

March 22, 2004

Dear Alumni,

This past year has brought many, many changes to the Department of Visual Arts and New Media. Many of those changes pertain to our continued effort to incorporate new technology from the Media Arts program into the Visual Arts program and bring the two together. We now have a newly approved curriculum which will make that happen come the next catalogue in Fall 2005. Our new Art Gallery Director, June Miller-Spann, has been working the area for donations to re-vamp the art gallery, and we have created plans for a re-design of the space which we hope to begin next year. For the first time we will be having a special summer exhibition, featuring the work of Chautauqua area painter Carl Nordell. This exhibit will be a special fund-raising event for local patrons. We are in the midst of planning our bi-annual Alumni Exhibit for this coming fall. When we have further plans we will again be contacting you.

Perhaps the biggest change of all has come within our faculty. There are two major events to announce in this regard. The first is the appointment of Marvin Bjurlin to the rank of Distinguished Teaching Professor. Marv has served the department as our ceramics instructor for 35 years, and this high honor is well-deserved in recognition of a distinguished career as a teacher and artist. The department has been most fortunate that this man, who originally came to Fredonia to fill a one-semester appointment on his way to bigger things, decided instead to stay and make Fredonia his career and his home.

The second is to announce the retirement of Dr. Daniel Reiff, Distinguished Service Professor of Art History. Dr. Reiff arrived at Fredonia in 1970, and has served the department as art historian, teacher and scholar since that time. His service to the college and community in terms of architecture and historical preservation has been recognized not only at Fredonia but nationwide. He leaves a position in the department which we are currently attempting to fill, but of course can never replace.

We would like to honor Dr. Reiff on his retirement, and to that end we are attempting to raise some funds for a scholarship in his name. Many of you (perhaps all of you) were students of Dr. Reiff in his Masterpieces class and other art history classes. This is the time to thank him for his service to your education and to the department. We are asking you to do two things. The first is to make a contribution to the scholarship fund. You'll find a contribution slip below which you can tear off and return to us. Contributions to the Daniel Reiff Scholarship Fund will be tax-deductible. The second is to send up reminiscences, stories, memories; anything that you recall which we can use to honor Dr. Reiff at his retirement reception. There are two events planned to honor Dr. Reiff. Dr. Reiff will be giving his "farewell lecture" on Thursday April 22 at 8:30 PM in McEwen Hall 209. A reception will be held on Wednesday April 28, 2004 at 4:00 PM on the Fredonia Campus in the Café G, located in the Williams Center. At the reception we will unveil a portrait of Dr. Reiff, donated by a new alumnus, Rory Coyne, which will hang in the lobby of the art gallery in Rockefeller Art Center. You are most welcome to attend either event should you be in the area or would simply like to come up for the occasion. We'll also share your remembrances at the reception. You may mail those to the department or send them directly to me by email at [***loughlin@fredonia.edu***](mailto:loughlin@fredonia.edu).

I'm sure I do not have to tell you how important your contributions are to the department. They allow the department to have extra resources to keep up with changing technology, bring in visiting artists and speakers, support student and faculty work, and a host of other costs. The time is long gone at SUNY when the state budget could cover all our needs, and as we grow into a department with over 250 majors, those costs continue to escalate. I'd like you to know that whatever contributions you make to the department are very gratefully received.

I've been lax in keeping up the Yahoo! Alumni Group, but it still is there should you care to join. In the next few weeks I should be getting some recent information there. The address is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fredoniaartgrads>. Please feel free to check out the site and join up. It's an easy way to stay in contact with old friend and the department.

Once again, many thanks for all your contributions and your help in honoring Dr.Reiff. I know he will be very grateful and proud of all of you.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. Loughlin
Chair, VANM

Please take the time to fill out the following information and return to:
Ms. Dawn Geary, Secretary, Dept. Visual Arts and New Media, 217 RAC, SUNY Fredonia, Fredonia NY 14063

YES! I'd like to make a contribution to the Daniel Reiff Scholarship Fund. I'd like to donate:

\$500 _____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ Other _____

_____ I can't contribute at this time, but please take my information for future reference:

Please fill out below with your contribution:

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Numbers _____

Year Graduated/Degree Program _____

Please provide a brief update on your career/life since graduation (Use back if necessary):