

OFF THE PRESS

2012 marks my last as Chair of the department. The nearly 6 years has gone quickly, and it's time to resume more time in the classroom and studio. My most joyful experiences have been in guiding our students through the program and in becoming even more connected with the alumni who make us so proud—Xavier art alums are X-ceptional! It is with joyful anticipation that I entered the Chair position, and it is with gratitude that I leave it!

Some highlights from our faculty in 2012 include: **Marsha Karagheusian** had work accepted to national juried *Visual Poetry* at San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton, CA and *Annual Open Small Works Exhibition* at the National Association of Women Artists (N.A.W.A.) Gallery in NY. **Kelly Phelps** and brother Kyle were invited visiting and featured artists to the *2012 San Angelo National Ceramic Competition* hosted at the San Angelo National Museum of Fine

Arts in San Angelo, TX. **Bruce Erikson** was awarded "Best Two-Dimensional Artist of the Year" in the *Art Design Consultants of Cincinnati's "Art Comes Alive"* and First Place in the *Hoyt Mid-Atlantic 2102* regional exhibitions. **Jonathan Gibson** was selected for *Images 2012: Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts* and "Random Acts Of Time", OCCCA. And I (**Suzanne Michele Chouteau**) was one of 231 artists from 53 countries selected to the *International Print Triennial Krakow 2012*, at the Bunkier Sztuki Contemporary Art Gallery in Krakow, Poland; my work was also seen in the regional juried *Art from the Heartland 2012*, at the Indianapolis Art Center, IN.

Thank you to all who contributed to making this *Chair-time* a gift. It's time to get back *ON THE PRESS!*

Peace and joy!

— SUZANNE MICHELE CHOUTEAU

BA in Graphic Design



Associate Professor Jonathan Gibson looks over design works with advanced graphics students

The Department of Art is proud to announce a new Bachelor of Arts degree in Graphic Design. There has been an increasing demand from both prospective and existing students to focus more intensely on a graphic design career path. After much work and planning over the last year, we are excited to offer students this new opportunity. This new program allows students a greater range of class offerings, more devoted credit hours, and a more focused approach to their graphic design goals. We are happy that the program is now even more competitive than ever.

Students will find in this new program a diversity of thought and practice. Jonathan Gibson, the professor who manages the new program has a multidisciplinary history in design, painting, and even photography. He brings this unique perspective and skill set to his teaching and mentoring of students. Similar to the 'whole person' achieved through a liberal arts education, Jonathan seeks to foster 'whole art students' who generate visual solutions from a wide range of perspectives. Creative cross-training is emphasized as design students take a wide range of other art classes from photography and painting to printmaking and sculpture. This well-rounded approach produces graduates who are innovative in both their thinking and production.

As part of the new program a new student-run design studio is being developed to give students real-world client

experiences. The Department of Art has always maintained a strong commitment to service in the community in many forms including pro-bono work for start up businesses and entrepreneurs. However, now there is an organized design studio to develop visual solutions for clients in a more effective way. Students have worked on projects such as: CeaseFire Cincinnati, Gabriel's Garden (community garden in Avondale), and Cincinnati Shakespeare Company. Engagements with these and other community partners have given the students invaluable experiences.

The Department of Art recently remodeled their computer lab to now include 30+ top-of-the-line iMac computer stations, fully loaded with all of the cutting edge technology for designers. An additional computer lab is being remodeled to accommodate the client meetings for the design studio as well as a more functional area for processing, printing, and presenting student work. This lab space creates a hive of activity for the student designers and for all students in the Department of Art.

This active, new program will continue to grow with committed students and faculty contributing to an environment which inspires creativity and innovation and which prepares students for a successful and rewarding career in Graphic Design.

Xavier University Gallery News

January 14 – February 15, 2013

EVAN LINDQUIST, Prints *Art at the X*

— 2011 Winner

FRANK SATOGATA – *Paintings*

Artists' Reception, Friday, February 15, 6-8 p.m.

February 25 – March 27, 2013

DEPARTMENT OF ART STUDENTS EXHIBITION

Artists' Reception, Friday, March 8, 6-8 p.m.

