

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE

*Museum Seminar Imparts
Lasting Impression*

With a myriad of final details to address, the University Art Gallery is abuzz with a cacophony of activity: people frenetically hanging prints, writing catalog descriptions, and mounting lights. While this flurry of activity is typical in the final hours before an exhibition opening, what is extremely rare and highly unusual is that the exhibition curators are students from the Department of History of Art and Architecture. As part of the department's Museum Studies Exhibition Seminar, taught by Society for Contemporary Craft Executive Director Janet McCall, these students are assisting with the ambitious, extensive, and exhausting task of conceptualizing, researching, curating, designing, and installing an art exhibition in six weeks.



With support from the Fine Foundation, students in the department work with museum professionals from the Pittsburgh region to curate and install an exhibition of their own conceptualization. Four exhibitions have been developed since 2009 through this collaboration. This year's exhibition, titled *The Imprint of War: Responses in Print*, brought together three print artists (Jacques Callot, Nicholas Naughton, and Sandow Birk) whose works show reactions to war in historical and contemporary contexts.

"The museum studies course provides an invaluable opportunity for students to develop an awareness of different interpretive approaches to museum work," says Gretchen Bender, assistant chair and director of undergraduate advising in the department. "When functioning as art curators, students learn how to contextualize the historical circumstances and philosophical trends under which these approaches developed and consider the museum's educational role and responsibilities when dealing with a pluralistic public." Bender also says that because the interest in museum studies is so great, the department is looking into expanding the museum course into a minor or certificate program.

While students learn how to curate and exhibit other artists' work through the museum studies seminar, the department also offers students a forum to showcase their own creative projects. The inaugural event of HAAARCH!!! was held in spring 2011 and provided students with the opportunity to exhibit, present, and promote their research and experiential learning activities to University faculty and staff as well as fellow students. HAAARCH!!! featured student theses and independent research papers, advanced architectural studio design work, and live performances. In addition, junior and senior majors spoke about their experiences earning grants, scholarships, and fellowships; participating in undergraduate

teaching assistantships; securing competitive internship positions; and engaging in study abroad and international travel.

"HAAARCH!!! was initially developed to show department faculty the full breadth of undergraduate accomplishment among the majors and for the faculty to think creatively about new opportunities that they can offer students at the curricular and program level," says Bender. "More importantly, it provides potential majors with a forum to learn about opportunities that are available to them, to make connections with older students who can serve as mentors, and to become inspired to think about what they want to accomplish as undergraduates at Pitt."

Students interested in the history of art and architecture can choose from four possible majors. The standard, 36-credit track provides students with extensive knowledge of the major periods in the history of art, while the secondary option requires fewer credits and enables students to major in other fields, including anthropology, studio arts, psychology, business, and neuroscience. The third track is the honors major and is recommended for those students who seek to attend graduate school. The department also offers the Architectural Studies Program for students who plan to pursue a professional degree in architecture at the graduate level with tracks in both design and preservation.

"Because Pittsburgh is such a vibrant, progressive city with an exciting art scene, our undergraduates are encouraged to pursue a variety of academic and professional experiences," says Bender. "We teach our students to think critically, speak confidently, write effectively, engage in interdisciplinary study, and learn from cultures beyond their own. Most fundamentally, we encourage students to develop an informed perspective for observing and analyzing the world around them."

For more information about the Department of History of Art and Architecture, visit www.haa.pitt.edu.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The University Art Gallery is the major repository of art at the University of Pittsburgh, with a collection of 3,000 objects from around the world that includes some valuable holdings in American painting and old master prints.
- Students in the Department of History of Art and Architecture have secured competitive internships nationally, including at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Guggenheim Museum in New York, and Smithsonian Institution, and locally at the Carnegie Museum of Art, Andy Warhol Museum, Mattress Factory, and Society for Contemporary Craft.
- Four department faculty members have won the Tina & David Bellet Teaching Excellence Awards: Aaron Sheon, Barbara McCloskey, Gretchen Bender, and Drew Armstrong.



MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN

A Gift of Historic Proportions

It gives me great pleasure to announce that through the extraordinary generosity of the late University of Pittsburgh alumnus William S. Dietrich II, the University recently received a historic gift of a \$125 million fund. Mr. Dietrich's gift is the largest single gift to Pitt in its 225-year history and one of the 10 largest gifts made by an individual to a public university in the United States. In honor of Dietrich's father, the School of Arts and Sciences is now named the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.

The impact of this historic gift is far reaching. It will help to secure Pitt's place among the world's most respected universities and guarantee that the University and the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences continue to provide educational opportunities of the highest quality to future generations of students. Enshrined in its new name, Dietrich's generosity affirms our belief that the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences is and will remain the cornerstone of the University's research and scholarly excellence.

The Dietrich School embraces a global perspective on learning. It provides the infrastructure—the skills and knowledge—for students to pursue graduate studies successfully or to go into the workforce and flourish as citizens in their community and the world. A major component of a liberal arts education is the outstanding opportunity it provides for students to enrich their academic experience by participating in undergraduate research alongside scholars who are true leaders in their disciplines. Through the Office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity, students can engage in cutting-edge research in the natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences from their freshman to senior years. Under the direction of Patrick Mullen, one of the primary goals of the Office of Undergraduate Research is to reach out to faculty and students to develop new research initiatives.

Students can further enhance their academic experience and excel at the highest levels by participating in the wealth of services offered through the Academic Resource Center (ARC). The ARC provides students with the building blocks for success by offering valuable lifelong skills such as time management, study strategies, and mentoring. Under the leadership of its newly appointed director, Anita Persaud, the ARC will continue to deliver high-quality programs and excellent resources while working to forge new partnerships with departments and units throughout the University.

Mr. Dietrich's historic investment in the University of Pittsburgh and the Dietrich School will enable us to enhance our programs and support our students by maintaining the University's legacy of excellence in undergraduate education.

I extend to you my best wishes for a joyous holiday season and a happy new year!

John A. Twynning

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies



FACULTY PROFILE

History's Gateway into Art World

With her family well established in the field of academia, Barbara McCloskey's career path certainly seemed predestined to bring her to the hallowed halls of an internationally renowned educational institution. However, what surprised everyone, no one more so than McCloskey, was her chosen field of study.

McCloskey's childhood was devoid of art classes and annual trips to the museum. The arts just were not part of her life. However, after enrolling in an undergraduate art history course, McCloskey realized that she could use history as a point of access to learn more about and make meaningful a subject that was incredibly foreign to her.

"Because I grew up being intellectually curious [and] with an insatiable love of politics and history, I became fascinated early in my career with the idea of exploring the point at which history, politics, and art intersect," explains McCloskey. "Art objects are not neutral and don't happen in a vacuum. When we examine the art in the context of what was occurring politically and socially, we can then determine what these pieces are intrinsically trying to tell us."

McCloskey, an associate professor in the Department of History of Art and Architecture, has been with the department for more than two decades, and her passion for history and politics continues to direct her career. She teaches lecture courses and upper-level seminars covering the history of art in 20th-century Germany, critical theory, and art historical methodology. She has published widely on the relationship between art and politics in 20th-century Germany, the visual culture of World War II, and artistic mediations of the experience of exile in the modern and contemporary eras. Currently, McCloskey is completing a new study, titled *George Grosz in Exile: Art and the One World Order during World War II and the Cold War*.

What is most gratifying for McCloskey and where she derives the most satisfaction, however, is teaching introductory-level undergraduate courses. Her favorite course by far is the Foundations in Art History course, which she personally helped to spearhead. "The foundations course offers an excellent introduction to art history and provides students with the building blocks they need to move forward in the major," says McCloskey. "This class affords me a pedagogically rewarding situation, because with the smaller class size, I am able to work with students on an individual basis. I can really get to know them, read their writings, and find out if they are internalizing basic information. Consequently, I am able to help them improve in areas where they may be struggling to grasp the more difficult concepts."

