

New College Alumni Newsletter

December 2015

Dr. Galbraith Awarded Third Fulbright Award

Dr. Marysia Galbraith, associate professor in New College, received a third Fulbright award to continue her study on Jewish heritage. Dr. Galbraith spent the 2014-2015 school year teaching and researching in Poland as a Fulbright scholar. Dr. Galbraith examined Jewish culture in Poland, Jewish identity in Poland, and the roles Jews filled in Polish history. The Fulbright program was established to increase the mutual understanding between people of the United States and other countries through the exchange of scholars and knowledge. These Fulbright awards are among the highest honors for scholars doing international work.



Welcoming Adrienne Callander

New College is proud to announce its newest faculty member, professor Adrienne Callander, who is joining as the Assistant Professor of Arts Entrepreneurship. Currently involved in teaching, writing, curating, and exhibiting art, she received her B.A. from Reed College in 1998, her Post-Baccalaureate in Visual Art from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2002, and her M.F.A. from the Mason Gross School of Art at Rutgers University in 2006. Over the years, she has taught in various locations, including Rutgers University, The University of Louisville, The Kentucky School of Art, and Indiana University Southeast where she also served as Co-Director of the IUS Arts Institute Young Artist Workshop. Outside of her work in teaching, she contributes to the online arts magazine, Dime & Honey, exhibits her work both in the U.S. and abroad, and fabricates a design line. Since joining New College this fall, professor Callander has already developed relations between New College students and other programs she has facilitated in the past, such as VIBE at Mississippi State University.

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Druid City Garden Project (and Party)



The staff at Druid City Garden Project (DCGP) are working hard to grow a better future in Alabama, literally. The DCGP is a local non-profit that uses school gardens, farm stands, and educational programs to help diverse communities of Alabama build vibrant food systems. They emphasize building these systems through educational programs that teach students how to maintain a healthy, sustainable lifestyle. In addition, DCGP hosts an annual fundraiser, the Garden Party. The Garden Party held in October epitomized their mission, with fourteen area farmers, eight local restaurants, three breweries and 300 guests. It was the “most successful” Garden Party yet, and the community looks forward for many more to come.

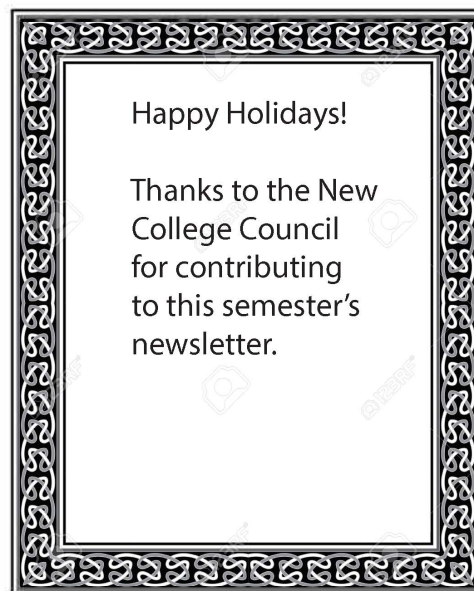
Bonnaroo

Ever heard of Bonnaroo Music Festival? Well, on October 26th, the students of New College had the amazing opportunity to listen to the Director of Events and Engagements of AC Entertainment to gain a better understanding of the realities behind the music industry as well as insight about event planning from one of the best. James Shinault spoke to a number of students regarding his experiences planning for events in the world of entertainment. Not only did Shinault open the students' minds to thinking about the logistics behind music festivals, such as how many toilets will be needed and where they need to be placed, but he also encouraged everyone to get involved with whatever they are passionate about. Shinault said that it takes all types of people to host an event like Bonnaroo. They are accommodating people to live in a small city for the week and need to plan around music entertainment in addition to food, shelter, trash, lighting and sound, social media and marketing. After handing out some free souvenirs at the end of the talk as well as answering questions from the students, Shinault explained three different opportunities that students could take advantage of to get involved: volunteering opportunities, internships and even scholarship opportunities. It was an honor for the New College to host Mr. James Shinault from AC Entertainment and an excellent opportunity for the students of New College to gain exposure to a professional event planner.



A Summer of Surprises

The Walker County Internship program takes place in Jasper, AL from June to the end of July and is a great experience for anyone interested in exploring their passions in applicable, real-world scenarios! The program matches you with a local community partner with similar interests, and from there your summer is in their hands. Each experience is different for each intern based on their interests, but everyone learns a great deal from their surroundings. The summer isn't all work though. Families of the community host dinners every week for the interns, and there's much to do in the city. There isn't a boring moment, and each is different and more surprising than the last.



