



## Chair's Note

Greetings alumni, parents, and friends. In January, AAHD launched the first issue of Thinking and Making. We hope you enjoyed it. The department received tremendous feedback, and we are very pleased that so many of you found this format a great way to stay in touch with news and events in AAHD.

The next few years are going to be some of the most remarkable in our department's history as we strengthen what is already successful and work to build new and exciting opportunities.

Please send us your feedback along with suggestions for future alumni news stories. Wishing you a great summer season and when you are back on campus, please stop by and say hello. Next issue will be fall, 2015.

– Richard Gray

## DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

### 2015 Annual MFA, BFA, BA Student Exhibition: April 10- May 17

The Annual MFA, BFA, BA Student Exhibition took place this spring in the Snite Museum of Art and the department's Art Gallery in O'Shaughnessy Hall. The annual student exhibition is the gala event of the academic year featuring thesis projects and other works by seniors and 3rd year graduate students. The work demonstrates a broad awareness of the themes, strategies, and processes expressed in contemporary art and design.

The exhibit included a range of work from industrial and graphic design projects and complex multi-media installations to well-established art forms such as paintings, photographs, prints, ceramics, and sculptures. Congratulations to all our seniors

More information is available at [sniteartmuseum.nd.edu](http://sniteartmuseum.nd.edu) or [artdept.nd.edu](http://artdept.nd.edu).



### 17th Annual Alumni Design Conference

Graduates from the class of 2005 returned to Riley Hall for this spring's 17th annual Alumni Design Conference to share their experiences since graduating ten years ago from the Notre Dame Design Program. Seven alumni were invited back to campus this year to discuss their careers and conduct portfolio reviews with current students. Thursday night featured Keynote speaker Sal Cilella, a 1996 graduate of the ND program and current Group Experience Director at Razorfish. On Friday, the alums lectured about their professional experiences followed by the portfolio review session. Saturday featured the design program's Crawfish Boil, a long-standing social tradition begun in the 1980s.

More information on the 17th Annual Alumni Design Conference can be found [here](#).



Sal Cilella, Group Experience Director, Razorfish

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



### AAHD announces the Jacques Medals at the Annual Student Exhibition

The department's oldest and most honorific student awards are named for professor Emil Jacques, a painter and department chair from 1929 to 1937. The Jacques Gold and Silver medals are awarded, by consensus of the faculty, to the two most outstanding undergraduate senior BFA students. Criteria include academic excellence, studio achievement, leadership, and citizenship in the department.

#### The Emil Jacques Gold Medal for Excellence

*William J. Cawley*

#### The Emil Jacques Silver Medal for Excellence

*Samantha G. Coughlin*

A complete list of this year's award winners can be found [here](#).



### Seán Cotter accepted into Courtauld Institute of Art

Seán Cotter, senior undergraduate art history student, has been accepted to the Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London to undertake an MA in Art History. Cotter will be specializing in British Architecture 1615-1815 and plans to undertake a thesis on the architectonic dialogues between Ireland and England in that time period. Cotter recently presented his Honors Thesis Paper "Spolia, Memory, and Power: the Catholic Past in Mallow Castle." at the Midwest Art History Society Conference in Minneapolis.



### Allison Evans wins Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award

Allison Evans, third year MFA student, has been awarded an Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award for 2015. The Outstanding Graduate Student TA or Instructor Award, instituted in 1999, recognizes graduate student instructors and TAs who demonstrate excellence in the classroom or laboratory. Evans was given this award for her outstanding teaching in the photography program.

## FACULTY NEWS

### Robert Sedlack Receives the 2015 Ganey Award for Community-Based Research & the 2015 Sheedy Excellence in Teaching Award.

Robert P. Sedlack, Jr., Professor of visual communication design in the Department of Art, Art History & Design, is the recipient of the 2015 Rodney F. Ganey, Ph.D., Faculty Community-Based Research Award, given annually by the Notre Dame Center for Social Concerns. The award honors a Notre Dame faculty member whose research has made a significant contribution in collaboration with local community organizations.

The Department is also proud to announce that Robert is the recipient of the 2015 Sheedy Excellence in Teaching Award. This award, bestowed annually on a faculty member in the College of Arts and Letters, is named for the Rev. Charles E. Sheedy, C.S.C., a much-beloved former dean of the College. It recognizes a faculty member who has demonstrated sustained excellence in teaching, informed by research, over a wide range of courses while employing innovative and creative teaching methods.

For the full story on the Ganey Award click [here](#).

For the full story on the Sheedy Award click [here](#).



## ALUMNI STORIES



### Mary Cecilia Mitsch - Associate Director at Marianne Boesky Gallery

Mary Cecilia Mitsch (class of 2010) recently accepted a position as Associate Director at Marianne Boesky Gallery in New York City where she will be working with artists, exhibition management, and sales. Mary spent several years at David Zwirner Gallery, a contemporary art gallery in New York prior to accepting the new position. Mary Cecilia will specifically be co-directing a new gallery space that Marianne Boesky Gallery has opened on the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

Marianne Boesky gallery represents some of the world's pre-eminent artists including Frank Stella, Rachel Feinstein, Sue de Beer and Anthony Pearson among many others.

Mary Cecilia studied Graphic Design and Art History at Notre Dame. She graduated in 2010 and pursued her MA in Art History at Savannah College of Art & Design before moving to New York to pursue gallery management.

Thinking and Making is published by the department of Art, Art History & Design. Send comments to the Department at [Art@ND.edu](mailto:Art@ND.edu). For more information about the department, visit our web site at [artdept.nd.edu](http://artdept.nd.edu).

