

# Patricia H. & Richard E. Garman ART CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT



## Newsletter

FALL/WINTER EDITION 2020

VOLUME LXII



### Emily Hamilton ('11) Joins the Department

We were delighted to welcome **Emily Hamilton ('11)** to the department in January 2020 as Assistant Professor of Objects Conservation.

Emily comes to Buffalo with a wide range of experience, most recently as the Associate Objects Conservator at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. During her five years at SFMOMA, she contributed to a collaborative museum structure where stewardship and research endeavors are centered around the voices of living artists. Previously, she was the Assistant Objects Conservator at the Saint Louis Museum of Art and the Samuel H. Kress Sculpture and Media Conservation Research Fellow at the Museum of Modern Art. Emily earned a B.A. in Art History from Reed College in Portland, Oregon and an M.A. and Certificate of Advanced Study in Art Conservation from our department. She served as the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) Objects Specialty Group Postprints editor for eight years. Emily has presented her research nationally and internationally and is passionate about moving the field of conservation forward. (Photo above by Don Ross).



### 50th Anniversary Yearbook Now Available

Make sure you place an order for your own copy of the 50th Anniversary Cooperstown / Buffalo Alumni Yearbook. This is a new and improved version of the one designed for our 30th anniversary in 2017. There are 74 pages filled with more classes, more pictures, and more memories to enjoy. Each copy of the paperback book is only \$12.99 with \$5 of the proceeds directly benefiting the department supporting graduate student fellowships.

You get a book full of memories while supporting the department at the same time!

To order your yearbook copy go to: <https://www.blurb.com/b/10365255-50-years-of-art-conservation> You can order as many copies as you would like from blurb.com and have the books shipped directly to you.

A huge thank you to **Becca Goodman ('18)** who designed the yearbook and compiled all of the photos for this special commemorative edition in honor of our 50th anniversary. These books will only be available for purchase from blurb.com for a limited amount of time so be sure to order your copy today!



**Welcome Class of 2023!** We are very excited to welcome the Class of 2023. Here they are in front of Rockwell Hall wearing masks and socially distancing at the beginning of the academic year during the only in-person activity of our first virtual orientation. Pictured from left to right are Meredith French, Emily Mercer, Katherine McFarlane, Camille Ferrer, Lindsay Cross, Charlotte Li, Grace Johnson, Lorna Brundrett, Christy McCutcheon, and Maeve O'Shea. While it has been a strange start, we appreciate your enthusiasm and willingness to adapt during this difficult time.



EVENTS

Upcoming

#### ANAGPIC 2021

Graduate student  
Conference hosted by  
Buffalo virtually  
April 14-16, 2021

#### AIC Meeting

May 11 - 15, 2021  
Virtual Meeting  
Reunion Date &  
Time TBD

#### Class of 2021 Graduation

September 10, 2021  
Buffalo, NY or could be a  
virtual event (TBD)





# FROM THE DIRECTOR

Patrick Ravines  
Director &  
Associate  
Professor

Dear Alumni, Family, Friends  
& Supporters,

I hope you have all had a relaxing and grateful Thanksgiving holiday despite the raging pandemic. At this time a year ago, it would've been inconceivable to think that the entire world would be crippled by a viral pandemic and that we would need to follow social distancing and health protocols. Even though we are in the thick of it, it still seems unfathomable and bizarre. Thankfully, we humans adapt rapidly.

We have marshaled forward and conservation education has continued. Last March, because of the lock down, we abruptly moved to a fully online system. This was not desirable but was all we could do. During summer, we developed a hybrid system, a combination of online/remote instruction and in-person lab and studio sessions, which worked well. This fall semester, in-person classes were allowed until Thanksgiving break. We were all extremely pleased to complete 11 weeks of the much-needed in-person classes for paintings, paper, and objects conservation studios and for conservation imaging and science.

When we consider where we stood in mid-August, as the semester was to begin, and like the rest of humanity not knowing what to expect, we survived and thrived as best we could. I send my hearty congratulations and virtual hugs to all faculty, staff, and grad students for achieving this extraordinary feat.

To celebrate our 50th and golden anniversary, we had planned a symposium and a gala evening. All in-person events were wiped out by the pandemic and we felt robbed. We retooled and quickly planned a virtual symposium. It was a lovely symposium that attracted

many Cooperstown and Buffalo alumni, and it showed us how we are connected to each other. We have received many requests to have future alumni virtual meetings like the symposium to (re-)connect, socialize, and keep up with each other. This is a great idea. The department and the alumni board led by **Dana Senge ('06)**, president, and **Krista Lough ('14)**, vice president, are looking into this.

