

Annual Report – FY18

Studio Arts Coordinator - Gary Edward Cuddington

Essential Responsibilities

As Studio Arts Coordinator, I am responsible for the Studio Arts Concentration, the Portrait Open Studio Community Classes, and the Art Education Concentration. The Studio Arts Concentration employed six adjunct faculty, two full-time faculty (one with tenure), and the following staff positions, Studio Arts Manager, Gallery Director and a Gallery Assistant and the Ceramics Arts Technical Coordinator. I serve as mentor and supervisor for studio arts adjunct faculty, review portfolios and CV's and serve on search committees to hire new studio arts adjunct faculty.

Two formal meetings and regular informal meetings throughout the year serve as a way to an open dialogue of the programs strengths and needs. I review studio course curriculum, vertical planning and assessment, schedule studio courses, supervise studio art courses taught by visiting artists and adjunct faculty, oversee the studio arts budget, plan for the studio arts curriculum and facilities, and make sure the studios are in compliance with environmental hazard codes and OSHA standards for safety.

Community Offerings

Forty-eight weekly sessions of community portrait open studio classes were held. The Community portrait group met in the drawing/painting studio throughout the year. Many of the artists in this group have exhibited their work in galleries in Frederick and the group as a whole will exhibit at Hood College this coming year. The group employs a model for each session; members pay the model's fee and an addition amount to Hood College for use of the studio. Many of our graduate students have taken advantage of the study group offerings to increase their skills and this open studio is free to faculty and our undergraduate students.

Significant Changes

Jacklyn Scott, Studio Arts Manager, has been a tremendous asset to the Studio Art Concentration, and her fluid communication between faculty, staff and administrators allowed us to function as a cohesive unit. In June, Jacklyn stepped down from her position and although it is unfortunate to lose such a valuable member, Joyce Michaud and I are conducting interviews from a large pool of strong candidates.

Jenna Gianni is resigning from her position as Gallery Director in July, which is also a big loss to the studio arts at Hood College. Jenna has been generous with effective feedback on the how to optimize the effectiveness of the next individual to occupy the Gallery Director position. Hodson Gallery and Whitaker Gallery are important tools in how we present the Studio Art Concentration and also how we represent The Art & Archaeology Department, so we will be diligent in finding a strong and suitable candidate to take over where Jenna is leaving off.

Taylor Pasquale filled the Arts Technical Coordinator position in spring, and has also taught multiple ceramics undergraduate and graduate level courses. Taylor quickly fit in well with faculty, staff and students. It is clear from student feedback that he is well liked and student projects are strong evidence of effective teaching methods. Taylor is a welcome addition to the Studio Arts Concentration; along with a significant understanding of traditional ceramics methods he brings a touch of contemporary conceptual flare; I have found this to be a good complement to our department.

Topics of Importance

I. PR and Recruitment

- A. Increase visibility/awareness
 - 1. Community outreach and collaborations
 - 2. Art Club, "The Hood College Arts Collective"

II. Building a sense of community

- A. Collaborate and communicate toward common goals
 - 1. Art Club, "The Hood College Arts Collective"
- B. Group and juried art exhibitions
 - 1. Hood College Galleries, Hodson Gallery and Whitaker Gallery

C. Inform, encourage and empower exploration of the “Art World” outside of Hood College

1. Participating in and proposing art exhibitions
2. Art competitions
3. Residencies and retreats
4. Internships

III. Strategically using available resources

A. Combine, share, modify and streamline

1. Life Models
2. Commonly used studio materials ordered in bulk
3. Bringing in artists and having workshops that benefit many students
4. Collaborating with other departments, schools and members of the community

B. Optimize use of technology

1. Fluid movement from traditional to digital media
2. Social Media (knowledge exploring and practice using)
3. Work with Jeff Welsh and Bing Crosby to ensure technology is being used appropriately in the classroom/studios
4. Work with Jeff Welsh, Bing Crosby and Heather Mitchell-Buck to get the most out of the Apps we have access to on Office 365; OneDrive, OneNote, SharePoint, Teams, Class Notebook, Sway and Forms

