The Department of Art History has had a busy and productive year, offering well-enrolled courses, a number of special events and trips open to the entire community, a successful Spring Break Study Tour to Venice, Italy, and with its members serving the College in a variety of roles while also being active scholars. Our graduates continue to do well, many finding jobs in art-related fields, going on to graduate study in art history, library science, and law, among others. For example, this spring alone, Elizabeth Brown ’06 completed her M.A. in Art History at Hunter College, Kathleen Jean ’11 completed her master’s in Library Science at Long Island University and Michelle Pings ’12 completed her master’s in Museum Studies at NYU. Other graduates in recent years have earned master’s degrees through the Christie’s and Sotheby’s programs. Many are working in museums and galleries in New York City, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Academy Museum, David Benrimon Fine Art, Jane Kahan Gallery and Meredith Ward Fine Art, to name a few. Young alumni, in particular, stay in touch through an alumni Facebook group.

We again offered a Study Tour to Italy during Spring Break. This year, the leaders were Professors Hannum and Saleeby-Mulligan, and the destination was Venice. Participants came from a range of majors and proved to be an excellent group, giving outstanding presentations on site. All said that it was a learning experience like no other they’d had.

Our 2014 Berger Lecture, given by William C. Agee, Evelyn Kranes Kossak Professor of Art History at Hunter College, on Wednesday, October 22, was titled “Beyond the Great Divide: Connecting Pre and Post-1945 American Art.” This well-illustrated and thought-provoking lecture, which challenged the “party line” about the sources of Abstract Expressionism, drew a crowd of nearly 100 people and was very well received, with many questions for the speaker following the talk. As is our custom, it was preceded by a dinner that included our majors, members of the administration and faculty in related fields, and was followed by a dessert reception. We were delighted to learn, several months later, that Professor Agee had donated his personal library to the Manhattanville Library. Both Professor Debbie Saleeby-Mulligan and Librarian Catherine Medeot had studied under Professor Agee, as have a number of Manhattanville alumni, so this gift is very special, indeed.

In early November, a bus load of 50 faculty and students and Mr. Ber-
ger’s daughter, Joyce Cowin, headed to Philadelphia for our Fall Berger Trip. It was a full day, with visits to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, where members of the faculty led guided tours in the permanent collection, the Rodin Museum and the Barnes Foundation, but all agreed that it was a wonderful experience.

We wrapped up the Fall with a holiday party at the new home of Professor Deborah Saleeby-Mulligan. Despite rainy weather, there was an excellent turnout of current students and alumni, and everyone had a great time.

Our Spring Berger Trip, held on April 19, took a group of about 40 to Brooklyn for visits to the Brooklyn Museum and the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. Tours were given in the Egyptian, African and Contemporary galleries, and the cherry blossoms were coming out on this lovely spring day, resulting in many splendid photographs by participants.

The annual Art History barbecue, held at Professor Gillian Greenhill Hannum’s home on May 1, drew art history majors and minors, Venice trippers and alumna Elizabeth Brown ’06, who had just completed her master’s thesis for Hunter College. Despite clouds earlier in the day, the sun came out just in time for the party.

We had two students graduate in May, and several minors. Continuing a tradition she began last year, Professor Debbie Saleeby-Mulligan organized a “champagne toast” for our graduates and their families in the Art History office prior to robing for Commencement. It is a lovely opportunity to meet the families of our students and to properly say goodbye.

On July 23, the Department enjoyed a very special event—a book launch party in honor of Professor Lisa Rafanelli, whose book, co-authored with Erin Benay of Case Western Reserve University, Faith, Gender and the Senses in Italian Renaissance and Baroque Art, was published by prestigious Ashgate Press in June.

Held at David Benrimon Fine Art LLC on Fifth Avenue, the party was hosted by Gina Viggiano ’11 and organized by Gina, Crystal Sourour ’10 and Professor Megan Cifarelli, with the assistance of Vice President of Institutional Advancement Teresa Weber. Alumni and students in attendance included Ali Hoyt ’14, Vinny Triolo ’11, Catherine Vitolo ’10, Carla Candelas ’10, Catherine McKeon Mondkar ’06, Megan Duffy ’15, Kara Smith Hall ’10, Sarah Connors ’13, Jessica Iodice ’16, Adriana Manzo ’15, Jesse Runco ’15, Marguerite Lee ’14, Brigitte Mulholland ’07, Morgan Thomas ’14, Joanna Gmuender ’13 and Emma Rollins Wright ’10.
News from the Faculty

Professor Megan Cifarelli was on a full-year sabbatical for 2014-15. We are delighted to report that she was promoted to the rank of Full Professor this Spring. Her sabbatical activities included participation in international and national conferences, the publication of several articles, and service to the discipline through national professional organizations.