The virtual symposium allowed us to reminisce and celebrate the last 50 years, and it also provided a window to think about the future. The speakers and panelists of the second session, which was entitled *Our Conservation Future: Together, Moving Forward Toward an Inclusive & Diverse Field*, described the current situation in the field and steps to take to address social justice issues and become more diverse, inclusive, and equitable. This will require our combined efforts, commitment, and lots of work from the personal to institutional levels.

We have many challenges ahead and will be looking at all ways to attract students of underrepresented backgrounds to diversify the field and to more fully represent all of humanity. In 2017, Kelly Field wrote about students of color identifying with professors of color: "Seeing that there are people from similar situations who have made it makes all the difference." (Field, K. A Professor 'Who Looks Like Them' Chronicle of Higher Education [Online], 2017.)

It has been a long year full of unexpected changes to deal with the pandemic. It is likely that we will have to continue to contend with the pandemic for the next year as best and as patiently as we can.

The semester is almost over and as we wind down this year, I wish you all a very merry and restful holiday season and a very Happy New Year.

Be well and stay safe -

*Patrick*

## Thank you to Glennis Rayermann



Dr. Glennis Rayermann

The department has been fortunate to have Dr. Glennis Rayermann, a cultural heritage conservation scientist, fill in during the Fall 2020 term as a sabbatical replacement for Dr. Aaron Shugar. She earned her Ph.D. and M.S. in physical / materials chemistry at the University of Washington in Seattle and received a B.S. in chemistry from Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California. Dr. Rayermann also received research fellowships from both the National Science Foundation and the Department of Defense.

Dr. Rayermann's research is multidisciplinary, including materials degradation, development and patent of a novel instrumental technique, biophysical chemistry, and cultural heritage conservation. While earning her Ph.D., Glennis executed a technical study of a modern, fake medieval Italian panel painting at the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields.

We thank her for being with us and teaching virtually during the pandemic.



Dr. Rayermann and second year student Kaela Nurmi use a hand-held XRF to conduct in-situ analysis on Louise Nevelson's sculpture "Dawn's Image Night" on the third floor of Rockwell Hall. This data helps with pigment identification of Nevelson's original black paint and the unoriginal, white overpaint streaks on the perimeter. The sculpture was commissioned by Buffalo State in 1969 and is the focus of Kaela's master's project.

# ALUMNI News

We love to hear from graduates and former faculty! Here is a summary of notes since the last Newsletter issue. Please send any news or updates to [lavellma@buffalostate.edu](mailto:lavellma@buffalostate.edu).

**70s** **David Miller ('77)** retired on January 10, 2020 after more than 42 years at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. He was the Chief Conservator and Senior Conservator of Paintings.

**80s** **Gary Hulbert ('85)** was featured in the San Luis Obispo Tribune for his work restoring a Spanish-Moorish 16th-century ceiling in the Morning Room of the Hearst Castle. (<https://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/community/cambrian/article244226357.html>)

**90s** **Nica Gutman Rieppi ('97)**, published her scientific analysis of Leonardo DaVinci's Salvator Mundi in Heritage Science. She was also promoted to Managing Partner of Art, Analysis, and Research this September.

**00s** In 2019, **Brynn Bender ('00)** was awarded the National Park Service Director's Award for Excellence in Cultural Resource Stewardship, Appleman-Judd-Lewis Award for Cultural Resource Specialist, for her conservation and curatorial work in the Flight 93, United Airlines recovery project in March of 2018. As a recipient of the award for the Northeast Region, she became eligible for the nationwide National Park Service Director's Award, alongside many talented and dedicated colleagues from across the country. Brynn is currently the Cultural Resources Specialist at the Northeast Region Museum Resources Center.

