

Students and Program Receive Generous Support

Recent Fundraising at the Conservation Center

Fundraising efforts at the Conservation Center continue to be crucial to the ongoing and future success of the program. For over fifty years, we have been able to grow and enhance our training, education and research capabilities through the partnership and steadfast support of a number of institutions, major donors and small donations while maintaining a level of excellence as an international leader in graduate-level conservation training.

After a productive and enriching sabbatical year, Michele Marincola '90, who served as Deputy Director for Administration and Buildings (2007 – 2008) and later as Interim Director (2009 – 2010) for the Institute of Fine Arts, officially returned this past fall to assume her full-time duties as Sherman Fairchild Chairman of the Conservation Center. In her stead, Professor of Conservation Science Dr. Hannelore Roemich served admirably as Acting Chairman beginning in fall 2009. While maintaining an active teaching and research schedule, Professor Roemich devoted much of her time to the important duties of the Chair, specifically in the critical area of fund raising.

Hanne's expertise and background in conservation science and preventive conservation were essential to a successful proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in 2010. The NEH has been a significant supporter of the Conservation Center for over two decades. We are thrilled to report that Hanne's proposal resulted in a \$190,000 grant to support Training for Sustainability in Conservation. This program is designed to broaden the range of instruction in a variety of issues related to preventive conservation, an area of serious concern in light of global climate change and the need to conserve energy resources.

Despite newly enacted federal budget constraints and increased competition among applicants, Hanne submitted another successful grant proposal to the NEH in 2011. As a result of this proposal, the Center was awarded \$170,000 for Conservation Training for Preservation and Access. This grant provides student financial assistance and support for faculty and lecturers, with the overall goal of furthering students' sense of the historical, artistic and material traditions of tangible art history and an awareness of the essential role that material culture plays in advancing research in the humanities.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, another long-time supporter of conservation education, awarded a grant of \$190,000 to support a two-year, on-site Advanced Teaching Resi-

dency at the Conservation Center, designed to mentor and train future conservation educators. The project is part of a long-term collaborative effort between the four North American graduate programs in conservation. As one of the first programs to receive fellows, Hanne initiated a search in 2010 and Margo Delidow, a 2007 alumna of the Buffalo State College program, was selected as the Andrew W. Mellon Teaching Fellow in Conservation Education. Since her arrival, Margo has contributed significantly to the program, helping to enrich our student training and expanding collaborative relationships with partner programs. In addition to coordinating Technology & Structure, a two-semester long course forming the cornerstone of our core curriculum, Margo has also developed two new course offerings in which she serves as primary instructor: Function in Conservation: Examination & Treatment of Utilitarian Objects and Conservation of Modern & Contemporary Art.

In 2010, under the supervision of Eugene Thaw Professor of Paper Conservation Margaret Holben Ellis '79, the Mellon Foundation awarded the Conservation Center a \$315,000 grant to support a four-year pilot program, Education and Training of Library and Archive Conservators. This collaborative program aims to enhance graduate-level offerings in this specialization and involves a joint partnership between Columbia University Libraries; the Palmer School of Library and Information Science, Long Island University; and the Morgan Library and Museum. Outside of the general core conservation coursework, students will follow a targeted degree path with advanced training in library, special collections and archive conservation, supplemented by a wealth of practical training opportunities around the country and internationally. In 2011, the Mellon Foundation decided to extend this program with an additional grant of \$548,000 to support up to two entering students each year specializing in

library and archives through 2016.

Outreach to new prospective donors has also been successful. Recently, the Stockman Family Foundation Trust awarded the Center a first-time grant of \$75,800 over two years to create a fellowship in photograph conservation and to enhance our curriculum in this growing specialization. Second-year student Margaret Wessling was named our first Stockman Fellow in Photograph Conservation. Thanks to the Stockman grant, we are expanding our course offerings and training opportunities in photograph conservation by inviting leading experts and instructors in the field to participate in the curriculum.

