

SPRING FLING

Penland's Spring Concentration runs from March 13 through May 6, 2005 with seven great classes. Northlight will be humming with overlapping workshops in books and photography. Jean Buescher Bartlett will inspire an investigation into words, images, and the page's surface in *Books as Voice*, *Books as Architecture*. Deborah Brackenbury's photography class will explore how images function in a sequence, series, or narrative. These two classes will share demonstrations, materials, and inspiration and are open to book and image makers of all levels.

A team of studio potters, Michael Connelly, Allison McGowan, and Alleghany Meadows, will share their complementary working methods and everyday experiences in *Utilitarian Pots*. Wheelthrowing and glazing skills are required.

Maegan Crowley will be *Forging Form* in the iron studio, exploring the skills necessary to generate form in sculptural and functional steel objects. Sheet forming,

joinery, and finishing techniques will help students of all levels make ideas come to life. Metalsmiths and object-makers of all skill levels will delight in *Mixed-Media Techniques for Metalsmiths* with Diane Falkenhagen. Plastics, glass, eggshell, wood, wax, metal leaf...riveting, bolting, tabbing, pronging...Need we say more? Creative solutions to technical challenges will join content, form, material, and technique.

Kerr Grabowski challenges students of any level to expand their mark-making and push past inhibitions. *Exploring the Possibilities* will combine

fiber reactive dyes, screenprinting, painting, collage, stitching, and much more to create layered and expressive imagery on cloth. And finally, Eddie Bernard says it best in his whimsical class title. *Yo Hablo in Glass!* is an all levels glassblowing class with a great instructor. Any takers?

Complete information and an application form are available at www.penland.org or call 828-765-2359 and request a fall/spring catalog.



Michael Connelly, *Lidded Jar*

THANKS, FEET

Last fall we bid a fond farewell to Feet and Denise Williams. Feet had been director of facilities since 1997 and Denise was office manager for several years. They decided to return to the Raleigh, NC area where they are closer to their family. Both of them brought professionalism and experience to their areas of the school. Feet took on the daunting responsibility for Penland's complex and aging physical plant. We asked director Jean McLaughlin for a few words about Feet's special contribution to Penland. She wrote this appreciation:

We could always count on Feet for astute observation and humor, thoughtful responses, and hard work. As part of a heady conversation during a strategic planning process in 1998, the board and staff were talking about what causes Penland to be remembered and cared for by so many people. Feet's opinion was that, "the appeal of this place is

not in its deterioration," and his quote became bedrock to our plan.

Holding facility maintenance, renovation and new construction to high standards and "doing it right the first time," were hallmarks of Feet's tenure at Penland. From removing bats in the Craft

House attic to supervising the construction of the new iron studio, Feet's accomplishments were lengthy and noteworthy. His sensitive renovation of Ridgeway will bear his mark for many years. But it is his dry wit and unexpected performances that will be the hardest to replace. At a staff meeting in the winter of 1999 Feet used his yellow fleece hat to impersonate a candle, a flashlight, and a crayon and at later staff meeting, he mysteriously admonished us against the "inappropriate use of the color yellow." His greatest performance, by all accounts

was one I missed. He took the opportunity of my absence at an all-school meeting to engage in a carefully crafted impersonation of me which reduced the staff to tears of laughter. We miss you, Feet.

Robin Dreyer



Feet Williams offering some friendly instruction in the proper procedure for requesting facilities work: Fill out a work order!

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worked in familiar studios, others tried something completely new. The group ranged from artists who started teaching here relatively recently to artists who have been involved with the school since the early 1960s. It was an uplifting, rowdy, exciting time, combining aspects of a family reunion and the very best of Penland sessions. For more information and photographs, see page 4.

In addition to the book and the museum and gallery events, it seemed important to have something that would make each session a little bit special—a way to bring this year's instructors and students into the celebration. Sarah Warner, assistant to the director, designed a small *Memory Book* to give to each student and instructor this year. The book has information about Penland history, several intricate collages made from archival images, and a few recipes (including fried chicken for 200 and the coffee house's popular gingeraid) For something more event-like, the school turned to video artist Dan Bailey. Dan is a former Penland resident artist and current trustee who runs the media lab at

University of Baltimore. He spent months looking at photographs, reviewing video tape, some old, some recent, and shooting new footage. Then he put together a remark-



The Penland Retrospect exhibition at the Penland Gallery included Lucy Morgan's handmade dress along with other objects, photographs, and information which illuminated Penland's history.

able piece titled *Slides Tonight* which is being shown at the beginning of each session.

The video includes a bit of history, footage from classes, performances, parades, dances, dozens of still photographs, and some startling animation. The piece captures the spirit of Penland and has been deeply appreciated by all who have been lucky enough to see it.

Several other events were planned and executed elsewhere by good friends of the school. An exhibition at Roanoke Festival Park Gallery in Roanoke, NC exhibited work by Penland's resident artists. Current exhibitions at W.D.O. Gallery (Charlotte, NC), Hodges-Taylor Gallery (Charlotte, NC) and East Carolina University (Greenville, NC) all honor Penland's anniversary (see page 8).

All this activity has brought the school an unusual level of media attention. Penland has been featured in *American Craft*, *American Style*, *Our State*, *Southern Living*, *FiberArts*, *Glass Quarterly*, the *Charlotte Observer*, and other publications. The state of North Carolina designated a celebration of North Carolina craft encompassing the anniversaries of Penland and the Southern Highlands Craft Guild (which celebrates its

seventy-fifth in 2005) along with other craft activities across the state. State Representative Philip Frye and State Senator Joe Sam Queen introduced a joint resolution in both houses of the North Carolina legislature recognizing Penland's anniversary. And Penland School was placed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Penland Historic District. Special thanks to Clay Griffith of Edwards-Pitman Environmental of Asheville, NC and Penland architect Michelle Francis for their work on the National Register application.

And, of course, there have been spontaneous and personal activities. A memorable July 4 parade included a choreographed seventy-fifth birthday cake (see page 8), a glass class taught by Dinah Hulet, Richard Ritter, and Jan Williams collaborated on a commemorative murrine, and students are contributing all year to a time capsule which will be sealed and placed in the archive.

All together, it has been a busy, exciting, and successful anniversary year. Penland School is being widely and well celebrated; its history has been beautifully presented; and the events of the year will resonate in the craft world for some time to come.

—Robin Dreyer