

## Letter from the Director

The seasons linger in this part of the country. They occupy their own distinct time. There are periods of long, slow change in spring and fall, and being situated as we are, we become acutely aware of the special qualities of each day, the changes of light and color on the mountain.

Our eight-week sessions, the Concentrations, are a perfect fit to the seasons. They represent a time when students can come to Penland and linger a bit with their work in the studios, when the idea of 'process' and its impact on the life of the craftsperson can be explored in depth. It is a unique opportunity in American craft education: eight weeks of uninterrupted access to studio and instruction.

It is a special time for the school, too, in that it affords us the opportunity to come together as a community. We are able to really learn who is here, and instructors and students become part of the Penland family, forging long-lasting relationships with this place and each other. The changes in the landscape are echoed by those taking place in the studios and in the people themselves. Many of our future Core students, residents, and instructors are developed in these sessions, and in this way the Concentrations directly feed the life of the school.

Enrollment for these sessions has doubled over the last eighteen months due to an expanded offering of classes and the new full work/study tuition option. It is not always easy to balance the studio time with the hourly commitment to the school each week. But it has become a rewarding arrangement, allowing people to attend who would not otherwise be able to do so, and in the process of doing their job, form a special relationship to Penland. We have wonderful talent attending this school, and it's great to have that talent applied to things like landscaping, painting, and light construction.

The length of the session also allows us to engage new ideas in our programming and invite a wide variety of guests to explore them. The accompanying article describes much of what the Fall 1994 Concentration was about. It also proved to be a time to explore the role of sculpture and its impact on studio craft with students moving back and forth between the areas of production and nonutilitarian works. The information passed between these two areas was one of the most exciting facets of the session and will prove to be long-lasting for all participants.

Every so often a session at Penland has the feeling that something special is happening, that it has transcended that moment in time. This fall had that feeling, which has provided tremendous energy for programming upcoming Concentrations. The opportunities for programmatic innovation and our ability to engage a growing and diverse pool of students is a most exciting thing to consider here on the mountain this winter.

—Ken Botnick



## Penland Line

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The Penland Line is published twice a year to communicate thoughts about the programs, people, and philosophy of Penland and to keep in touch with several groups of people at once: craftspeople and friends living nearby, instructors, donors, and Friends of Penland. We invite you to share your news, opinions, and/or photographs with us. Write: Editor, Penland Line, Penland, NC 28765.

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## Note from the Editor

For the office staff, this fall has brought heightened frustration with technology in the same time period in which work/study students were busy planting bulbs and perennials, and all students were contemplating the landscape and its impact on studio work. The work of the hand dominated the world outside our office doors as we struggled with the upheaval of changing computer systems in preparation for an eventual revamping of the Penland Integrated Database. Our system is old in computer years and not nearly facile enough for our needs. So as we go through the evolution (or maybe revolution) I'd like to urge you to let us know about any duplicate mailings you receive. It would also help if you would let us know if your name or your address changes. Thank you.

—Donna Jean Dreyer