

## The Alumni Issue Spring 2014

### FRANK FLEMING

### Alumni Spotlight

In 1973, FRANK FLEMING earned his MFA from the Department of Art and Art History.

For the last 40 years, Fleming has made his living creating sculptures in porcelain, bronze and other mediums that have captured the imagination of the world. This article grew out of personal memories and a recent conversation between the editor and the artist. —RD

I have a vivid memory of walking into the old ceramics room in Woods Hall in the summer of 1974 and being welcomed by an oddly elegant unglazed porcelain television set (the type that now seems old-fashioned, with a curved glass screen), topped by colorless, but very detailed carrot antennae and a pale baby doll's head. The sculpture was by new MFA Frank Fleming who was teaching classes here as an instructor. Little did he know, he would soon make a grand entrance onto the national and international art scene and embark on a wildly successful career making more of those surreal sculptures. Thanks to my mother, who was taking studio art classes that summer, I got to meet

Fleming, and have kept in touch with him over the years.

In March, I asked him about the porcelain television set and



the beginning of his career: "What you saw was part of the vast, vast body of work, the 'carrot storm,'" Fleming told me. He had been furiously making work for his first solo exhibition at the Birmingham Museum of Art, a show he always informally referred to as "The Great Carrot Storm of 1937," the last of several Birmingham exhibitions he entered just before he gained national attention.

He was making bisque porcelain pieces, influenced by Robert Arneson, David Gilhooly and other Funk artists—depicting carrots, baby dolls and everyday objects juxtaposed with motifs from nature. They were fanciful and funky, surreal and metaphysical. In 1973 and 1974, Fleming submitted work to the Birmingham Museum of Art's juried exhibitions and won the Craft Award in

ABOVE: In 2012, "Frank the Frog" became the third bronze beast to live at the College of Human Environmental Sciences' Child Development Research Center sculpture garden. In honor of her late husband, John L. Rhoads, alumna Margaret E. Rhoads teamed up with her old friend Frank Fleming to create a sculpture garden for CHES. In 2011, "John the Turtle," named in honor of Mrs. Rhoads' late husband, joined "Peter the Rabbit" who was unveiled in 2010. Mrs. Rhoads (pictured on page 12) has been collecting Fleming's art since 1973. LEFT: The artist posing with "Peter the Rabbit" in 2012.

## PACE-SETTING DESIGN

### Students awarded local Addys

Since the Tuscaloosa Half Marathon (THM) took off last year, the Department of Art and Art History has more than kept pace with the city's new sport. CATHY PAGANI participated in both years'



runs, and students in LAURA LINEBERRY'S graphic design class (ART 314/414) designed the 2014 medal, awarded to all finishers in the Tuscaloosa Half Marathon. (Lineberry's students also designed the 2013 medal.) Lineberry's course introduces students to real-world clients including nonprofits, start-up companies and community-based organizations.

EVE TEMONIA, a senior art major in digital media from New Orleans, created this year's winning design (SHOWN ABOVE). BRITTANY CARLISLE, a junior art major in digital media, designed the back of the medal and DEVIN HUEY, a senior art major in graphic design, designed the ribbon. The students looked for ways to showcase landmarks of the cities of Tuscaloosa and Northport, as well as the Black Warrior River. The ribbon was designed to integrate Tuscaloosa's colors of black and yellow with the Houndstooth pattern to represent the university's



LEFT: Front and back views of the 2013 medal designed by Laura Lineberry's students.

*The Loupe* is the newsletter of the NASAD-accredited Department of Art and Art History, in The University of Alabama's College of Arts and Sciences, for students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the department. Please send correspondence to Rachel Dobson, Visual Resources Curator, rachel.dobson@ua.edu.

(loop), n. 1. a small magnifying glass used by jewelers or watchmakers, or for viewing photographic transparencies.

presence. Although not chosen for the THM medal itself, TESLA JENSEN'S design for the "Tuscaloosa Half Marathon" logo won her a 2014 Silver Addy! In fact, Jensen, who is a major in digital media, and four of her classmates from LAURA LINEBERRY'S Graphic Design class won local Student "Addy" awards this year. Lineberry said that last year she encouraged some of her students to enter their work in the American Advertising Federation (AAF) Student American Advertising Awards Competition. The student awards and other Local American Advertising Federation Awards were presented in February by the Tuscaloosa Advertising Federation.

LAURA GREEN: a Gold Addy for her "Alabama Tale Tellin'" poster, which Green created as a designer for *The Crimson White*. She is majoring in advertising and minoring in studio art.

TESLA JENSEN: a Silver Addy for her design for the Tuscaloosa Half Marathon medal. Jensen is a digital media major.

