Musing at the Helm
By Martha R. Frostinghaus, Chair

As I am sure you have noted, CINCINNATI OHIO is brimming with cultural activities this year. This summer we caught up with four of our recent graduates who are now art teachers in grades ranging from kindergarten through high school. They are, Maureen Buri, BA ’95, Sarah Cook, BA ’95, M.ED. ’06, Jackie Glaser, BA ’99, and Ashley Kuehner, BA ’02. Some of you may be familiar with the saying, “Those who can, do; and those who can’t, teach.” For good reason, most academicians don’t agree with this statement. Not because it puts down the teaching profession, but because it small-minded. It also, sadly, is indicative of a culture that undervalues educators and education. In these times of the “No child left behind Act,” it should be clear that the utmost responsibility we place on these teachers and their value while taken for granted, should moreover be heightened. The truly exceptional, gifted artists/teachers have to many skills beyond the manufacturing of art. The complexity of these challenges faced these teachers featured in our article face, not only give testament to their talents and Intellect, but their dedication to children as well.

Where are you teaching? Age group? Number of students? Number of days per class?

Maureen Buri: Mount Notre Dame High School, an all girls high school, in Reading, Ohio, teaching Drawing, Ceramics, Photography, Fibers and Calligraphy to approximately 150 Freshmen-Seniors. I have five preps and one period.
Sarah Cook: Nigel Middle School/Forest Hills School District 7th grade—approximately 150 students. Their 8th grade classes in the morning, 7th grade classes in the afternoon, CAF/HTs in homeroom. Ahh so fun!
Jackie Glaser: Reading Central Elementary full time and one class at Reading Jr High School. I teach 350 elementary students at the 22 at the high school level. The classes are awesome.
Ashley Kuehner: Patison Elementary School, 1-6, 900 students, 7 classes per day.

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I have been taking art classes since I was in the first grade. My mom is a practicing artist, so I had constant encouragement from her. Going to museums, looking at fossils and going on field trips was the best part of my childhood. Then in college, I knew I wanted to do something related to art. I took art education classes and had a high school level. SG: I received a BA in Art and Electronic Media I worked at Sherwin-Williams as a bookkeeper/typist for 3 years and gained my first experience with computers! Art is so powerful and personal to me that I knew then that I wanted to share this experience to the future. AK: I wanted to be an artist because I always loved drawing and was encouraged early on in my life. I am an artist because no day is the same! I am constantly inspired by my students and the different objects that I see. AK: I think as an art teacher you need to be quick on your feet and as a teacher developed the most amazing, best but prepare for the worst. Other helpful qualities: creativity, organization, and a great sense of humor. SG: I am still trying to find, understand and discover all of the qualities you must have: POSITIVE ENERGY! JK: I think an artist needs to be quick on their feet! You have to be flexible and ready for anything to change at any moment. A sense of humor will get you through those tough days. I always have them with me and organized in order to keep up with the constant movement of students in and out of your class. You also have to be in constant learning — so you see new possibilities and projects evolving... JK: Be a good artist. Understand that each child SEES the world differently and they truly do have fun! Be flexible. Be willing to listen to kids with an idea even if it’s not what you had in mind.

What would you give your upcoming art majors pursuing art education? MB: I would advise a future teacher to participate in workshops at the local and national levels. ASU/CAM's Educators for Educators are great. Take summer classes and workshops that can expand your knowledge and your art experience.

We welcome Kelly to our faculty this fall, 2013. Teaching experience gained at the University of Dayton. AK: I include in my courses the use of technology to explain process and successful problem solving they might encounter. SG: Yes, I do. It is very hard to find that balance of teaching and creating art. I am very lucky because I have a weaving studio in our home and a pottery shed in the backyard. My husband, Matt, is a great support. By making time to create, I can empathize with my students about their successes and struggles.

I am sure that it was a real role as teacher and artist that many funded me my current position. I think of myself as an art first, and then process through how to impart art appropriate knowledge to my students. As an artist, I teach from my heart and not the book. In my personal experience, going to museums, looking at fossils and going on field trips was the best part of my childhood. Then in college, I knew I wanted to do something related to art. I took art education classes and had a high school level. SG: I received a BA in Art and Electronic Media I worked at Sherwin-Williams as a bookkeeper/typist for 3 years and gained my first experience with computers! Art is so powerful and personal to me that I knew then that I wanted to share this experience to the future. AK: I wanted to be an artist because I always loved drawing and was encouraged early on in my life. I am an artist because no day is the same! I am constantly inspired by my students and the different objects that I see. AK: I think as an art teacher you need to be quick on your feet and as a teacher developed the most amazing, best but prepare for the worst. Other helpful qualities: creativity, organization, and a great sense of humor. SG: I am still trying to find, understand and discover all of the qualities you must have: POSITIVE ENERGY! JK: I think an artist needs to be quick on their feet! You have to be flexible and ready for anything to change at any moment. A sense of humor will get you through those tough days. I always have them with me and organized in order to keep up with the constant movement of students in and out of your class. You also have to be in constant learning — so you see new possibilities and projects evolving... JK: Be a good artist. Understand that each child SEES the world differently and they truly do have fun! Be flexible. Be willing to listen to kids with an idea even if it’s not what you had in mind.

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