

Spring/Summer 2009
University of Michigan

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## Letter from the Chair

As we close the books on an intensely eventful and event-filled year, I marvel anew at the amazing denergy of our staff, faculty, and students and all they have accomplished this year. We began the winter semester with a stimulating series of lectures and visits by distinguished colleagues Stephen Melville and Jean-Louis Cohen, and then moved quickly into an intensive season of graduate admissions and recruitment. During the winter "break" many of us attended the annual meeting of the College Art



Professor Celeste Brusati, Chair

Association in Los Angeles, where Michigan's presence was very much in evidence. Nearly a third of the faculty presented papers on an impressive range of topics. These and the many excellent papers presented by our alumni testified eloquently to the department's high national profile and ongoing commitment to rigorous and innovative scholarship. As always, it was a pleasure to reconnect with the many former Tappanites who joined us for a convivial reunion at our CAA reception. In May, we welcomed fifty-six members of the Class of 2009 into our extended family of alumni at our annual commencement (see p. 6). We shall miss this fine group of students who have enlivened our classes, kept us on our toes, and given energy to Helicon, our vibrant undergraduate art history association. Professor David Doris, Interim Director of Undergraduate Studies, presided over the presentation of awards with warmth and memorable humor.

Commencement was one of many recent causes for celebration. David Doris's promotion to Associate Professor with tenure was another high point—well done, David! In March we celebrated the reopening of the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA), our closest neighbor and a key partner in our instructional and research missions. The opening of the spectacularly renovated UMMA has given the Department quite literally a new face—including surprising new perspectives on Tappan Hall as seen from the Frankel wing—and a new address (855 South State Street) without having to move! More importantly, the expanded UMMA offers

exciting new prospects for our use of its spaces and collections in our teaching and research. On a more bittersweet note, we bade farewell and heartfelt thanks to UMMA Director James Steward, who has seen this project through so wonderfully and now leaves us to take on the directorship of the Princeton Art Museum. Interim direction of the UMMA is in the hands of an excellent team that includes our colleague, Ray Silverman, Professor of African Art and Director of the Museum Studies Program. You can read more about Ray's important work on museums and heritage tourism on the next page.

Last but by no means least, the exceptionally generous response to the President's Challenge match for graduate support has given us more to celebrate. We are grateful to all who contributed, and wish to extend special thanks to two friends of the department for establishing significant new endowments for graduate support. First, we say thanks to our colleague llene Forsyth who has made a substantial gift that will create competitive recruitment fellowships (see p. 4). Second, we extend special thanks to alumnus Ted Lin and his wife Sharon Chang who have created a fund that will support the study of Asian art, particularly contemporary Asian art. Their gift will supplement our strong resources in Asian art, and is especially timely as Professor Joan Kee, a specialist in contemporary Asian art, joins us this fall after a productive fellowship leave at CASUA. All of this bodes well for the continued strength of the department, even in difficult economic times.

Let me close with best wishes for a wonderful summer, and an invitation to join us in the fall when we will be returning to UMMA for our annual symposium, "Contemporary Strategies in Documentary Photography" on October 3. We will also join the Museum in hosting a special lecture by art historian Stephen Bann on October 28 in conjunction with the exhibition, *The Lens of Impressionism*. We will be sending more details about these and other events in the coming months, so stay tuned. As always we look forward to your participation, and to seeing you live and in person.

#### Tappan Talks

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**Professor Ray Silverman** 

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#### **About The Cover:**

History of Art graduate students (clockwise from left) Linda Liu, Anna Wieck, Sylvia Tita and Kristine Ronan examine medieval manuscripts at the Special Collections Library with Professor Aachim Timmermann. Photo: Sally Bjork

## Mark Your Calendar!

### 2009 History of Art Symposium

"Contemporary Strategies in Documentary Photography" with Martha Rosler and Allan Sekula. Saturday, October 3

Check our website events calendar, http://www.lsa.umich.edu/histart/events for updated information.

## Museum Studies Offers Undergraduate Minor

"Over the last six years, we have had many, many inquiries from undergraduates asking if they could have access to the graduate courses," explained Professor Ray Silverman, director of the Museum Studies Program. This spring, students got what they were asking for when the Museum Studies Program announced its new undergraduate minor. Interest was so high that the first course offered, Museums in Society, filled on the first day.