April 5 – 19, 2013

ELIZABETH LEAL – *Sculpture*

MAGGIE SCHILDMEYER – *Sculpture*

EVA MARIE WITT – *Painting/Sculpture*

Artists' Reception, Friday, April 5, 6-8 p.m.

April 26 – May 11, 2013

STEVE KINNEY – *Photography/Graphic Design*

QUINN ORR – *Film and New Media*

ERIN THOMPSON – *Graphic Design*

Artists' Reception, Friday, April 26, 6-8 p.m.

May 18 – June 28, 2013

HOLLY SCHAPKER

Artist Reception, TBA

M. Katherine Uetz, Director for the University Art Gallery

Hours: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday

Closed during university holidays

For more information call: 513.745.3811

Scholarship Reminder

Alumni, friends and prospective students are reminded that candidates for the McAuley Scholarship must apply and be accepted for admission by the competition deadline February 1, 2013. Call 513.745.3811 or check out our website at www.xavier.edu/art for scholarship details.

Art Award

Senior ELIZABETH GUILFORD was awarded the University Art Award during the April 21, 2012 All-Honors Day Program. Congratulations Elizabeth!

Departmental Blog and Facebook

Check out the work our students are doing on our departmental blog at:

[HTTP://XAVIERARTDEPARTMENT.COM/](http://XAVIERARTDEPARTMENT.COM/)



Keep up on the "happenings" around the art department. Join the **Xavier University/Edgecliff College Art Alumni** group on Facebook.

reminder

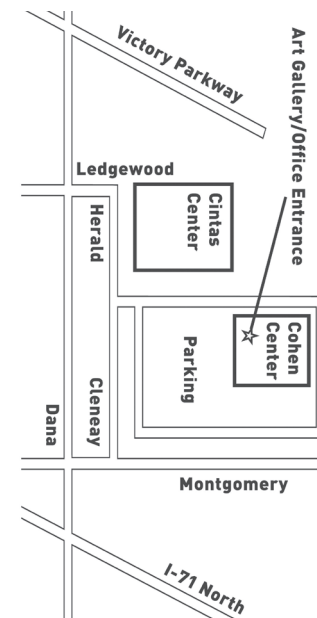
Email your life and work updates to yontz@xavier.edu

HELP ARTifacts GO GREEN!

In our efforts to be more GREEN, We want to keep in touch with you via email and phase out printed material. To do this we need you to send us your email addresses! We are happy to keep sending you printed material if you prefer — but if possible we'd like to convert as many of our alums to email as possible! This way you can send us your life and work updates and we can send you exhibit notices, etc. in a timely and eco-friendly fashion!

Please send ASAP to yontz@xavier.edu.

THANK YOU!



KEEP IN TOUCH

Address comments, suggestions, information and inquiries to:

XAVIER UNIVERSITY

Department of Art Newsletter

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Department of Art

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Artifacts

Winter 2013

Newsletter of the Xavier University Department of Art



DYNAMIC DUOS

This issue features pairs of our graduates that happen to work for the same arts organizations. The first dynamic duo is based at F+W Media in Cincinnati: **Jamie Markle** (BA 1991) and **Geoff Raker** (BFA 1998). The second pair is based at American Greetings in Cleveland: **Claire Madden Nelson** (BFA 1997) and **Sara Middleton** (BA 2009). All of them have in common backgrounds in the graphic arts—especially significant as we launch a new BA degree in Graphic Design this year under the direction of Associate Professor Jonathan Gibson. These are exciting times of transition in our department and featuring these exciting graduates is part of the celebratory spirit of new beginnings! Read on!

