

University of Michigan-Dearborn

Mardigian Library

Fall 2015

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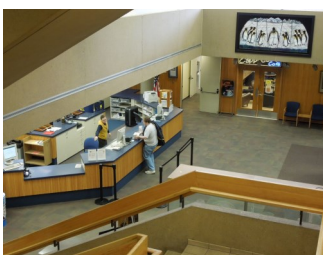
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Vision Statement

The Mardigian Library is an essential part of the UM-Dearborn experience; a gathering place for learners, a campus hub for academic success and interdisciplinary collaboration, and a catalyst for integrated learning and community engagement.



A True Impact: Celebrating the Stamelos Legacy



"San Ildefonso Sky" by Colin Poole
Oil on board
Gift of William and Electra Stamelos

The UM-Dearborn Art Collections and Exhibitions Department is proud to present "A True Impact: Celebrating the Stamelos Legacy" in the Alfred Berkowitz Gallery from Sept. 18, 2015, to Jan. 15, 2016.

This exhibition honors the significant contributions to the university by William and Electra Stamelos over the last thirty-five years. Electra Stamelos (1927-2008) was a beloved UM-Dearborn art professor from 1980 to 1994 and an accomplished artist. She held the position of director of Art Acquisitions and Exhibitions for UM-Dearborn for many years and also taught on the Ann Arbor campus. Bill is a longtime generous donor and gallery volunteer, who acted as honorary curator for a period of time. Electra and Bill contributed greatly to the university's art collection for decades, including donating the majority of Electra's body of work and many other art pieces that they collected throughout their years together.

Bill, a native Detroit, met Electra while he was stationed in Virginia with the Army. They were married in 1953 and moved to the Detroit area soon after. Electra earned her B.F.A. from Wayne

State University and her M.F.A. from Eastern Michigan University. She also studied at the Corcoran Museum School and the National Art School in Washington D.C., and the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit.

Devoted to her UM-Dearborn students, Electra spent many late evenings on campus mentoring them. She also worked tirelessly coordinating gallery exhibitions and receptions, and developing the university's remarkable art collection. Electra organized monthly art critiques with her artist colleagues in the community and was heavily involved with many regional arts organizations. Bill had a long career with Packard and Ford, and nurtured his own artistic talent in photography. He says his passion for art is "because of Electra."

Electra was highly allergic to oil paint and used only acrylic and watercolor. She preferred to paint only during nighttime hours. Deriving inspiration mostly from the natural world, she planted and took care of a glorious garden that Bill photographed. His light-filled images



"FS #196 Variations on Green Pea Pods"
by Electra Stamelos, watercolor,
Gift of William and Electra Stamelos



"FS #136 Composition VII" by Electra Stamelos
Watercolor
Gift of William and Electra Stamelos

of the garden were a significant inspiration for many of Electra's pieces. She also painted portraits of loved ones, favorite places, and even celebrated the unlikely beauty of complicated assemblages of ordinary objects like the buttons, thimbles, drink umbrellas, and spools of thread jumbled together on her work table.

Continually challenging herself,

Electra experimented with new techniques for communicating what she saw, felt, and imagined. She moved effortlessly between abstract and representational imagery dissecting many of her compositions into smaller views with varying perspectives. Electra described her work as figurative abstraction with many levels of interpretation, and she often filled every inch of the canvas. She had a talent for light and color, and often painted from two trays of forty-eight colors each, using paint made by three different manufacturers for each color.

Electra's artwork has been exhibited throughout the United States for decades and has won numerous awards. It has been acquired by a large number of private and public art collections across the country. "A True Impact: Celebrating the Stamelos Legacy" displays most of Electra's artwork owned by UM-Dearborn, along with other select works donated by the couple.