As McCloskey recalls when she took her first art history course, she is excited to see students who have no initial connection to art express verbally what they are experiencing visually. "I am frequently amazed at how students feed their intellectual interest and organize a conversation around an art object, bringing into the discussion their perceptions and observations in very illuminating ways. Every day, I look forward to learning something new from my students."



New Undergraduate Research Director Seeks Participation

Inclusive. That one word encompasses the vision of Patrick Mullen, who recently was appointed the new director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (OUR) in the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences. Because undergraduate research is a fundamental component of the student experience, Mullen envisions an environment in which students and faculty across the University of Pittsburgh are invested fully in experience-based learning.

"Research provides students with a forum for critical inquiry. It affords them the opportunity to ask questions, to probe, and to explore their interests independently of the classroom," explains Mullen. "Because undergraduate research offers students the opportunity to engage in cutting-edge research with faculty who are leaders in their fields, it is the Office of Undergraduate Research's goal for every Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences undergraduate to take advantage of the extraordinary research opportunities that Pitt offers."

Mullen's vision is multifaceted. While continuing to cultivate and enhance the strong research programs and traditions that currently exist at OUR, Mullen will meet with faculty members across the University to uncover new research opportunities, particularly in the humanities, fine arts, and social sciences. He also will seek to develop research initiatives for students that include a summer research awards program, a spring break research project, and the development of a University-wide undergraduate research symposium.

A native of Pittsburgh, Mullen received a BPhil in English writing and history from the University of Pittsburgh and an MFA from Columbia University. Prior to his appointment as director of OUR, Mullen was assistant director of the Advising Center.

"I love working in higher education because of the personal interactions with students and faculty. No two days are ever the same, and every day I learn so much from students and my colleagues," says Mullen. "What is most rewarding to me is watching students live up to their potential and develop their ideas to fruition."

For more information about the Office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity, visit www.asundergrad.pitt.edu/offices/experiential-learning.



FUTURE LEADERS LEARN TODAY

Passion for African Art Drives Research

When senior art history and French major Lauren Taylor examines a piece of 18th-century art from the Congo River Basin in Africa, she is not just observing the aesthetic qualities of the piece. She delves deeper into the object's history to unlock the story behind the artwork. For Taylor, who also is pursuing a certificate in African studies, each art object has its own story to tell, and by looking at the events surrounding the creation of the object, she can reveal the footprints of the past.

Taylor's love for Congolese art was initially inspired when she enrolled in the Foundations in Art History course taught by Barbara McCloskey, associate professor in the Department of History of Art and Architecture. "Professor McCloskey is incredibly smart, [is] an impressive communicator, and [was] totally accessible whenever I had a question. She makes difficult concepts easy to grasp," says Taylor. "I came away from her class really enthused about African art and definitely wanted to dig deeper to find out more information on the subject."

To quench her thirst for more knowledge on African art, Taylor participated in a study abroad experience in the spring term of her junior year. She traveled to Brussels, Belgium, the site of the Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale (MRAC), one of the largest museums of Congolese art in the world. "The amount of historical data on Congolese art at MRAC is incredibly extensive," says Taylor. "It was such a fascinating experience for me to see firsthand how the museum was confronting its past on using African art as propaganda for colonization of the Congo."

As a recipient of a research fellowship from the U.S. Steel Foundation, Taylor currently is working with McCloskey to conduct research on the Carnegie Museum of Art's African art collection and to determine how the museum has become more receptive and responsive to the public's needs.

"Museums can be authoritative in how they exhibit artwork," says Taylor. "However, for the retrospective exhibition on iconic African American photographer and Pittsburgh native Charles 'Teenie' Harris, the museum reached out and asked people in the region for their assistance in identifying people, places, and events depicted in Harris' photographs." Taylor's research at the Carnegie Museum of Art focuses on describing the museum's present movement of change, delineating the causes for the change, and exploring possible future changes.

