

# NEWSGRAM

News in brief from the Conservation Center

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INSTITUTE of FINE ARTS  
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

## The Legacy of a Teacher

*The Conservation Center Celebrates the Retirement of Tony Frantz '75 and Establishes the "Tony"*

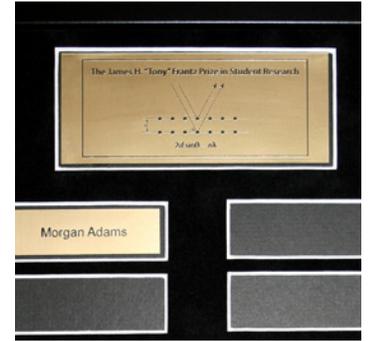
In the midst of last winter's joyous Holiday Season, the Conservation Center, with conflicting sentiments, recognized the retirement of a dearly loved colleague. On December 12, the Center hosted a farewell gathering for a highly respected alumnus, teacher, mentor and friend. After many years of service, Tony (A.K.A. James H.) Frantz left his posts as Research Scientist at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (MMA) and Adjunct Faculty member and Lab Supervisor at the Conservation Center and moved on to new adventures in a warmer clime.

The event marked a bittersweet occasion upon which the Center celebrated Tony's 35 years of significant contributions to the CC community and to the professional development of its students. Colleagues from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum and other area institutions, along with current and former students, joined Tony, a specialist in metallurgy, scientific methods and objects conservation, to thank him for his many years of guidance and friendship.

Unbeknownst to Tony, the Center established a scholarly award in his honor, which was unveiled during the party. The James H. "Tony" Frantz Prize in Student Research will be awarded annually to a current student or recent graduate in recognition of a research project with a significant applied science component. The prize consists of a cash gift, to be used towards the purchase of professional books. Morgan Adams, a third-year book student, was the first recipient of the prize. Her research



Tony Frantz and Morgan Adams



The "Tony" Plaque

topic, "Evaluation of Ultraviolet Filtration by Glazing and Display Case Materials," earned high praise from Conservation Center faculty. Given Tony's remarkable record as a teacher and mentor, with the highest standards of research excellence and integrity, we are confident that the Frantz Prize will serve as an important signifier of student achievement.

Learning of Tony's retirement gave many of our alumni the opportunity to pause and look back at the myriad moments of student mentoring. "What I loved about Tony," says Tara Horning '09, "is that he would always believe that we were smart enough to learn what he had to teach. He had faith we could learn it. And in the end, I did learn it and I don't doubt my knowledge, even if my test scores never reflected that!"

George Wheeler '81 remembers Tony first and foremost as a teacher. "Curiously, I was never formally his student at the Conservation Center, but teaching and learning



Tony and Marjorie Shelley '74, Sherman Fairchild Conservator-in-Charge, Sherman Fairchild Center for Works of Art on Paper and Photograph Conservation, MMA



Tony, Margaret Holben Ellis '79 and Debbie Schorsch '84 (far right), Conservator in the Sherman Fairchild Center for Objects Conservation, MMA

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can happen in many ways,” he says. “For 25 years, Tony was my supervisor as the head of the Objects Conservation Department and later my colleague in the Department of Scientific Research at the MMA. Like many others in the Objects Conservation Department, Tony hired me, nurtured me, and helped me grow and grow up professionally. One of his assets that I most appreciated was the ability, when examining or discussing an object or performing an analysis, to put aside his position as the department head and take up the role of colleague. He treated all of us as equals who had a piece to contribute to the puzzle before us. He was the antithesis of the senior and knowledgeable expert who held all the answers in his hand. He so loved fostering communal exploration that the hierarchical structure in which we worked simply evaporated. Of course, the extent of his knowledge was abundantly apparent, but shared nonetheless, delivered with an open hand, available

for us to absorb, take away and process. He had ever and always the heart of a teacher.”

Tony’s legacy as a consummate professional, respected colleague and cherished mentor will remain with the Conservation Center for years to come. We can never thank him enough for what he brought to the Center and to the many lives he touched. We wish Tony well, and share in the feelings expressed so succinctly by one of his students, Emy Kim ’08: “Tony is just the best of the best!” •

–Cat Lukaszewski and Kevin Martin

*Cat is Administrative Assistant and Lab Safety Officer and Kevin is the Academic Advisor for the conservation program*



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## Alumni News

*Congratulations to Amy Tjong '10 and her husband Tal on the birth of their baby boy, Ari.*



*photo credit: Cat Lukaszewski, NL Roberts and Amy Tjong*