The primary goal of the minor is to teach students how museums work, both in historical and contemporary contexts. This involves learning to critically engage the historical, social, cultural, artistic and scientific dimensions of heritage, both tangible and intangible, within the museum. For more information, visit www.umich.edu/~ummsp/

Raymond Silverman is a professor of Art History and African and African-American Studies, as well as the director of the Museum Studies Program. Throughout his career he has worked extensively in Ghana and Ethiopia, and has developed strong interests in the history of museums in Africa as well as the translation of local knowledge in community-based cultural institutions.

In his work and travels in Ghana, Silverman had encountered many "cultural villages." Ghana is a major heritage tourism destination, and Silverman sees these cultural villages as having a common aim of attracting visitors by offering a standard representation of "Ghanaian" indigenous culture. "People were doing the same thing over and over again," he said, posing the question "How does one represent the culture of a nation comprised of over twenty ethnic groups, each with its own culture?" So when a group of chiefs from Techiman—the community in which Silverman lived in 1979-80 while he conducted research for his PhD dissertation—approached him several years ago for assistance creating a similar cultural village, he feared it would only offer tourists the same kind of experience they could encounter at other, more accessible locations in Ghana. He also was aware, having spoken with these leaders who serve the community as custodians of tradition, that they are very concerned about the loss of local customs and beliefs in Techiman in the face of globalization.

Silverman suggested an alternative to the Techiman chiefs: Rather than make a common cultural village whose primary audience was outsiders and tourists, why not create a cultural center that would serve, first and foremost, the people of Techiman?

The chiefs immediately embraced the idea. This type of cultural center would strengthen ties between the culturally diverse people of Techiman (Ghanaians from all over the country live there because it is home to the country's largest agricultural market) by offering a space where all the different cultures could express their traditions. It could also, by being a site where a variety of unique local cultural practices are performed, become a major tourist attraction.

This summer, Silverman will return to Ghana, as he has several times since 2005, accompanied by four graduate students, to continue working with the people of Techiman on the Techiman Cultural Center. If all goes as planned, the center, when finished, will include a museum, art gallery, archives, library, artisan workshops, auditorium, restaurant, and more. It will be a social and cultural space where artisans and artists work, where annual festivals as well as weddings and funerals are performed, where local history is preserved, and where Techiman's diverse communities come together to share their experiences with each another.

Although Silverman has been an instrumental advisor, the project is a thoroughly collaborative endeavor, and one in which the process is seen to be as important as the outcome. In Techiman, the chiefs are learning to concede part of their decision making authority to promote involvement from the community at large. Here in Ann Arbor, in 2006, Architecture and Urban Planning professor Jim Chaffers dedicated a design studio class to developing plans for the center. Some of his students traveled to Ghana with Silverman and Chaffers, where they met with a group of Ghanaian students who had done the same thing. They all worked together and presented their designs to the Techiman community, which



selected one for the cultural center. Although this type of

collaboration poses challenges, the extra time and effort is part of an important process that Silverman hopes will result in the

community and organizers learning new skills. It is a process that ultimately will strengthen civil society in Techiman.

Professor Ray Silverman

Pushing the Envelope in Ghana

These challenges also bring opportunity. Although this type of public scholarship is often not recognized as being legitimate academic work, a project like the Techiman Cultural Center gives Silverman the opportunity to explore an emerging paradigm that emphasizes the importance of engaging and collaborating with local communities in the production of knowledge. "We're pushing the envelope with regards to how universities connect with communities, with the rest of society," he explained, adding that the Fall 2009 LSA Theme Semester, "Meaningful Objects: Museums in the Academy" will include a lecture series exploring the ways local knowledge is translated and represented in the context of the museum.

This work is a far cry from the more traditional art history
Silverman has pursued in the past. This work, Silverman said, "takes
several steps back from the object and considers the social space in
which history and tradition are performed and culture evolves."

"One of the marvelous things about this project is that it's been a terrific opportunity for me to engage in fieldwork in Africa that's relevant to what it is I do here at the University of Michigan, which is primarily in the area of museum studies, and by extension heritage studies" Silverman said. He will continue to follow the development of the Techiman Cultural Center, even as his responsibilities in Ann Arbor extend to the interim co-management of the University of Michigan Museum of Art during the search for a new museum director.

## Professor Emerita llene Forsyth Establishes Graduate Scholarship Fund



Professor Emerita llene Forsyth.



