

Notre Dame Day 2016

Happy New Year alumni, parents, and friends. The University of Notre Dame family will come together on campus and around the globe on April 24-25 to celebrate our University during the third annual Notre Dame Day. The 29-hour live broadcast will include compelling Notre Dame stories from around the world, live interviews, celebrity guests, musical performances and much more. It also provides the Notre Dame family the opportunity to give back to specific areas of the University they love most through an online fundraising competition. If you plan to participate this year, please consider designating your donation to AAHD, and don't forget to vote for us! ([link to ND Day 2015](#)) Enjoy the winter 2016 issue of Thinking and Making.

- Richard Gray, Department Chair

DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

2015 - 2016 New Faces Show

The Department of Art, Art History & Design held its annual New Faces exhibition from December 3, 2015 – January 15, 2016 in the AAHD Department Gallery in O'Shaughnessy Hall. The New Faces Exhibition showcases artwork from all first year Master of Fine Arts (MFA) students in studio art and design.

Check out the MFA candidates' work [here](#).



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Undergraduate Student Innovation Teams partner with SAP SE

This fall 2015, the design program's [Collaborative Product Development](#) course partnered with industry sponsor SAP SE, the world's foremost enterprise software company, to reinvent software interaction in the human resources enterprise space. Interdisciplinary teams were asked to explore the power of the wearables platform, to conceive and develop solutions that bring data on demand to address a myriad of needs from the perspectives of users, business and technology.



SAP Design VP Michael Brown was on campus several times to offer guidance and review student work throughout the semester. On December 15, three student teams presented to a star panel of venture capitalists, including Tom Crotty of Battery Ventures, Tracy Graham of Graham-Allen Partners and Gary Gigot of Gigot Brands, invited by SAP. Rounding out the judging panel were Michael Brown (SAP), David Murphy - Director of the Esteem Program, and Dean of the College of Arts and Letters John McGreevy. The course was taught by professor Ann-Marie Conrado.



Drawing students exhibit at the Commerce Center

This fall, over 50 students from all sections of beginning Drawing and Multilevel Figure Drawing had the opportunity to participate in a [group installation and exhibition](#) of site-specific drawings in the historic Commerce Center in downtown South Bend. Situated on the East Race of the St. Joseph River, the c. 1914 building is registered with the National Register for Historic Places.

The site-responsive installation emphasized contemporary practices and non-traditional drawing media in a collaboration between students, faculty, and local artists/community organizers with the following goals:

- Experiment with contemporary drawing practices and non-traditional media
- Understand site-related art and art-as-installation through direct participation
- Gain exposure to practicing artists, community organizers, and art institutions
- Experience the challenges and rewards of working on a collaborative art project
- Giving back to the South Bend community while participating in a formal art exhibition

The project was made possible by an Arts & Letters Teaching Beyond the Classroom Grant and organized by AAHD concurrent professional specialist Mark Welch, Director of IT for the Alumni Association.

FACULTY NEWS

Professor Jason Lahr exhibits new work

Assistant Professor of Painting [Jason Lahr](#) recently had two solo exhibitions in Atlanta, GA, and Fort Worth, TX. His first solo museum exhibition *8-Bit Fictions* at the Zuckerman Museum of Art at Kennesaw State University was followed by the solo exhibition *It Seemed Like A Good Idea at the Time* at the Moudy Gallery at Texas Christian University. The TCU exhibition consisted of 15 recent oil and acrylic paintings on shaped panels. Along with the exhibition, Lahr was invited as a visiting artist at TCU. He gave a public lecture about his work and gave individual critiques to MFA students from multiple disciplines.



Lahr is interested in painting's potential as a radically contemporary narrative form. Utilizing brief texts which he writes and images appropriated from popular and subcultural points of reference, the work draws from narrative theory, contemporary and postmodern fiction, semiotics, feminism, and film theory to explore the formation and shaping of masculine identity through mass culture. (Photo: Professor Lahr [back] with artist Vernon Fisher)



Visiting professor Leticia Bajuyo joins AAHD faculty

Artist and Notre Dame alumna [Leticia Bajuyo](#) recently joined the faculty as a visiting professor in the sculpture program until May 2017. Bajuyo is on leave from her home institution, Hanover College, where she serves as Professor of Art. Bajuyo received her BFA from Notre Dame in 1998 and her MFA in Sculpture in 2001 from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Presently, [Bajuyo's artwork](#) is featured in a

two-person exhibition at the Ground Floor Gallery in Nashville, Tennessee. Upcoming exhibitions include a commissioned large-scale installation for the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis, Indiana; a site-specific and interactive installation at 516 Arts in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and a solo exhibition at the Athens Institute for Contemporary Art (ATHICA) in Athens, Georgia.

Music devices are a recurring visual in Leticia Bajuyo's artworks for exploring fickle appetites. The compact disc is situated in a technological history of automated devices that read inscriptions and codes to reproduce experience. As old CD's and DVD's are donated, the collection becomes a visually displaced consciousness and collective memory, which is woven into a fabric forming shiny whirlpools and creating sculptures with moments of tension that make visible the thin lines of perception between shiny and discard.

ALUMNI STORIES



Marie Bourgeois awarded SAPP 'Ideas That Matter' grant

Marie Bourgeois, Notre Dame alumna and current Research \$40,000 from the [Sappi-Ideas That Matter](#) program. Carrying on the work of her mentor, professor Robert Sedlack, Bourgeois collaborated with Notre Dame's Center for Social Concerns to take students in her Design for Social Good course to Johannesburg to work on the Enza Project, a community-based crafting initiative dedicated to enhancing the lives of women across South Africa.

For over 15 years, [Sappi's Ideas that Matter program](#) has given nearly \$13 million in support of over 500 charitable causes around the world, funding those who use design as a driving force to make a difference. Bourgeois received her Master of Fine Arts degree from Notre Dame in 2012.

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

