

A&S LETTERS



System shock

Printmaker Jason Sculla replaces centuries-old fine art etching methods with a safer, electricity-based alternative.



Alumni and Friends,

Happy 2014! It's hard for me to believe that this is my third *A&S Letters* winter edition letter, which means I am starting my third year as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. As I look back, I'm amazed at how much we have accomplished and how fast the time has gone.

As we start 2014, we find our college carries with it the same sense of newness and excitement that a new year brings to our individual lives. In this issue of *A&S Letters*, we uncover a new art etching technique being pioneered in our art department by Associate Professor Jason Scuille. Though etching itself is not new, Jason has found a way to reinvent the process, eliminating some harmful chemicals by incorporating electricity into the process and pioneering what is called "electro-etching." It's a fascinating story — and it combines science (electrochemistry) and art to create new and beautiful effects.

You will also meet six new leaders in American ethnic studies, geography, geology, mathematics, statistics, and the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications. They each bring with them new ideas, vision and energy for their departments and are making our college stronger.

Another story you'll find in this issue focuses on our philosophy department and shows an ancient practice in a new light. No longer a discipline for "old men with white beards," our philosophy program offers a road map for success well beyond the classroom — not that there's anything wrong with being an old man or having a white beard.

If you are a fan of the Olympics, you'll be interested in our feature on one of our newest faculty members in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. Bryan Pinkall has been selected as part of the production team for the opening ceremonies at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

From our chemistry department, you'll meet Jenny Barriga, a first-generation student from Dodge City, Kan., and one of K-State's newest Goldwater Scholarship recipients. You'll also meet our three alumni award recipients who were honored at our annual Eisenhower Circle Celebration last fall.

With so many new things happening in our college, we can't help but be excited as the new year begins. And so, it is with that spirit of renewal and excitement that I extend warm wishes for your new year ahead and hope you enjoy this issue of *A&S Letters*.

All the best,

Peter Dorhout
Dean



A&S LETTERS

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TO BE OR NOT TO BE

With philosophy, the choice is easy

by Trevor Davis and Beth Bohn



Process ideas SIMULTANEOUSLY

May have trouble with spelling and finding words to express yourself, enjoy TOUCHING and FEELING actual objects

“see the WHOLE FIRST, then the details, make lateral connections from information”



Likely to think you're NATURALLY CREATIVE, but need to apply yourself to develop your potential

No sense of time, trouble prioritizing, so often late, impulsive



TALK WITH YOUR HANDS

'Mind photos' used to remember things, WRITING THINGS DOWN or ILLUSTRATING THEM helps you remember



Free association

Like to know why you're doing something or why rules exist

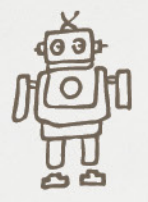
LED by FEELINGS

visual, focusing on IMAGES, PATTERNS



Words used to remember things, remember names rather than faces

Likely to believe you're NOT CREATIVE need to be willing to try and take risks to develop your potential



verbal, focusing on WORDS, SYMBOLS, NUMBERS



Highly organized



enjoy OBSERVING



Work up to the whole step by step, focusing on details information organized

make logical deductions from information



(process ideas sequentially, step by step)

plan ahead



■ THE NEED:

Department of Philosophy support for scholarships, faculty and summer internship opportunities.

■ TO HELP:

Eric Holderness, development officer,
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Is it rational to behave ethically, or is it simply foolish not to cheat?

Is it possible to be altruistic, or is all human behavior selfish?

Should we believe only what we can see, or is knowledge of nonphysical things possible?

Arts or sciences?

While philosophers have long debated the first three questions, one Kansas State University philosopher says the answer to the fourth question is a no-brainer, or to be more precise, "a left-and-right brainer."

It's philosophy, according to Bruce Glymour — you guessed it — a professor of philosophy and interim department head. Glymour says that as a major, philosophy requires imagination as well as empirical and analytical skills — arts and sciences, right brain and left brain.

Yep, the field associated with very old men with beards — Aristotle, Plato, Confucius, etc. — remains just as relevant today. In fact, students in the university's College of Arts and Sciences are required to take at least one introductory course in the subject.

"The most important thing to know about philosophy is that if you let yourself do it, it's fun," Glymour said, adding that most of us practice philosophical principles, such as reason and logic, without even realizing it.