Conferences: Professor Cifarelli was invited to participate in a small, targeted international conference on the methodology of gender research in Assyriology at the University of Helsinki in Helsinki, Finland, in October of 2014. She was one of 20 scholars invited to present a paper in this collaborative session, the proceedings of which will be published in 2016 by Eisenbraun’s. In November, she chaired and presented a paper on the Archaeology of Hasanlu, Iran, at the Annual Meetings of the American Schools of Oriental Research in San Diego, CA. In January 2015, she attended the Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America to attend the meetings of the Committee on Corresponding Members, and in February attended the College Art Association’s Annual Conference to participate in a meeting of the Board of Field Editors for CAAReviews.org. Also in February, she gave an invited lecture at the Columbia University Seminar in the Archaeology of the Near East. She will be chairing sessions on Theoretical and Methodological Approaches to the Study of Ancient Dress and Adornments at the 2015 Annual Meetings of the American School of Oriental Research, and the 2016 meetings of the Archaeological Institute of America. She has also accepted an invitation to be one of 15 scholars participating in an international conference on archaeological methods for identifying social crises and community collapses in the past, in Leuven, Belgium, October 2015.


In service to the discipline, Professor Cifarelli continues to serve as a National Lecturer for the Archaeological Institute of America, traveling to the network of local outposts, or societies, of the AIA to present her research. This fall she lectured at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana, and next Spring she will be addressing the St. Louis Society of the AIA. She serves as the Chair of the Corresponding Members Committee of the Archaeological Institute of America, the body responsible for
nominating international archaeologists for honorary lifetime membership in the organization. This year she has spearheaded the implementation of a membership-wide nominations initiative to increase the transparency of the process, and to encourage geographical breadth in the pool of nominees. She also serves as the Field Editor for Ancient Near East and Egyptian Art History for the College Art Association’s online review platform, CAAREviews.org.

Professor Gillian Greenhill Hannum served as Chairperson of the Department for the academic year. In addition, she was Faculty Coordinator for the First-Year Program and served as Chair of the Academic Policy Committee. She co-authored a grant application with Catherine Medeot and Lauren Ziarko of the Library to the Council of Independent Colleges. The application was a success, and the College will digitize a collection of historic photographs of the old Harlem campus and will make them available using Shared Shelf, a feature available from ARTstor, the database we use for our teaching images. She also continued to be active as an ePortfolio Fellow, experimenting with new uses of ePortfolio in her First-Year Seminar and a Castle Scholars Honors class. The latter, titled Photographs that Changed our Lives, was hugely successful.

In February, she co-hosted an alumni event at the Metropolitan Museum of Art with Randy Williams of the Studio Art Department. She also gave a talk on “Van Gogh and Cezanne in Provence” at the Alumni Reunion on June 1.


Professor Lisa Rafanelli was elected Interim Faculty Chair for Fall 2014, while Professor Greg Swedberg was on sabbatical. As Chair, she led the faculty discussion and ultimate vote for the creation of a School of Arts and Sciences at Manhattanville College. This change was approved by the Board of Trustees. In Spring 2015, she co-Chaired the Search Committee for a Founding Dean for the new School. Moving forward, for 2015-2016, she has been appointed to the Steering Committee for the Middle States Periodic Review for the on-going accreditation of the College.

In terms of scholarship, Professor Rafanelli had an extremely busy year, with many projects that have been in the works coming to fruition:

Book: Lisa M. Rafanelli and Erin Benay, Faith, Gender and the Senses in Italian Renaissance and Baroque Art was published by Ashgate in June 2015. Taking the Noli me tangere and Doubting Thomas episodes as a focal point, this study examines how visual representations of two of the most compelling
and related Christian stories engaged with changing devotional and cultural ideals in Renaissance and Baroque Italy. The authors rely on primary source material—paintings, sculptures, religious tracts, hagiography, popular sermons, and new documentary evidence. By reuniting their visual examples with important, often little-known textual sources, the authors reveal a complex relationship between visual imagery, the senses, contemporary attitudes toward gender, and the shaping of belief. Further, they add greater nuance to our understanding of the relationship between popular piety and the visual culture of the period.