**10s** **Christina Taylor ('15)** demonstrated the relief aquatint printing technique that artist Dan Flavin used to create three incredible prints now in the collections of the Harvard Art Museums as a part of the museum's Art Talks series in July 2020. She is currently the Assistant Paper Conservator at the Straus Center for Conservation and Technical Studies. In March 2020, the UCLA/Getty Program welcomed **Nicole Passerotti ('17)** as the new Program Associate for the Andrew W. Mellon Opportunity for Diversity in Conservation initiative. This program strives to introduce students from underrepresented backgrounds to conservation as a profession, to build necessary skills through funded, hands-ons workshops and internships, and to foster long-term support through mentoring (<https://mellondiversity-conservation.org/>). **Sarah Casto ('17)** started a position as Assistant Conservator at the George Eastman Museum in Rochester, New York in January 2020. **Becca Goodman ('18)** was featured in the Detroit News for her work to conserve Anselm Kiefer's "Das Geviert" at the Detroit Institute of Arts (<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/entertainment/arts/2020/01/04/conservation-painting-detroit->

[/2806382001/](https://www.detroitnews.com/story/entertainment/arts/2020/01/04/conservation-painting-detroit-)). **Jen Munch ('19)** accepted a job as an Assistant Conservator at Contemporary Conservation, a private practice in New York City that is owned by Christian Scheidemann in February 2020. Classmates **Carolyn Burns ('19)** and **Clara Huisman's ('19)** Master's Projects were both chosen to receive the 2020 Outstanding Master's Project Award from Buffalo State College. **LaStarsha McGarity ('19)** spoke on a panel with the Hammer Museum on July 29th about the open letter drafted by the Black Art Conservators. The letter was signed by all three black Buffalo grads (**Fred Wallace ('91)**, **Valinda Carroll ('99)**, and **LaStarsha**) and can be found here: <https://blackartconservators.com/> LaStarsha was also featured on CBS Sunday morning on August 30th for her treatment of a diorama housed at the Legacy Museum at Alabama's Tuskegee University. She spent a year painstakingly restoring Diorama #13 of Benjamin Banneker, a surveyor, author, farmer, and astronomer, as he was surveying what would become Washington, D.C. as her Masters project. You can watch the segment of CBS Sunday morning featuring LaStarsha on <https://www.cbsnews.com/sunday-morning/>

**20s** We are very proud to announce that the Class of 2020 graduated virtually this fall and each graduate student was able to finish their third year internship experiences despite many setbacks and challenges due to the pandemic. We are also excited to announce their post-graduation plans. **Nicole Alvarado** is now the Kress Fellow at The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Margaret Herrick Library in Los Angeles, California; **Melissa Amundsen** began her position as the Assistant Preventive Conservator at the Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota; **Tamia Anaya** was named the Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Paper Conservation at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco; **Livy Bailin** is now the Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Objects Conservation at the Detroit Institute of Arts; **Rachel Childers** is currently a postgraduate fellow at the Williamstown Art Conservation Center in Williamstown, MA for one year followed by a postgraduate fellowship at the Stichting



Nica Gutman Rieppi ('97)



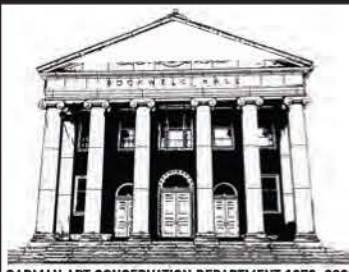
Above: The Class of 2020: Front row L to R, Livy Bailin, Tamia Anaya, Anna Ersenkal, Grace Walters, Oa Sjoblom; Second row L to R, Rachel Childers, Nicole Alvarado, Nicole Flam, Perrine LeSaux, and Melissa Amundsen.

Restauratie-Atelier Limburg (SRAL) in the Netherlands; **Anna Ersenkal** is the Assistant Conservator at Albertson and Nunan, Inc. in Philadelphia; **Nicole Flam** is headed back to the midwest to start a position as Assistant Conservator at KCI Conservation in Minneapolis, Minnesota; **Perrine LeSaux** is remaining at Colonial Williamsburg after graduation as the Marshall Steel Fellow; **Oa Sjoblom** is currently a postgraduate intern at the Weissman Preservation Center at Harvard University in Cambridge followed by a fellowship at the National Park Service in Lowell, Massachusetts; and **Grace Walters** was recently named the Paper Conservation Fellow at the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, Texas. Our heartfelt congratulations to all of the Class of 2020!

## New Alumni Forum

We are excited to announce that alumni now have a new way to communicate and keep up on events. The Cooperstown/SUNY Buffalo State Alumni Forum is a private community within AIC's Online Community. All AIC members who have listed SUNY Buffalo State as their graduate school should have been automatically added to the page. There are currently 339 members and several alumni are currently moderators. **Rachel Childers ('20)** has been spearheading this effort and everything is alumni driven.