"This is the thing about philosophy. People think they don't know it, but they do it. If you're human, you're doing philosophy," he said.

Don't agree? Think about this, sports fans.

"Anytime you're having a discussion, conversation or argument where 'better' features, you're doing philosophy," Glymour said. "My sports team is better than your sports team' — you're doing philosophy. You're making an argument about value. Humans do this all the time. What's distinct about philosophy is we try to do it rigorously with respect to a particular view about what it is to do that kind of argument well."

No matter the introductory philosophy course a College of Arts and Sciences student takes — and students can choose from a variety of options, including Introduction to Philosophical Problems, Introduction to Critical Thinking, Introduction to Formal Logic, Introduction to Philosophy of Religion, Introduction to Philosophy of Art, Introduction to Philosophy of Science, Introduction to Moral Philosophy and more — Glymour said to expect a lot of talking and writing.

"The most important thing about doing philosophy is talking philosophy. All of us on the philosophy faculty do a lot of that in the classroom, and we encourage our students to do a lot of it out of the classroom," he said. "Philosophy has always been discussion oriented and lots of paper writing, but there's more discussion today, as well as more hands-on realization of abstract concepts than there would have been in the classroom 30 years ago."

Today's intro to philosophy classes at Kansas State University feature interactive classrooms where discussion on current topics and games are often used, all to show students that while the ideas may be abstract, a philosopher needs to apply those ideas to concrete situations.

"Philosophy is filled with these really cool ideas," Glymour said. "Many of them don't work, but they are kind of cool to puzzle about and we learn from their failure. But every so often they do work. And when they do, philosophy reaches out and literally changes the world."

For example, philosophers invented the idea of human rights, Glymour said. He points to

John Locke, the father of classical liberalism whose work inspired our founding fathers, the framers of our Constitution. Philosophers also have deep roots in the sciences, from Aristotle, Bacon and Descartes to Adam Smith, father of political economics. Philosophers have also played important roles in the foundations of such fields as mathematics, political science, psychology, computer science and more.

Philosophy's long history shows it's the best of both worlds — sciences and arts, Glymour said.

"Philosophers are not willing to just stick with analysis — the math side of it, the science side it — but were not OK with just gut feel, either," he said. "We really want those integrated — to imagine the alternatives and give us reasons for preferring one over the other."

It all comes down to knowledge with philosophers.

"We're worried about reliable inference — or knowledge — where the meaning of reliability depends on the aims and values you have and what it is you are pursuing. This is the essence of philosophy," Glymour said.

Philosophy offers a road map for success in graduate or professional studies

The philosophy department in the College of Arts and Sciences is an undergraduate-only program taught by award-winning faculty. Both a minor and a major are offered, with several optional tracks: standard philosophy; philosophy/pre-law; philosophy/pre-business; philosophy/pre-ministry; philosophy/interdisciplinary; philosophy/pre-graduate school; and philosophy/premedicine. Students can earn a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science.

The program in philosophy gives students an understanding of traditional philosophical subjects. It also helps students develop critical habits of thinking and skill in understanding complex issues. Consequently, philosophy is an appropriate subject around which to organize a general education for any purpose. It is especially useful for those considering careers oriented toward policy where values and science intersect — such as law, politics, public policy and ministry. Philosophy also provides an extraordinarily effective background for those who intend to pursue postgraduate professional studies, such as in law, business and medicine.

In the last 10 years, the department has placed students in graduate programs at the University of Arizona; Rutgers University; University of California, Irvine; University of Nebraska; University of California, Riverside; and University of British Columbia.



Orchestrating success

Scholar Jenny Barriga melds love of science and music with notable results

by Stephanie Jacques

As a first-generation college student from Dodge City, Kan., Jenny Barriga knew she wanted to learn more about the world around her. At Kansas State University's College of Arts and Sciences, she is doing more than just learning — she's helping others, to her own tune.

Barriga is helping breast cancer patients through the Johnson Cancer Research Center's undergraduate research program. As part of the program, she receives research funding and guidance from a mentor, Stefan Bossmann, professor of chemistry. As she continues to learn more about chemistry, her research on breast cancer could be used to develop a less invasive breast cancer detection tool.

