

A Letter from the Interim Director

We've had smooth sailing through a busy summer and fall with nearly full enrollment. A search committee is hard at work reviewing resumes, checking references and getting ready for the first set of interviews for a new director. They have planned a very thorough, careful process, and do not expect an appointment before the end of February.

For me it has been an opportunity to return to familiar sights and old friends, with new eyes and a different perspective. During my earlier incarnations as Penland's publicist and fundraiser, I was an observer, writer, a cheerleader; now I am center stage, meeting each group of instructors, welcoming students at Sunday night gatherings, moving in and out of studios, and being amazed at the work I see at student auctions and Show and Tell.

This fall I met with each class to learn a little about every student in Concentration, how they came to be at Penland and what they hope to take away from this sojourn. I was struck by how much people sacrifice and what complicated arrangements they have to make to be free for eight weeks of work in Penland's studios.

Seven students this fall quit their jobs to be here, several day students are continuing to work part-time, some are taking a break from college, two traveled across an ocean, a large number had to arrange caretakers for elderly relatives, children, pets, houses, and businesses. As always, many are in a time of transition: making a change in their work, grieving for the death of a loved one or the end of a relationship, moving from one medium to another, or trying to decide if it is time to make the choice to be a full-time studio artist.

I've been able to chat with many students as the weeks have passed and I have seen the changes in their faces. I said to one student that she looked much more rested than when she came, but that I knew she hadn't been getting much sleep. "That's true," she replied, "but I've had a different kind of rest." She also said that after three weeks she had made a new discovery in her work which had changed everything for her; she had also made a wonderful friend who shared her particular artistic vision.

Soon I'll walk up to Northlight to see another show of work and hear the stories of the fall, and be amazed again at what has transpired in the studios and in the hearts of these sojourners. I will again touch the essence of Penland.

—Donna Jean Dreyer



Dana Moore

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 Penland Friends. We invite you to share your news, opinions, and/or photographs with us. And please let us know what you think of the Penland Line.

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*The Penland Core students are full-time students who work for the school in exchange for room, board, and tuition. Core students become integral members of the Penland staff. Each of them has specific duties and they also serve a leadership role among the work/study students. Pictured above is the 1997 Core. Top row: Nancy Barnett, Elizabeth Dorbad, Caverly Morgan, Daniel Price. Bottom row: Christopher Robinson, Susie Shipman, Troy Hines, Michael Hunt's teapot, Geoff Calabrese. Nancy, Elizabeth, Christopher, Susie, Michael, and Geoff will all be leaving this winter. We'll keep you posted on where they land. **Attention former Core students:** We are trying to assemble a comprehensive list of former Core students. If you were in the Core program, please write down the names and current addresses of any Core students you are in touch with and send it to Geraldine Plato, c/o Penland School of Crafts.*