against schools such as: Rocky Mountain College of Art & Design, Colorado Institute of Art, Colorado State University, University of Colorado Boulder, University of Colorado Denver, University of Northern Colorado, Metropolitan State University and Fort Hays State University.

Other UW students who had work adjudicated into the competition were: Mark Robertson and Sam Vogel, Cheyenne, Kori Nachbar, Colorado Springs, CO.; Tyler Jackson and Britt Miller, Jackson; Jenny Hamilton, Lander; Margot McFaul, Laramie; Ben Marshall, Rockford, IL; Kira Cheshier, Star Valley.

Cup and Bowl Sale Helps Fund Ceramic Arts Conference

The UW Art Department sent eight students to the Annual NCECA (National Council for Education in the Ceramic Arts) conference in Seattle, Washington this March. There were several veteran conference attendees from last year as well as several for whom it was a new experience. Students raise money through a Benefit Silent Auction each December, as well as a Cup and Bowl sale each spring. That, with generous support from President Buchanan and the Wyoming Foundation, makes this travel opportunity possible. It is one of the most valuable components of the Ceramics Area program.

Danie Thiel and Tania Flores construct a small updraft kiln as part of the kiln building curriculum in Advanced Ceramics. Three kilns were built by students in preparation for rebuilding the large salt kiln in the fall semester of 2012. All of these kilns were successfully fired.

An assortment of items for sale at the Cup and Bowl sale this spring.

Northern Colorado, Metropolitan State University and Fort Hays State University.

All Fired Up!

Gary Staebler of Powell, left, won Best Publication Design and Nataliya Lityuk of Cheyenne won Best Logo Design at the region’s premiere exhibition for graphic design and advertising. (UW Photo)
Frank Webster Visits Art Department

Frank Webster visited the UW Art Department October 10 - 12, in conjunction with his Visual Arts Gallery Solo Exhibition. Frank Webster is a painter who lives in Brooklyn, NY. Webster received his BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and his MFA from the Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University. Webster is the recipient of numerous awards including the Pollock Krasner and the Golden Foundation Individual Artist Award.

Leslie Mutchler Installation Pops

Leslie Mutchler, Assistant Professor of Art at the University of Texas in Austin, spent a week in Laramie conducting workshops with Foundation 2D classes and installing her exhibition entitled ASTRAL pop-up. Accompanying her exhibition, Mutchler gave a gallery talk in That Gallery. More information about Leslie Mutchler is available at her website: www.lesliemutchler.com

Renee Zettle-Sterling Presents Workshop

The Metalsmithing Program hosted Renee Zettle-Sterling as a visiting artist March 21-23, 2012. Zettle-Sterling offered Needle Felting and Alternative Casting workshops for Art students as well as met with individual students for critiques. She discussed her metalsmithing work in a public lecture on March 23 in the Visual Arts Auditorium.
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 David Ungerman at UW Foundations at dungerma@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!
Who was Robert Russin?

Wikipedia tells us: Robert Isaiah Russin was an American sculptor, born in New York City, who received both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the City College of New York, and won two federal sculpture competitions by the age of 25. He was most known for his public sculptures, and his primary mediums, included stone and bronze. What I know of Robert Russin was that he made bronze casting accessible to UW art students in 1963 after learning its process while studying in Italy ten years earlier. He was a family man and was incredibly hardworking and determined to put his work out for the viewing public to consider and hopefully love as much as he did. I know this after a meeting I had with him in 2005 in regards to what I could only guess what a sizing up of what I was all about as the newly hired sculpture professor. He was tough yet supportive, and he seemed pleased that I was a hands-on worker bee, ready to teach our students about traditions in casting and carving. I was happy to see he approved of what I was doing and was sad to say goodbye to him in 2007.

Russin loved Wyoming and taught here at UW for nearly 40 years. It is amazing to have his legacy be an inspiration for our students interested in working figuratively within Sculpture and Painting. Due to the ever strong support of his family and an endowment he himself set up in 2005 named the Robert Russin Fund for Excellence in Figurative Sculpture, various students over the years have been able to make artwork without worry of how they would pay for the materials. It has helped me to gain students who were eager to learn, helpful with studio maintenance, and most importantly genuinely interested in continuing the practice of figurative art making. All you have to do is look around you in this town to really understand that Robert Russin loved making art. With this gift, he and his family has taken the worry out of an art student’s empty pockets and has put the love of making into their heads and hearts. With this I thank you, we are forever grateful.

Ashley Hope Carlisle
Associate Professor of Sculpture