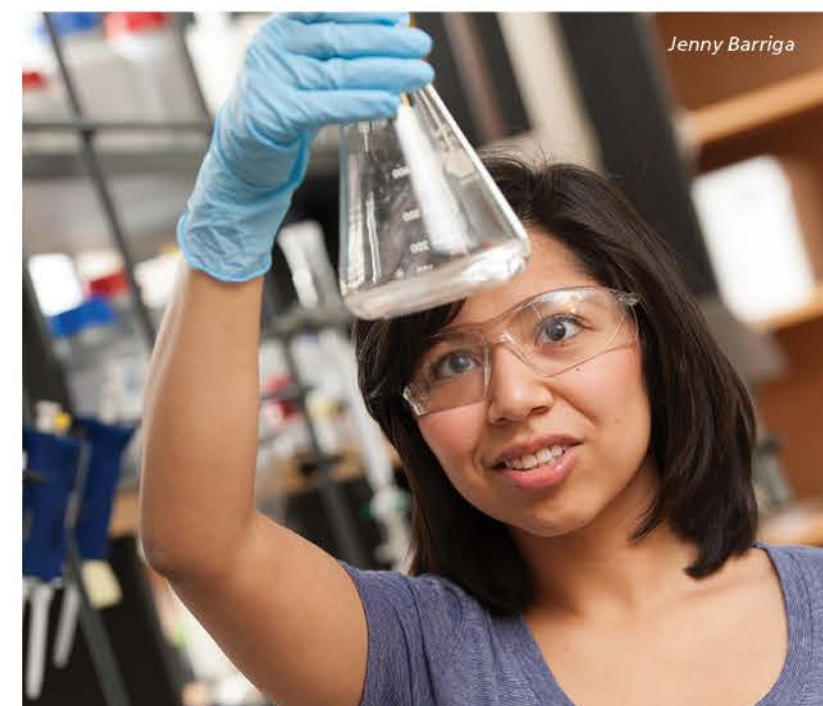
"With chemistry there are infinite learning possibilities and so much we don't know," Barriga said. "For me, it is really interesting to keep learning and be able to help others through what I learn."

Her hard work has given her opportunities to be listed as a co-author on research journal publications — a rarity as an undergraduate — and a summer internship with the National Institutes of Health in addition to a prestigious Barry M. Goldwater national scholarship.

Although her scientific research has opened doors for future educational, financial and career opportunities, it also has improved her artistic skills. She discovered that it takes patience to learn new skills and that her experiences in chemistry have strengthened her ability to focus on her music.

"When I have free time I enjoy playing classical guitar," she said. "A little bit of memorization and patience go hand in hand regardless if you are learning music, chemistry or biology."

"With chemistry there are infinite learning possibilities and so much we don't know."



Jenny Barriga



■ THE NEED:

Support for students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) who are doing important work, like cancer research, at K-State.

■ TO HELP:

David Spafford, associate director of development, davids@found.ksu.edu, 785-532-7613

As she prepares for the next stage of her education, graduate school, she continues to work with Jim Hohenbary, College of Arts and Sciences assistant dean for nationally competitive scholarships. Hohenbary helped her with the Goldwater scholarship application process. He has helped her further her education beyond the textbooks.

"When I was at the National Institutes of Health last summer they had a seminar on how to apply for grad school and what to put on the application," Barriga said. "A lot of it was review from the things Jim had already told me. I feel the college has prepared me for applying for grad school and grants."

Barriga would like to dive deeper into breast cancer research by developing a synthetic cell to disguise possible cancer

treatments until they reach a cancerous site in the body — like a microscopic Trojan horse.

Barriga is a member of the Developing Scholars Program and the Kansas State University Bridges to the Future program. She has received a Cancer Research Award from the Johnson Cancer Research Center, Jack and Betsy Lambert Scholarship, Memorial Scholarship and K-State Transfer Academic Award.

A 2010 graduate of Dodge City High School, Barriga is the daughter of Francisco Barriga and Graciela Cervantez, both from Dodge City.

Six new department heads are leading Kansas State University's academic center and intellectual heart: the College of Arts and Sciences.

From the natural sciences to social sciences, these leaders are internationally recognized scholars who are supporting the college's integral role in Kansas State University becoming a Top 50 public research university.