Edited volumes: Lisa M. Rafanelli and Erin Benay were co-editors of Open Arts Journal, Volume 4 (Special Issue: “Touch Me, Touch Me Not: Senses, Faith and Performativity in Early Modernity,” Winter 2014-15). This issue brings together an exciting collection of essays that investigate the collaborative roles of the senses in the genesis and experience of renaissance and baroque art, examining, in particular, the ways in which senses were evoked in the realm of the sacred, where questions of the validity of sensory experience were particularly contentious and fluid. She was also appointed as Associate Editor: Open Arts Journal, 2014-present.

Conferences: Professor Rafanelli was invited to be session moderator for “Baroque Brilliance,” a graduate student research symposium connected to exhibition Northern Baroque Splendor. The Hohenbichau Collection from Liechtenstein. The Princeply Collections, Vienna, The Bruce Museum, Greenwich, CT, February 7, 2105.

Professor Deborah Saleeby-Mulligan was busy in her first year as a full-time tenure track member of the department. She served as Museum Studies Program Director, and on the Committee for Assessment of Student Learning. She stepped in and helped cover History of Art I during Professor Megan Cifarelli’s sabbatical, developing new material appropriate to the time period, and also taught the Introduction to Museum Studies class. In addition, she gave a lecture on the Mexican Muralists for Professor Greg Swedberg in his course on Latin American Social Change and Revolution, and she served as a juror for the 2015 Fagin Awards, given in the Studio Art Department.

Her scholarship took a “dramatic turn” when she was invited to serve as Artistic Advisor for A Particle of Dread (Oedipus Variations), a play by Sam Sheppard at Signature Theater, New York in the Fall of 2014. In this capacity, she also served as a speaker and panel participant for “The World of Play, Art and Political Conflict in Northern Ireland,” moderated by Brian Phillips, held at Signature Theater, New York on December 6, 2014. She gave two public lectures in the Spring - “Tagore, Artist and Philosopher,” a presentation in conjunction with the exhibit, Tagore and works of art from the Bengal


Briana Jackson, a doctoral candidate at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, joined our department as an adjunct for Spring 2015. An Egyptologist, she taught Art of Egypt to a “sold out” crowd, allowing us to offer something in the Ancient art area during Professor Cifarelli’s absence.
Spring Venice Trip! Mary Lee has visited Venice on a number of occasions, including several previous Study Tour trips, and her wealth of knowledge about architecture and construction techniques was appreciated by all.

Professor Hannum enjoyed a visit in May with Professor Emerita Eleanor Carr, R.S.C.J. ‘44. She was accompanied to Albany, where Sister Carr now resides, by Professors Emerita Mary Lee Baranger and Laura Kaufman. Professors Hannum and Kaufman also spent a pleasant weekend in Philadelphia in late July visiting the Philadelphia Museum of Art for the Durand-Ruel exhibition.

News from Alumni

As always, we were pleased to have a fine turnout from alumni for our annual Berger Lecture. College alumni signing the guest book included Elena Kakuriev ‘08, Michelle Pings ‘12, Barbara Perez Marquez ‘13, Jean Strauss ‘14, Patsy O’Grady ‘61, Cathy French ‘68, Judith Rodriguez ‘57, Nancy Condon Zander ‘79, Rozanne Cohen ‘81, Sheila Fane ‘67, Mirella Hajjar ‘94/03, Sarah Connors ‘13 and Sean McIver ‘14. We hope to see many of you on November 11th.

Karen McAllister Shimoda ‘89 has relocated to Portland, OR where she is making art full time. She was recently a “blue ribbon winner” in Radius Gallery’s summer exhibition, SCAPES/Land Sea Mind. You can see her latest work on her new website: http://www.mcalistershimoda.com/about.html.