Jamie Markle (left)
(BA 1991)
and **Geoff Raker** (right)
(BFA 1998)

Dynamic Duos continues on the inside



JAMIE MARKLE joined F+W Media as an Associate Editor in February of 2000. Early in his editorial career, Jamie developed and edited many instructional books for North Light, including those by authors such as Rachel Rubin Wolf, Charles Reid and Kevin Macpherson. In 2007 Jamie became Publisher of North Light Books, and in 2010 became the Publisher and Editorial Director for the entire Fine Art Community at F+W. He works closely with his editorial teams to provide art instruction from the world's best artists in all forms: magazines, books, videos and digital downloads. Some of the magazines he manages include: *The Artist's Magazine*, *Watercolor Artist*, *Pastel Journal*, *Southwest Art* and *Drawing*. In addition to the line of print products F+W creates, Jamie also oversees numerous websites, including WWW.ARTISTSNETWORK.COM, WWW.ARTISTSNETWORK.TV, WWW.ARTISTSNETWORK.COM, WWW.WETCANVAS.COM and WWW.NORTHLIGHTSHOP.COM.

GEOFF RAKER started at F+W Media in the beginning of 2008 as book designer for the Craft Community. He worked at design and art-directing photo shoots for a wide variety of craft books covering such topics as knitting, crochet, mixed media and scrapbooking. Geoff then became the Managing Designer for the Craft Community. He managed a team of book designers that worked closely with the editorial department to create titles that fulfilled the needs of beginning to advanced crafters. In 2011, Geoff moved to one of the two Managing Designers overseeing all of the designers that service several communities including: HOW Design, PRINT, Popular Woodworking, Writer's Digest, North Light Mixed Media, North Light Fine Art, Impact, Family Tree and Horticulture.

How long have you been at F+W Media?

JAMIE: I have been with F+W Media since February of 2000. I began my career here as an Associate Editor in the Fine Art book area.

GEOFF: I have been with F+W Media since January 2008. I was hired as a Designer for the Craft book line.

What are your positions at F+W, and what's a typical day like?

JAMIE: I am the Group Publisher for the Fine Art Community. We are organized by category, while most publishing companies are organized by media type (books, magazines, online). I'm in charge of the creative and financial health of the art properties, so I work with a wide range of people, from editors and designers, to salespeople and financial analysts, as well as being the face of our company in the external art community. My typical day is riddled with meetings, actually. I spend a lot of my time directing other members of my team, planning new products and basically keeping all my team members informed.

GEOFF: I'm one of the two Managing Designers and I oversee seven of the 14 book and magazine designers we have on staff here in the Cincinnati office. My staff and I create several types of books and magazines ranging from writing, woodworking and mixed media. Besides designing 8 books a year, my largest responsibility is making sure that everyone is hitting their deadlines. I also look for ways to improve workflow and processes to make our staff as efficient as possible.

What's been your favorite experience(s) at F+W thus far, or what are your favorite 'jobs'?

JAMIE: I love my current position, but my favorite was Editorial Director for North Light Books. I was much more connected to the product we create and I was able to work directly with some of the best artists in the country to conceive and execute books. As a bonus, I learned so much about painting and the artistic process from working with those artists.

GEOFF: One of my favorite parts of my job is art directing photo shoots for the interior of our books. It's both challenging and rewarding to envision what the photography should look like and how that fits into my overall vision of the book design.

Had you met each other before this interview or how long have you known each other—how did you meet, etc.?

JAMIE: We didn't know each other before we both worked at F+W. Geoff and I met when he applied to be a Book Designer for our Craft team back in late 2007. A mutual friend and former XU professor, Fred Martens, introduced us when Geoff was interested in F+W. At that time, I oversaw both Fine Art and Craft.

GEOFF: When I was looking to advance my career I had contacted Fred for possibilities and he told me to contact Jamie at F+W. Jamie had interviewed me for a Craft Design position.

How did your experiences at Xavier help prepare you for your work at F+W and inform your decisions in life since you've left?

JAMIE: The combination of Liberal and Fine Arts has really served me well in this job, and others. Having the grammar and language skills in addition to understanding the visual arts was the perfect combination for me to go into publishing. Being a small university with opportunity to explore different clubs and activities also helped me develop my leadership skills.

GEOFF: I loved that the Art Department was small and all the instructors seem invested in each student's success and treated us as equals. This is what I strive to do with my own staff. I'm not just their boss but also a mentor and help each of their abilities to grow as designers.

What advise would you give to fledgling art majors?!