The official description states the forum was formed in 2020 to: foster life-long support to current students and alumni; generate a stronger network of alumni; create a safe space to share experiences; exchange knowledge, generate ideas, and pose questions regarding the past, current, and future direction of the program; provide a platform to support the future of the program; and disseminate information on department events and activities. Members and moderators of this community include AIC members who are current students or alumni of either program. If anyone would like to join email Ryan Winfried at [rwinfield@culturalheritage.org](mailto:rwinfield@culturalheritage.org).



## GARMAN ART CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER EDITION 2020 VOL. LXII EDITION: 800

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The Art Conservation newsletter is published one-two times per year, with contributions from department faculty, for the sole purpose of distribution to alumni & department friends. All photos taken by department faculty and staff unless otherwise noted. Please e-mail address updates, comments, contributions for future issues, and alumni news to: [lavellma@buffalostate.edu](mailto:lavellma@buffalostate.edu).



ALUMNI NEWS



## In Memoriam



### Noelle Ocon ('96)

I know that I share with many of the Buffalo family, deep sadness upon hearing the news of the loss of our beloved colleague, Noelle Ocon, who passed away in late October. I was fortunate to have Noel as a classmate ('96), a friend, and later as a seasoned colleague and sounding board. Memories of our early days together in class always summon a smile: Noelle was direct and forthright in her questioning, fearless in rendering a vigorous "But why...?" She possessed a unique intuitive relationship with the practical work of conservation – particularly her passion for easel paintings. Noelle could also be counted on to deliver her notes and findings on the craftsmanship associated with "the perfect cup of coffee." Her skills with the ground bean and a French press are, to my mind, unchallenged to this day.

Her loss is met by family, friends, and coworkers who will recall her direct, friendly and colorful presence. In 2017 she won the North Carolina Governor's Award for Excellence for her role in *Actual State*, a five-month exhibition wherein she carried out treatment work on an Old Master painting on public view within the galleries of The North Carolina Museum of Art. Here work on view was the perfect match for her expertise and her engaging charisma and humor. She was a fierce advocate for the conservation profession and contributed widely to the literature – a personal favorite: her contributions to the paper "Collaboration or Appropriation? Examining a 17th c. Panel by David Tenures the Younger and Jan Brueghel the Younger Using Confocal X-ray Fluorescence Microscopy." Her passion and great loves of accomplishment will always be found in her research and treatment contributions for the NCMA's Dutch and Flemish catalogue.

Noelle will be greatly missed and her loss an enduring heartache for us all. Somewhere though, the perfect cup of coffee surely awaits.

Written by Scott W. Nolley ('96), Classmate

### Frank Zuccari ('75)

Frank Zuccari, age 70, longtime head of art conservation for the Art Institute of Chicago, died peacefully in his Chicago home on Wednesday, August 26, after a seven-month illness. He was accomplished, kind, informed, generous, modest, a scholar and leader in his field, and an artist/craftsman of the highest order. He loved family dinners, golfing with friends, antiquing and restoring old houses, Cape Cod vacations with his sisters, looking at art with colleagues and friends around the world and lazy weekends on the sofa while his son played piano.



Frank led the Department of Conservation for the Art Institute for 25 years, retiring in early 2018. He came from a family of art restorers and went on to enroll in one of the first graduate art conservation programs in the U.S., in Cooperstown, NY. Frank's career before joining the Art Institute in 1987 included stints at some of the nation's great museums: the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

While at the Art Institute, Frank oversaw the expansion of the Conservation Department and the development of the Conservation Science program. He had a key role in the planning and installation of the museum's Modern Wing. He was revered for training and mentoring dozens of young conservators who went on to illustrious careers at leading museums. And his work involved the restoration of numerous masterpieces in the collection. Frank spent the last year of his career focusing on one of the greatest paintings in the Art Institute's collection: El Greco's "The Assumption of the Virgin," the centerpiece of the museum's current El Greco exhibition.

He was born in Rome, Italy, to Bianca (Moro) and Nello Zuccari. He is survived by his longtime companion Maureen King and her son Alex King, who Frank helped raise as his son; by his sisters Christina Zuccari (Richard) and Paula Zuccari-Correlli (Dennis); and his nieces Gianna and Isabella Correlli. A memorial service will be planned when it is safe to gather. (Published in Chicago Tribune on Aug. 30, 2020).



### Benjamin C. Christy

The Buffalo State College community and the Garman Art Conservation Department was saddened by the death of Benjamin C. Christy, dean emeritus of the School of Arts and Humanities, who died September 6, 2020. Dr. Christy joined the college in 2007 and retired in 2020. He was an enthusiastic champion of our department and will be sorely missed.