STEPHANIE MCCULLAR: a Silver Addy for her entry, "Alabama Afternoons Book Cover Design," which

McCullar designed in ART 314, fall 2013.

CORRINE MIZZELL:

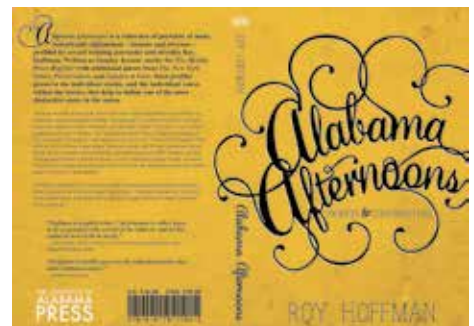
a Silver Addy for her Soda Stream ad, "Fresh & Fizzy,"

which she created as a designer for *The*

*Crimson White*. Mizzell is a double major (APR and digital media).

JESS DUPUY: a Silver Addy for his "Problem Solved" logo, which he designed in Lineberry's ART 314, fall 2013.

MADISON LEAVELLE: a Silver Addy for his "Alabama Shakes" illustration, which he designed in Lineberry's Art 414, Fall 2013.



The Tuscaloosa Advertising Federation held its Local American Advertising Federation Awards on Thursday, Feb. 13 at Indian Hills Country Club. District 7 of the American Advertising Federation represents 23 affiliate advertising clubs and federations of the American Advertising Federation (AAF) in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. Professional and Student ADDY® Awards were presented in April at the District 7

# PROBLEM SOLVED



A new student organization, the Alabama Art History Association, takes art-related field trips: <https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaArtHistory>

convention in Birmingham. Lineberry notes that all the Gold Addys are automatically forwarded to the district level competition. As Silver Addy winners, Leavelle and McCullar will be able to compete at the district level for a small fee.

## **Chair's Awards of Merit**

During the College of Arts and Sciences Honors Day program on March 31 Dr. Cathy Pagani gave special recognition to graduate students JUSTIN GREENLEE and ASTRI SNODGRASS. Greenlee received the Chair's Award of Merit for Graduate Study in Art History. Dr. Pagani noted that Greenlee is "an exceptional student who currently is fielding numerous offers of full support to attend PhD programs at top-notch institutions. While a grad student at UA, Greenlee has presented his thesis research at academic conferences."

Pagani honored Snodgrass with the Chair's Award of Merit for Graduate Study in Studio Art. Pagani said that Snodgrass is "a very strong student whose work is excellent. She has a keen mind and always conducts herself in a most professional manner. She is a joy to have in the department."

## **A World of Historic Preservation!**

When senior art history major MARY TURNEY took architectural history courses from both Associate Professor Emeritus ROBERT MELLOWN and Assistant Professor RACHEL STEPHENS, Turney realized she loved the subject and decided she wanted to get work experience in the field and see if she could make some aspect of it a career. So she applied for an internship at the Gorgas House Museum, built in 1829 – the oldest structure on the university campus. Turney met Erin Haney, former director,

and Haney introduced her to other movers and shakers in historic preservation.

After working at the Gorgas House and volunteering at the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society, Turney worked in a summer internship in development at the Birmingham Museum of Art. Then, after an introduction through Dr. CATHY PAGANI, this fall Turney began an internship under Gene Ford, architectural historian in UA's Office of Archaeological Research. Ford is teaching Turney historic survey skills from the ground up, so to speak, in "Introduction to the Fundamentals of Historic Resources Surveying." Now in her second semester, Turney is assisting him in a massive project to update the inventory of all the "identified resources" in Tuscaloosa's Druid City Historic District. They will resurvey all the qualifying structures in the area including more than 260 houses and a monument. "The last time an inventory was done was in the 1970s," Turney said. "The number of houses [older than 50 years] has more than doubled since then." She is getting hands-on experience and learning basic techniques and methodologies required to document historic resources including taking photographs, identifying and describing architectural features, and writing survey reports.

Turney hopes this internship and her other experiences will lead her to a career combining historic preservation and





## New submission guidelines posted for Sella-Granata



Professors CHRIS JORDAN and SARAH MARSHALL now coordinate exhibitions in the SGG. On the SGG web page, they have posted new submission guidelines for artists interested in applying to have a gallery exhibition. Usually, they reserve fall semester time slots for general programming, and give graduate degree exhibitions priority in the spring semester. There are separate application forms for each category in PDF format. Jordan and Marshall welcome informal discussions of projects before and during the time of submission.