JAMIE: The best advice I can offer is to work hard, take as many courses that interest you as possible, and pick up some business classes. Understanding business is crucial, and if you're lucky enough to support yourself as a fine artist, you REALLY need to understand that you are running your own business. I meet a lot of artists who are great painters and poor business people, so they struggle to make ends meet.

GEOFF: Do something that you are passionate about and not what will make money. Follow your dreams and you can achieve anything if you work hard enough at it! Find a career not just a job.



Sara Middleton (left), BA Graphic Design 2009 and Claire Madden Nelson (right), BFA Graphic Design/Ceramics 1997



AMERICAN GREETINGS

Claire Madden Nelson and Sara Middleton had never met before we arranged to feature them. My sister Jeanne Chouteau Adams, an art director at American Greetings (who actually knew them both!), kindly brought them together for the photo shoot. Hopefully this is the start of future connectivity for all three of them at AG! — SUZANNE CHOUTEAU

CLAIRE MADDEN NELSON graduated from Xavier in 1997 with a BFA, concentrating in graphic design and minoring in ceramics. After graduation Claire moved back home to Cleveland, being hired by American Greetings in September of 1997. She considers herself very fortunate to work for such a great company for 15 years. In 1998, Claire gave birth to a beautiful daughter, Caitlin who is now 14, and will attend high school next year. Claire married Gary Nelson in 2008 and with two stepsons Gavin, 8, and Riley, 6, this family of 5 all live happily in Avon, Ohio.

SARA MIDDLETON, born and raised in Cincinnati, attended St. Ursula Academy, class of 2005, and went briefly to DePaul University before transferring to Xavier in 2006. At Xavier, Sara focused her artistic studies in Graphic Design and Printmaking. Her senior thesis "Dinner for 9 Dozen" was a collection of 108 unique hand-painted porcelain plates; a good portion of her plates were purchased by Joseph Beth Bookstore where they beautifully decorate the walls of the JB bistro in Rookwood Plaza, Cincinnati. After graduating with a BA (Dec. 2009), Sara was hired as a Designer (Stationery and Stickers) for American Greetings, living and working creatively ever since in Cleveland, OH.

How long have you been at American Greetings?

CLAIRE: 15 years

SARA: March of 2011

What are your positions at AG, and what's a typical day like?

CLAIRE: The position I was first hired for at American Greetings was called digital graphics assembler. American Greetings had just started a huge push into the digital production of greeting cards. I was responsible for scanning original art, color correcting the scanned artwork, and then building the electronic version of the once film based card. I worked in that area for a couple of years and then moved to prepress. In this position I was responsible for building electronic versions of the manufacturing sheets for printing. Those two positions taught me a lot about American Greetings standards and manufacturing processes. So it was a natural transition when I moved to a quality control position within Creative. I worked with Creative and manufacturing to track the production standards and quality of the product. And then about 9 years ago, I moved to my current role, Business Operations Administrator. I work as a liaison between IT and creative associates. My typical day is filled with helping Creative associates with all of the new technology that is being developed and introduced.

SARA: Associate Line Designer — Stationery and Stickers
I choose to come into work at 7:30 and leave at 4:30. I enjoy the quiet time in the morning, when my creative juices are flowing.

My day could be a mix of any of the following:
Team Meetings: We go over what the week is going to be like, share inspiration and chat about any new announcements or issues we are having. We also talk about the weekend or funny you-tube videos we have seen lately.
STRICTLY BUSINESS
Kick-Off Meetings: Product managers hold meetings

to launch new projects. For example, every March there is a Target March Stationery Refresh, which is a major refresh for us. Sometimes designing 200+ new items.

Specing Sessions: This is when we assign art direction/subject matter to the pieces of the project. For example, if we just had a Christmas Sticker Kick-Off we would meet as a team and evenly assign subject matter, technique, color and substrates to the sticker sheets.

Planning: When we figure out what the design is going to look like and start the graphic work. For example, if I was working on a Christmas Sticker that was assigned "cute woodland animals wearing Christmas sweaters with Glitter accents" in the specing session- I would either create the new art myself or find art within AG that I could use for this sticker sheet.