History of Art Chair Celeste Brusati toasts the guest of honor.



Professor Emerita Ilene Forsyth with some of History of Art's thirty-one graduate students.

On April 20, the department held a reception in honor of Professor Emerita llene Forsyth to celebrate her recent gift establishing the llene H. Forsyth Graduate Scholarship Fund and to thank her as well for her many and generous contributions to the department over a period of many years.

Professor Forsyth joined the faculty of the University of Michigan, her alma mater, in 1961, having completed her PhD at Columbia University under Meyer Schapiro. She has played an influential role in the field of art history, serving on innumerable international, national, and local committees. An eminent medievalist, she has specialized in the study of Romanesque sculpture and is best known for her prizewinning and influential study The Throne of Wisdom: Wood Sculptures of the Madonna in Romanesque France. Honored by the University with a named chair, the Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of History of Art, she is a celebrated teacher and mentor who continues to participate actively in the life of the department.

Professor Forsyth's generous support of art history at Michigan has made possible visits of distinguished scholars and has enabled graduate students to attend conferences, travel abroad, and conduct dissertation research. The newly inaugurated llene H. Forsyth Graduate Scholarship Fund will help the department continue to attract outstanding students to the PhD program each year by creating competitive graduate recruitment fellowships.

Faculty and graduate students were delighted to have the occasion to express their gratitude.

# More than Fashion Workshop Repositions Important Periodical

"More than Fashion: The Journal des dames et des modes (1797-1835)" workshop, led by Professor Susan Siegfried, took place on April 3-4 here at the University of Michigan. The workshop presented a group of lively, high-quality papers by scholars in different disciplines, and the group very productively exchanged ideas and information over the course of two days.

The workshop concluded with an enormously successful day of papers presented by graduate students, which were commented on by workshop speakers. Their research came out of a graduate seminar offered through History of Art and Women's Studies on "Costume, Fabric, Fashion: Picturing Femininity," which was designed to coordinate with the workshop.







#### Photos, from top

Back row: Annemarie Kleinert (independent scholar), Jann Matlock (University College, London), Daniel Harkett (Rhode Island School of Design), Susan Siegfried (UM) Front row: Dena Goodman (UM), Denise Davidson (Georgia State), Margaret Waller (Pomona College), Rebecca Spang (Indiana University)

(History of Art graduate students except where noted) Back row: Hind Abdul-Jabbar (UM undergrad), Jessica Fripp, Monique Johnson, Eunhye Lee, Kristine Ronan Front row: Amandine Gorse (Institut national d'histoire de l'art), Anna Wieck, Linda Lui

Workshop organizer Professor Susan Siegfried

## Tappan Talks Foster Professionalism, Community

A highlight of the History of Art graduate program at Michigan is the Tappan Talks. Twice yearly, graduate students, usually in their third or fourth year of study, present a paper to the History of Art community. The thirty-minute paper provides an opportunity for each graduate student to present his or her dissertation research to the department. Pedagogically, the talk provides training for giving professional papers, and the half-hour discussion that follows allows faculty and other students to give feedback on everything from the argument and material to related issues and the way the paper was presented. Tappan Talks also foster communication among the History of Art community, giving the entire department a chance to learn about the interesting work graduate students are doing.



Kathy Zarur presents "Masculinity Represented, Nationalism Abandoned in Photographs by Tarek Al-Ghoussein."

#### 2008-09 Tappan Talks

Christina Chang, "Looking at/with Rauschenberg's Photographs"

Jessica Fripp, "Friendship and Fantasy at the French Academy in Rome"

**Lauren Graber**, "Gruppe SPUR and the Situationist International:
Assessing Subversive Avant-Garde Strategies in Cold War Europe"

**Ksenya Gurshtein**, "TransStates: On the Uses and Limits of Conceptual Art in Eastern Europe"

**Anna Wieck**, "Looking at Floating Figures: An Exploration of Alienation and Growth in Wols' Early Watercolors"

**Katy Zarur**, "Masculinity Represented, Nationalism Abandoned In Photographs by Tarek Al-Ghoussein"

#### **Graduate Student Awards**

#### **Nadia Baadj**

U-M Medieval and Early Modern Studies Summer Fellowship, 2009
U-M International Institute Individual Fellowship, summer 2009
Martijn Zwart Scholarship (for Dutch language study in the Netherlands),
winter 2009

