



Duke House Diaries

INSTITUTE of FINE ARTS

May 2012

From the Director

As I write, April showers are belatedly drenching May flowers. But, as befits a season of celebration, much of the merry month has been bright. On May 15 we congratulated our 55 new Masters of Arts, 8 new Masters of Arts with Advanced Certificates in the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, and 20 new Doctors of Philosophy. Our graduates were so numerous that we could not hold commencement at the Institute. Owing to the great work done by the Academic Office and by Brenda Shrobe we found an excellent venue in NYU's new Spiritual Center at Washington Square. The morning ceremony, made memorable by a moving and inspiring speech by this year's Distinguished Alumnus, Professor William Hood, and a video about the IFA experience produced by Joe Rosario and Jason Varone, was followed by an afternoon open house and party at Duke House. "At home" we toasted our new alumni as well as the centennial of Duke House, launching that celebration with special centennial cupcakes and souvenir cookies.

There will be more than baked goods to mark the 100th year of our distinguished home. We have also launched the Duke House research project with summer bursaries. With the guidance of Jean-Louis Cohen, six students will spend time investigating sources to find information about the building's construction, urban context, interior design and inhabitants: Elizabeth Buhe, Kat Koh, Schuyler Swartout and Matthew Worsnick in New York at the New York Public Library, the Historical Society, at the IFA, and through interviews with staff, faculty, and alumni; Daniella Berman and Laura Dickey in the Duke Archive at Duke University; and Grace Chuang in the Carlhian archive at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles. The results of the research will become part of the work of Professor Cohen's seminar this autumn and will be reported to a symposium on Duke House and its inhabitants planned for the beginning of February 2013. Another recent award is this year's Decorative Arts Essay Prize, given to Alexandra Courcoulas for her paper, 'An openwork necklace: a case of flaunted wealth and 'travelling ornament.'

There were two other special events in mid-May: our first annual fellowship donor luncheon, when the lecture hall became an elegant dining hall and students and their supporters had a chance to meet and we all had a chance to thank our generous

sponsors. There was also a ceremony to name The Carol and William L. May Modern Reading Room, dedicated by IFA Board Member Gail Engelberg in honor of her parents as a memorial to their love of the arts. The success of these complicated events was due to the fine work of the IFA building staff and to the gracious and unstinting efforts of the Development Office: Hope O'Reilly, Christina Tripi and Andrea Cirelli.

The end of the academic year marks a major milestone for the IFA: our beloved and esteemed Professor Linda Nochlin is retiring. "Retiring" is hardly a word that one associates with Linda, either as an adjective meaning shy or reserved or a verb suggesting a withdrawal from the highest level of activity as a teacher and scholar. Neither is the case. Linda is simply re-orienting her time. As Professor Emeritus she will offer two courses a year for the next two years while dedicating her considerable energies to completing her current book. She will continue to be an important presence among us, except at those times when she is absorbed by her writing or called to collect another award. This is, however, a moment for all of us to express our profound admiration and affection for Linda and our gratitude for all that she has done and will continue to do for the Institute.

Academic Office

Birgitta Augustin has won the National Museum Korea Fellowship to work in South Korea this summer.

Peter Bell has been awarded the 2012-2013 Rome Prize in Renaissance and Early Modern Studies.

Cindy Kang has won a predoctoral fellowship from the Getty Research Institute for 2012-2013.

Conservation Center

[Newsgram](#) For a second year in a row, the Conservation Center received a record-breaking number of student applications. With so many highly-qualified applicants to choose from, the admission committee's task of selecting the interview group was made that much more difficult. In the end, we were privileged to select from a group of first-rate students whose backgrounds, talents and academic achievements rivaled only their enthusiasm for conservation.

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

Computer Services

IFA Student Print Accounts will remain active until August 27. Summer Hours in the PC lab will start after Memorial Day Weekend. The labs will be open from 9:00AM to 5:00PM. FCM will likely do some work (painting, possible floor refinishing) in the Duke

House PC Lab over the summer. Lab closure notices will be posted at the entrance bulletin board and on IFA Notice when the dates are known. Joe Rosario will be doing some research on purchasing laptop "port replicators" being installed in the PC or Mac labs which will allow a user to print directly from their laptops to the Duke House printers.

Digital Media Services

Summer hours for DMS offices are Monday through Friday, 9:00AM to 5:00PM. The Photograph Archive is accessible by appointment, Monday through Friday, 10:00 to 4:00; please contact Jenni Rodda for information. Extended hours will resume with the fall semester. Please let us know if we can help you with imaging projects or research over the summer!