Production Work: This is when we do the final graphic work on the sticker sheet or thank you note. We add all the finishing layers (hot stamp, glitter etc.) in Illustrator, name all the files, create the die cuts, make sure the color profiles are correct and drop the files into the server to be sent to the printer for production.

What's been your favorite experience(s) at AG thus far, or what are your favorite 'jobs'?

CLAIRE: My favorite experience at American Greetings has been meeting so many interesting and talented people. Primarily my husband Gary. There is also so much constant change at AG, there is never a dull moment.

SARA: Seeing a project travel from start to finish has been a great learning experience for me. Adjusting to setbacks and unexpected problems have taught me how to bite the bullet and get the job done. I have had quite a few hiccups along the way. These experiences, though not always the most pleasant have given me more confidence in my work and a better understanding for all the hard work that goes into a single piece of stationery or sticker sheet.

I feel that anytime I learn from a mistake or just learn more about my job in general, it's a great experience. When friends and family ask me about my job, I tell them I'm learning a lot and really starting to understand the business. In return, making it more fun and a little bit less stressful.

My favorite projects to work on are anything Target! It is an amazing feeling to walk into Target and see my work. I pretty much freaked out in the Stationery aisle this past March when I saw my designs on the shelves for the first time. I was so proud of myself.

Had you met each other before this interview?

CLAIRE: Not personally, but we met for the photos.

SARA: Claire and I had not met before. I'm glad we got the chance to meet and be a part of this article together.

How did your experiences at Xavier help prepare you for your work at AG and inform your decisions in life since you've left?

CLAIRE: I am so grateful for all of the experiences that I had at Xavier, I not only learned about art while at Xavier, but I also learned how to be a well-rounded business person. I was extremely lucky to move back to Cleveland after graduation, and to be hired by such a creative company. I am surrounded by art and creativity every day, but I focus more on the business side of creative.

SARA: Xavier prepared me to be able to take constructive criticism. In college, I always looked at tweaks/changes to designs in a negative light. However, now I realize that if the tweak or change is going to make the design better, it's always worth the effort.

Working at AG, there are a lot of people trying to give their opinions. Your co-workers and especially your boss appreciate an employee who can roll with punches. You don't want to be the one who complains or makes excuses when given criticism. Not only is it unprofessional, it shows you aren't a team player.

What advise would you give to fledgling art majors?!

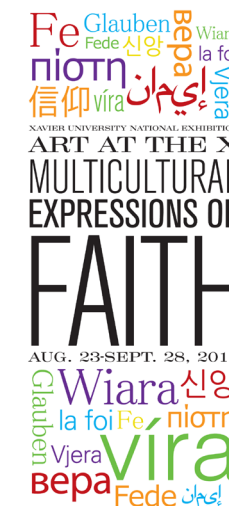
CLAIRE: Work hard and be unique.

SARA: Working at AG is great. There are so many different kinds of people all working in one building. Painters, illustrators, lettering designers, photographers, writers, and product managers... the list goes on.

There have been many times when I needed help and was too shy to ask for it. Even though I'm still working on this myself- you need to take advantage of your co-workers different skills (family and friends too). Something that would take me 5 hours to complete could be done in 30min if I were to just ask for help. I don't think there has ever been a person who NEVER needed help.

When you start asking for help you learn more. The more I have learned at AG the more confident I have become. I know my confidence level directly impacts my designs. Trust your creativity and put yourself out there.

National Juried Art Exhibition



ART AT THE X
MULTICULTURAL EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH
AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 28, 2013
ENTRY DEADLINE IS MAY 10, 2013

Xavier's Women of Excellence awarded a grant to Suzanne Chouteau, Kitty Uetz and Cheryl Nunez (Office of Diversity and Equity) in support of this project to purchase art for Xavier University.

Purchase awards will be made with Women of Excellence grant monies to buy art for permanent exhibition on the University's campus with the intent of advancing institutional objectives related to mission and identity, diversity, community-engaged learning and outreach, and alumni engagement. This acquisition of art guided by a mission-based, inclusive vision will broaden the scope of art on campus.