<http://art.ua.edu/site/galleries/woods-hall-gallery/>



TOP OF PAGE: Visitors to *Suspension* in the Sella-Granata. CLOCKWISE, BELOW FROM RIGHT: Works by: Astri Snodgrass in *Suspension*; Virginia Eckinger in her MFA exhibition, *How Things Are, How Things Were*; Anna Katherine Phipps in *Suspension*; UAB's Derek Cracco in his show, *Love Songs*. IN CENTER: Visitors to the juried high school show.

FACING PAGE, TOP: Art history graduate students Justin Greenlee, Sam Sanderson and Rachel Robbins at the ARH symposium at UAB. Thanks to Rachel Stephens for the photos.

FACING PAGE, BOTTOM: *The Whole Mine* at the Paul R. Jones Gallery: (l.-r.) Pete Schulte, Heather Whidden, Joshua Whidden, Turner Williams, Lonnie Holley, Astri Snodgrass, Anna Katherine Phipps, Greg Randall, Ausharea Adams and Sarah Austin. Thanks to Greg Randall for the photo.



# STUDENT NEWS ~ MORE GALLERIES ~ MORE STUDENT

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development. Now, along with her classes, her internship project – and working three part-time jobs – she has begun the inevitable job search that looms ahead for graduating seniors. Turney said she may consider grad school at some point, but right now she wants to get out in the world, and is looking for jobs at preservation organizations in places where historic preservation is highly valued. “My target cities are Charleston, Savannah and New Orleans, but I could go anywhere!” We think she could too.



## More Student News

JUSTIN GREENLEE has been accepted to a doctoral fellowship at the University of Virginia’s Graduate Program in the History of Art and Architecture to study under Italian Renaissance scholars Francesca Fiorani and Cammy Brothers.



In March, Greenlee presented his paper, “Michelangelo’s Louvre Sheet No. 685: An Inspirational Palimpsest,” at the Savannah College of Art and Design’s 5th Biennial Art History Symposium. Greenlee’s article,

“*Quod Vocatur Paradiso: The Pigna and the Atrium of Old St. Peter’s*,” was accepted by *Athanor* for publication in July 2014. *Athanor* is Florida State University’s graduate student art history journal.

Greenlee and his UA compatriots RACHEL ROBBINS and SAM SANDERSON joined their UAB counterparts in the joint program for art history to present papers at the 19th Annual MA in Art History Graduate Student Symposium. Robbins presented “From King to Crown: The Metamorphosis of Saint Louis via Images of the Grande Chasse,” the first chapter of her in-progress thesis. Sanderson presented “St. Helena Firsts: Gender and Sexuality in the Art of Sam Doyle.” Sanderson developed his paper in an American Studies course on African-American folk art taught by Dr. Stacy Morgan.

This year’s symposium was held in the new Abroms-Engel Institute for the Visual Arts in Birmingham and included graduate students presenters from Tulane University. The keynote speaker was Renaissance scholar Dr. Jeanette Kohl of UC-Riverside.

*Dog House*, new work by senior BFA major MICHAEL MEADS, was at Grace Aberdeen Habitat Alchemy in Tuscaloosa in April.

ERIC NUBBE won 3rd place in the 2014 Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Conference in the category Oral Presentations: Fine Arts & Humanities.

*The Whole Mine*: Assistant Professor PETE SCHULTE had his drawing seminar students curate work at the Paul R. Jones Art Gallery and included outsider artist and longtime Kentucky Festival participant Lonnie Holley (PHOTO BELOW). Holley’s performance was sponsored by UA’s Sonic Frontiers Concert Series.





## FACULTY-STAFF NEWS

At the Tuscaloosa Advertising Federation’s Local American Advertising Federation Awards, LAURA LINEBERRY won the Special Judges Award and a Gold ADDY in the category of single insert ad for OCH “Take Our Word for It;” a Gold ADDY for book design: *Inside the Vault: The Paul W. Bryant Collection* (Paul W. Bryant Museum Book); and a Silver ADDY for UA Alumni Annual Report: “Time and Again.”

BRIAN EVANS, who has served as professor of digital media for the last 12 years is retiring and heading to Nashville in June, to do music production. He elaborates: “Likely television and film music, and some personal projects in visual art and music, and maybe some occasional teaching.” Evans sounds as if he might be taking some of his own advice: “I’ve been telling my students for years that, because of the technology available today, the path to doing creative work in digital media now is clear and easy to follow. I’ve decided to walk that path myself.” We wish him well.

TOM WEGRZYNOWSKI, UA art instructor and alumnus, entered art work in *Art of the State*, an annual exhibition at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art in Tusculumbia, Al.; and in the *Third Annual Armstrong National 2-D Exhibition* at the Armstrong Fine Arts Gallery in Savannah. He was in a two-person show, *Art Histories – An Exhibition by S. L. Dickey and Tom Wegrzynowski* at the Bagwell Center for Media and Art in Knoxville, Tenn.

