Titians Make Strides Against Breast Cancer

On Sunday, October 21, Lana and Bob Burgess, Stassa Edwards, Keri Fredericks, Jean and Rachel Hudson, Tanja Jones, her husband Todd Englehardt and her mother Joan Smith, Ressa Mackey, Katherine Reinhardt, and Teri Yoo participated in the Fifth Annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. The FSU Department of Art History's team, the Titians, contributed $4,433, making them second in Leon County. Ms. Burgess served as captain of the team, which included three breast cancer survivors.

Over 1,800 people walked the 3.1-mile path at Southwood Town Center, and over $155,000 was raised for the American Cancer Society. Team member Todd Engelhardt placed first in total donations in the county raising $2,496.

Thank you to all who donated to the team. We look forward to your participation next year.

Digital Evolution!

Years of research and grant writing, slide scanning, software tweaking, and data entry paid off this year as the Media Center unveiled the digital image database that is quickly replacing the slide collection as the primary image resource for art history instruction at FSU. Jean Hudson (M.A. 1993), Kathy Braun, and the crew in the Media Center are pleased with the initial results and faculty collaboration in the implementation of the MDID database.

Built on software designed specifically for art history instruction at James Madison University, the FSU MDID database offers features that both simplify and revitalize the traditional slide lecture, such as the ability to choose split-screen dual images or a single large image, 4x zooming and panning, and on-the-fly slideshow rearrangement, comparisons, or side-by-side full images and details. Customized annotations can be displayed in the classroom, flashcards can be printed out or uploaded to Blackboard for student use, and slideshows can be packaged for off-site use.

Best of all, there’s no need to leave the comfort of home or office to hunt for that perfect slide, only to find it already checked out to another user. Image selection and slideshow arrangement are done over the Internet, from any location, and the selection of outstanding images is growing daily. Beginning with a 2003 Council for Instruction grant to build the initial set of “major monuments” for survey courses, the Media Center has, over the past four years, amassed a collection of over 20,000 high-resolution digital images from a variety of sources: faculty photographs, online museum and library resources, in-house digital photography, and of course the department’s archive of over 500,000 slides.

Users are finding the FSU MDID database easy to learn and convenient to use. If you haven’t tried it yet, let the folks in the Media Center give you a tour—and get you started on your own digital evolution.
Manuscript Facsimile Project

Prof. Emmerson was busy this past year developing a census of facsimiles of Medieval Manuscripts and Incunabula in Florida State University’s collection. The census, which is organized alphabetically by title, by type, and by location, is available online by visiting http://www.fsu.edu/~arh/pages/resources/ms.shtml.

FSU has a surprisingly large collection of manuscript facsimiles, making our department a great place for manuscript studies. They allow students to study the manuscripts as books, not just as images on a screen.

Many of these publications are genuine facsimiles and thus reproduce the original manuscript in exact detail, but others reproduce only parts of the manuscript (usually just the illustrated folios) or print the originals only in black-and-white. Earlier facsimiles tend to mix commentary and plates or are selective in what they reproduce (e.g., marginalia may be ignored), but these “near facsimiles” are included in the census because they usually are the best publication available for studying a near-complete specific manuscript (some of which, like the Hortus deliciarum, are no longer extant). The list does not include numerous scholarly studies of these and other manuscripts, because—although sometimes lavishly illustrated—their goal is to make a scholarly argument rather than reproduce a manuscript. It should be noted, however, that some recent studies contain high-quality color plates that may be better than the black-and-white images of earlier facsimiles.

Spotlight on Alexa Volpe: Undergraduate Peer Advisor

Alexa Volpe is the undergraduate peer advisor for the Art History Department. Ms. Volpe provides undergraduates with advice about the Art History major and minor. As an Art History and Studio Art double major, she is familiar with navigating the requirements of both departments. She is also currently working on a third major in Chemistry and plans to attend graduate school for Art Conservation in 2009.

Ms. Volpe’s current academic project combines the intellectual and technical skills of her three fields, using light boxes to visualize a mathematical proof proposing that an infinitely dimensional object will project any shape into lower dimensions. The project will be submitted to the Bridges Mathematics & Art Conference in the Netherlands.

Art History majors and minors are encouraged to meet with Ms. Volpe. She is available in the Art History office (FAB 220-D) Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 3:00-5:00pm and via e-mail at afv06@fsu.edu.

East of Byzantium: A Special Collections & Art History Joint Venture

This past fall, Asst. Prof. Lynn Jones and nine students in the East of Byzantium graduate seminar experienced medieval Egypt first hand. The objects of their study are bound in Etoffes Coptes, a presentation volume from 1903. Michael Matos (M.A. 2005) found the volume hidden in the vault while working in Strozier Library’s Special Collections.

