

NEWSGRAM

News in brief from the Conservation Center

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NYU

INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS

A Time For Transition

BEGINNING IN THE 2014 FALL SEMESTER, THERE WILL BE NEW leadership at the Conservation Center. Michele Marincola '90, Sherman Fairchild Chairman of the Conservation Center since 2002, will step down and take up full-time teaching and research. Dr. Hannelore Roemich, Professor of Conservation Science, will begin a two-year term as Chairman. This change is prompted by the Institute of Fine Arts-wide implementation of regular rotation of senior administrative positions that report to the Director. As with the Deputy Director of the IFA and the Directors of Masters Studies and Graduate Studies, the Chairman of the Conservation Center will rotate among full-time faculty—in the case of the Conservation Center, among its four, full-time faculty. This change will distribute administrative tasks more equitably, and allow long-serving administrators to devote more time to teaching and research.

Michele is excited about the change. "I've been fortunate to have served as Sherman Fairchild Chairman for twelve years, with two of those years in a larger capacity at the Institute as Deputy Director and Interim Director. These roles allowed me to expand our fundraising, develop curricular changes for the M.A. and conservation students, and introduce some additional programs at our school. With an exciting book project well underway, it is a good time for me to step down and focus on research and implementing some new objectives in my teaching," she reported recently, "...this change will allow new direction at the Center, and some fresh ideas to take root."

Fundraising has been an important focus for Michele. Together with the University leadership, the Development team of the IFA and the Center's faculty, she has raised over \$15M for the Conservation Center since 2002, much of it for student fellowships. Thanks to long-standing donors like the Mellon,

Mariët Westermann, Vice President, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Michele has steered the Conservation Center with a rare combination of gifts: unwavering commitment to intellectual quality, sustained leadership in her discipline, natural talent for collaboration, and nimble creativity in solving problems and discerning opportunities. Her work was driven by passion for the success and wellbeing of the Center's students. No matter how serious a challenge the Center might face, she was always able to maintain optimism and share her infectious laugh. The Institute and the conservation discipline are greatly in her debt.

Kress, and Dedalus Foundations, the Hagop Kevorkian Fund, the National Endowment for the Humanities and generous individuals, students enrolled in the program now receive fellowship awards that pay for tuition, fees, health insurance and living expenses in New York City, a package that is currently worth \$62,000 a year. Michele has also



Michele Marincola

focused on curriculum review and development, starting with a comprehensive study of the program in 2004 by an external committee, and implementing the changes recommended over the following years. As a result, the Center now has better synchronization between core courses and fewer redundancies. New courses and subjects have been introduced into the curriculum. Advanced treatment classes in the conservation of modern and contemporary art, including paintings, sculpture and electronic media, are now part of regular course offerings.

Michele has also started new summer programming in technical art history, an area of special interest. A Mellon-supported Summer Institute in Technical Art History (SITAH) for doctoral students in art history has just completed its third year. Participants are introduced to a wide range of artists' materials and methods and the changes that artworks undergo over time.

Sarah Barack '03, SITAH & STIAH Course Coordinator

Michele has the rare ability to both recognize and support the strengths of those around her. This quality enables her colleagues to grow in their own careers, even while they are striving towards common goals. In my experience, this is the mark of an excellent manager and is the subtle key to the success of an organization.

Themes have included replication and its processes, contemporary art, and the artist's book. Together with Yale University, the Center has also offered a week long, intensive Summer Teachers' Institute in Technical Art History (STITAH) supported by the Kress Foundation in which art history faculty are exposed to object-based teaching and research approaches.

Based on her experience in organizing these short courses, Michele will offer a seminar at the IFA in technical art history that will focus on methodologies such as material studies and imaging analysis, technological source research and replication of artists' processes in the service of art historical inquiry. Her research projects underway include a new edition of Johannes Taubert's seminal book on polychrome sculpture, *Farbige Skulpturen*, to be translated into English and published by the Getty, and, with co-author Lucretia Kargère '96, a book on the conservation treatment of medieval polychrome wood sculpture.



Hannelore Roemich

market requires constant effort," she says. "Will a stronger component in electronic media or preventive conservation secure additional employment for our students? Staying in touch with recent graduates and adjuncts is a good opportunity to assess new developments in the field," she says. Administrative duties are familiar to Hanne. She was Acting Chairman at the Center between 2008 and 2011 when Michele was engaged with the larger IFA and on leave. Will the new distribution of tasks leave time for anything beyond administration? Hanne hopes to continue her involvement

within ICOM-CC as coordinator of the **Working Group Glass and Ceramics**, depending on the election taking place at the next **Triennial in Melbourne** in September. In the fall, she will concentrate on a collaborative project with the Egyptian Museum in Cairo by supervising a campaign on environmental monitoring. The project is supported by the **American Research Center in Egypt** and performed by conservator Eman Zidan, who

attended special training at Center last spring. "It is a unique opportunity to work here at NYU, interacting with dedicated colleagues and challenged by a new batch of students each academic year," says Hanne—and Michele agrees. •



On a recent research trip, Michele examines a late 15th-century German relief sculpture in the Kunstsammlung of Veste Coburg, Germany

How will this change of leadership affect life and learning at the Center? Dr. Roemich—"Hanne" to most of us—highlights some challenges awaiting her. "The building desperately needs an upgrade," she explains. "Repairs on the roof and the elevator are under way, but substantial funding is needed to renovate the lecture hall, labs, and kitchen. Adapting the curriculum to respond to the ever changing job

Ellyn M Toscano, Executive Director of NYU Florence, Director Villa La Pietra

Michele is a critical partner in the care of the Acton Collection at Villa La Pietra. Michele's knowledge of the collection is detailed and her stewardship of the conservation work is exceptional, in the precision of her skill, the reliability of her judgment, the sensitivity of her aesthetic determinations, and her brilliance as a teacher. It is rare to have the luxury of such an extraordinary colleague.

Marking the 40th anniversary of the Florence Flood at Villa La Pietra: Michele Marincola, Mariët Westermann, the late Senator Ted Kennedy, and Ellyn Toscano



Clemente Marconi, James R. McCredie Professor of Greek Art and Archaeology, University Professor, Director, IFA Excavations at Selinunte

We are incredibly grateful to Michele for her vital support of the Selinunte Akropolis project: without her leadership as Chairman of the Conservation Center, our dig would not be what it has become, a place of true integration between art history, archaeology, and conservation. Knowing Michele's passion and talent for the training of students, we wish her all the very best in her continuing role as a professor at the Conservation Center.

Anna Serotta '09, Consulting Conservator at IFA Excavations at Selinunte

Michele has been a tremendous supporter of the IFA excavations and of the student conservators who participate in these projects. Her belief in the critical role that fieldwork plays in conservation education has ensured that students with a wide range of specialties have had the opportunity to experience conservation on archaeological sites. A million thanks to Michele for her energy and wisdom, and best wishes for future adventures!

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