Assistant Professor MATT MITROS has work in several recent shows: a group show at 18 Hands Gallery in Houston, Texas, and in juried exhibitions in Warrentville, Ill. (*Clay3: National Juried Ceramics Exhibition*); Bradley University in Peoria (*4th Biennial Central Time Ceramics*); and the Hyart Gallery in Milwaukee

(*2014 Ceramics World Cup Exhibition*). He also has been juried into *In Bloom* at the Baltimore Clayworks and in *Clay? 5* at the Kirkland Arts Center in Kirkland, Wash. In May Mitros will be artist-in-residence at the Red Lodge Clay Center in Red Lodge, Mont. He recently won first place at the *Valdosta National Juried Exhibition* in Valdosta, Ga.



Assistant Professor TANJA JONES had an article – “Ludovico Gonzaga and Pisanello: A Visual Campaign, Political Legitimacy, and Crusader Ideology,” – accepted for publication in the forthcoming issue of *Civiltà Mantovana*. With funding from a UA RGC Grant, Jones spent several weeks last summer conducting on-site and archival research in Verona and Mantua, Italy. She presented portions of that research in a paper titled, “Crusader Ideology: Pisanello’s Medals in the Guantieri Chapel in Verona,” at the Renaissance Society of America Annual Conference in New York this spring. Jones will present her paper, “Vivified Heraldry: On Pisanello’s Medallion Imagery,” at the upcoming

conference *Heraldic artists and painters in the Middle Ages / Peintres et artistes héraldistes au Moyen Age* in Poitiers, France. Friends helped JAMEY GRIMES, UA art instructor and alumnus,

THIS PAGE, TOP: Art faculty “Skype in” one of their own via iPad at a recent department meeting. ABOVE: Matt Mitros, *Yukon Gold*, 2013, ceramic, plastic; photo courtesy of the artist.

FACING PAGE — TOP: Visitors consider Pete Schulte’s installation in the 2014 Faculty Biennial in the Sarah Moody Gallery of Art. MIDDLE: Cathy Pagani prepares for her lecture at the Royal Ontario Museum; photo courtesy of the College of Arts and Sciences. BOTTOM: Jamey Grimes’ installation, *wash*, at the Johnson Center for the Arts at Troy University, Troy, Ala., in a blaze of color during a projection mapping event; photo courtesy of the artist.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE EIGHT



engineer a powerful visual experience projecting lights onto his installation *wash* at the Troy Pike Cultural Arts Center. It is now at the Chipola Center for the Arts in Marianna, Fla.

BRYCE SPEED, UA art instructor and alumnus, had a nice write-up in the January 23 issue of *Planet Weekly*, in anticipation of his exhibition, *Between the Clouds*, at the Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center's Arts Council Gallery in February.

JENNY BLOUNT TUCKER, UA's online art history instructor, leads the *UA in Italy: Art History* travel program, in its eighth year. The group departs May 19 and will return June 18. Tucker writes, "We have another full program of 20 students with our host institution, Santa Reparata International School of Art."

CRAIG WEDDERSPOON gave an artist talk at the Birmingham Museum of Art about the work in his solo exhibition now in the BMA's outdoor Mezzanine Sculpture Gallery. *Quilted Vessel* will be up through August 31.

PETE SCHULTE'S solo show in February, *Between Moth and Flame*, in the Whitespec space at White Space Gallery in Atlanta

got a thoughtful review in *Arts Atlanta* art blog (<http://www.artsatl.com/2014/01/review-63/>). Schulte's show at UAB's Visual Arts Gallery, *A Letter Edged In Black*, was named one of the "Best exhibitions in Dixie for 2013" by *BurnAway*, an online art magazine in Atlanta. He was also in a group show titled *Simplest Means* at Jeff Bailey Gallery in New York, which juxtaposed Shaker design objects with the work of eight contemporary artists. At Knox College in Galesburg, Ill., he exhibited (*Prairie Smoke*), lectured and was a visiting artist at the end of January.

In March, Birmingham's relatively new artist cooperative, PaperWorkers Local, held *10 Years of Printmaking at The University of Alabama*, a retrospective exhibition by students of Associate Professor SARAH MARSHALL.

## Getting the "Royal" treatment

CATHY PAGANI was invited to speak at the symposium, "Behind the Vermillion Walls: Courty Life in the Forbidden City" at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto at the end of April. The symposium is being held in conjunction with an ongoing exhibition, *The Forbidden City: Inside the Court of China's Emperors*. Pagani will present a talk on Late Imperial Chinese clocks. According to the ROM's press release: "Capping the day will be Catherine Pagani from the University of Alabama who will unveil the court's fascination and obsession with exotic timepieces."