Here's a closer look at the college's six new leaders:

**American ethnic studies:
Yolanda Broyles-González**

“Kansas State University's strong visionary momentum is palpable and compatible with my own ideals. I regard the commitment to strengthen American ethnic studies one expression of a strong overarching institutional commitment to intellectual and human inclusivity. Among the strategic goals of American ethnic studies are the attainment of a critical mass of faculty and departmental status in order to establish permanence and presence at K-State while advancing interdisciplinary studies.”

Yolanda Broyles-González will use her leadership experience to guide the American ethnic studies program to its next level of scholarship.

Broyles-González previously was a professor of Mexican-American studies at the University of Arizona. She also has been a professor of Chicano studies and German studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She studied at four German universities and was among the first women of color to receive a doctorate degree from Stanford University. She is a native of the Arizona/Sonora desert and a Yaqui Barrio Libre community elder. The focal points of her research and teaching are popular culture, gender, oral tradition, Native American culture and the popular performance genres of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands, of which she is a native.

Geography: Charles Martin

“I look forward to building upon the research, teaching and professional service strengths of the geography department and furthering the outstanding reputation that the department has built under previous department heads. With its multidisciplinary focus, geography is uniquely positioned to contribute to several of the college goals outlined in the K-State 2025 vision.”

New geography department head Charles Martin has seen the momentum the program has built firsthand as the interim department head for the past two years, and he is excited to lead the program forward in the years to come.

Martin joined the geography department faculty as an instructor in 1989, rising to full professor in 2010 and, most recently, has been serving as interim department head since 2011. Martin earned his bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College before earning his master's and doctorate in geography

from the University of Kansas in 1985 and 1990, respectively. In his career, he has served as an Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung research fellow; been the director of the university's natural resources and environmental sciences secondary major; and developed and taught multiple classes.

Geology: Pamela Kempton

“I am thrilled to have the opportunity to use my experience as both scientist and science manager as I work with other members of the geology department to contribute to the K-State 2025 vision. One of my aims will be to grow the department, increasing the overall research capability as well as the number of graduate students. But we will want to do that in a sustainable way.”

Pamela Kempton has a blend of experiences in academic and national laboratory settings.

She comes to the College of Arts and Sciences from the U.K. Natural Environment Research Council — the U.K. equivalent of the U.S. National Science Foundation — where she served as the interim director of science. Kempton holds a doctorate in igneous petrology and a master's degree in sedimentology from Southern Methodist University. Her research career has focused on problems of mantle geodynamics, basalt petrogenesis, and evolution of the Earth's lower crust and upper mantle. Following her doctorate, she worked at NASA, where she held a National Research Council postdoctoral fellowship. She moved to the U.K. in 1985 to take up a research fellowship at the Open University and later joined the Natural Environment Research Council Isotope Geosciences Laboratory as a senior research scientist, where she established the first hafnium isotope laboratory in the U.K.

A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications: Birgit Wassmuth

“The A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications is well positioned to contribute to K-State's strategic vision of becoming a Top 50 public research university by 2025. Our rich history in journalism education and the wide range of forward-thinking research produced by our faculty offer great

opportunities to advance the school's mission and to become a program of distinction.”

Birgit Wassmuth, a Fulbright scholar, brings a myriad of professional, academic and administrative experiences to the College of Arts and Sciences.

She previously served as chair of Kennesaw State University's Department of Communication for more than seven years. A native of Germany, Wassmuth has a master's degree in mass communication with an emphasis in advertising psychology and a doctorate in mass communication with a focus on history, both from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Her undergraduate degree in graphic design is from the University of Kassel, Germany. She has taught at Temple University, Drake University, University of Missouri, Columbia and Kennesaw State University. She also has served two distinguished visiting professorships at the University of Florida.

Mathematics: Andrew Bennett

“The mathematics department is seeing exceptional growth in enrollment as more and more students pursue studies in the sciences and engineering. I am excited to work with my colleagues to maintain K-State's commitment to offering a first-rate education while supporting world-class research in this environment.”

With more than 25 years in the department of mathematics, Andrew Bennett will use his new position as department head to continue helping the program succeed.