The Center continues to work with our established donors and expand our outreach to Conservation Center alumni who are in a position to provide financial support through increased annual giving. We marked the 50th Anniversary of the Conservation Center in 2010 and successfully engaged our alumni, colleagues, friends and community through a well-received celebration event and a strong special campaign that, to date, has raised over \$50,000. This special fund is used to support conservation students presenting their academic research at conferences across the country and abroad.

We are also pleased to announce more recent major fundraising efforts under the leadership of Michele Marincola. In keeping with its sound commitment of supporting training in art history and conservation and building on a years-long partnership with the IFA, the Samuel H. Kress Foundation awarded the Center a grant in early 2011 to provide a unique professional development opportunity for undergraduate professors of art history. The Summer Teacher's Institute in Technical Art History, held in July of 2011, aimed to increase participants' basic literacy in the

field of technical art history. The program also educated participants on methods and provided resources for integrating the field of technical art history into their own classrooms.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded two major grants to the Conservation Center at the end of 2011. The first, a joint initiative proposed by Buffalo State College, the Wintherthur/University of Delaware program, and NYU, supports student stipends. The Center was awarded a multi-year spendable grant of \$533,000 to increase stipends for our students across all four years of their graduate education. It will help to defray the formidable cost of living and studying in New York City. This grant also helps to close the gap in fellowship awards between conservation students and PhD students while creating greater parity among the graduate conservation programs. This helps us to continue to attract the highest caliber students and fulfill our mission of training the future leaders in the profession.

The second grant from the Mellon Foundation, in the amount of \$240,000, is for a pilot program in technical art history for PhD students that will create a truly unique opportunity for enhancing the object-based education of art historians. Planned for two weeks each summer in 2012 and 2013, this workshop will enable participants to study in greater depth the materials and methods of art making, in turn helping to inform their theoretical and critical understanding of its history.

Over the last year, major gifts from individual donors have also contributed significantly to the Center and our program. Thanks to an exceptionally generous, anonymous donor we have been able to establish the Judith Praska Distinguished Visiting Professorship in Conservation and Technical Studies which will begin in fall 2012, as

well as purchase a new scanning electron microscope (SEM) for more in-depth material analysis. Donor support has also helped us upgrade our lab equipment and facilities, including the enhancement of our photographic and digital printing equipment and capabilities.

Generous individual donations have contributed to student fellowship support and practical training opportunities that continue to be essential to our students and their development. We are very grateful to the many friends, alumni and institutions that continue to support and partner with the Conservation Center and the Institute of Fine Arts in our educational mission to train and prepare the next generation of art conservators. It is through their foresight, vision and leadership that we are able to continually expand and strengthen our program, building upon a rich and storied tradition as we evolve and grow to meet the future demands of the field. •

—Oliver Luisi

Oliver is the Assistant to the Chairman for Administration and Public Affairs

Learn more about the 2012 Summer Institute in Technical Art History for Doctoral Students in Art History

50th Anniversary Student Support

The following students received assistance from the Conservation Center Anniversary Fund, which enabled them to present independent research at conferences and special conservation events.

Kristen Watson Adsit presented her ANAGPIC student conference paper, "An Attractive Alternative: Using Magnets to Conserve Homer by John Chamberlain" at Spotlight on New Talents at the Institute of Fine Arts, NYU on November 30, 2011.

Briana Feston '11 presented, "What is Good (Plastics) Design: A Case Study in Analysis Guiding Treatment," at the Institute of Applied Physics in Florence, Italy, July 6, 2011.

Lisa Conte '11, Lisa Nelson '11, and Julia Sybalsky, together with their course instructor Christine Frohnert, presented "New Media, New Challenges, New Documentation: The Documentation and Treatment of Nam June Paik's, TV Cello" at the 2010 Conservation Science Annual Conference (CSA) in Somerset, NJ, organized by New York Conservation Foundation (NYCF) and Eastern Analytical Symposium (EAS), November 15 – 18, 2010.

Raina Chao '11 (with co-authors Blythe McCarthy and Gail Yano) presented "Characterization of Japanese Raku Ceramics Using XRF and FTIR" at the ICOM-CC WG Glass & Ceramics Interim Meeting in Corning, NY, October 3 – 6, 2010.

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