## ALUMNI DONORS

### ***Morgan Exhibition Brings Permanent Collection to the Dinah Washington Arts Center***

#### EXHIBITION SHOWS ALUMNI COLLECTORS' ART

In January The University of Alabama Gallery at the Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center hosted an exhibition, *The Morgan Collection - Selections*, of works that are part of the Permanent Collection of the Sarah Moody Gallery of Art. Jim and Myra Morgan, UA alumni and art collectors, gathered works and befriended artists from the late 1960s on, for their own Midwest galleries. In 2007, the Morgan Family gave a portion of their treasures - a gift of more than 150 works - to UA's SMGA Permanent Collection, which enlarged and enhanced the already prestigious collection. Now, in a first-time cooperative venture with the CAC, UA's SGMA brings work to UA's Gallery. Pieces on exhibit included memorial works and memorabilia that invoke the spirit of Jim and Myra Morgan. Artists represented include Terry Allen, Robert Arneson, Ken Ferguson, Viola Frey, Mel Ramos, Robert Stackhouse, William T. Wiley, and two of UA's distinguished alumni, William Christenberry and Frank Fleming.

William Dooley, curator of the exhibition and director of the Sarah Moody Gallery of Art, wrote in the exhibition essay: "There was a sense of experimentation that occurred among many artists affiliated with the Morgan Gallery. Jim Morgan, educated as an artist, devoted himself to collecting both contemporary art and Americana. He was most attracted to the 'art of now.'"

### ***Art Support Fund Established by Law Alumnus Jack Drake***

Russell J. "Jack" Drake of Birmingham has contributed \$10,000 to establish The Russell J. Drake Endowed Support Fund, which will be used to support operating expenses in the Department of Art and Art History. Drake is a 1969 graduate of The University of Alabama School of Law. A longtime art collector, he serves on both the Paul R. Jones Board and the Leadership Board in the College of Arts and Sciences.

(Source: *Collegian*, Fall 2013)

## ALUMNI MEMORIES

### ***"Woods Quad Porch Party"***

#### MEMORIES OF ANDY WARHOL'S VISIT AND THE "LITTLE BO"

The friendly atmosphere around Woods Quad is one of LEAH (TRIPP) ALFORD's strongest memories of her time at UA. Alford graduated UA in 1971 with a BA in English and a minor in art history. She took many studio courses as well and was part of the Raudelunas art collective. These days she is working on a book that will include her mixed media paintings and photography.

In the 1960s, Alford took courses from AL SELLA, HOWARD GOODSON and JOE BOLT, among others. She remembers Sella and Goodson being "excellent instructors." She writes, "Dr. Bolt's brilliant way of making art history vital and fascinating drew me in every time. I suddenly found I had so many art history credits that it didn't take many more to complete my art history minor."



copyright by Leah Alford



"PORCH PARTY" - CONTINUED FROM PAGE EIGHT

She recalls a popular meeting place at the west end of Woods Hall. "Everyone talked at the snack bar, 'The Little Bo,' [for Little Bohemia]." Alford said, "The entire art department staff of that time was a really friendly group. They would say hello around Woods Hall whether you were in their classes or not. Faculty and staff from other departments were there too. It was a wonderful atmosphere."



Alford remembers the stimulating intellectual and social climate of life at UA, too. Melville Price, an alumnus of the Art Students League in New York, taught here from 1958 until his death in 1970. Lee Krasner visited in 1967, as did other eminent artists. Alford recalls, "There were many great exhibitions here when I was in school, especially of Abstract Expressionism. Andy Warhol came [to visit UA campus] and I can recall being really excited. I remember standing next to him at a gathering afterwards at someone's house."

Alford credits Professor HENRY BETAK with giving her the direction she followed in her art after graduation. "[He] was a major influence on the ways I later built up fields of color and areas of drawings." She posts some of those and her new works on her wonderfully titled blog, "Catwoods Porch Party," <http://catwoodsporchparty.wordpress.com/>.

## 50 Years Ago ~ Alumni History

### FIFTY YEARS AGO THIS YEAR...

1964 alumnus HOLLIS NALL received his BA in painting and went to study art with Salvador Dali.



FACULTY-STAFF NEWS - CONTINUED FROM PAGE SEVEN

## Loupe sighting!

The article "Trailblazer for Women Leads UA Art in the Future," about the late Professor Emerita VIRGINIA REMBERT LILES (*The Loupe*, Fall 2012), was cited in the online publication, *SECAC 2013 Report from Greensboro, NC*, in a memorial tribute to Dr. Liles written by Floyd W. Martin.