Bennett earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Colorado State University before receiving his master's degree and doctorate in mathematics from Princeton University. He joined Kansas State University's mathematics department in 1988 and became a full professor in 2003. In 2006 he was named the inaugural director of the Center for Quantitative Education, or the Q-Center, and has taught a wide range of classes ranging from Elementary Differential Equations to Foundations of Geometry. His research

THE NEED:

Supporting endowed faculty positions provides a powerful way to attract and retain eminent scholars who care about nurturing students, creating new knowledge and serving society.

TO HELP:

Sheila Walker, director of development, sheilaw@found.ksu.edu, 800-432-1578

interests have led him to collaborations with the agriculture, education and engineering colleges. Bennett's research and educational efforts have raised more than \$15 million in extramural funding.

Statistics: Gary Gadbury

“Statistics is an interdisciplinary science and its existence as a distinct profession is due to the many problems emerging from the sciences and in society that require quantitative solutions obtained from collected data. I will work to increase focus on interdisciplinary research and high impact projects while not eschewing core statistical research, put added focus on recruitment of high-quality graduate and undergraduate students, and strive to deliver the best state-of-the-art statistics education to future leaders and scientists.”

Gary Gadbury is a cross-disciplinary leader who uses statistics to solve global problems.

Gadbury joined the statistics department in 2007 and has been the co-director of the graduate program for the statistics department, along with teaching undergraduate and graduate courses and maintaining research responsibilities. He previously was an associate professor of mathematics and statistics at the Missouri University of Science and Technology. Gadbury earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Southern Illinois University. After eight years with IBM, Gadbury returned to graduate school to earn a master's degree in applied mathematics from the University of Colorado, Denver and a doctorate in statistics from Colorado State University.

Six new leaders
One interdisciplinary college

by Jennifer Tidball



PRINTMAKING

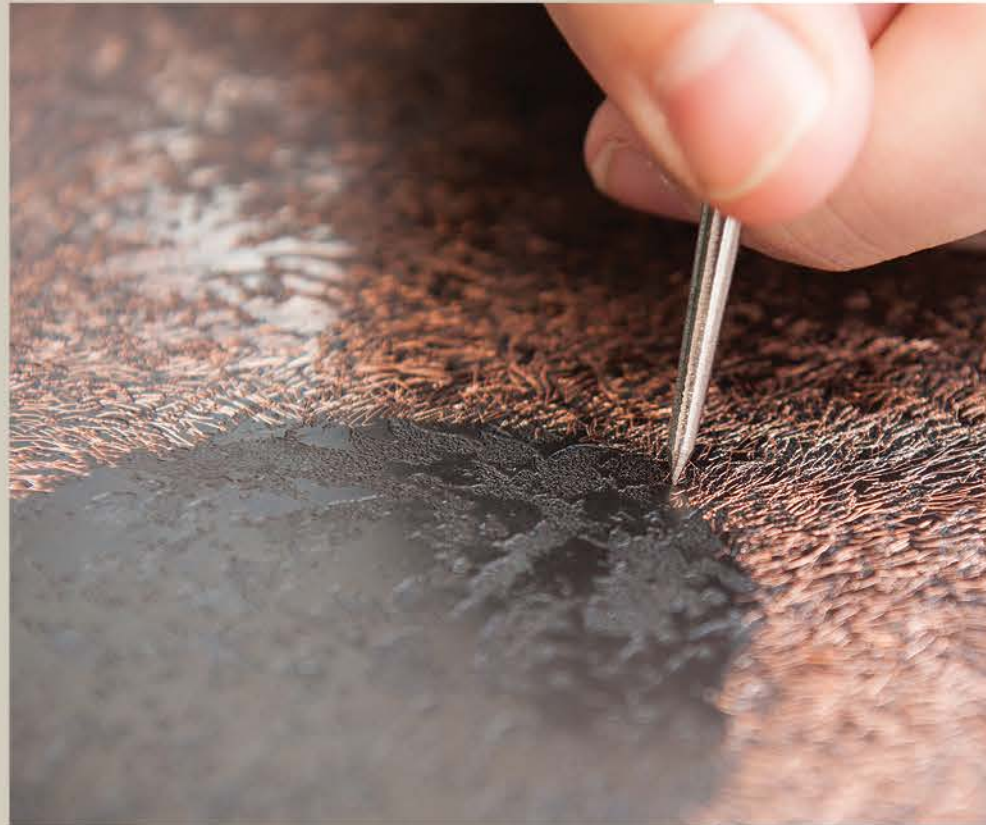
with electrifying results

by Greg Tammen

Jason Scuille is making his mark on the art world through what some may consider a shocking approach to his craft.

