

MARCH NEWS AND NOTES

March 17, 2022

Dear MassArt Community,

I hope you've had a nice first week back from Spring Break, and it really does feel like spring is in the air! It's wonderful to see the campus so energized as we head into the final weeks of the academic year. We are truly fortunate to be in this very special place with one another and I am reminded of that as I look out my window at the end of the day and I see the lights on the Tree House, alternating in blue and yellow, the colors of the flag of Ukraine.

That spirit and strength of community has enabled us to look ahead to next week as we make our transition to an open campus. Thank you for following our COVID health and safety protocols throughout this academic year - your diligence has made all the difference. While we will still be wearing our masks, we will be welcoming friends and families, prospective students, and visitors to our campus - for events like the All School Show and all the student exhibitions throughout the semester, right up until Commencement. Just a reminder, if you have not yet received your booster - or updated your information within Coverified - please do so as soon as possible - this is an important step towards continuing to keep ourselves and our community safe and able to be in person together.

On a somber note, our Asian, Asian American, Pacific Island (AAPI) and SE Asian identified community members on campus and everywhere are in our thoughts this week, as it was one year ago that violence in Atlanta targeted Asian women and eight innocent people lost their lives. The Asian community is in mourning. Check in on your students, colleagues, and staff if you have a relationship to them. Holding each other in a community of care is one thing we can do.

I'm looking forward to my very first MassArt Day on March 24th with an open invitation to faculty and staff, as Interim Provost Mason has organized colleagues from around campus to explore the theme of "Expanding Beyond Our Expertise", followed by an evening "Creative Counterpoints" lecture, co-presented by Marika Prezioso and the MassArt Art Museum. Special thanks to you to all who have put together workshops and programs.

Did you know that March is Employee Appreciation Month? While we appreciate the contributions and differences made by all of you, all year long, our Employee Engagement team has organized a few fun and simple opportunities to say thank you this month! The first event will be a midday "candy bar" break in the DMC Atrium on March 22nd from 1:30-3:30pm. Look for an email with details soon!

By the end of the month, I will have visited every MassArt academic department. My visits have been an incredibly valuable way to immerse myself in the curriculum and community, get more information about what has worked well, and to meet the people who help make MassArt a place that is so impactful in our students'

lives. And that impact is being recognized. For example, the Animation department just received notice in the Animation Career Review, with a #1 ranking in Massachusetts and #2 ranking among public schools and colleges nationally. Irena Roman in our Illustration department was recently given the Silver Medal of Honor by the American Watercolor Society. Congratulations to our colleagues on this recognition! Please let me know about any such honors - I would love to highlight and celebrate them.

As we move through the spring, beginning with the first week in April, I will hold "President's Office Hours" that will be open to members of our campus community who would like to make an appointment, to stop by, have a cup of coffee, and take a little time to share your ideas and experiences. Please keep an eye out for more information to come!

The MassArt Auction on April 9th will be back in person this year - with a virtual auction online component as well! It promises to be a big success once again, as we host the College's largest fundraiser of the year for the benefit of student scholarships and academic programs. The 300+ pieces up for auction are being installed in the DMC and Tower West Lobby, so I recommend you swing by when you get a chance. Kudos to our Advancement team, who leads the Auction with support from MAAM, Marketing and Communications, Academic Affairs, Facilities, and Public Safety. It's a true collaboration!

Our Admissions team has been hard at work planning the first in-person Accepted Students Days since 2019, to be held on March 18th and April 22nd - and we have a full cohort of prospective students and their families who will be with us on campus! Please be sure to say hello and help welcome our visitors to MassArt.

Spring at MassArt means exhibitions in every gallery and throughout the halls, and the Thompson Gallery on Tower's 11th floor currently features "A El Mismo," a dramatic (mostly solo) exhibition by Christian Restrepo (Fashion Design Studio Manager and BFA '15 Fashion Design). It's remarkable - you'll want to be sure to stop by before it ends tomorrow!

And the Godine Gallery has been transformed into "The Greenhouse Lounge" thanks to our incredible SIM students Adine Raboy and Hannah Zahr (through March 25th). If you have a few minutes, I encourage you to visit and experience their fun and imaginative creation.

Congratulations to the MassArt x SoWa team on their new exhibition [SOURCE](#), which features 10 MassArt graduate program alumni from across disciplines, curated by Diana Jean Puglisi (MFA '16 FA2D) and Courtney Stock (MFA'17 FA2D). Since its May 2021 opening, this gallery has been a terrific gathering space for alumni and arts patrons, and a showcase for MassArt talent. I encourage you to visit the space whenever you can - perhaps on Friday, April 1st, for the opening reception of SOURCE, a celebration of our talented alumni.

In the past few weeks, I have had the opportunity to meet and talk with many leaders across the state to advocate for MassArt, including the leaders of the State's Board of Higher Education, Department of Education, members of our State House delegation, as well as arts and cultural leaders. My goal: to continue building support and raising awareness of the innovative ways MassArt is leading and contributing to the creative sector within the Commonwealth and beyond. Above all, my top priority remains seeking full funding of all the collective bargaining agreements that were ratified so that our hardworking faculty and staff can receive the salary increases they deserve.

Next week, with our transition to an open campus, we will begin gathering in ways that haven't been possible since March 2020. While this time of the year is a very full and busy one - the brighter and lighter days of spring are with us, already, and baseball spring training is underway, at last. What a joy! I look forward to seeing you at the All School Show events (March 20th-April 9th), Employee Appreciation Month festivities, and all the inspiring, enriching, and hopeful gathering opportunities to come.

Until then, take good care of yourselves, and be well!



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