In addition to her research duties at the Carnegie Museum of Art, Taylor is a teaching assistant for McCloskey's foundations class, for which she is creating a database that combines art history vocabulary with images that represent the words. She also is reading and summarizing scholarly texts.

Taylor plans to attend a combined graduate/doctoral program to continue her studies in the art of the Congo River Basin. She eventually would like to emulate her art history professors and join them in the academic arena.

Dietrich School Announces New ARC Director

The Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences recently announced the appointment of Anita Persaud as the new director of the Academic Resource Center (ARC). In leading the ARC, Persaud will draw on 17 years of academic experience. For the past 10 years, she managed The Pennsylvania State University's College of Engineering's diversity initiatives.

Through her work in higher education, Persaud has acquired an impressive administrative background, bringing to the University of Pittsburgh skills that are critical to the ARC's success. Her professional experience has given her the ability to think creatively about strategies, streamline processes, and manage large budgets while maintaining a high quality of student services.

"I am proud to be at one of the most distinguished academic institutions in the nation and honored to be appointed the new director of the Academic Resource Center because of the tremendous impact the ARC has in ensuring the academic and career success of all undergraduate students at Pitt," says Persaud.

As the ARC's new director, Persaud will play an active role in meeting the unit's goals and objectives, promoting retention-related initiatives, and fostering students' overall academic success. In doing so, she will continue to build on the cutting-edge initiatives already in place at the ARC. "In the next five years, I want the ARC to be recognized as one of the leading retention efforts at the University. My aim is for this unit to be well known and heavily accessed by students due to its delivery of high-quality programs and excellent resources," says Persaud.

"To achieve this goal, I will work diligently with the ARC staff to develop win-win solutions to current student concerns and problems, to inspire others to work toward a common goal by focusing on teamwork, and to maintain current relationships as well as develop new partnerships by collaborating with other units and staff throughout the University," says Persaud.

Persaud earned both of her graduate degrees at Penn State in counselor education, with a focus on college student personnel. She begins her duties as director of the ARC on January 3, 2012.

For more information on the Academic Resource Center, visit www.asundergrad.pitt.edu/offices/arc/index.html.

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SUBSTANCE ABUSE INTERVENTION ACTIONS FOR PARENTS

by Michelle D'Amico Jarvis,
University Counseling Center

Substance abuse is a serious problem facing college students. It can have damaging, devastating, and even long-lasting consequences. While alcohol is the most commonly abused substance, studies have shown that there has been a rise in the use of marijuana and prescription drugs on college campuses. For students who are caught in the cycle of substance abuse, their lives can be impacted negatively by stressed relationships, poor grades, and a general apathy toward achieving their goals. In order to help a loved one who is abusing substances, please refer to the intervention actions listed below. Being aware of these steps can mean the difference between a student's getting back on track versus staying off track for many years to come.

Intervention Actions

- **Stay Involved:** Be aware of the type of friends and social activities your student is involved with and in. By paying attention early on and showing interest, you can clearly demonstrate your proactive approach grounded in love and care.
- **Recognize Warning Signs:** In general, a warning sign for substance abuse is some kind of a change from the norm. Changes can occur in the form of physical appearance, sudden health problems, poor financial management, emotional instability, academic decline, increased isolation, and/or gravitating toward friends who are known substance abusers.
- **Act with Care:** If you believe that your student may be abusing substances, it is important to have a conversation. Remember, your support and guidance will demonstrate an ongoing connection focused on your student's health and well-being.
- **Know the Resources:** Once you have had a conversation, the next step is to discuss which resource would be most helpful to your student. Offer a menu of options for treatment, such as the University Counseling Center, the Student Health Service, support group meetings (e.g. Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous), drug and alcohol treatment facilities, and mental health centers.
- **Get Connected:** In taking proactive steps to help your student, you may need to assist him or her with making connections for treatment. By sharing the available resources, for instance, and encouraging your loved one to access treatment, you will set the stage for recovery and success.