Scuille, an associate professor of art in Kansas State University's College of Arts and Sciences, is a printmaker who creates fine art etchings — highly detailed prints that resemble ink drawings. Currently, he is refining a safer method of creating etches using electricity rather than the traditional caustic acid bath.

Etching is a technique that originated in the Renaissance. It uses copper plates dunked in acid to produce identical copies of a black-and-white image. The artist coats a copper plate with a grounding substance that is resistant to acid. A needle is used to draw an image in the grounds and expose the metal of the plate. The plate is submerged in a corrosive acid that eats away at the metal exposed by the needled lines. Ink is placed in the plate's crevices, the plate is transferred to paper and run through a high-pressure printing press, which forces the paper to pick up the ink stored in the crevices to produce an image.



"As a printmaker, I have a strong appreciation for both the creativity, science and craftsmanship that goes into making a beautifully etched print," Scuille said. "However, one major problem with traditional etching is that it requires the use of toxic acids to etch the drawn copper plates. As an artist and educator, I am a strong advocate for the use of processes that are safer to the health and safety of students, faculty and the environment."

The toxic nature of etching has prompted artists and university print shops to continually look for safer etching methods. The dilemma: the less toxic methods frequently produce less detailed, visually crisp prints.

In 2010, Scuille built a prototype electrolytic etching system with a fellow printmaker. The process uses a weak sulfate bath, which is then electrified. Metal-plated jewelry is created with a similar process except that metal particles are added rather than removed.

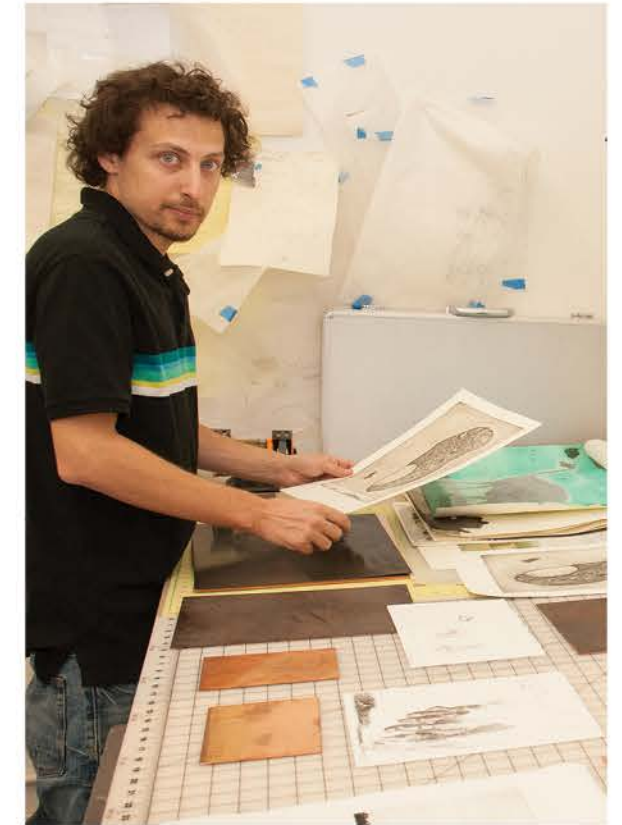
"It's basically a reversal of the techniques used in the plating industry," he said. "When my etching plate is put into the bath and the current is turned on, the exposed lines of the etching are used to plate a copper grid. It's a great example of what can happen when art and science are integrated."

While conducting research with the prototype system, Scuille had problems with the commercially available grounds being able to withstand the electric current. Looking for a solution, he developed a custom ground that could withstand the strength of the process and still capture a detailed drawing.