New College Students in the News

New College student **Kris Pearce** and **Ethan Jackson** (aerospace engineering) met as freshmen in 2011 living in Burke Hall. Now they are co-owners of Day Dream Comics, a line of superhero comic books. Pearce is the writing genius behind Day Dream Comics, and Jackson provides the artistic vision. Their comic books are sold in Tuscaloosa at The Comic Strip as well as in New York and Vancouver. Kris is a recipient of the Jeff Levitz Scholarship, an award given twice a year to New College students who demonstrate an entrepreneurial spirit. Pearce and Jackson's friendship and business was recently featured in *al.com*.

Three New College students and one New College alum were prominently featured in the 2014-2015 Service Learning: Innovations in Scholarship, Service, and Outreach magazine published by the Center for Ethics & Social Responsibility. **Sarah Johns** and **Emily Pickert** were interns for the Paul R. Jones Collection of American Art K-12 Fellowship Program. **Cameron Lyons** was part of the 57 Miles Perry County Partnership, which provides UA students hands-on opportunities to learn about rural poverty in one of Alabama's poorest counties. **Bre Swims** (NC 2014) participated in the year-long Documenting Justice film project in which UA students tell stories of justice and injustice through film.

Emily Pickert, Jeff Rogers, Cameron Lyons, Stephanie Ray, Aundrea Bevis



New College Student Awarded NASPA Fellowship

Jeffrey Jones, a New College junior, was recently selected as a National Undergraduate Fellow from NASPA, the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. This is the first time that a UA student has been selected for this prestigious honor. Elle Shaaban-Magana, director of the UA Women and Gender Resources Center, serves as his mentor. As a NASPA fellow, Jeffrey will participate in a variety of professional development opportunities in the field of student affairs.



Cover to Cover

In August, the book covers of Drs. Natalie Adams, Marysia Galbraith, Ellen Spears and Michael Steinberg were featured in an art exhibit at the Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center in downtown Tuscaloosa. "Cover to Cover: Authors from the College of Arts and Sciences" featured 34 faculty authors. The book covers featured were *Cheerleader! An American Icon* (Adams); *Being and Becoming European: Self-Identity and European Integration in Poland* (Galbraith); *Baptized in PCBs: Race, Pollution, and Justice in an All-American Town* (Spears); and *Stalking the Ghost Bird: The Elusive Ivory-Billed Woodpecker in Louisiana* (Steinberg).



Alumni News

India Williams (NC 2009) recently launched a new nail polish company, Rooted Woman, while taking some time off from practicing law. Designed for professional women who need to spend time taking care of themselves, Rooted Woman is based on four core values that are reflected in the names and colors of the nail polish: self-love, self-care, thoughtfulness, and gratitude.

Congratulations to **Chris Chirino** (NC 2012) who was awarded the 2016 Mark G. Foster Professional Scholarship at The University of Alabama. Chirino is an advisor with the UA Career Center and pursuing a PhD in counseling.

Ellen Urbani (NC 1991) recently published her second book, *Landfall* (Forest Avenue Press, 2015), a work of historical fiction set in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Her previous memoir, *When I Was Elena* (The Permanent Press, 2006), was a Book Sense Notable selection documenting her life in Guatemala during the final years of that country's civil war.

New Scholarship Endowed in Honor of Dr. Harry “Bing” Blewitt

Through the generous contributions of family, friends, colleagues and former students, a scholarship has been created to honor the legacy of Dr. Bing Blewitt. Dr. Blewitt earned his doctorate in 1966 from Ohio University and began teaching at UA in 1975. His former students fondly remember the New College seminars he taught such as Birds and Birding. Although retired from UA, Dr. Blewitt is still actively involved in the teaching of science. He teaches chemistry at American Christian Academy and volunteers daily at the Museum of Natural History. A reception in Dr. Blewitt’s honor will be held on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in Smith Hall.



New College Alum Featured in Southern Living

Justinn Overton (2010) was one of five “Women of Worth” featured in the November 2015 issue of Southern Living. Justinn is the Executive Director of the Coosa Riverkeeper. An outdoor enthusiast her entire life, Justinn now commits her professional life to improving water quality in the Coosa River and educating children and adults about the importance of preserving this valuable resource. What is the most rewarding aspect of her job? “Educating people about the Coosa, encouraging folks to get out on the water, and protecting the place where I made memories.”

Stay tuned for next semester’s newsletter!