Professor Hannum was thrilled to have a surprise visit this spring from Rosemary James ‘91, a lawyer with a specialty in intellectual property who works for the federal government. Rosemary said that her training in art history was excellent preparation for law school and for her career. Caroline Conzatti ‘99 has joined the Board of the New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! She had interned there while a student at Manhattanville and served as a volunteer for the past five years.

In June, Elizabeth Brown ‘06 was offered and accepted the position of Research Assistant at Alexander Gray Associates in Chelsea. Her responsibilities include supporting the research needs of outside scholars and curators regarding the gallery’s artists. Amita K. Patel ‘06 is the owner and founder of Aligned Holistics, a coaching services company. As a coach, writer, and wellness expert, Amita works with individuals to break through their barriers and embrace lifestyle change from the inside-out. Her unique approach combines nutrition, physical activity, relationships, career, and personal philosophy. Amita has been featured on CBS, NBC, and The Huffington Post. She received her Master’s Degree from New York University and her Health Coach Certification from the Institute for Integrative Nutrition. Brigitte Mulholland ‘07 was named Director of Jane Kahan Gallery in the Fall of 2014; she hosted a Cocktails and Conversation for the College there on May 28, 2015. She and Trisha Murray ‘06 recently met up for a few days on the Côte d’Azur where Brigitte was spending two weeks on business. Andrew Deacon ‘08 is teaching fourth grade at Torrington School in Torrington, CT. He will begin his 6th Year Degree in Educational Leadership this fall at the University of Bridgeport. This summer, Andrew attended the Advanced Institute on the Teaching of Reading at Columbia University’s Teachers College. While at the institute, Andrew coincidentally reunited with alumna Brigitte Mulholland on the subway!

Katie Johnson ‘10 has recently accepted a position working in Development at the Wildlife Conservation Society; her office is at the Bronx Zoo! Elizabeth Marzolla ‘11 is working for Meredith Ward Fine Art. Katherine Miller ‘11 is now Business Manager/Receiver, 20th Century Decorative Arts and Design/Silver at Bonhams in Los Angeles. Gina Viggiano ‘11 curated her first show at David Benrimon Fine Art LLC in May – “Picasso: Femmes.” Amy Novak ‘12 has been promoted to Assistant Coordinator of Information Services at the Met. It is always a treat to see her smiling face there! Sarah Connors ‘13 just accepted a position as Executive Administrator and Museum Manager at Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art in Peekskill. Joanna Gmuender ‘13 is Gallery Manager at Grenning Gallery in Sag Harbor, NY.
News from our Students

The Department of Art History graduated two majors this year. Megan Duffy ‘15 has an interest in archival work and interned at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center in Connecticut. Dylan Tompkins ‘15, a double major in Art History and Psychology, earned Distinction in Art History. Her senior internship was at the Katonah Museum of Art, where she primarily worked with education programs but also had the opportunity to help out in other areas. Dylan is planning a career in counseling. At the Undergraduate Awards Ceremony in late April, several continuing undergraduate students received awards for excellence in Art History. The Freshman award went to Elizabeth Sweeney ‘18; the sophomore prize was received by Kara Woodley ‘17 who will study abroad in Ireland next year; Jessica Iodice ‘16 took the honors for a junior. Kara Woodley was also the recipient of a new award, established in honor of Professor Saleeby-Mulligan’s mother, a life-long educator, The Clemencia Saleeby Award for Excellence in Art History.

Please drop us a note or fill out the following form and mail to Newsletter, c/o Gillian Hannum, Department of Art History, Manhattanville College, 2900 Purchase Street, Purchase, NY 10577, or send e-mail to Gillian.Hannum@mville.edu or request to join our Facebook Group—Mville Art History.

Name: ___________________________ Date of Graduation: _______

Date you are filling this out: ______

Address: _________________________________________________________________
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Current position or connection with the art field: ____________________________

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Personal news: ___________________________________________________________

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2015 ARTHUR M. BERGER LECTURE

DR. MICHAEL D. DANTI, FSA

Academic Director, American Schools of Oriental Research Cultural Heritage Initiatives
Consulting Scholar, University of Pennsylvania Museum

A Momentary Erasure of Millennia: The Cultural Heritage Crises in Syria and Northern Iraq

Wednesday, November 11, 2015
7:30 p.m.
West Room, Reid Hall