



SECURING  
**A STRONG  
FUTURE**

FOR THE BGSU SCHOOL OF ART

**THE.** *Medici*  
**CIRCLE**



*Tim Smith*

## GREETINGS FROM THE MEDICI CIRCLE

Dear Friends,

I've been honored to be asked to assume the Presidency of Bowling Green State University's Medici Circle. Just living up to the reputations and achievements of those who have preceded me will be a chore.

In particular, I feel challenged by the example of outgoing President, David Bryan, and the many positive changes that have taken place during his presidency.

Membership levels of the Medici Circle have increased significantly, not only among our traditional supporters but also among faculty and students. The Circle is visible at practically every public event in the School of Art, and thanks here go

to the continued efforts of our Medici Board members. The annual Primavera Gala is now said to be among the finest dinner parties on campus. Our members are coming forward to host events showcasing student and faculty talent, as you will read later. And support from BGSU President Dr. Carol Cartwright and her husband, Dr. Philip Cartwright, continues with the Circle's presidential dinner at their home and their attendance at the various functions of the School of Art.

Even during these challenging times, our income through Medici memberships has remained strong. And we certainly thank you for that. You have recognized that students now need your support more than ever. Some of our students hold down two jobs while taking a full course load and working in the studios and computer labs late into the night, and often around the clock.

Your support has also enabled the School of Art's visiting artist program to continue unabated. And—so crucial when students have to make hard choices—some students have continued to study in the cradle of the Renaissance, Florence, Italy, at our partner school, Studio Art Centers International (SACI).

I want to thank Dave and his wife, Myrna, for everything they have done for the Medici Circle during the last four years. They set a high standard—one that I will work to maintain.

Timothy F. Smith  
President

## MEDICI CIRCLE AT WORK: VISITING ARTISTS 2008/09

The School of Art was proud to welcome a wonderful array of artists and scholars thanks to Medici Circle funding.

At the end of September, Sue Hettmansperger, Professor of Painting and Drawing and Guggenheim Fellow gave a talk about her recent work in conjunction with the opening of the exhibit "Giving of Beauty" celebrating the many wonderful works of art donated to the School. Professor Hettmansperger talked about the relationship of nature, science and art to a standing room only audience.

In October, Dave Mason, internationally recognized graphic designer of Samata Mason in Dundee, Illinois, presented a riveting talk about some of the conceptual, social and cultural challenges facing the graphic design discipline.

In February, artist Regin Igloria visited campus to give several workshops, an artists talk and one-on-one critiques to students in the advanced painting class.

Also in February the Student Art Education Association organized a highly effective Praxis training workshop.

In April 2009, Renee Zettle-Sterling, a renowned jeweler and metalsmith working with small-scale, body-oriented devices and jewelry, as well as large, site specific installation, offered a two-day hands-on workshop with about twenty participants. Renee also gave a lecture to the entire school and created a small

exhibition of her work. The jewelry and metals program was fortunate to be able to purchase three of her jewelry pieces for the Dorothy MacKenzie Collection.

These are just a few examples—of many—of Medici Circle funds bringing some of the very best practitioners in the field to the BGSU School of Art.



*Regin Igloria*



*Renee Zettle-Sterling*

## SALUTI DAL FIRENZE

*Julianne Kaercher*

*My* experience this summer in Florence was exceptional. Thanks to the School of Art, and in part the Medici Circle, I was able to live in the town where all the history I study occurred. The main goal of my going to Italy was to see the masterpieces of the Renaissance in their original contexts, and to find the inspiration necessary to fuel my thesis research. While there I was enrolled in two courses, the first focusing on the ritualistic behavior of Renaissance Florentines, and the other, an independent study allowing for personal research on a more specific topic. Both courses taught me an unbelievable amount of art, history, and theory.

While it is true that I could have read the same articles and seen the same images online in Ohio, there is something truly special about experiencing art in its original context, especially in the instance of my Renaissance ritual class. The opportunity to walk the exact processional route as a condemned criminal did was a profound experience. In addition to the education I received in Florence, I was also able to find a part of myself. You never know how much you settle for things until you are forced to make decisions on your own. In Italy, my happiness

depended solely upon my decisions and actions. Only when I was forced into the unavoidable discomfort of living away from home was I able to realize what it was that I wanted to do. As a result of this “soul searching” I found my thesis topic. Only upon my return to the States did I realize the impact of the trip on my studies. I kept trying to avoid my initial desires of an interdisciplinary approach to art history, but have realized that I should follow my instincts instead of rejecting them.