The late Dr. VIRGINIA REMBERT LILES was memorialized at the University of Montevallo in February. UM trustees named a classroom in her honor and Montevallo's 18th Annual Alumni Art Auction was dedicated to the memory of Dr. Liles. Proceeds from the benefit auction will be used to refurbish UM's art history classroom in Bloch Hall. The art department, headed by UA art alumnus SCOTT STEPHENS, presented a display about their renowned alumna (class of 1942) at the auction.



In a long-term project, student workers JOHNNEICE COLLINS (2015 digital media major) and DELILAH MARSHALL (2016 fashion design major) have been cataloging books and journals for the Image Resource Center using the online cataloging application, *LibraryThing*. The day before spring break began, Marshall

cataloged our 200th book! LibraryThing uses entry information from the Library of Congress, Amazon, and more than 690 world libraries. Check out our progress by going to this URL: <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/UA-ImageResources>.



FACING PAGE: Leah Tripp Alford, *Cat-like image*, ca. 1991, multi-media painting; photo courtesy of the artist. THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT: Students at the Little Bo in 1969. Photo reproduced here courtesy of The W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama. TOP RIGHT: Delilah Marshall inputting data on the iPad. BOTTOM RIGHT: Poster of Jenny Fine's upcoming exhibition. ABOVE: Salvador Dali with poultry; photo reproduced for educational purposes only.

## ALUMNI ON CAMPUS

### UA Architectural History

#### ALUMNI SPEAKS OUT ON UA'S ARCHITECTURAL FUTURE

For the past five decades, our ROBERT MELLOWN, the preeminent authority on the architectural history of The University of Alabama, has conducted himself, mostly, like a perfect Southern gentleman. Except that, when you are an associate professor emeritus AND an alumnus, you get to say pretty much whatever you want, to whomever you want. Some audience members may have been surprised when Dr. Mellown's most recent talk, on the history of the building of the UA campus, took an aberrant twist! His lecture, the first of a series of free lunchtime book talks sponsored by the Alabama Center for the Book, was based on his research for his recent UA Press publication, *The University of Alabama - A Guide to the Campus and Its Architecture* (UAP 2013).



First, Dr. Mellown confessed to the standing-room-only audience in Gorgas Library his underlying anti-establishment tendencies. "In 1966, as an undergraduate, I helped paint a sign urging the preservation of Woods Hall." (Thankfully, Woods Hall was saved.)

"In 2013," he continued, "as an emeritus faculty member, I helped make another sign (out of duct tape)." He was referring to a protest sign that he and two other retired faculty plastered across the fence erected in front of the condemned historic Kilgore House. It read: "UA SENDS LANDMARK TO LANDFILL." Unfortunately, this turned out to be true, as the Kilgore House was torn down in May of 2013 to make way for a new food court to accommodate UA's burgeoning student population.

As Dr. Mellown discussed the history of campus construction, he pointed out the important figures who influenced its creation,

from state architect William Nichols and President Thomas Jefferson, to the Greek goddess Athena. But as he summed up his talk, he brought up on the screen a forbidding looking futuristic creature. With horror in his voice and a twinkle in his eye, he announced to his audience what he felt they needed to know for their own protection: "Bryant-Denny Stadium is a giant 'autobot' —an Autonomous Robotic Organism!"

Dr. Mellown pointed out what the audience realized is the unavoidable truth: the autobot "has already eaten nearby buildings, including four fraternity houses, three sororities and a fire station. At some point in the future," he continued, "it will morph into a giant galactic warrior, stomp across the campus, and hurl itself into outer space!" Don't say you weren't warned.

## MORE ALUMNI NEWS

For the last 10 years, RAYMOND GADDY (MFA 2000) has been an instructor of painting and drawing at the University of North Florida's Department of Art and Design. He also serves as foundations coordinator and was director of the UNF Gallery for three years. Gaddy served for five years as chair of the Cultural Affairs Commission for the City of Savannah. In June 2013, Gaddy was elected to the Board of Directors for Foundations Art Theory in Education (FATE) and was appointed to serve as vice president for development. He received an MA in Arts Administration at Savannah College of Art and Design in 2013.

WANRUDEE BURANAKORN (MFA 2002), CLAIRE LEWIS EVANS (current grad student), RAYMOND GADDY (MFA 2000), DAVE GIBBS (MA 2003), KHARA KOFFEL (MFA 2003) and SARAH MARSHALL (current faculty), SARAH CUSIMANO MILES (MFA 2010), BRYCE SPEED (MFA 2005 and current instructor), and MARIO GALLARDO (MFA 2002) had work at Walnut Gallery's *Walnut 2014 Invitational Exhibition*, held at the Chan Exhibition Hall at the Hardin Center for Cultural Arts in Gadsden, Ala. The show was a reunion exhibition and featured artists working in photography, sculpture, painting, new media, installation art, ceramics and printmaking. The Walnut Gallery was founded in 2009 by Gallardo and ROBERT HENDRICKSON (MFA 2004). Gallardo is executive director and is overseeing its move to a new home in the historic Christian Science Building, also on Walnut Street.