## ALUMNI BOARD Update

Dana Senge ('06),  
Alumni Board Chair

Dear Alumni,  
As we close 2020 I want to send a huge THANK YOU to those who have worked tirelessly to keep conservation education moving forward during this incredibly challenging year! Last month the Art Conservation Department celebrated its 50th year with an online event that turned out to be so touching and meaningful to so many. Thank you to Meredith, Anne, and Patrick in particular, but also to the entire program of people who shared their memories, experiences, and goals for the future. As part of the celebration, Alumni Board member **Cynthia Kuniej Berry ('88)** lead the effort for the fundraising auction, an event that took many people to pull together include several members of the board, Meredith, Aprille, and several current students, the many donors, and, of course, the bidders! Thanks to all of you for pulling this together and raising over \$8,000 to support the student scholarships.

This September also marked a change over in the Alumni Steering Board. Thank you to outgoing members **Maria Sullivan ('95)** and **Judy Walsh ('77)** and welcome to incoming members **LaStarsha McGarity ('19)** and **MariaCristina Rivera ('17)**!

Our current members are:  
**Dana Senge**, chair, Class of 2006, dksenge@gmail.com  
**Krista Lough**, vice-chair, Class of 2014, krista@kl-artconservation.com  
**Angie Elliot**, Class of 2005, aelliott@thewalters.org  
**Brad Epley**, Class of 1997, bepley@menil.org  
**Cynthia Kuniej Berry**, Class of 1988, ckuniejberry@comcast.net  
**Ingrid Neuman**, Class of 1987, ineuman@risd.edu  
**LaStarsha McGarity**, Class of 2019, ms.lastarshadeemcgarity@gmail.com  
**MariaCristina Rivera**, Class of 2017, rivera.macristina@gmail.com

Many of you have joined the Cooperstown/SUNY Alumni Forum through AIC, this was started this fall through the efforts of Rachel Childers ('20), and provides a space for us to chat as a community. As a board, we are learning how we can be supportive of the program and the alumni, with a particular focus on building community through online events. Over the last few months, I have noticed so many wonderful opportunities for conservation professions to come together online, and I am hoping to understand what may be a good space for us to create for the Buffalo Alumni in particular. Please feel free to reach out to us with ideas for online events as we find our way forward.

Best wishes for a beautiful and safe New Year -  
Dana K. Senge  
Class of 2006  
Cooperstown/Buffalo Alumni Steering Board Chair

## Department Contributions

A sincere thank you to alumni, friends, family, and foundations that have generously contributed to the department since the last Newsletter issue. A special thank you to all that donated items to the 50th Anniversary Auction which raised \$8,300!

### Individual Donors

Michiko Adachi ('16)  
Dina Anchin ('12)  
Janelle Batkin-Hall ('16)  
Katarzyna Bator ('18)  
Irena Calinescu ('93)  
Angela Campbell ('09)  
Lage Carlson ('89)  
Jiuan Jiuan (J.J.) Chen ('01)  
M. J. Davis ('94)  
Jennifer Dennis ('10)  
Angie Elliott ('05)  
Sarah Freeman ('06)  
David Goist ('75)  
Miles Goodman  
Kenneth Grant ('95)  
Marc Harnly ('86)  
Robert Hickmott  
Muriel A. Howard  
Ashley Jehle ('13)  
Emily Klayman Jacobson ('91)  
Jennifer Hunt Johnson ('15)  
Inge-Lise Eckman Lane ('74)  
Elizabeth Leto Fulton ('94)  
Stephanie Lussier ('03)  
Jennifer McGlinchey Sexton ('10)  
Barbara Mangum  
Marianne Russell Marti ('87)  
Cecile ('91) & John Mear  
Erin Murphy ('01)  
Becca Goodman  
Carol J. Richards  
Carolyn Riccardelli ('01)  
Michael P. O'Connor  
Colleen O'Shea ('15)  
Stephanie Porto ('09)  
Dana Senge ('06)  
Daniel Ritchie  
Fran Ritchie ('13)