I am excited about the upcoming semester—to take what I learned over my summer abroad and apply it towards my educational approach, development, and career. This experience, while expensive, is the definition of priceless for a student like me. I am truly grateful for this opportunity and want to encourage others to take advantage of the SACI program.



*Venice*



*Piccolomini Library ceiling, Siena*



*Alex Beat*

*Alex Beat*

*The* SACI session I attended in Florence, Italy, was an experience I will never forget. I first heard about the SACI program and the sister school in Florence when I was a freshman and from then on I was hooked. I made a promise to myself that I would go study in Italy before I graduated. The trip was such a perfect way to earn credits, advance in my studies of art and also to gain a perspective of life outside the U.S. I feel my study abroad experience in Europe was one of the defining moments of my life to date because of the excellent teaching I received and the insight I gained on culture and art.

Traveling to study art in Italy is a huge deal, considering it was the birthplace of the Renaissance, so to have this opportunity through Bowling Green was not a question at all. I made the promise I was going to go, and come the end of my sophomore year of college, there I was on a red-eye for Europe. After stumbling off the plane, jet-lagged and starving, we were welcomed by the cheerful smiles of a couple of our professors who quickly had us zipping through cabs toward our homes for the next five weeks. I'd be lying if I told you I wasn't nervous, especially when we realized the road to our apartment was blocked due to hundreds of market vendors cleaning up after a long day. Luckily we found the place without too much trouble and were welcomed by a fellow roommate, Erin, into our homestead. Now, once we were situated, the next plan was of course to check out the school.

SACI was located right in the heart of breath-taking Florence and they welcomed us with open arms. The place was just along a cobbled brick road like any other you would walk on through the city, nestled in with the other businesses and small shops. Classes started that Monday and it was a little tough getting used to the rigorous class hours since they were squeezing the credits of a semester into a mere five weeks, but everyone seemed to handle it well. The professors were among some of the most interesting people I've ever met because of all the

different experiences they had been through having grown up in another country. So going to school with these people was of course an experience in itself. Then, the second you stepped out into the city you were immersed in a culture that has thrived for generations and has witnessed eras like the Renaissance and the Baroque period. The city of Florence was constantly in motion—people walking everywhere and there were no massive SUV's, just small economy cars and Vespas zipping in and out of alleyways. But then, out of nowhere, you could turn a corner and there would be an amazing work of art or historic building, like the Duomo just in the midst of this entire scene. Having been surrounded by all this for a little over a month, I was depressed to come back to America. At the same time, America does have its own cultural benefits like dryers and good restaurant service, which I greatly missed.

Italy was the adventure of a lifetime and to pass up a chance like studying in one of the most art-filled historic cities in the world would just be insane. I would not give up this experience for anything and am so glad I pushed myself to come up with the money and pay my way there. The trip to Italy has given my outlook on culture and art a new twist and I feel that this year will give me a chance to show how this experience has changed me as a person and as an artist.

## THE WOLFE CENTER FOR THE ARTS: LEADING THE WAY AT BGSU

Communities across the country are turning to the arts for creative solutions to stimulate economic recovery. Bowling Green State University is helping by building creativity into the landscape and jumpstarting the regional economy with plans for a new arts center on campus.

Thanks to Fritz and Mary Wolfe and support from Presidents Sidney Ribeau and Carol Cartwright, the arts will have a flagship building and center for collaboration across the arts. The new Wolfe Center for the Arts will offer an environment conducive to creativity and partnerships.

In addition to being a place for students and faculty to learn and work on theatrical, dance, musical, film and digital arts productions, the center will offer the community an exceptional venue in which to see a wide range of performances. And the Medici Circle is a part of that success story.

