



HAA Newsletter Fall 2023

Note from the Chair

Greetings, everyone!

While time rushes on and we are well into the throes of fall 2023, please join me as we celebrate our 2022-23 events! The Department had a productive year with 109 graduates in the class of 2023, along with six doctoral graduates, one of our largest classes in the history of the Department. We are very proud of our students' achievements described in more detail in this newsletter. We can also celebrate a record-breaking level of participation in our Center for Object-Based Research & Learning, where students can study objects borrowed from private collections and the [Art, Design & Architecture Museum \(AD&A Museum\)](#). We are especially grateful to the local family who loaned many items from their collection for study in Professor Alicia Boswell's course, "Introduction to Arts of the Ancient Americas."

The 2022-23 academic year was marred by some very sad news: our alumni Abelina Galustian (Ph.D. '21) and Christine Bolli passed away after valiant struggles with illness. The Department hails their contributions and dedication to our program and the students. Abelina and Christine had wonderful energy, talent, and spirit which they brought to every endeavor. We miss them and bear witness to the joy that has been lost with their passing. A memorial scholarship at Mt. San Antonio College has been established in honor of Abelina, and we include more information in this newsletter.

As we initiated this new academic year, the Department held, with the Department of Art, a highly successful collaborative welcome and orientation for new and transfer students along with our continuing undergraduates. The brainchild of our own HAA major and Undergraduate Program Advisor Fiona Hosmer-Hughes and Art's Undergraduate Program Advisor Catherine Jencks, we hosted 22 information tables featuring local architects, UCSB's EAP program, the Art History Club, the Life Drawing Club (Art) and many others. We had over 200 students in attendance, suggesting that we may have more majors coming our way! We have launched a search this Fall for a new colleague who specializes in Art or Architecture in the United States and we anticipate exciting changes to the Image Resource Center, so stay tuned for that.

Finally, the Department congratulates Professor Ann Adams on her retirement this December (2023), with our very best wishes to her! Should you think that the author of the essential book on Dutch portraiture, *Public Faces and Private Identities in Seventeenth-Century Holland: Portraiture and the Production of Community* (Cambridge University Press, 2009) will be resting easy, she is already well into her current book project, *The artist and the merchant: negotiating the market in 17th-century Amsterdam. Thomas de Keyser and his family of builders, a two-volume set (vol. 1: Life and Documents; vol. 2: Catalogue raisonné)* and looks forward to having the time to devote herself fully to it! Professor Adams came to UCSB in 1993 from the University of Chicago, and her contributions have been immense: to her field, the Department, the University and the students. All have benefitted from her care and attention, which extended to teaching, curriculum, graduate and undergraduate advising, and her many contributions on some of the most important Academic Senate committees here at UCSB and system-wide positions. A tireless advocate for students and colleagues and a prolific scholar, Professor Adams stands as an example to us all, and we salute her! Thank you for everything you have done for all of us over the years, Professor Adams!

Wishing everyone the very best in the 2023-24 academic year!

Laurie Monahan
Professor and Chair

News

We thank our three graduates – now alumni! – from the Class of '23, Asha McGee, Lucas Vance, and Magdalena Zucker, along with two current seniors, Stephanie Gerson and Catelyn Rollins, who in Fall 2022 re-initiated the **Art History Club** after realizing that many majors following the pandemic shut down did not know each other. It is a testament to their collective enthusiasm and good cheer that this group of five managed to initiate a good number of events and meetings, including a "behind the scenes" tour of the AD&A Museum and a collage-making meet'n'greet party. We applaud your efforts!

Meghan Khobian and Valentina Chavez, both Class of '23, were elected to **Phi Beta Kappa**. This is a highly respected award and it is one of the oldest and most respected scholastic organizations in North America, established in 1776. Election to Phi Beta Kappa is by invitation only, and only one percent of graduating seniors across the country are elected to the society. Meghan and Valentina join the ranks of forty-two current and former Supreme Court Justices and luminaries such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, W.E.B. Dubois, Christine Amanpour, Condaleeza Rice and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a strong indication of how vital the arts and sciences are to a vibrant culture and democracy.

The Department has engaged in a collaborative initiative with our colleagues in the Department of Art and the AD&A Museum to form the **Arts Equity Commons**, where we are working to foreground the collective and transformative energies of our disciplines and institutions to foster more diversity and inclusiveness through innovative programming and artist residencies. With assistance from UCOP through an Advancing Faculty Diversity grant, providing three years of funding, we hope to welcome in 2024 the multi-media, Los Angeles-based artist, rafa esparza, to work on an environmental project with graduate students and collaborate with our faculty, Professors Jenni Sorkin, Gabriel Ritter (HAA & Director, AD&A Museum), Kim Yasuda (Art), and others. This is an exciting initiative that we hope will attract students and faculty to our respective programs and exhibitions while advancing the University's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