C. Things to add to the Hood College website:

1. Image galleries (faculty, current students, alumni)
2. Alumni website links
3. Blog site/Instagram, continually updated by our faculty, staff and art club
4. Visiting Artists lectures, workshops, studio visits, gallery talks and links to their social media

IV. Collaborations (both are in the development stage)

A. Experiential learning, increase college/department visibility and outreach

1. Frederick, Maryland artist, Yemi Fagbohun and I are developing a proposal for a collaborative mural. Yemi and I envision Tatem Arts Center’s basement walls as the site for this project and students as key players, in development and creation stages. Documentation photos of the murals production would be printed and hung on the walls in Tatem and big unveiling of the mural would cap off the project.
2. I am in the discussion stage with Phil Berneburg, a former graduate ceramics faculty member to create one or two murals, at his Ceramic Studios, Washington Street Studio. The project would potentially involve, students, alumni and faculty

V. Additional Support

A. Visiting Artists

1. Filmmaker/Cinematographer/Musician Chris Ernst
2. Mixed media/Instillation artists Jenn Figg and Matthew McCormack
3. Photographer Antonio McAfee

B. Workshops & Demonstrations

1. Gamblin Paints (Invited for a future date)
2. Series of open workshops and portfolio reviews

Progress and Strategy

Significant quality

The studio arts at Hood College are a hidden gold mine. The renovation to Tatem Arts Center yielded new furniture and equipment in updated studios and classrooms, a brand new 24-hour access studio space, our PC lab was converted to a Mac lab, and we now have a new glaze room for ceramics. In addition to these renovations we have a sought after ceramic kiln pavilion, two amazing galleries and award winning faculty and staff. Increased public relations, and recruitment are a top priority.

Collaboration

To capitalize on existing resources I lean heavy into ideas that utilize collaboration. Graphic Design and Art Therapy are highly requested during open houses and academic fairs and we have been working hard to make them both available to students. Most of the resources we require are at hand, and with little to no overhead the benefit to current students clear, and the addition of graphic design and art therapy would serve as great tools for recruitment.

Recently, a collaboration with the English and Communication Arts department via Donna Bertazonni, brought about a Graphic Design minor (I will step in to coordinate this minor fall). We have also considered the possibility of adding graphics into our collection of studio art focus areas.

Good progress was made collaborating with the Psychology department via Ingrid Farreras, drafting a proposal to establish a new undergraduate Major in Art Therapy.

Streamline, share and cross-pollinate

Running drawing and painting courses of the same level concurrently should allow me to share resources such as life model fees. Additionally a mash-up of drawing and painting should lead to a cross-pollination of students enrolling in the opposing medium, as well as an interesting mingling of ideas and techniques.

Visibility, community and experiential learning

Jacklyn Scott, and I supervise several art students in the running of the Art & Archaeology department art club, The Arts Collective. This club successfully fostered a tight bond between students inside and outside of the Studio Art Concentration. The club continues to forge a sense of community, develops experience outside of the classroom and offers further visibility of the studio arts.

I am developing a series of open studio workshops and portfolio building/reviews, to engage students' interest outside of class time, build excitement around the arts, and offer additional guidance. I intend to invite students from in and outside of our department, alumni and potentially individuals outside of Hood College.

To optimize my use of technology, in addition to personal research and practice I will work closely with Jeff Welsh, Bing Crosby and Heather Mitchell-Buck. My objective is to get the most out of the Apps we have access to on Office 365; OneDrive, OneNote, SharePoint, Teams, Class Notebook, Sway and Forms, get full use from the Mac lab, continue to integrate projectors into projects and allow for a more use of digital media along side of traditional media.

Laurie Ward, the Executive Director of Market and Communications began to update the look of our web presence and I plan to work closely with her to make additional improvements, including image galleries that include artwork and studio documentation photos of faculty, staff, current students, alumni and visiting artist, Alumni social media links, visiting artist lectures and gallery talks and a link to a blog site that faculty, staff and the art club can edit.