RESOURCES

University Counseling Center
334 William Pitt Union
412-648-7930

www.counseling.pitt.edu

College Drinking: Changing the Culture
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov

National Institute on Drug Abuse
www.nida.nih.gov/nidahome.html

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Advising Center 412-624-6444
 Academic Resource Center 412-648-7920
 Office of the Associate Dean
 for Undergraduate Studies 412-624-6480
 Office of Undergraduate Research,
 Scholarship, and Creative Activity 412-624-6828
 Office of Freshman Programs 412-624-6844
 Office of Student Records 412-624-6776
www.as.pitt.edu/undergraduate

Questions or concerns? E-mail us at pittpride@as.pitt.edu.



University of Pittsburgh

*Kenneth P. Dietrich School
 of Arts and Sciences
 Undergraduate Studies
 140 Thackeray Hall
 139 University Place
 Pittsburgh, PA 15260*

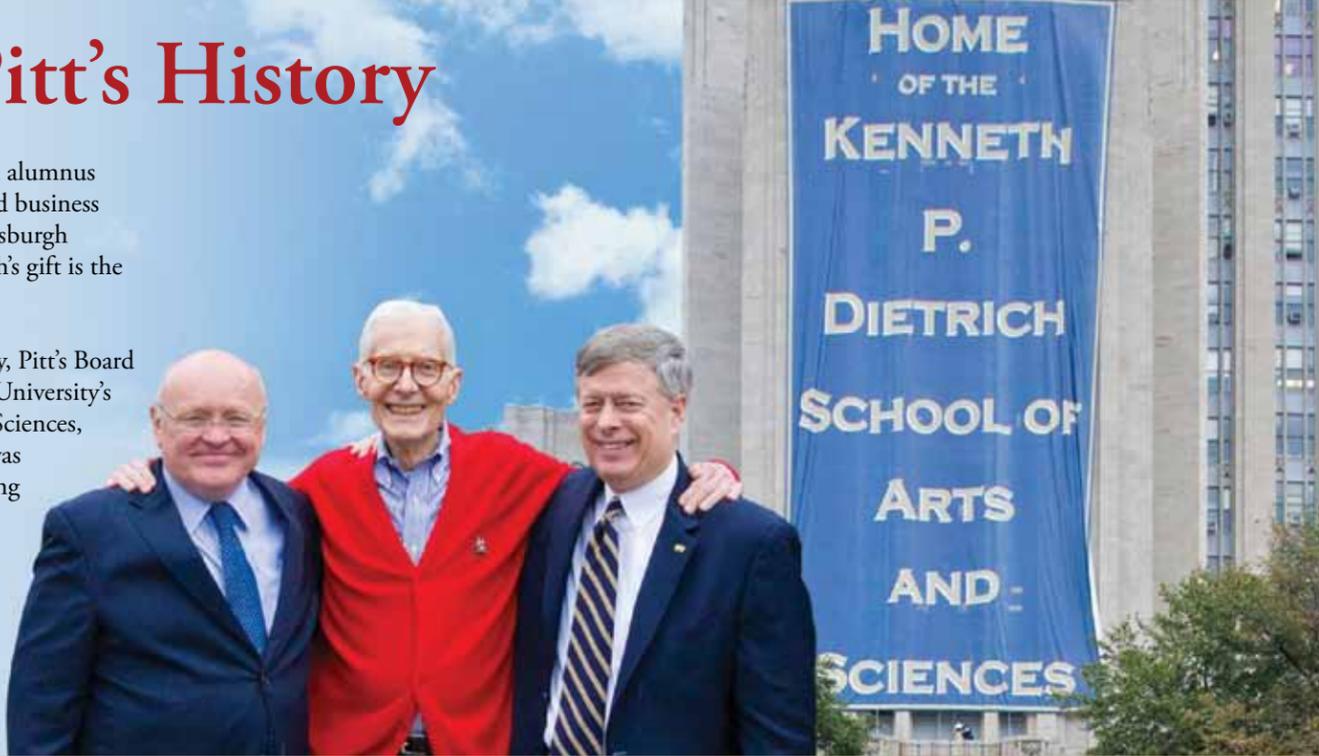
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Largest Gift in Pitt's History