In the fall of 2013, KHARA KOFFEL (MFA 2003) had a solo exhibition, *at this point in time*, at the McHenry County College Art Gallery in Crystal Lake, Ill. Koffel is associate professor of art at MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Ill., where she has also served as art program director and gallery director since 2004.

# ALUMNI NEWS ~ ART & ART HISTORY ~ ALUMNI NEWS

AYNSLEE MOON SMITHEE'S (MFA 2012) painting, *When Wind Blows from Extinguished Stars* (BELOW), won an Honorable Mention at this year's SECAC exhibition. She recently had a solo exhibition, *Such are the Spaces called Earth*, at Wilson Hall Gallery at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, where she teaches drawing.

TOM WEGRZYNOWSKI (MFA 2006), a full-time instructor (art history and painting), was in several shows this spring. *Art of the State*, an annual show at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art in Tusculumbia, Ala., also included professors SKY SHINEMAN and WILLIAM T. DOOLEY, and alumni WAYNE SIDES (New College 1973) and MICHELLE MCKNIGHT DAVIS (BFA 2003). Wegrzynowski was in the *3rd Annual Armstrong National 2-D Exhibition* at Savannah's Armstrong Fine Arts Gallery, and a two-person show, *Art Histories*, at the Bagwell Center for Media and Art in Knoxville, Tenn.

In January, sculpture by MEREDITH RANDALL (BFA 2011 and current grad student) was in the exhibition, *bio art/visual science*, at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala.

This year, MARTHA HOPKINS (BFA 2004) has had work in *Art Around Alabama Invitational Exhibition*, at the Meridian (Miss.) Museum of Art; and in the juried exhibition, *Equilibrium Art for a Changing World*, presented by the Women's Caucus for Art, at the Woman Made Gallery in Chicago. She posts work here: [mahopkins.blogspot.com](http://mahopkins.blogspot.com).

COREY DZENKO (MA 2007) will be a Visiting Fellow at the University of Nottingham this summer to research "Art and the American Midwest." Dzenko also writes that she has accepted a position as assistant professor in the Department of Art and Design at Monmouth University, N.J.

BOB SHELTON (MFA 1963) has published his sixth book of crossword puzzles and has set up a website for his art and film books (<http://bobsheltonart.com/>). He is the author of the two-

volume *A Cultural Study of the Art Film* (Mellen Press, 2003). He is retired from teaching art and film studies at Birmingham-Southern College. (SOURCE: *Collegian*, Fall 2013)



Reviewed by *Art in America* for his second solo show at beta pictoris gallery in Birmingham, CLAYTON COLVIN had his first New York exhibition, *slow your instruments*, at Launch F18 gallery. He had a second New York exhibition, *Put Down Your Stars*, at Margaret Thatcher Projects. Colvin has also been featured in *New Work from Regional Contemporary Artists* at the Mobile Museum of Art.

STEPHANIE BRUMFIELD (BA 2012, studio art and English) has taken a position as communications specialist in the UA College of Arts and Sciences. She edits *A&S Desktop News*, among a myriad of other responsibilities. Since graduating she has worked for Shelby County Newspapers and taught secondary math

in Marion, Ala., for Teach for America.

STEPHEN WATSON (MFA 2013), who has been teaching art at UA and at Shelton State Community College, has accepted a position as assistant professor in the Department of Visual Arts at Samford University's School of the Arts in Birmingham. His most recent exhibition was *Smell and See* at the Sojourn Gallery, part of the Sojourn Community Church in Louisville, Ky. In his artist statement for the show, he writes that he "creates artworks to test the limits of contemporary art in sacred spaces and faith-based art in secular spaces." His work was also in an online exhibit at SparkAndEcho.org: [http://www.sparkandecho.org/plot-twist-for-mutts\\_stephen-watson/](http://www.sparkandecho.org/plot-twist-for-mutts_stephen-watson/) (detail of *Plot Twist for Mutts*, SHOWN ABOVE)



JOSEPH STALNAKER (BFA 2010) celebrated his 2nd anniversary as Kenneth Cole head designer of Women's Sleepwear and Intimates at Delta Galil Industries in New York.

# The Loupe Back Page

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1974. The juror for one of the shows was Arne Glimcher, respected art dealer and founder of Pace Gallery in New York. Fleming said, “[Glimcher] not only chose my piece for the award, he bought some of my work!” He felt that Glimcher’s early

recognition of him helped propel him to success.

