

# NEWS FROM THE CAMPUS

## STAFF CHANGES

As summer begins there are some new faces at Penland, and several folks have switched hats. **Geoff Calebrese** will replace **Jenny Ledford** as kitchen prep cook. Inspired by her work at Penland, Jenny is leaving to study hotel management at Auburn, where she has won a full scholarship. **Kathryn Gremley** will continue to work in the store and has also joined the gallery staff.

Our services coordinator, **Louanne DiBella** will be getting extra help this summer from **Lucas Thorpe**, who was a scholarship student last year. **Cheryl Hughes** has been hired as a fulltime housekeeper, and former Core student **Kim Purser** will replace **Jeanne McClellan** on nighttime security. Woodworker **Jake Chamberlain** will take Kim's spot in the Core program. **Robert Chiarito**, who was a Concentration student last fall, is the new photo coordinator.

**Noreen White** will manage the coffeehouse staff which includes **Jude Ashe**, **Maria Lopez**, and **Hannah Cole**, all Concentration students who have chosen to stay in the area. Be sure to stop in for a cup if you're at Penland this summer.

—Geraldine Plato

*What Geraldine failed to mention is that she will be away from her desk quite a bit this summer. By the time you read this she and John Clark will be the parents of a new baby girl. The whole staff will be pulling together to pick up the slack.*

## FROM THE PINES

The good news is that summer enrollment is popping out at the seams. The bad news is that our kitchen and dining room will be unable to accommodate many extra bodies. Lunch is our most crowded meal, so, unless you are here on business, I would like to ask you to refrain from lunching with us until fall. If you would like to come for a meal, you are welcome at breakfast or supper. In any case, please make meal reservations twenty-four hours in advance, and don't forget to pay dining hall manager, John Renick, before going through the food line. I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the summer, especially at the Fourth of July celebration.

Louanne DiBella, Services Coordinator  
Pines Phone: 765-7942

## A GUIDE FOR PENLAND'S FUTURE

In April, the Penland Board of Trustees and the staff participated in a two-day retreat to begin work on a strategic plan. Staff and committees will develop the plan over the summer and present it to the Board for approval in October. The process was facilitated by Craig Dreeszen of the Arts Extension Service in Amherst, MA. The plan is now in its second draft and shows that the Board and staff are well satisfied that the mission of the school is clear and current and that the programs in place serve our mission well. There is, therefore, no intention to make major changes in Penland's summer or Concentration classes. The final plan will, however, include several new program opportunities, expansion of both outreach and development, some fine-tuning of governance, and an improved approach to infrastructure.

In general Penland's programming will continue to have the same balance of beginning and experienced students in the

majority of classes, augmented with a smaller number of professional-level and special-purpose classes. Concentrations fill a valuable niche in craft education and we will continue to build on their strength. The plan calls for seeking increased credit opportunities for college students and cooperative programming through affiliations with universities.

New areas which will be developed in the future are closer interaction with design professionals and design education, cooperative programs with craft-based industries, and a continuation of thematic sessions both in summer and during Concentration. A related concern is the development of expanded scholarship opportunities which would support a more diverse student population and also expand the involvement of residents of the tri-county area which surrounds the school.

Winter usage of the facility has been evolving over the past few years as an increasing number of studios and housing are winterized. However, it is clear that Penland's administrative and maintenance needs are better served by down-time in the winter and there is now a clear decision not to create formalized, year round programming. In addition to the use of studios by Core students and studio coordinators, there is the possibility for short-term winter residencies and for the development of a winter production operation with a focus on special line of production pieces to be sold in the Penland Store and Gallery.

Changes in outreach, the facility, governance, and administration will all be designed to give the most effective possible support to the program at Penland. The Long Range Plan, once adopted, will guide both the work of the staff and the regular review of programs during the next three years.

## FOR THE TENTH TIME

The Tenth Annual Benefit Auction will be held at Penland on August 12. Admission for the auction and luncheon is \$100 per person. The Patron's weekend is \$200 per person and includes these Friday events in addition to the auction: guided studio tours, the Best of Penland dinner, Bagels at the Barns, and a reception and preview exhibit. This year, celebrating ten auctions which have provided for steady improvements to the studios, there will be a special patron's auction of ten goblets by ten different glass artists. These will be sold individually on Friday evening.

Over one hundred pieces by current and former Penland Residents and instructors will be sold in a silent auction Saturday morning or during the live auction Saturday afternoon. As always, there will be both sculptural and functional work in the range of media taught at Penland. Anyone interested in attending should call Lisa in the office at 704-765-2359 and request that they be added to the invitation list.

## FLETCHER FOUNDATION GRANT

The A. J. Fletcher Foundation in Raleigh, NC, has awarded Penland a \$35,000 grant over a three-year period to support the expansion of the school's development program. The grant will provide salary support both for a full-time development director and part-time support staff as well as funding for consultants, training, computer services, and travel.

As the potential for state and federal funds decreases, the cost of operating the school increases. These trends create an imperative to increase the school's endowment. In order to accomplish this and also to continue to raise funds for specific projects, Penland recognizes the need to explore every avenue of fundraising including major donors, corporations and foundations, and planned giving. The Fletcher Foundation grant will make it possible to move in these directions.

## A LEGACY OF LOVE

Penland School has received a legacy of \$75,000 from the estate of **Robert May** which will be used to endow the photography program. Bob was a visiting artist and a photography instructor throughout the eighties. He last taught at the school in 1991, two years before his death in 1993.

In addition to a career as an executive with IBM Corporation in Lexington, KY, he taught photography at the University of Kentucky. A photographer for forty years, his work was shown in major exhibitions and published in *American Photography* and *Time/Life* books.



Diana Parrish  
Bob May at Blue Haze

His love of Penland brought him back to the mountains frequently as a visitor when friends were teaching. Evon **Streetman** recalled that even when he was not teaching "Bob could always be found in the wee small hours of the morning surrounded by a group of

students who might need technical assistance or might simply want to hear his photographic tales."

Through this gift, his spirit will continue to be a part of the photography program at Penland. The income will be used for equipment and infrastructure in the photo studio as well as for scholarships. Although others will have to tell Bob's tales, with this gift he chose to be part of a continuum in which the nurturing he received at Penland becomes a vehicle for nurturing others.

Donna Jean Dreyer

*We are especially grateful to Bob's friend and executor (and frequent Penland instructor) Dennis "Bones" Carpenter for his effort in facilitating this bequest.*

## SEARCH FOR A DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Donna Jean Dreyer, Penland's Director of Development, will retire from that position in October. A search is now underway for a replacement to oversee the expansion of development. Candidates should have at least three year's experience in development, excellent written and verbal communication skills, computer literacy, administrative experience, and a commitment to craft education. Anyone interested should send a letter of intent, resume, and reference list to Geraldine Plato, Penland School, Penland, NC 28765