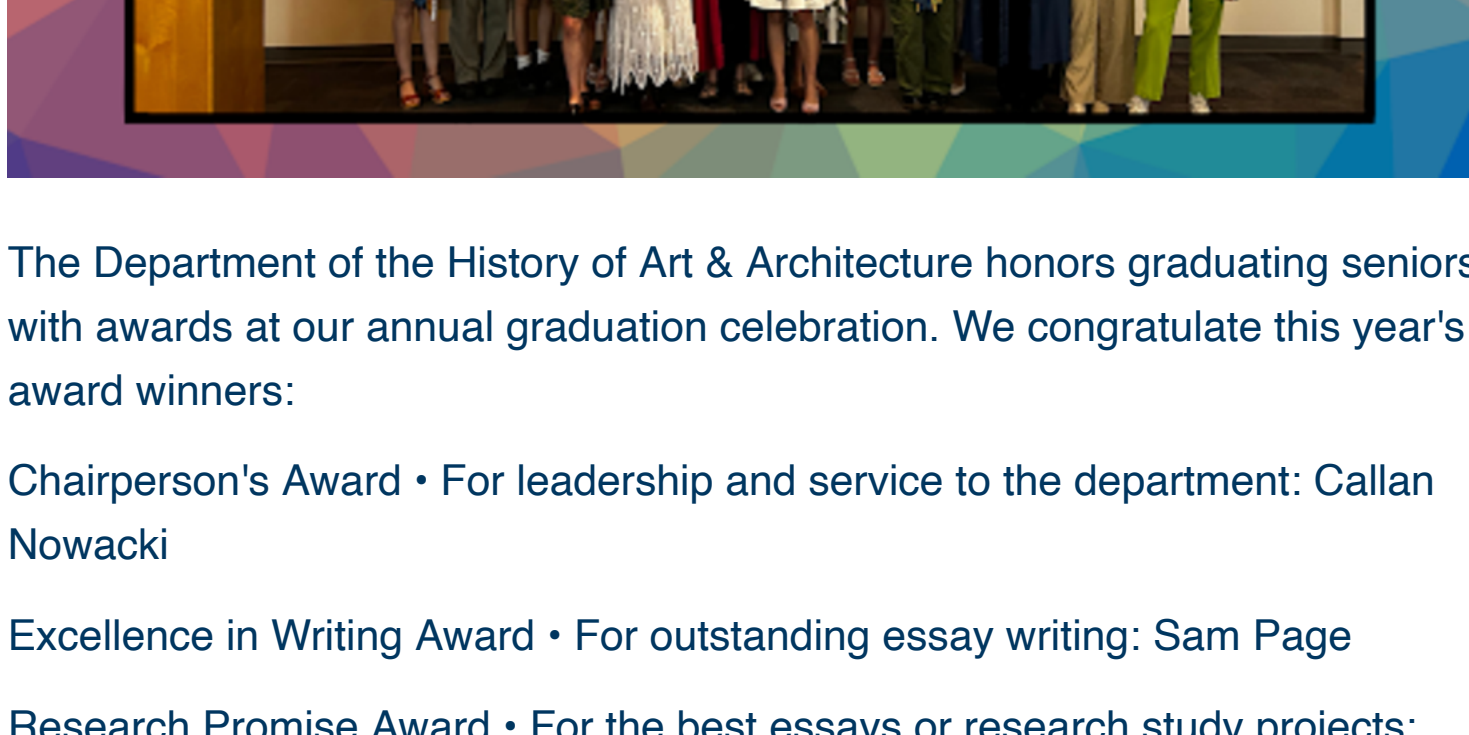
Since the return to in-person learning, usage of both the **Center for Object-Based Research and Learning** and the **Digital Image Lab** has significantly increased. In April, over **1000 students** visited our Center for Object-Based Research and Learning. Many of the students were visiting for the first time, which offered a welcome opportunity to connect our undergraduate community with the Image Resource Center.

Exciting changes are now underway for the IRC, starting with its name: Material & Image Research Lab, aka MIRL! Acknowledging the IRC's evolving purpose and needs, Curator Jeff O'Brien notes that MIRL marks the shift to a research lab rather than a resource center, with expanded capabilities for borrowing objects, and a lab centered around the exploration of innovative, emerging questions at the intersection of digital and material-based technologies in art history and architecture. In addition to currently offered services, MIRL will facilitate faculty and student engagement and learning with new technologies, actively producing research that contributes to the greater academic commons.

Mt. San Antonio College has developed the [Abelina Galustian Memorial Scholarship](#) to honor Abelina's life and legacy (Ph.D. 2021). The college has a strong team of faculty who all attended UCSB's HAA graduate program, including Cristina Hernandez, Mary McGuire (Ph.D. 2018), Ellen Caldwell, and Thuy Tran. Abelina was also going to begin teaching at Mt. SAC, and prior to that, she gave many artist talks to our students over the years, inspiring and energizing them through her art and original research. It is our hope that this scholarship is one of many ways that her spirit will live on in future art historians, artists, and scholars.