#### **Heather Badamo**

Metropolitan Museum of Art, Chester Dale Fellowship, 2009-10

#### **Rebecca Bieberly**

Rackham Individual Research Award, summer 2009

#### **Katherine Brion**

Lurcy Foundation Fellowship for Study in France, 2009-10

#### **Christina Chang**

U-M Sweetland Dissertation Writing Institute Fellowship, spring 2009
U-M Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, 2009-10

#### **Christopher Coltrin**

U-M Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship (declined)
U-M Institute for Humanities Fellowship, 2009-10
Yale Center for British Art Visiting Scholar Fellowship, summer 2009

#### Jessica Fripp

U-M Rackham Individual Research Award, summer 2009 Kress Travel Fellowship in Art History, summer 2009 Bourse Chateaubriand Scholarship, 2009-10

#### **Lauren Graber**

Freie Universität Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies, 2009-10

#### Phillip Guilbeau

U-M Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, 2009-10 Newberry Library Short-Term Residential Fellowship for Individual Research, summer 2009

#### Ksenya Gurshtein

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, summer 2009 U-M Rackham Individual Research Award, summer 2009

#### **Katie Hornstein**

American Council of Learned Societies/Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2009-10

#### Megan McNamee

U-M Rackham Individual Research Award, summer 2009
University of London Institute for Historical Research Mellon PreDissertation Fellowship for Research in the Humanities, summer 2009
U-M Medieval and Early Modern Studies Fellowship (declined)

#### **Alex Nagel**

U-M Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, 2009-10 Freer Residential Fellowship, Freer-Sackler Gallery, Washington D.C., 2009-2010

#### Elissa Park

Critical Language Fellowship (State Department), summer 2009
U-M Center for Chinese Study Fellowship

#### **Melanie Sympson:**

U-M International Institute Fellowship, summer 2009
U-M Medieval and Early Modern Studies Summer Fellowship (declined)

#### Silvia Tita

 $\hbox{U-M Medieval and Early Modern Studies Summer Fellowship, 2009}\\$ 

#### Anna Wieck

U-M International Institute Individual Fellowship, summer 2009
U-M Center for European Studies and European Union Center
Summer Internship Grant, summer 2009

## **Congratulations Graduates!**

**O**ur annual spring commencement reception was held here in Tappan Hall on May 1. Faculty, staff, family, and friends were there to offer congratulations to our wonderful graduates as they celebrate this important and exciting milestone.



2009 graduate Natalie Newton and Professor David Doris



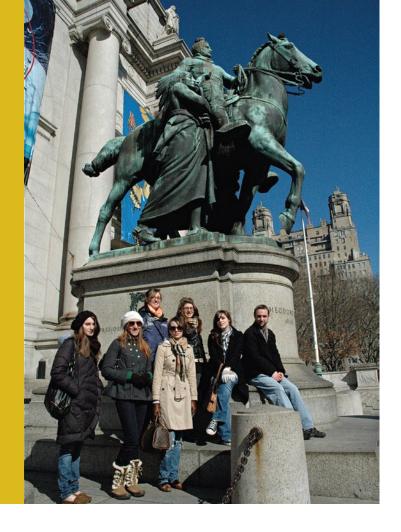
Celeste Brusati, History of Art Chair, and 2009 graduates Liz Georgoff and Ashley Frick



2009 graduate Alexis Hurewitz (center left) with Professor Kevin Carr (center) and Alexis's father Garry, sister Taylor and mother Marilyn



History of Art Honors Students (L to R): Ornella Dubaz Liz Georgoff Megan Muma Natalie Newton Rachel Fullmer Suzanne Lipton John Gunnell Emily Angell Jane Steinberg Kaleigh Winchell



## **Helicon Spring** Break Trip: New York in a Week

his past February, Helicon, the undergraduate history of art association, traveled to New York City for our fifth-annual" spring break trip. We were accompanied on this trip by a native New Yorker, Professor David Doris. These annual trips are an opportunity for history of art students to visit major museums, monuments, and architectural sites. Past trips have included Paris, Mexico City, and Madrid, but this was the first trip within the country. Of course, this made "getting there" much easier than last year's trans-Atlantic trip to Spain that was almost derailed by a storm.