Contained within the manuscript are twenty-three textile fragments from medieval Coptic Egypt. Denise Giannino (M.A. 2006) brought the textiles to the attention of Dr. Jones, who subsequently developed a course on them. The final project was an exhibition catalogue created by her class. Kristie Cox, Carey Fee, Segundo Fernandez, Brad Hostetler, Charles Imbriani, Clinton Leite, Lesley Marchessault, Lori Neuenfeldt, and Gabriela Reed presented their research to Helen Evans, the Mary and Michael Jaharis Curator for Byzantine Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in November. The textiles and the final catalogue will be exhibited at the 2009 Byzantine Studies Annual Conference, which will be hosted by Florida State University.
Assoc. Prof. Karen Bearor was the co-ordinator for the 33rd Annual Film and Literature Conference at FSU, January 31-February 3. She arranged for a screening of Matthew Barney’s Cremaster 2, which was the opening event of the conference. Dr. Bearor is also presenting “Illustrators Burying the Truth at Wounded Knee” at the Nineteenth-Century Studies Association annual conference in Miami in April.


Asst. Prof. Talinn Grigor presented “Episodes of Cultural Orientalism in Imperial Iran” at the Southeast Museum of Photography at Daytona Beach Community College in January. In March she presented “Iconoclasm of Disobedience: Pahlavi Designs in Post-Revolutionary Politics,” at Iran: Beyond the Islamic Republic Conference at the Middle Eastern Center at Florida State University.

Asst. Prof. Lynn Jones was among a distinguished group of scholars who presented at “The Afterlife of Forms,” a symposium in honor of Annemarie Weyl Carr, held at the Meadows Museum, Southern Methodist University, February 23. She will also present “Between Islam and Byzantium: The Church of the Holy Cross at Aght’amar” to the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research in Belmont, MA, May 22.

Asst. Prof. Stephanie Leitch will present “A Moveable Feast? Itinerant ‘Cannibals’ in Early Modern Germany” at the Renaissance Society of America conference in Chicago, April 3-5.


Brandon Burrell (Ph.D. student) chaired the History and Culture Humanities Panel at the 2008 McKnight Doctoral Mid-Year Research and Writing Conference in Tampa, March 1.

Carey Fee (Ph.D. student) chaired the session “Words and Stones: Social Constructions” and presented the closing remarks at the Vagantes Graduate Medieval Symposium at Ohio State University, February 28-March 1. She will also present “Between Death and Judgment: Corporeal Souls and Animate Corpses in Manuscript Illuminations Accompanying the Office of the Dead” at the International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 8-11.

Jennifer Feltman (Ph.D. candidate) will present at the “Researching in European Libraries, Archives, and Museums” panel at the annual meeting of the Medieval Academy of America in Vancouver, April 3-5. She will also present “Between Death and Judgment: Corporeal Souls and Animate Corpses in Manuscript Illuminations Accompanying the Office of the Dead” at the International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 8-11.


Brad Hostetler (M.A. student) introduced the keynote speaker Elaine Treharne and chaired the session “Forging Identities” at the Vagantes Graduate Medieval Symposium at Ohio State University, February 28-March 1.

Morgan McCormick (Ph.D. student) will present “Hiding the Indian Problem in the History of Mexico” at the annual meeting of the Cultural Studies Association at the Institute of Fine Arts, at New York University, May 22-24.

Research Forum
Each semester, students have the opportunity to travel for research purposes with the support of the Penelope E. Mason bequest, made by a former colleague in the Art History Department. On March 26, Ph.D. candidates Jennifer Feltman, Tanja Jones, and Jennifer Naumann will present the state of their research after trips made possible by Mason travel grants. Ms. Feltman will discuss her experience in France researching medieval monuments, Ms. Jones will talk about her research at Dunbarton-Oaks in Washington D.C., and Ms. Naumann will speak about her experiences in Paris and Brussels while researching her dissertation.

Also at the March 26 Forum, Lori Neuenfeldt (M.A. student) will present her thesis prospectus, which deals with representations of Erotes in Late Antique art.
Travels and Adventures

Assoc. Prof. Karen Bearor spent February and March researching in New York.

Assoc. Prof. Jack Freiberg spent December in Italy continuing his research on Bramante’s Tempietto and the Spanish Renaissance in Rome.

Prof. Paula Gerson is spending the semester in New York. Please welcome visiting scholar Kirsten Ataoguz, who is teaching Early Medieval Art and Architecture in Dr. Gerson's absence.