Through the generosity of the late University of Pittsburgh alumnus William S. Dietrich II—a well-known and highly respected business leader, investor, and philanthropist—the University of Pittsburgh received a historic gift of a \$125 million fund. Mr. Dietrich's gift is the largest single gift in Pitt's 225-year history.

In recognition of Mr. Dietrich's investment in the University, Pitt's Board of Trustees voted October 28 on a resolution to name the University's largest school the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, in honor of Mr. Dietrich's father. The school's new name was announced through the unfurling of a 10-story banner hung from the University's 42-story Cathedral of Learning, the tallest academic structure in the Western hemisphere.

From left to right: N. John Cooper, the Bettye J. and Ralph E. Bailey Dean of Arts and Sciences; William S. Dietrich II, Pitt alumnus, trustee, and former Board of Trustees chairperson; and Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg.



The University of Pittsburgh, as an educational institution and as an employer, values equality of opportunity, human dignity, and racial/ethnic and cultural diversity. Accordingly, as fully explained in Policy 07-01-03, the University prohibits and will not engage in discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, disability, or status as a veteran. The University also prohibits and will not engage in retaliation against any person who makes a claim of discrimination or harassment or who provides information in such an investigation. Further, the University will continue to take affirmative steps to support and advance these values consistent with the University's mission. This policy applies to admissions, employment, and access to and treatment in University programs and activities. This is a commitment made by the University and is in accordance with federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations.

For information on University equal opportunity and affirmative action programs, please contact: University of Pittsburgh; Office of Affirmative Action, Diversity, and Inclusion; Carol W. Mohamed, Director (and Title IX, 504 and ADA Coordinator); 412 Bellefield Hall; 315 South Bellefield Avenue; Pittsburgh, PA 15260; 412-648-7860. For complete details on the University's Nondiscrimination Policy, please refer to Policy 07-01-03. For information on how to file a complaint under this policy, please refer to Procedure 07-01-03.

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 DIETRICH SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
 THE PITT PRIDE**
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Publisher
 John A. Twynning

Contributing Writers
 Patricia McGrane
 Z Taylor

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For the online academic calendar, go to www.provost.pitt.edu/information-on/calendar.html.

Month	Event	
December	18-January 3: Winter recess for students (no classes)	
	20: Fall term grades must be approved by instructors	
	21: Fall term grades available online	
January	23-January 2: Winter recess for faculty and staff	
	3: All University offices and buildings reopen	
February	4: Spring term enrollment period ends for all students	
	13: Last day to declare a major and meet with a departmental advisor for next term	
	16: Martin Luther King Jr. birthday observed (University closed)	
	17: Spring term add/drop period ends	
	31: Deadline for students to submit Grade Option forms to the dean's office	
March	2: Spring term deadline for students to submit Withdrawal forms to dean's office	
	4-11: Spring recess for students; no classes	
	9: Spring holiday (University closed)	
	15: Last day to resign from all classes with Student Appeals Office and receive a partial refund	
	19: Summer term enrollment period begins	
	23: Deadline to apply for August 2012 graduation	
	26: Fall term enrollment appointments begin	
	April	6: Last day for fall term enrollment appointments
		7: Fall term open enrollment period begins
		20: Last day for spring term undergraduate day classes
23-28: Final examination period for undergraduate day classes		
28: Spring term ends; official date for degrees awarded in spring term		
May	29: Residence halls close; annual Commencement Convocation	
	2: Spring term grades must be approved by instructors	
	3: Spring term grades available online	

CALENDAR OF EVENTS