Michelle Rudnicki  
Raquel Russell  
Mary Kaldany ('88)  
Maryruth Glogowski  
Brian C. Kantz  
Ulysses J. & Melinda Kontos  
Meredeth Lavelle  
Alina Remba ('95)  
Sara K. Shpargel ('01)  
Rebecca Summerour ('12)  
Matt Skopek ('03)  
Maria Sullivan ('95)  
Ryan Stover  
Christopher Tahk ('75)  
Marianne Vallet-Sandre  
Josiah Wagener ('09)  
Glenn Wharton ('80)  
Judy Walsh ('77)  
Julie Wolfe ('97)  
Ann B. Young ('85)

### Foundations

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures  
American Endowment Foundation  
Amon G. Carter Foundation  
The Baird Foundation  
The Cleaver Trust  
Detroit Institute of Arts  
Golden Artist Colors  
J. Paul Getty Foundation  
Cameron & Jane Baird Foundation  
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation  
Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies  
Koessler Family Foundation  
Samuel H. Kress Foundation  
Stockman Family Foundation

## Department Awarded NEH Grant

By Laurie Kaiser, Assistant Director, Marketing & Communications

Congressman Brian Higgins, '85, U.S. representative for New York's 26th congressional district, has announced that Buffalo State's Patricia H. and Richard E. Garman Art Conservation Department will receive a \$350,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for preservation education and training. The three-year grant extends from 2020 to 2022.

The Garman Art Conservation Department will use the grant to support students studying the conservation of art and cultural heritage in the prestigious graduate program. The SUNY Research Foundation at Buffalo State accepted the award on behalf of the department.

"This federal award recognizes nationally the quality of Buffalo State College's program and the ability of the Garman Art Conservation Department to produce the next generation of experts in the fields of historic preservation," Higgins said.

"Our Art Conservation Department has had the incredible fortune of receiving 13 NEH grants over the past three decades in which graduate student fellowship support was either the sole or main purpose of the grant," said Buffalo State President Katherine Conway-Turner. "The fact that the department was awarded the full amount that it requested this year speaks volumes about the caliber of the faculty, the program, and its graduates. This grant is welcome news as the department kicks off its 50th-year celebration this year."

NEH Chairman Jon Parrish Peede noted that NEH grants are highly competitive and involve a rigorous peer-review process to ensure that the projects represent the highest level of humanities quality and public engagement.

"The education of conservators is an essential component of all preservation efforts, and the Garman Art Conservation Department is fully committed to this goal," said Patrick Ravines, associate professor and art conservation program director. "Our mission is and always has been to educate future generations of conservators to carry on with the noble goal of preserving the wide range of objects that comprise the nation's cultural heritage, historical documents, works of art and craft, decorative collections, functional historical objects, and archaeological materials, and to continue to provide access to these collections."

Ravines expressed his extreme gratitude to the NEH for awarding the grant. "The NEH support for graduate student fellowships is necessary in order to recruit the exceptional students who go on to thrive in careers at institutions such as the Library of Congress, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian Institute museums, the National Gallery of Art, and the Getty Conservation Center," he said, adding the work they perform is greatly needed.

As the program celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, it boasts 460 alumni in the field. That number, Ravines pointed out, pales in comparison to the millions of historic and artistic works that require attention.

"There are always more objects that require conservation treatment than there are professional conservators," Ravines said. "There is a critical and constant need for graduate conservation education so more conservators can join the field and continue this important work."

## Equity and Inclusion Committee Started

In an effort to increase diversity and focus on positive changes within the department, students and faculty have been working together on starting a new equity and inclusion committee. Currently, members are working on goals and plans in addition to meeting in smaller groups. Volunteers are signing up now for different positions within the committee and we are excited to see how this group can have an impact on our department and the field as a whole.

## Happy Holidays

from the Garman Art Conservation  
Department Faculty, Staff, & Students

Aaron, Anne, Aprille, Emily, Fiona, Jiuan Jiuan,  
Meredeth, Patrick, Rebecca, Theresa, & Glennis  
Art Conservation Department Faculty / Staff

Lorna, Christy, Meredith, Lindsay, Camille, Emily,  
Grace, Charlotte, Katherine, & Maeve  
1st Year Students

Kate, Annika, Liatte, Emma, Kathryn, Jennifer,  
Khanh, Kacla, Abby, & Katya  
2nd Year Students

Allison, Anita, Basia, Christine, Colleen, Elena,  
Heather, Nicole, Rio, & Stephanie  
3rd Year Students





PATRICIA H. & RICHARD E. GARMAN ART CONSERVATION  
DEPARTMENT at BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE

## 2020 Celebrations 50th Anniversary Year in Review

As 2020 comes to an end, so do our 50th Anniversary celebration events. None of our carefully planned events for the year were able to go forward because of the pandemic. While we were understandably disappointed that our year of celebration was not what we envisioned, we managed to have several successful virtual events.