Asst. Prof. Lynn Jones traveled to Turkey in February to research an upcoming article.

Brandon Burrell (Ph.D. student) traveled to Melbourne, Australia, in January to participate in the International Congress for the History of Art.

Stephanie Dutcher (M.A. student) spent spring break backpacking in the Smokey Mountains.

Keri Fredericks (Ph.D. candidate) will be traveling to Oxford and Jackson, Mississippi and New Orleans, Louisiana in May to research her dissertation.

Morgan McCormick (Ph.D. student) and Lindsey Skelley (M.A. student) will spend May in France.

Students Participate in Leadership Events

Tuesday, February 19, Vagantes members Carey Fee (Ph.D. student) and Brad Hostetler (M.A. student) and I AM 1789 members Keri Fredericks (Ph.D. candidate) and Clinton Leite (M.A. student) participated in the SOAR (Student Organization Advisory and Review Board) President’s Mixer Annual Meet & Greet Dinner. The theme of the evening was “What is your X Factor?” and included a keynote address by Jeanine Ward-Roof, Dean of Students. Dr. Ward-Roof identified four factors that make a great leader: awareness, integrity, attitude, and ability to foster positive relationships.

Saturday, February 23, Art History graduate students Mary Brink (M.A. student), Jennifer Feltman (Ph.D. candidate), Keri Fredericks, Brad Hostetler, Art Department MFAs Maureen Sullivan and David McLeish, and Art History undergraduate students Sarah Smith and Alexa Volpe participated in the College of Visual Arts, Theatre & Dance Leadership Development Forum. Sixty of the College’s 1700 students were selected by graduate advisors and department heads to participate in this event, fostering communication across our College's diverse disciplines. Laura O’Steen, Co-Director of the Center for Leadership and Civic Education, led the session, which was funded by the Leadership Development Initiative. Dr. O’Steen, using the Kouzes/Posnner Leadership Practice Inventory, identified five behaviors of effective leaders: “Model the Way,” “Inspire a Shared Vision,” “Challenge the Process,” “Enable Others to Act,” and “Encourage the Heart.”

Symposium Moves to Fall Semester

The Department of Art History will hold its 26th Annual Symposium this upcoming Fall Semester on October 17 and 18. Prof. Pamela Sheingorn, City University of New York Graduate Center, will deliver the keynote address. Dr. Sheingorn specializes in the European Middle Ages, particularly visual, cultural, and women’s history.

Art History graduate students are chosen from across the United States to present papers during a two-day series of meetings. The departmental faculty evaluates the papers on the basis of originality and presentation and awards one participant the Gunther Stamm prize of $200. Papers presented at the Symposium are considered for publication in Athanor, a publication for graduate students in art history sponsored by the Art History Department and the Press of the FSU Museum of Fine Arts.

Symposium papers may come from any area of the history of art, architecture, and photography. Students working toward an M.A. or Ph.D. degree may participate. The deadline for one- to two-page abstracts is September 2, 2008. Please send abstract, complete contact information (including email address), and title of proposed talk to:

Prof. Karen A. Bearor
Department of Art History
Florida State University
530 West Call Street
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1151
Congratulations!

Assoc. Prof. Karen Bearor was awarded a Council of Research and Creativity Small Grant. Dr. Bearor used the CRC to travel to New York and complete research on her forthcoming book, *The Design Laboratory: Modernism and Progressive Education in the Arts.*

Prof. Richard Emmerson received an Honorable Mention from the Council of Editors of Learned Journals’ Distinguished Editor Award (2007) for his work as editor of *Speculum* from 1999 through 2006. At the College Art Association annual meeting, he was elected a Director of the International Center of Medieval Art and appointed Chair of its Publications Committee.

Asst. Prof. Talinn Grigor was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship at the Getty Institute for the 2008-2009 Academic Year. While in residence at the Getty, Dr. Grigor will work on her second book project, “Orient or Rome Debate of 1901”: Beyond (Post)Colonial Ambivalence.

Prof. Roald Nasgaard and Asst. Prof. Talinn Grigor were awarded Committee on Faculty Research Support Summer Awards for 2008. COFRS provide summer salaries to aid in research and creative activity during the summer months. Dr. Nasgaard will apply his COFRS to curating the exhibition, *The Automatiste Revolution: Montreal 1941-1960,* and writing the accompanying book/catalogue. The exhibition will open at the Varley Art Gallery, Markham, ON, in summer 2009 and then travel to the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, NY. The accompanying book will be published by Douglas & McIntyre, Vancouver, BC. Dr. Grigor will spend the summer working on the manuscript for her book, *Discourse on Cultural Heritage in Twentieth-Century Iran,* to be published by Periscope by the end of 2009.