Before Fleming earned his MFA, however, he had to face his graduate committee, including Dick Zoellner and Jack Granata, who were less than enamored with the funky sculpture that blew my teenage mind. Fleming told me what has become a legend:

Granata suggested he

make something different and Fleming knew what style of art would meet his professor’s, and his committee’s, approval. He went to his studio and made what he described as a large mound of rocks (maybe in the Minimalist or Earth Art traditions), piled them up for his committee, and earned his degree. Then he went back to making the work for which he has become famous.

Fleming is known for his relentless work ethic and he has a massive body of art work to show for it, internationally and locally. The Birmingham Museum has his work in their collection and in 1990 took on the conservation and care of his most famous local sculpture, *The Storyteller* fountain at Birmingham’s Five Points South. Sculptures are located at several other sites around the city, including a giant chess set he created for the historic Swann Castle. In Tuscaloosa, on UA’s campus, there are three fairytale-sized bronze animals at the Child Development Research

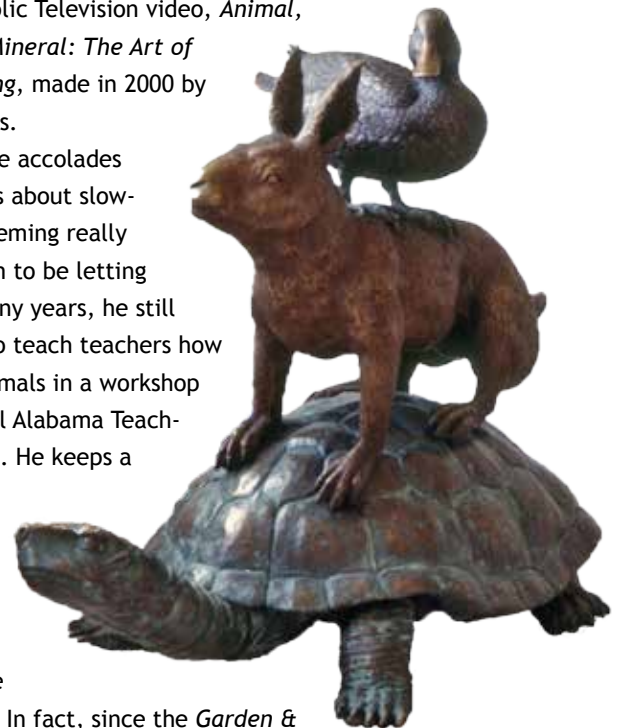


Center sculpture garden and works in the Sarah Moody Gallery of Art Permanent Collection (including *Mr. Peanut Sculpture with Golden Egg*, from the Morgan Collection, shown earlier this year). But at age 73 – 40 years since I first met him – Fleming sounds almost apologetic for wanting to slow down, just a bit, and take it a little easier. “I completed five big commissions this last year,” he adds, as if feeling the need to justify his occasional escapes down to the Gulf.

Recognition for his hard work and creativity comes more and more often. *Garden & Gun*, a magazine of high-end Southern culture, ran an interview of Fleming by Tulane journalism professor Vanessa Gregory in their February/March issue. A University of Montevallo student and a UAB film graduate have made a documentary film about him and hope to submit it to Birmingham’s Sidewalk Film Festival. This follows a delightful Alabama Public Television video, *Animal, Vegetable, Mineral: The Art of Frank Fleming*, made in 2000 by Carolyn Hales.

For all the accolades and the hints about slowing down, Fleming really doesn’t seem to be letting up. After many years, he still takes time to teach teachers how to sculpt animals in a workshop at the annual Alabama Teacher’s Institute. He keeps a room to repair sculptures that patrons bring back to him, some

decades old. In fact, since the *Garden & Gun* article, he has had new inquiries for large commissions. I hope he’ll be able to slip down to the beach every once in a while, but clearly, the world is always looking forward to seeing new Frank Fleming’s sculptures, fanciful, funky and more!



ABOVE: Frank Fleming on the cover of the fall 1984 issue of the *Society for the Fine Arts Review*; photo courtesy of the UA College of Arts and Sciences. TOP RIGHT: On April 19, 2012, at the unveiling of *Frank the Frog*, then-interim UA President Judy Bonner (former dean of CHES) congratulated and thanked Fleming and Mrs. Rhoads. BOTTOM RIGHT: Frank Fleming, bronze sculpture of a duck standing on the back of a rabbit standing on the back of a tortoise; photo courtesy of the artist.

**ALUMNI, we always like to hear from you.**

**Please email your news and images to [rachel.dobson@ua.edu](mailto:rachel.dobson@ua.edu).**