## 50th SYMPOSIUM

The 50th Anniversary Symposium was an afternoon of fond memories, remembering a beloved colleague, and looking ahead to the future of conservation. We took a trip through the history of the program with **Dan Kushel ('76)**, remembered our beginnings at Buffalo State with **Dr. Bruce Johnstone**, and heard wonderful tributes by both **Dr. Muriel Howard** - former President of Buffalo State, and **Dr. Elizabeth Pena** - former Director of the department. The second portion of the symposium focused on alumni with lightning round talks. We heard from **Stephen Kornhauser ('75)**, **David Miller ('77)**, **James Hamm ('78)**, **Glenn Wharton ('81)**, **Jill Sterrett ('86)**, **Rob Proctor ('92)**, **Jill Whitten ('92)**, **Malcolm Collum ('95)**, **Carolyn Riccardelli ('01)**, **Scott Homolka ('02)**, **Stephanie Lussier ('03)**, **Jeffrey Warda ('05)**, **Julie Day ('04)**, **Nicole Passerotti ('17)**, **Sara Kornhauser ('19)**, and **Tamia Anaya ('20)**. All shared cherished memories of the program, their personal paths to conservation, and gave words of encouragement to our current students who are dealing with many educational challenges and setbacks during the pandemic. After the lightning round talks, we celebrated **Jonathan Thornton ('80)** and his 39 years of teaching in the program. We were not able to have a proper retirement celebration for Jonathan because of the pandemic so we wanted to show our appreciation and have a small tribute during the symposium. Alumni sent in their well wishes to the department over the past few months and Jonathan was given a booklet with all of them compiled as a keepsake.

The afternoon of the symposium focused on a panel discussion entitled "Our Conservation Future: Together, moving forward toward an inclusive & diverse field". **Caryl McFarlane**, Higher Education Diversity, Programs and Strategy Consultant Executive Consultant and Co-Director, The Alliance of HBCU Museums & Galleries moderated the panel with talks by **Jontyle Robinson**, Curator and Assistant Professor, The Legacy Museum, Tuskegee University; **Joe Stahlman**, Director, Seneca-Iroquois National Museum; **Fileve Palmer**, Anthropologist educating Allegany County, New York youth; **Anya Dani**, Objects Conservator, Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University, Okinawa, Japan, and Founding Member, Black Art Conservators; **LaStarsha McGarity ('19)**, Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Objects Conservation, National Gallery of Art, and Founding Member, Black Art Conservators; **Erin Murphy ('01)**, James Needham Chief Conservator, Weissman Preservation Center and Collections Care, Harvard Library; and **Ariel O'Connor ('09)**, Objects Conservator, Lunder Conservation Center, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Smithsonian Institution. Each speaker gave thoughtful and informative talks provoking much thought and inner reflection. It was a great way to think about how the department and field as a whole can make positive changes going forward. **Carlos Jones**, Interim Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities at Buffalo State, wrapped up the symposium with closing remarks followed by a casual get together of all alumni and friends that stuck around to chat at the end. As you can see by the photo to the left, everyone had a great time and it was wonderful to see so many participate.

Feedback from the symposium was very positive and there was a good part of reminiscing and sense of community while also being able to learn something from each other. If you did not have a chance to join us that day, the entire symposium was recorded and we are working to get the video into a format to share with all alumni very soon.

## CLASS OF 2020



The Class of 2020 gave their final presentations via Zoom on September 11, 2020. Despite many set backs and challenges due to the pandemic, all of our graduates finished their planned third year internships. We are all extremely proud of their accomplishments and wish them much success as they start their careers.

## 50th ANNIVERSARY AUCTION

While we had planned to have a fun, in-person live auction at the 50th gala event, that was not possible with the pandemic. To try and save this aspect of the gala, we decided to make the auction an online event. Thanks to the dedication of several Alumni Board members and the generosity of our alumni, the event was a huge success and raised \$8,325 for graduate student fellowships. A huge thank you goes to:

- > The Alumni Board for soliciting donations from alumni – especially **Cynthia Kuniej Berry ('88)**, **Ingrid Neuman ('87)**, and **Krista Lough ('14)**
- > **Aprille Nace** for organizing everything, keeping tabs on all donations, and helping to set up the auction online.
- > **Emma Guerard ('22)**, **Emily Mercer ('23)**, and **Annika Blake-Howland ('22)** for helping with photographs, shipping, and packing.
- > **Christine McIntyre ('12)** for her graphic design work
- > **Anne Hoehn** and **Theresa Smith ('06)** for helping with logistics, shipping, and packing

## 50th EXHIBIT

We were honored to have the Buffalo History Museum, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, Burchfield Penney Arts Center, and Buffalo Museum of Science help us celebrate 50 years of conserving artwork in Western New York. Each institution displayed pieces in their collection conserved by our students to highlight the important work our department does as a community service. While the Burchfield exhibit has closed, the Buffalo Museum of Science and Buffalo Library exhibits are still up for a few weeks. The Buffalo History Museum exhibit will continue throughout 2021 with rotating objects changing every few months. The Seneca Iroquois National Museum and Albright Knox also participated by loaning items to the Burchfield for this exhibit.



### 50th Anniversary Exhibit photos

**Right:** Buffalo History Museum Exhibit showing a display of paintings conserved by the department during its time in Cooperstown and Buffalo - a true display of 50 years of work.

**Left:** Buffalo & Erie County Public Library exhibit featuring several books conserved by students.

**Far Left:** Burchfield Penney Arts Center exhibit showcasing pieces conserved by students in its collection along with Albright Knox and Seneca Iroquois National Museum pieces on loan.







RICHARD H. & PATRICIA E. GARMAN ART CONSERVATION  
DEPARTMENT at BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE



LaStarsha McGarity  
Class of 2019

*The generous support provided by the student fellowships allowed me the freedom to devote myself full time to my studies in Buffalo. I was able to tackle more difficult and intensive treatments to further challenge and refine my abilities as a conservator. The opportunity to*

*focus drastically improved my ingenuity, creative, and independence as an early career conservator. As I venture into the world, I will not have the burden of repaying student debt which will allow me to continue my mission of volunteering with Historically Black Colleges and Universities as well as other underserved institutions to preserve their collections as best as possible.*

The Garman Art Conservation Department is wrapping up its year-long 50th anniversary celebration. It is incredible how we have grown and changed since the program was founded in 1970 as the Cooperstown Graduate Program, affiliated with SUNY College at Oneonta. Over the past fifty years, we have successfully graduated 470 students, improved and expanded our facilities, grown the number of conservation specialties for students to study, and worked tirelessly to secure endowed funds to ensure the future of our program.

Students are in classes from 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday, and on nights and weekends they are working on conservation treatment projects, research, and course work. This densely packed schedule makes it impossible for students to have part-time jobs. The graduate fellowships the department provides all students allows them to focus and concentrate fully on their education.

The department is nationally and internationally recognized amongst cultural heritage institutions as one of the best conservation programs. Our alumni are employed in major museums such as the National Gallery of Art, Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Museum of Modern Art. Our department consistently exports talent to major cultural heritage institutions nation-wide.

Testimonials from our students show the importance of this funding and how meaningful it has been to their education and professional growth. Please consider a gift to mark this monumental anniversary and celebrate 50 years of educating the best and brightest conservation graduate students!



Carolyn Riccardelli, Class of 2001  
Objects Conservator  
Metropolitan Museum of Art



*I am grateful for my graduate student fellowship support which helped fund my education and training in the conservation of paintings. During my two years at Buffalo State, I was afforded the opportunity to pursue a technical study on a 19th century American painting, and research related to metal soap degradation in modern and contemporary works of art. These material investigations informed conservation treatments I carried out in my graduate internship, including paintings from the National Museum of African American History, the Barnes Foundation, and the Phillips Collection. Without my generous fellowship support, none of this would have been possible.*

Christine Romano, Class of 2016

Please make checks payable to:  
Buffalo State College Foundation Inc.  
(with Garman Art Conservation Department 50th anniversary fund in the notes line)

Send this form, along with payment to:  
Garman Art Conservation Department  
Buffalo State College  
Attn: Meredith Lavelle  
1300 Elmwood Avenue, Rockwell Hall 230  
Buffalo, NY 14222-1095

All donations will be acknowledged by the Buffalo State College Foundation. They will forward you the proper paperwork necessary for tax purposes.

*Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law.  
Thank you for your generous support!*

**Yes! I would like to contribute to the Garman Art Conservation  
50th Anniversary Fellowship Fund:**

\$2,500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my name to be acknowledged as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to remain anonymous.