Asst. Prof. Michael Carrasco, Lynn Jones, and Stephanie Leitch were awarded First Year Assistant Professor grants. FYAP grants provide $16,000 for summer research. Dr. Carrasco will use the grant to travel to Guatemala and Mexico and work on his project, which studies the role that sacred objects and sacred presence played and continued to play in the religion and culture of the Maya and other Mesoamerican societies. Dr. Jones will use her FYAP grant to fund travel and research in the central Anatolian plateau of Cappadocia, Turkey. She will be focusing on three sites: Kızıl Kilise (the Red Church), Meryem Ana Kilise (the Church of the Holy Mother of God), and Euchaita/Avakat (modern Beyözü). Dr. Leitch is investigating planarity as a mode of representation in print technology in Early Modern Germany. She will visit Antwerp, Berlin, and Dresden this summer.


Keri Fredericks (Ph.D. candidate) was invited to candidacy October 23. Her committee, chaired by Prof. Neuman, includes Profs. Weingarden, Julles, and Fowler (English). Her dissertation investigates Eudora Welty’s photography and John McCrady’s paintings.

Tanja Jones (Ph.D. candidate) was awarded the FSU International Dissertation Semester Research Fellowship. Administered through the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies, this award provides up to $7,000 for a semester of research abroad. Ms. Jones will use this award to travel to London, Paris, Berlin, Florence, and Mantua in Fall 2008.

FALL GRADUATES: Master of Arts: Stephanie Tessin and Lee Todd; Bachelor of Arts: Margot Brody, Lakan Cole, Danielle Lavallee, Nicole Riley, Yelizaveta Smirnova, and David Milligan

College of Visual Arts, Theatre & Dance Presents Graduating Artists

On Friday, April 4, the Museum of Fine Arts will present the work of ten Masters of Fine Arts students scheduled to graduate in May. The exhibition will feature sculpture by Jeff Crawford, Phil Gleason, and Maureen Sullivan, photography by Becki Rutta, photography and videography by Erin Ganey, paintings by Brad Williams, ceramics by Julie Guyot, fiber, textile and found objects by Kegera Matthews-Lawrence, and drawings by Tadja Drago and Jeremy Waltman. The opening reception will take place from 7 pm until 9 pm. The work of the graduating Bachelor of Fine Arts students will be exhibited on the lower level.
A Message from the Undergraduate Art History Association...

In conjunction with the Council on Culture & Arts, UAHA is excited to sponsor a Spring Lecture Series. The lectures will be held in the faculty lounge at 7 pm on March 18 & 25, and April 1 & 8. Refreshments will be served.

UAHA officer applications will be available April 7 and due April 11. If you are interested in running please contact UAHA at fsuaha@yahoo.com.

A Message from the Art History Association...

The Winbury Prize provides $100 for books to one M.A. student and one Ph.D. student. This peer-reviewed grant is awarded each year to the two students with the best papers. If you would like to enter, please turn in one corrected seminar paper to Kathy Braun by Wednesday, March 19. Winners will be announced Friday, March 28.

Nominations for next year’s officers are due March 21; ballots available March 24; voting closes noon March 28; winners will be announced Monday, March 31.

Where are they now?

Hollie Beekman (M.A. 2004) is now working in Registration at the Art Institute of Houston, Texas.

Martha Blackwelder (M.A. 1999) is the Executive Director of the Asia Society Texas, a regional center of the Asia Society New York. She recently co-authored At the Edge of the Sky: Asian Art in the Collection of the San Antonio Museum of Art.

Steve Choate (Ph.D. 2002) teaches art history and painting at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas.

Aaron DeGroft (Ph.D. 2000) was recently appointed Director of the Muscarelle Museum of Art at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. Previously he served as Deputy Director and Chief Curator of the Ringling Museum in Sarasota, Florida.

Holly Garner (B.A. 2000) earned a M.A. in Art History with Museum Training from George Washington University. She is currently working at the National Gallery of Art in the Department of Loans and the National Lending Service.

Elise Smith (B.A. 1973) received her M.A. from Vanderbilt University and her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina. She is the Chair of the Art Department at Millsaps College in Jackson, MS.

Stephen Wagner (M.A. 1995) received his Ph.D. from the University of Delaware. He is now a professor at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

We love to hear from our alumni! Drop us a line and let us know how you are doing … arh@www.fsu.edu …and remember the deadline for submissions to the Summer Newsletter is June 20.