The morning after our arrival, we met Professor Doris at the Metropolitan Museum of Art where he spent the morning lecturing about the pieces in the museum's African collection and pointing out resonances between pieces there and other works by contemporary artists whose works incorporate African influences. The phrase "there's something for everyone" is a horrible cliché, but after his lecture we were free to explore the Met's massive collections and soon everyone found a particular artist's works, or a certain period or culture to explore. This happened again and again throughout the week as we visited museums like the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Professor Doris also lectured at the American Museum of Natural History. This time the subject was not art but rather issues of museum presentation and display and how these have changed over the past century. This is a topic that matters to students in art history, since many of us will be seeking careers in museums. We also got an extraordinary and very moving opportunity to see how museums make these design decisions when we met with the designers currently working on the World Trade Center memorial and museum in their offices which overlook the construction at Ground Zero.

Even though we visited one to two museums a day, we were only in New York for one week and it was impossible to see all that the city has to offer. Fortunately, we had free time to explore and visit the sites that were of interest to us. For some students, this was a chance to check out more museums like the Guggenheim. For others, it was a chance to explore the city. I've been interested in religious architecture for a long time, and I took the chance to see two of New York's magnificent churches, the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine, which is the largest gothic-style church in the world, and St. Patrick's Catholic Cathedral.

The whole week was an amazing opportunity to see many of the works of art that we've studied for years, like Les Demoiselles d'Avignon by Pablo Picasso at MoMA or Duccio's Madonna and Child at the Met, while seeing other pieces for the first time. It was also a chance to see the city with someone who knows it very well, and even though he was editing his book at the time, Professor Doris took the time to lead us on walking tours throughout Manhattan, visiting landmarks like Grand Central Station and Times Square and sharing the history of the city and the people who built it.

### Undergraduate **Awards**

#### Renee Mikon

Henry P. Tappan Award for Academic Excellence in the History of Art

#### Megan Muma, **Natalie Newton**

Henry P. Tappan Award for **Outstanding Achievement** in the History of Art Honors Program

#### **Hannah Ensor**

Henry P. Tappan Award for **Outstanding Performance** in a Double Major with the History of Art

#### **Natalie Newton**

Henry P. Tappan Award for **Exceptional Contributions** to the Program in History of Art

#### **Heather Hampton**

The Eleanor S. Collins Award for Initiative in the Visual Resource Collection

Nonprofit Organization US Postage Paid Permit #144 Ann Arbor MI



The University of Michigan History of Art Newsletter is published twice a year (fall and spring) by the

#### Department of the History of Art,

110 Tappan Hall, 855 S. University Ave. Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1357

Visit us on the web at: http://lsa.umich.edu/histart

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For other University of Michigan information call 734-764-1817.

#### **Our Address Has Changed**

We're still in the same location (between the UM Museum of Art and President Coleman's house), but our street address has changed. The new address is 855 South University Avenue. City, state, and zip code remain the same: Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1357.

## History of Art Alumni: What's New with You?

Visit our website to submit your updated info and tell us what you've been up to since leaving Tappan Hall.

http://www.lsa.umich.edu/histart

#### **Alumni Updates**

Jeremy Adamson (PhD 1981) was appointed director for collections and services at the Library of Congress in 2006, after five years as chief of the Prints and Photographs Division.

Robert Benson (MA 1969, PhD 1987) is a professor in the Department of Architecture and Interior Design at Miami University. He served as Director of Graduate Studies 1988-1992, as Chair 1992-2006, and as Interim Dean of the School of Fine Arts 2006-7. He teaches history, theory and criticism of architecture and his scholarship has focused on American architectural criticism, especially in the popular and professional press.

Tamara Heimarck Bentley (PhD 2000) received tenure at Colorado College in 2007-08 and was promoted to Associate Professor of Asian art. On sabbatical this year she completed her book manuscript, The Figurative Works of Chen Hongshou (1598-1652): Authenticity, Emotion, and the Late Ming Market. Her article on Chen Hongshou's printed playing cards will come out in Artibus Asiae in the fall of 2009. She also gave the 2009 Michigan State Annual So-Koo Lecture in Chensee Studies on the topic of her book. She adds that she has a daughter, Kristina (9) and a son. Kai (6).