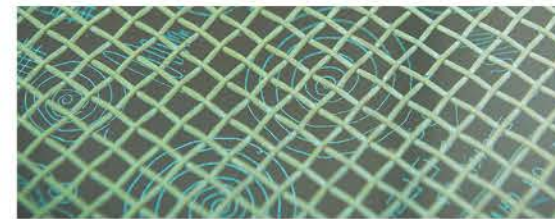
"The ground I developed allows for extremely sharp detail and holds up in the electric bath indefinitely, allowing a wide range of line weights to be achieved," he said. "It produces results superior to traditional grounds in traditional acid baths."

The electrolytic etching setup requires a power supply, a tray to hold the plate, copper sulfate solution, cathode grill — which looks like a copper grill — and a copper spatula. Most of the pieces were hand-built, allowing the setup to be portable and adapted to accommodate larger plates.

Scuille continues to rework and refine the electrolytic etching system as well as build a larger-scale version of it.



Jason Scuille



■ THE NEED:

Funding for innovative technology for the art department.

■ TO HELP:

Sheila Walker, director of development,
sheilaw@found.ksu.edu,
800-432-1578

Scuille has demonstrated and lectured about electrolytic etching at the Southern Graphics International Printmaking Conference, the biggest annual gathering focused on the field of printmaking. He also has been invited by national universities for demonstrations and exhibitions of his prints. The electrolytic etchings he has created have been featured in prestigious competitive exhibitions of contemporary art, including the International Print Center New York and the Boston Printmakers' Printmaking Biennial. Additionally, his prints are part of museum permanent collections and university archives throughout the U.S. and Europe.

By combining his knowledge, experience and innovation, Scuille is refining centuries of fine art expertise as well as helping young artists in his classes receive an education that will prepare them for the world beyond Kansas State University.



Bryan Pinkall

Go for the **GOLD**

K-State vocal instructor will lend talents to the Winter Olympics

by Megan Saunders

When Bryan Pinkall performs at the XXII Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, it won't be as a skater, an alpine skier or a hockey player. Pinkall will be involved in the tradition-steeped Olympic Opening Ceremony on Feb. 7, 2014, but his specific role is a tightly guarded secret until the event. In fact, the Kansas State University instructor's role in the Olympic Opening Ceremony is so clandestine, he can only point to his profession.

"I can't say much about my involvement, but I'm a professional musician by training," Pinkall said.

A voice instructor in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, Pinkall was selected by the Olympic Games Organizing Committee to organize and manage portions of the event, as well as participate in the event itself, which will be broadcast to nearly 2 billion people. His selection came after not only two years of interviews and testing, but a lifelong passion for the Olympics.

"In a lot of ways, the Olympics are why I'm a musician today," Pinkall said. "Growing up, I didn't

have the Internet. The only classical music I had came from PBS specials and the Olympics ceremonies."

After Pinkall applied to join the ceremony's production group, he didn't hear back for six months. Suddenly, an email appeared requesting an interview for 1 a.m. the following morning. Following that initial interview, Pinkall went through a series of Skype interviews and testing.

Then, another five months went by before another email landed in his inbox, this time stating his acceptance. Pinkall dismissed it as a mistake until he received a second email with a nondisclosure agreement with an appellate court in Moscow, Russia. In January, he will leave for Russia with a team of 5,000 performers, artists and organizers for the ceremony's preparation.

Although Pinkall can't discuss his specific involvement, he said his past experiences have prepared him to perform in front of a world

■ THE NEED:

Funding for K-State vocal music scholarships, faculty awards and student experiences like Rhapsody at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts on May 3, 2014.

■ TO HELP:

Sheila Walker, director of development,
sheilaw@found.ksu.edu,
800-432-1578

audience. He has performed with symphony orchestras, professional choirs, opera companies and recording groups. Pinkall also is a professional singer in the Kansas City Chorale, which won two Grammy Awards in 2013.

"The professional stress of performing is really nonexistent for me," he said. "I'm comfortable performing in front of large audiences. I'm hoping to have as much fun as I can and enjoy the finished product."

When he isn't preparing for the performance of a lifetime, Pinkall is teaching private music studios and Italian diction courses at K-State. As a former K-State student, he said he looks forward to bringing back lessons and stories from his experience.

"I was one of them once, and I know that K-State allows you to do a lot of things," Pinkall said. "I hope my experience will help students be more confident in their dreams."