Art History Intern Shares Her Experience in the Berkowitz Gallery



Julie-Ann Magdowski

As a newly graduated Art History major from the University of Michigan-Dearborn, I have had the privilege of interning at the Alfred Berkowitz Gallery

in the Art Collections and Exhibitions department in the Mardigian Library. I always thought a curator's position consisted of seeking out up-and-coming artists, planning the next big exhibition, and hosting fabulous opening night receptions. While a curator's position does include all of the above, I now realize that is only a fraction of what a curator is actually responsible for.

After interning at the Berkowitz Gallery, I now have a strong understanding of curatorial work and the duties associated with the running of a gallery. In my mentorship, I have worked under the university's Art Curator and Gallery Manager Laura Cotton "my mentor," and Exhibition Coordinator and Registrar Tim Ammons. Being able to work alongside both staff members has given me experience in both roles and helped me narrow down which career path I prefer for my future.

From the beginning, I have felt included in all aspects of my mentor's job. From being included on e-

mail correspondence regarding upcoming exhibitions, accompanying her on visits to institutions, sitting in on meetings, and interacting with donors and artists, I now see the full picture of a curator's position. This has, in turn, given me a greater understanding and appreciation for all the hard work that is put into running a gallery efficiently and successfully while managing the care and display of a collection of 3,500 artworks.

During my time with the department I was given hands-on experience installing exhibitions and working with the collection. I learned the correct procedures and practices for handling objects, cataloging, inventorying, and exhibition development. Learning these best practices is extremely beneficial to my future in museum or gallery work, and is a valuable asset I would not possess without my internship.

I was also given responsibilities in public relations and media outreach.

Each of my tasks gave me relevant exposure to the behind-the-scenes aspects of what goes into taking care of a collection and developing exhibitions. My favorite



Not only have I been fortunate to work side by side with my mentor, but I have also been lucky to receive her knowledge and advice stemming from her years of experience in the field. She has always been helpful in answering my questions, providing guidance, as well as opening my eyes to all the career possibilities and paths available to someone with my education and interests.

I am continuing my work for the Art Collections and Exhibitions department this summer and fall as a gallery assistant. In my first post-grad position, I con-

tinue to develop my curatorial skills and gain hands-on experience before heading into my first permanent career opportunity in the art field. I look forward to one day being in the position of having my own interns and using my experience at the Alfred Berkowitz Gallery as a foundation for how I teach and guide them towards finding their own dream jobs. — Julie-Ann Magdowski
University of Michigan-Dearborn,
Class of 2015



Do You Love to Read? Join Our Book Discussion Club



Do you enjoy talking about the books you are reading with others? Join our R.E.A.D. (Read, Eat, and Discuss) book club!

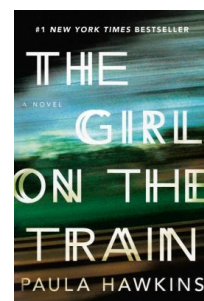
We have a small, but dedicated, group of campus and community readers who come together five times a year to discuss books. The group meets in the library from noon until 1 p.m. Each summer the group selects five titles to discuss at meetings from September through June. For 2015-16, we are reading “Etched in Sand” by Regina Calcaterra, “The Teacher Wars” by Dana Goldstein, “All the

Light We Cannot See” by Anthony Doerr, “Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe,” and “The Girl on the Train” by Paula Hawkins.

If you would like to be added to the book club’s e-mail group, contact Barbara Kriigel at bkriigel@umich.edu or 313-593-5614. More information about the book club can be found at the library’s website:

library.umd.umich.edu. Click “More News” and select the category “Book Club.”

Light refreshments are provided. We hope you will



Save the Date! 2015 Young Authors’ Festival & Writing Contest



Gary Schmidt

On Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015, we are hosting our third annual Young Authors’ Festival. The theme this year is “Celebrating Our Differences.” Children in grades three through five are eligible to participate in the writing contest that will be held in the fall. Grade level winners and a

grand prize winner will receive prizes and be invited to read their compositions at the festival.