Mary Wolfe has been a visionary force in the arts at BGSU, in Ohio and nationally for decades. A former faculty member in art history in the School of Art, and a force behind many cultural initiatives in the area (including most recently the magnificent mural in Toledo's Valentine

Theatre lobby) she is also a national arts advocate in organizations like the Alliance of Artists' Communities.

Mary was also a founding member of the Medici Circle—which will celebrate its 30th anniversary in spring 2010.

The Wolfe Center for the Arts will be the University's next step in cementing its commitment to the arts and nurturing creativity for a stronger, more vibrant and dynamic community. On April 25 a distinctive, student-focused groundbreaking was held for the \$40 million, 93,000 square-foot Wolfe Center

for the Arts. Hundreds of student performers, faculty, staff, alumni and donors gathered to celebrate the beginning of this much-anticipated project. "The Wolfe Center for the Arts will shine an international spotlight on the arts—one of BGSU's collaborative areas of excellence. ...While the Wolfe Center will serve the educational needs of those students majoring in the arts, it will also serve all BGSU students and the entire community in meaningful ways," says Simon Morgan-Russell, dean of BGSU's College of Arts and Sciences. The center will enhance an existing arts corridor on campus and foster creativity and collaboration across the arts. The generous, technologically advanced space will allow for classes, rehearsals and performances

and will also be the new home for the Department of Theatre and Film. The Wolfe Center for the Arts will be the first American project designed and completed by the Norwegian architectural firm Snøhetta. The firm's international portfolio includes the Oslo Opera House, the Alexandria Library in Egypt and the new cultural center for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; the creative team is also working on the National September 11 Memorial Museum Pavilion at the World Trade Center site in New York City. The firm recently won the Mies van der Rohe Prize, the most prestigious European architectural award. The Collaborative Inc. of Toledo, Ohio, is the associate architect for the project. The interior amenities, designed with Theatre Projects Consultants and Akustiks, both of South Norwalk, Conn., will provide maximum usability and flexibility, while ensuring the technical needs of a 21st-century performance space. High value is placed

on the creation of open and democratic places within the design, with a grand, open hall greeting visitors from the main entrance. At the center of it all is the 400-seat Donnell Theater, designed in the style of the great performance halls of New York and London and named after Tom and Kathleen Donnell, of Findlay, Ohio, like the Wolfes also lifelong supporters of the arts. "Our communities need a creative and educated population. Access to the arts is an important part of that objective," said BGSU President Carol Cartwright. "Bowling Green State University has been a long-time leader in the arts. This is the next step in BGSU achieving prominence on an international stage. "According to Americans for the Arts, 'the creative industries are the high-octane fuel that drives the information economy, the fastest growing segment of the nation's economy,'" she added. "As an institution of higher education, it's our responsibility to keep up with the trends—and make a difference by shaping the leaders of tomorrow."

More information about the Wolfe Center and Snøhetta can be found at:

[http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/media\\_room/page62866.html](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/media_room/page62866.html).

<http://www.snohetta.com/#/projects/76/true/all/image/801>



## MEDICI RENAISSANCE: 2009

*M*edici Circle events provide important opportunities for members to connect with artists, art students, programs and supporters of the School of Art—and they celebrate the creativity and service ethos of the School of Art community as well as the arts at BGSU as a whole.

- In December 2008 Medici Circle and Pro Musica members once again mixed with faculty from the School of Art and the College of Musical Arts at a special reception during the Arts Extravaganza. This was followed by an evening full of performances by the Department of Theatre and Film, the College of Musical Arts, and the Creative Writing and Dance programs, all in addition to art sales and demos throughout the building.

- In the middle of grey and cold February, Lee and Jan Odegaard hosted a warm and hospitable members' evening to showcase the research of Dr. Rebecca Green, chair of the School's division of art history and leading authority on the art of Madagascar. It was an evening of 'hats and proverbs', key art forms of the island nation, with a fascinating presentation and demonstration by Dr. Green. To add to the authenticity of the evening, guests were regaled with Malagasy dishes

that Jan and Lee Odegaard prepared specially for the occasion.

- The Annual Primavera Gala in March, titled "an evening in Tuscany," was attended by more than sixty guests. Friends of the arts, as well as Medici Circle members, celebrated winners of Medici Circle-supported scholarships and awards that included Professor Steven Seubert, of the Mathematics & Statistics Department, this year's 'Il Magnifico' honoree, for his service to the School of Art.

