

APRIL NEWS AND NOTES

April 28, 2022

Dear MassArt Community,

With a beautiful spring weekend and May 1st just days away, I hope you will find some time to unplug and unwind as we approach some very exhilarating weeks and events ahead. Since early March, it seems the pace on campus has been increasing, and the last few weeks I've been tempted to strap on my roller blades!

We know that Commencement is on the minds of our 2022 graduates and their families and friends! Please remember that you can find **detailed information about [Commencement Week](#)** on the [MassArt.edu](#) website.

This coming Sunday, May 1st, pianist Paul-André Bempéchat (Liberal Arts lecturer) will be giving a virtual YouTube performance to raise funds for the [MassArt Shelf](#), which provides food and non-perishable food items for MassArt students in need. Please [RSVP](#) to enjoy the performance or to donate to this great cause. We're fortunate to have generous colleagues like Paul, who care so deeply about our students.

Please join me in celebrating MassArt community spirit on [MassHEART Day](#) this **Tuesday, May 3rd**. When we all come together to share the love, we can make a real difference for MassArt students. Here's the plan: when 150 donors make a gift (of any amount, to any area), they will unlock over \$10,000 of bonus funds from a group of community leaders. The photo department faculty has committed to 100% participation on MassHEART Day! This is an incredible commitment-which department will be next? I hope each of you will consider giving to one of the 50+ incredible departments, centers, programs, and funds that make up our vibrant campus.

On Thursday, May 5th, I will be holding an open office hour from 10:30-11:30am. If you'd like to meet, please email hwoit@massart.edu by **Monday, May 2nd at 12:00pm**. Time will be scheduled on a first come first served approach by Hannah Woit - I look forward to meeting with you!

Our **Pizza with the President** gathering was great fun, my thanks to all who were able to attend. It's always helpful for me to hear what's on our students' minds, to respond to concerns, and to bring everyone up to date on my priorities and activities leading and supporting our whole community.

Our **2022 MassArt Auction** on April 9th was a festive gathering of 300+ guests, with impressive results: the event raised over \$1 million for the eighth consecutive year. Auction Committee Co-Chairs Daren Bascome and Elizabeth Lowrey, along with the hardworking committee members, our remarkable Advancement team, and the many departments across campus who supported the event have a lot to cheer about. And best of all, all Auction proceeds go directly to support student scholarships. Thank you to all our community members - Auction artists, sponsors and donors, students, faculty, alumni and staff - for their generous donations that made this an extraordinary evening for MassArt!

At **Accepted Students Day** on April 22nd, 300+ visitors were on campus throughout the day. Kudos to Dean Lauren Wilshusen and the entire Admissions team, along with everyone who helped to run the event and welcome our prospective students and family members, giving them a true sense of our supportive MassArt community.

It was such a pleasure seeing the **All School Show**, and the exceptional and varied work created by our students. Making sure I got to all three shows kept me hopping! I was honored to have the chance to award the First Prize for the show, from a selection of finalists, to Linnea Pappas-Byers' (Printmaking '22) remarkable sculpture, "Untitled." Thank you to all the students who shared their work, the student curators from each department, and to SGA VP Dan Miasciewicz (Illustration '24), who coordinated the Awards Show with help from fellow students.

Our prolific faculty members are always busy in their own practices, as well as in classrooms and studios. Among the recent achievements we've heard about: **Cheryl Clark, Assistant Professor in Liberal Arts**, published a new book of poetry, *They Can Take It Out*. **Jeanette Eberhardy, Director of First-Year Writing**, shared her expertise in "Telling the Story that Exists in Your Art," at the Associated Writers Conference in Philadelphia. **Karen Hampton, Associate Professor of Fine Arts 3D**, opened "Origins" at the Crisp-Ellert Art Museum at Flagler College (FL), focused on her textile-based work that explores stories of the African American diaspora. Congratulations to all- thank you for sharing your expertise and carrying the MassArt banner!

I am delighted to share the news that MassArt alumnus **Sopheak Sam ('20, SIM) was awarded a Fulbright** for the 2022-2023 academic year. He will be traveling to Thailand in September to complete an Open Study/ Research Award entitled Bridging Kantrum Across Generations: Sounds, Sights, and Spirituality in Surin Province.

MassArt was well represented at the recent **COF 25th Anniversary and Collaboration Awards Celebration** with three awardees. **Laura Flynn, Senior Director of Student Engagement**, won a COF Champion Award for her 10-plus years of planning, developing and facilitating great student programming, and for "adding vibrancy, authenticity, and dedication" to her COF work. **Amy Holland, Study Abroad Advisor**, won a COF Catalyst Award for her work in streamlining communications and processes for J-1 Exchange Visitors, and in developing consistent campus protocols to support exchange students. **Maureen Keefe, Vice President of Student Development**, won a COF Catalyst Award for being a longtime advocate for the consortium and the sharing of resources. In the words of one nominator, "she is truly a catalyst in moving the COF forward and envisioning possibilities for the future." Congratulations and thank you to Laura, Amy and Maureen!

This is an incredibly busy and creative time of year on campus, it's hard to capture all that is going on, but you can stay up to date by visiting our [website events calendar](#) and [website news page](#) often. **Among the events you won't want to miss:** the MassArt-hosted public lecture "[Reckoning with America's History of Anti-Asian Violence](#)" on May 3rd, the [MFA Thesis Exhibition](#) at MassArt x SoWa on May 6th, and the 2022 Fashion Show on May 14th.

As I write this, we're just weeks away from the end of the semester, with 24-hour studio access, reviews and finals, and many miles to go before Commencement 2022. Please take care of yourselves - find time each day for a bit of joy - to energize your spirits, so we all reach the finish line together!

My best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a trailing flourish.

Mary K. Grant, PhD
President
Massachusetts College of Art and Design