

Sample Abstracts

Scholarly Talks:

Jenny R. Krieger ('08)

“Remembering Children in the Catacomb of Domitilla”

The Roman catacombs appear to be vast repositories of the early Christian dead housed in gloomy, damp tunnels. But each thin, decorated marble slab (or *lastra*, pl. *lastre*) sealing a burial niche does not just mark a burial; it speaks to the living on behalf of the deceased. Using words and images, the *lastre* portray the deceased at death, their relationships to the living, their real and hoped-for accomplishments, and their undying faith in Christ. My study examines over 3,000 *lastre* from the Catacomb of Domitilla in search of one community's “commemorative habit,” or characteristic way of remembering its dead. Because of its attention to children, the Domitilla community offers a special opportunity to study the commemoration of a segment of the population that received few funerary monuments before the Christian era. The *lastre* record the value the community placed on its youngest members.

Kacey L. Meaker ('08)

“Mach's Principle: An Investigation into Relative Motion”

Mach's principle is the idea that all rotation is relative. An observer is unable to differentiate between the Earth rotating in space and the entire universe rotating around the Earth. This inability to differentiate challenged the Newtonian view of absolute rotation as exemplified by Newton's rotating bucket experiment and influenced Einstein's development of the theory of general relativity. But Mach's principle also requires strange circumstances that seem physically impossible. Is inertia just a result of the entire universe rotating around us? This talk seeks to demonstrate and explain the implications of Mach's principle and investigates the strange nature of these implications.

Posters:

Archana Datta ('09)

“Remote Sensing to Define the Depth to Bedrock at the Old Hockey Field”

Seismic refraction analysis and Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR) are two types of remote-sensing techniques, popularly employed in geophysical surveys. With only minimal environmental damage to the surveyed site, these non-invasive techniques enable us to define various characteristics of the underlying bedrock. The objective of this study was to conduct seismic and GPR measurements at the old hockey field that is intended to be excavated in the near future. Depending on the precision of obtained results, recommendations could be made to the engineering company of whether to excavate or blast the site. Moreover, the accuracy of the techniques could be determined by comparing the actual depth to bedrock found after excavation and the depth calculated from our survey. It was found that the depth in the area lies between 4.5 m and 9.2 m.

Performances:

Kelly C. Coughlin ('08)

“A Dance to the Death: Performances from an Intensive Dance Workshop”

This presentation is the product of an intensive 11-day dance workshop taught by Kelly Coughlin. The dancers will present a modern dance in three contrasting sections, choreographed by Ms. Coughlin. The dance is titled "To Be Continued" and explores the complimentary relationship between movement and music. Specifically, the dance will include three twentieth-century musical works: *The Banshee* (1925) by Henry Cowell, performed by Robert Miller, *Excursions: I. Un poco allegro* (1944) by Samuel Barber, performed by Leon McCawley, and Concertino for piano and orchestra: 2. *Lento* (1932) by Jean Francaix, performed by London Symphony Orchestra. Following the dance, the dancers, lighting designer and choreographer will take questions from the audience and comment briefly on the process. The purpose of this workshop is to give the audience a brief introduction to the choreographic and performance processes.

Jennifer Woodward ('08) and Stephanie Millholland ('12) “A Taste of American Song”

This program will be a mini-concert of some of the music that makes up American song repertoire. The program will include works spanning from early post-colonial opera, such as “If Love is the Plan,” to the music of twentieth-century night clubs, for example, “Smoke Gets in your Eyes.” Following the program the vocalists will take questions on artistic preparation for performance.

Reading of Original Work:

Ashley N. Hale ('09)

“Family Photos: A Collection of Pictures in Words”

Renowned poet Mark Strand defines punctum as something in a photograph, a minute detail, which stings or pierces the viewer into an emotional reassessment of what she or he has seen. As I have come to think fondly over the past year, punctum is that small detail in a photograph which breaks your heart. During a year-long independent study, I've tried to document the punctum in family photographs and use it as a springboard for my poetry.

Exhibition:

Emily J. Hanson ('09)

“In Situ: Studies in Figura Serpentinata”

This installation is a reflection of my learning from my rich surroundings while abroad in Florence in Fall 2007. It is the blending of my studies of the disciplines of the history of art and the practice of art. To me, they are two complementary areas of study. I consider this installation a visual representation of how my learning of the history of art can illuminate and bring to life my practice of art. I find myself fascinated by the Mannerist depiction of movement and Giambologna's *Rape of the Sabine* in particular is a beautiful and masterful achievement. It is a dynamic sculpture on such as large scale coming from a single piece of marble. Overall, *In Situ: Studies in Figura Serpentinata* expresses how the history of art can bring another dimension to my own creation of art.