- The highpoint of the year was the Groundbreaking, or in fact a ground building, of the Wolfe Center for the Arts, the cutting edge collaborative arts building. Made possible by the lead gift of Mary and Fritz Wolfe, the Wolfe Center will be the home of the Department of Theatre and Film, and the heart of a new arts neighborhood at the east end of campus. The plaza in front of the Wolfe Center will be named in honor of former President Sidney Ribeau, who flew in from Washington, D.C., with his wife Paula to attend the ceremony. Dr. Cartwright also welcomed Craig Dykers, partner in charge of the design from Snøhetta, the project architects, who were announced as winners of the Mies van der Rohe Prize, Europe's most prestigious

architectural award, on the following Monday.

- In early May, Medici Circle outgoing President Dave Bryan, and his wife Myrna, held the annual commission recognition dinner for Medici Circle members at their home to showcase the work of Lynn Whitney, nationally recognized photographer, and Dianna Lust, BFA ceramics student, who created the 2009 artwork for Medici Circle members donating at a certain level.

- In mid-May, Dr. Cartwright generously agreed to continue the tradition of the presidential dinner and selected members, as well as the outstanding senior award winner, Luke Aherne, were honored by the Medici Circle at the Cartwrights' home at an early Sunday dinner.



*The Odegards with  
Rebecca Green*

## MEDICI CIRCLE PURCHASE AWARD: 2009

*A*s in the previous 28 years, the Medici Circle membership gathered before the Primavera Gala to choose the most inspiring work of art by a student in the BFA exhibition as a permanent addition to the Medici Circle art collection. This year's winner writes movingly about her piece below:



*Nick's a Future Buckeye  
Kaitlyn Helberg*

Adoption has played an integral part in my life as many members of my family have decided to adopt children, the closest instance being my sister. In the body of work of which this portrait is a part, I decided to focus on the lives of adopted children in order to advocate for the act of adoption. In these pieces, it is my goal to specifically represent each child as an individual, both in personality and in appearance. My hope is that the interplay of selected patterns with the more traditional approach to portraiture will reveal the personality of each subject. In addition, by highlighting these individuals, I am able to promote and celebrate what adoption can achieve.



*Dunkelbernstein  
Lisa Pelo-McNiece*

Lisa Pelo-McNiece graduated cum laude at BGSU in 1988. She is now a blown-glass and metal artist living and working in Clayton, Indiana, and Department Head of the Glass Studio at the Indianapolis Art Center, where she is also a glassblowing instructor. Lisa also works as the Gallery Manager at the Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library in Plainfield, Indiana. She is the recipient of the Indiana Arts Commission Individual Artist Grant and the Arts Council of Indianapolis Creative Renewal Fellowship. She has also received awards from regional and national juried exhibitions and has work in several permanent collections. Lisa designed the 2003 ARTI awards for the Arts Council of Indianapolis and the 2009 Cultural Vision Awards presented by NUVO Magazine. Her artwork may be seen at numerous museums and galleries across the country. Lisa's current work and information about her home studio and business, Hot Blown Glass, Ltd., can be found at [www.hotblownglass.com](http://www.hotblownglass.com)

2009 MARILYN  
SINGLETON/  
MEDICI CIRCLE  
GRADUATE  
LEADERSHIP AWARD

Dear Mr. Singleton and  
the Medici Circle,

I was honored to be the  
nominee and recipient of  
the 2009 Marilyn Singleton/  
Medici Circle Graduate  
Leadership Award. To  
expand on comments I made  
at the excellent Primavera  
Gala dinner, I wish to thank  
you for recognizing me with  
this award and also for your  
continued commitment to  
the arts , particularly in these  
difficult economic times.



*Melissa Cook*

As this academic year's  
President of the Arts Senate,  
I was primarily responsible  
for the organizational  
component of the annual  
Arts Extravaganza event,  
which celebrates the arts  
at Bowling Green State  
University. As the event  
continues to expand and  
grow, its profile as one  
of the premier collective  
arts events in the region is  
increased. To have a group  
such as the Medici Circle  
and its associated financial  
and spiritual support is truly  
a gift and demonstrates a  
commitment to the need  
and vitality of a prosperous  
creative environment.