Lara Blanchard (MA 1992, PhD 2001) recently received tenure and is Luce Associate Professor of East Asian Art at Hobart and William Smith Colleges,

New York. A recent article, "Huizong's New Clothes: Desire and Allegory in Court Ladies Preparing Newly Woven Silk," appears in the 2009 issue of Ars Orientalis, and she has another article co-authored with a student forthcoming in Critical Matrix: The Princeton Journal of Women, Gender, and Culture. In June 2009, she will travel to Tokyo to participate in the Thirteenth Asian Studies Conference Japan, where she will serve as discussant for a panel, "Redrawing the Map: Displacement and Geography in Song-Yuan Literary and Visual Discourses" (for which Roz Hammers (PhD 2002) will present a paper). Lara is currently enjoying a post-tenure sabbatical year revising two articles and a book manuscript, developing a course on Courtesan Culture in China and Japan, and chasing her almost five-year-old daughter.

Katharine Burnett (MA 1986, PhD 1995) is Associate Professor of Art History at the University of California, Davis. This year she had two articles accepted for publication in the international scholarly journal, Oriental Art. She writes, "I presented a paper at this year's Association of Asian Studies annual conference in Chicago, along with Ingrid Larsen (U–M ABD) on a panel, "International Dimensions of Traditional Chinese Art in the Late-Nineteenth and Early-Twentieth Centuries." A late Ming love-fest took place this spring when Colorado College brought several specialists including JP Park (U–M PhD 2007) and

me to campus for an intensive and exciting threeday seminar to discuss Tamara Bentley's (U-M PhD 2000) book manuscript on Chen Hongshou. It's going to be an excellent book. I am looking forward to a long and happy summer devoted to revising my book manuscript on the collector Pang Yuanji, and seeing family and friends."

**Wen-chien Cheng** (PhD 2003) will be teaching at the Department of Art History, Penn State University during 2009-10 as a visiting assistant professor.

**Hendrik Dey** (PhD 2006) has accepted a tenure-track position at Hunter College, New York.

Joan Downs (PhD 2007) has teaching positions at Indiana University South Bend and at St. Mary's College. In the spring of 2008 she hosted Professor Elizabeth Sears in Warsaw and they traveled through west-central Poland to see medieval sites.

Kimberly Grey (BA 2008) works at Swann Auction Galleries in New York. Swann specializes in works on paper including Rare Books, Maps & Atlases, Autographs, Photographs, Posters and Prints & Drawings. She is the Consignments Administrator of the Books and Manuscripts department.

**Robin Karson** (MA 1977) has just published her fourth book, *A Genius for Place: American Landscapes of the Country Place Era*, a survey of four decades of American landscape architecture. Karson is founder and director of the Library of American Landscape History (Amherst, Mass.), an associate publisher in the field of American landscape history. Her previous three books have received awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects. She also organizes exhibitions related to LALH books.

**Jen-Yi Lai** (PhD 2008) works at the National Museum of History, Taipei.

Jeffrey Lieber (PhD 2002) has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Design Studies/Visual Culture Studies at Parsons School of Design in New York.

Renee MacVay (BA 1995) teaches AP Art History at an all-boys high school in San Diego. She writes, "I make it a point to take them to as many museums as I can throughout the school year so they can see real art, not just reproductions. I continue to attend workshops and take classes to learn more and, perhaps, see applying to a graduate program in the History of Art in my near future."

**Catherine McCurrach** (PhD 2005) has accepted a one-year position as Lecturer at Wayne State University to start in August, 2009.

Yayoi McIntyre (BA 1987) practices law and is a volunteer docent at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, where she gives tours to the public.

Monique Meloche (BA 1989) is the owner of Monique Meloche Gallery, Inc., a contemporary art gallery in Chicago focusing on cutting edge work by international artists.

**Eunwha Park** (PhD 1992) is professor at the department of Archaeology & Art History, Chunqbuk National University in Korea.

Benjamin Rubin (PhD 2008) has accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Classics at Williams College in Williamstown, MA, set to begin next fall.

**Lindsay Shepherd** (BA 2005) works in Christie's Museum Services department in New York.

Carli Siegel (BA 2009) graduated with distinction in 2009 with a dual degree in History of Art and Psychology. She was a James B. Angell scholar, University honors recipient for four years, and a member of the Greek Honors society. She has accepted a position teaching elementary school with Teach for America in Houston to commence in August, 2009.

**Jennifer Trimble** (PhD 1999) recently received tenure and is Associate Professor in the Department of Classics at Stanford University.