Making their mark

Alumni Award recipients share drive to succeed

by Beth Bohn

Initiative. Drive. Exceeding expectations. Recipients of this year's alumni awards from the College of Arts and Sciences have made a career of making Kansas State University proud. Each has found success in his or her career field, and each credits the college and K-State for putting them on their path to success.



April West

Director of human resources for the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Co.
Kapalua, Maui, Hawaii
Young Alumni Award

April West is recognized as one of today's top young trainers in human resources. In the 12 years since she earned her psychology degree at K-State, she has quickly risen in her career field. Her résumé speaks of enviable locales: leadership development specialist for MGM Grand University in Las Vegas, director of human resources for the Mirage Casino and Hotel, also in Vegas, and her current job as director of human resources for the Ritz-Carlton on Maui.

West says K-State and the McNair scholars program — for students interested in graduate study — played an integral role in her success.

"My time at K-State and education in the psychology department laid a solid foundation for me," she said. "I was inspired by my professors and also the grad students I saw during my time at the university to pursue my own graduate education. The psych program, along with my involvement

(continued on p. 16)

(continued)

with the McNair scholars program, helped me find the confidence and belief in myself that I needed to set my sights higher and aspire to become the professional I am today.”

After earning her master’s in industrial/organization psychology in 2003 from the California School of Professional Psychology in San Diego, West went on to become K-State’s first McNair scholars program participant to earn her doctorate. In 2006 she received her Ph.D. in industrial/organization psychology from Alliant University in San Diego.

“It is such a great honor to have been the first K-State McNair scholar to obtain a doctorate. I know that without that program I may not have had the nerve to pursue graduate education at all,” she said.



Steve Physioc

*Voice of the Kansas City Royals
Alumni Merit Award*

Before Steve Physioc became a presence to sports fans across the country, he was a familiar voice to K-State students tuning in to KSDB. Bob Fidler, one of Physioc’s professors in the radio-TV program, offered him the job of doing basketball and football play-by-play announcing on the station for a local high school. Since graduating in 1977, Physioc has gone on to become the voice of the Wildcats, five Major

League Baseball teams, two NFL teams and two NBA teams. Now with the Royals, Physioc also calls games for Fox Sports Network’s broadcasts of Pac 12 and Big 12 football and basketball.

“My degree from K-State was extremely important because it helped me discover what career path I would take,” Physioc said. “I have four disciplines that I have stayed true with in my career. First, be on time — always; second, be prepared — homework; third, be enthusiastic; and fourth, be a good teammate — leave your ego at home and help make everyone around you better.”

Physioc’s latest project is joining with other journalism and mass communication alums — including Mitch Holthus, voice of the Kansas City Chiefs — in establishing a scholarship at K-State honoring longtime sports broadcaster Fred White, who died in spring 2013. Like Physioc, White once served as the voice of the Wildcats and the voice of the Royals.

“He helped me as a young broadcaster while at K-State back in the ‘70s and was my counsel throughout my professional journey,” Physioc said. “I would like the student who is honored with a scholarship in Fred’s name to have similar qualities: passion, dedication and talent. Fred wasn’t interested in grades — he was interested in work ethic and enthusiasm. I hope to see a young person carry on his legacy.”



Evan Stewart

*Retired vice president and CIO
of B/E Aerospace Inc.
Alumni Merit Award*

For Evan Stewart, a decision to major in mathematics added up to success in the information technology field.

“My goal was to get into the computer field upon graduation, but since K-State didn’t have a computer science program at the time, I decided that math was the best use of my skills and interests,”

he said. “It was fortunate. I was able to join my first company because of my math degree — and it paid off for my next jobs. Of course, I used the knowledge and skills that I learned in the math department all of my career and it has been extremely helpful in many other opportunities.”

Stewart is an active advocate of technology in education. His multiple donations to the mathematics department in the College of Arts and Sciences have supported the use of technology in education and other initiatives.

Math is still a great foundation for students to build a successful career, Stewart said.

“I would advise them to learn all they can about how to handle the large scale of things, be it the many planets in the universe, the number of cells in a human, the number of words being created and saved every day, the number of phone calls and emails, etc. Big data, in all its forms, is the growing challenge. It may be feeding 9 billion people in 50 years, losing water in critical aquifers, or any range of issues. It will be math students who have the ability to solve these and similar issues.”

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