Again thank you for  
honoring my role in the  
most recent inception  
of Arts Senate and Arts  
Extravaganza. I was truly  
proud to be a part of it and  
will remember it always.

With sincerest appreciation,  
Michael Tarr, President, Arts  
Senate '08-'09

MARILYN  
SINGLETON/  
MEDICI CIRCLE  
UNDERGRADUATE  
LEADERSHIP AWARD

Dear Members of the  
Medici Circle,

My name is Melissa Cook  
and I am currently a senior  
at BGSU, looking forward  
to graduating this coming  
May, 2009. I want to thank  
you for selecting me as the  
2009 recipient of the Marilyn  
Singleton/Medici Circle  
Undergraduate Leadership  
Award.

Over the past four years  
the School of Art and the  
Bowling Green community  
have become my home. I  
have thoroughly enjoyed  
becoming an active member  
within the School of Art  
as well as the surrounding  
campus and the greater  
Bowling Green area. It is  
a privilege to receive this  
honor and I look forward to  
becoming an active member  
at Illinois State University,  
where I will be attending  
Graduate School this fall to  
pursue my Master's of Fine  
Arts in Painting.

It is wonderful to know  
that the Medici Circle is  
excited and interested in  
supporting student leaders,  
and it is my hope that BGSU  
will continually inspire  
individuals to become  
engaged and involved in the  
community.

Again, thank you for this  
wonderful award!

Sincerely, Melissa Cook

THOMAS HILTY  
SACI SCHOLARSHIP

Dear Medici Circle,

I am honored to receive  
the Thomas Hilty SACI  
scholarship. I was very  
excited to learn that I was  
selected as the recipient of  
this award. I know that this  
study abroad experience at  
SACI this summer will only  
help to benefit my artwork  
and growth as a student  
at BGSU. Once again, I  
would like to thank you for  
your generous scholarship  
support and I will be sure to  
share my experiences upon  
returning.

Sincerely, Hillary Hewit

MEDICI CIRCLE  
UNDERGRADUATE  
BEST IN SHOW

Dear Medici Circle  
Donors,

I am honored to be the  
recipient of the 2009 Medici  
Circle Undergraduate Best  
in Show scholarship award.  
Thanks to your generous  
support I am able to enhance  
the quality of my work  
through both the purchase of  
equipment but most of all the  
inspiration of success.

I have just entered my  
final year of school here at  
BGSU and am preparing  
to begin work on my BFA  
show. My plans at this stage  
are to complete a major  
in 3-Dimensional Studies  
with a focus in Sculpture  
and to attend grad school to  
further my artistic dreams.  
BGSU offers one of the finest  
sculpture programs in the  
state and I consider myself  
fortunate to be able to attend  
this program. Thanks to the

support of your generous  
scholarship it is easier to  
reach my goals.  
Working at BGSU has been  
a grand event in my life and  
I hope one day to be in a  
position to help others find  
their own personal niche in  
art through my experiences.  
I know that BGSU and all  
the support of those who  
help not only me, but the  
whole community of artists,  
is extremely important and  
well appreciated. Thank you  
so much and please continue  
to share your love of the arts  
with the world.

Sincerely, Kevin Vanek



*Kevin Vanek*



THANK YOU FOR  
SUPPORTING THE  
MEDICI CIRCLE!



**COVER PAGE CREDITS**

*Wolfe Center Groundbreaking, from left to right: Dean Richard Kennell, Chair Ronald Shields, Mary Wolfe, President Carol Cartwright, Fritz Wolfe, Director Katerina Ray, Dean Simon Morgan-Russell, Snohetta partner Craig Dykers.*

*Arts Extravaganza, from left to right: President Carol Cartwright, Distinguished Professor Tom Muir, Former Medici Circle President Dave Bryan, Associate Professor Lynn Whitney.*

*Arts Extravaganza, from left to right: Pro Musica President Karol Spencer, and Medici Circle member Mojabeng Kamala.*

***Designed by Joe Minham***