We are excited to have Gary Schmidt as our guest author this year! Gary is a Michigan native, two-time Newbery Honor recipient, and a National Book Award Finalist. He writes mainly for children and young adults in the primary and middle school grades. More information about Gary and his books can be found at his website: www.hmhbooks.com/schmidt/

During the festival, children will practice their writing techniques while adults learn tips for support-

ing children’s writing development. At the end of the morning, there will be a book signing with Gary. A selection of his books will be available for sale or attendees can bring copies of his books for signing.

The festival begins at 8:30 a.m. with registration and speakers at 9:00 a.m. The event is free and open to the public. Registration begins Monday, Oct. 12, 2015, and is encouraged to help us plan seating, sessions, giveaways, and refreshments.

Check out the festival’s website for more details about the contest and event:

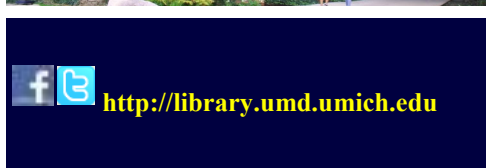
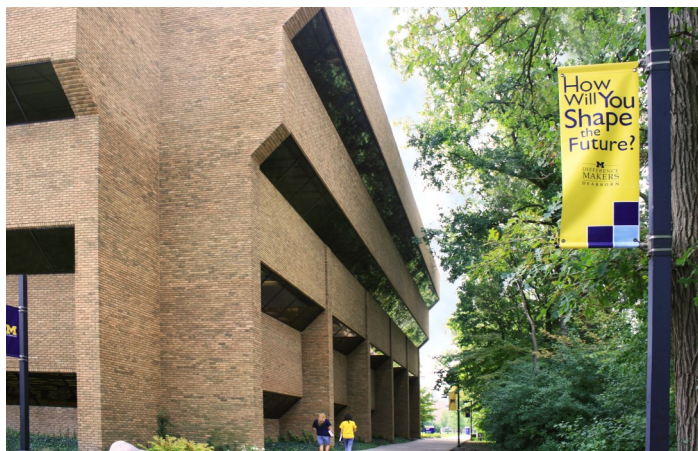
<http://library.umd.umich.edu/events/YAF/>

Anyone requiring accommodations under the provisions of the ADA should contact Sue Flannery at 313-593-5236 or sasbury@umich.edu prior to Oct. 30, 2015, to allow time for arrangements to be made.

We hope you will join us!



A Celebration of Writing for Students in 3rd-5th Grades, their Parents, and Teachers



2015-2016 Library Student Assistant Scholarship Winners



Angelina Camilleri and Andrea Painter

The Mardigian Library awarded two scholarships to library student assistants for the 2015-2016 school year. Student assistants are selected by the Scholarship Committee based on their dedication, hard work, and academic endeavors. This year the committee selected Angelina Camilleri and Andrea Painter because they best represent the commitment of our student employees.

Angelina (circulation, technical services) is currently pursuing degrees in both Anthropology and Art History. She recently returned from an amazing experience at a field school in Malta and hopes to build on that experience by pursuing a career in academia. "Field school has shown me that I want to learn as much as I can by studying around the world. This scholarship will give me the opportunity to save more for graduate school."

Andrea (research, circulation) is majoring in

Human Resources Management as part of her Bachelor of Business Administration. Through her internship with Flextronics this summer, Andrea gained valuable experience working in Human Resources for the automotive industry. The library scholarship allows students like Andrea to focus more on their career goals, and less on how to pay for school. "I pay for my own tuition, which can be a heavy burden at times. I'm very grateful for the generosity of donors."

For every one of our student assistants, financial assistance can make a huge impact on what they can achieve. Please join us in raising scholarship funds for current and future student assistants who exemplify outstanding service and commitment to our student body. Donors to this fund will be honoring the incredible service provided by our student assistants, helping them fulfill their dreams of becoming successful UM-Dearborn alumni. If you are interested in supporting the Mardigian Library Student Assistant Scholarship Fund, please visit the Library Giving Page <http://library.umd.umich.edu/Us/give.php> or contact Sue Flannery at sasbury@umich.edu or 313-593-5236.