The HAA community can learn more about Abelina's life, legacy, scholarship, and art on the memorial page link. There you will also find a link to Stanislaus State's 2020 exhibit Abelina Galustian: Womansword and Beyond, which includes an essay by alumna Staci Gem Scheiwiller (Ph.D. 2009).

It is with great sadness that I share with you the news that our alumna Christine Bolli, who also served as Graduate Program Advisor for a time, passed away in March. Christine was always ready with a bright smile and bubbled with enthusiasm at the prospect of just about everything she took on. She was a kind and generous person, a dedicated scholar, and she made many contributions as both a graduate student and a post-graduate. [Here is a link to her obituary.](#)



The Department of the History of Art & Architecture honors graduating seniors with awards at our annual graduation celebration. We congratulate this year's award winners:

Chairperson's Award • For leadership and service to the department: Callan Nowacki

Excellence in Writing Award • For outstanding essay writing: Sam Page

Research Promise Award • For the best essays or research study projects: Victoria Platonova and Magdalena Zucker

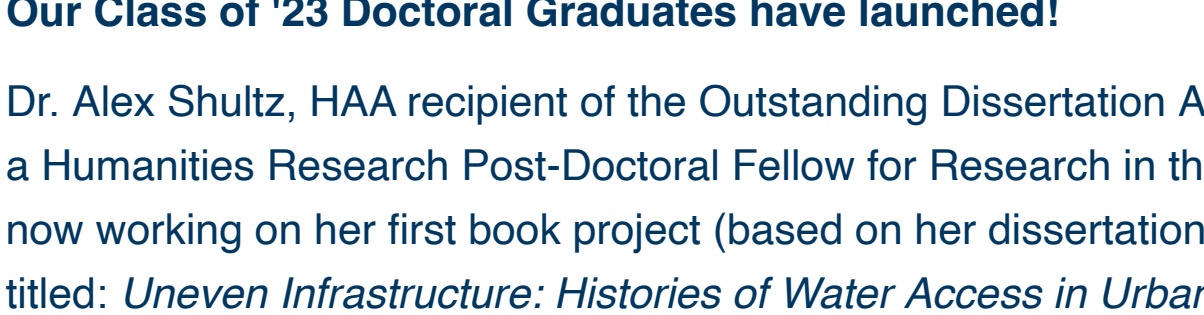
Recognition for Participating in the Honors Program • For successful Honors Program involvement: Cheyenne Assil, Cali Brannan, Hailee Corbin, Izzy Kleiman, and Alice Taylor

Best Honors Thesis Award • For highest scholarly Honors Thesis achievement: Hailee Corbin

Museum Professional Promise Award • To recognize students who have completed exceptional external internships: Cheyenne Assil and Rina Kita

Art, Design & Architecture Museum Service Award • For excellent internship work in the AD&A Museum: Ashleigh Keller, Valerie Morales, Victoria Platonova, and Lucas Vance

Image Resource Center Service Award • For excellent internship work in the IRC: Hailee Corbin, Callan Nowacki, and Lucas Vance



Our Class of '23 Doctoral Graduates have launched!

Dr. Alex Shultz, HAA recipient of the Outstanding Dissertation Award (2023), is a Humanities Research Post-Doctoral Fellow for Research in the Arab World, now working on her first book project (based on her dissertation), tentatively titled: *Uneven Infrastructure: Histories of Water Access in Urban Egypt (1875-1935)*. She was also recognized as an alternate for an American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) Research Fellowship, and has accepted an honorary position as a Research Associate for 23-24. Dr. Matthew Limb is on post-doctoral position at the University of Arkansas this fall; Dr. Henning von Mirbach has commenced teaching at the Courtauld Institute in London; Dr. Samira Fathi has, since January 2023, been teaching at the Department of Art, Art History and Design at Michigan State University; Dr. Maggie Mansfield is continuing her work as an independent scholar; Dr. Ben Jameson-Ellsmore is working for the Historic American Buildings Survey; Dr. Mary Okin is the Assistant Director of the Living New Deal.

react/review

a responsive journal for art & architecture

Volume 3 of our graduate journal, react/review, is now live. The theme is "Fields of Force: Navigating Power in Space, Place and Landscape" and the issue was co-edited by Megan Sheard and Iman Salty. [Check out the issue here:](#)

[Read the issue](#)

Events

Past Events

Three talks in the 2022-23 Lecture Series, Art in the Longue Durée, took place in Arts 1332 during Winter and Spring 2023.

- March 9: Dr. Michele Lamprakos (University of Maryland-College Park), "The Afterlife of the Great Mosque of Cordoba"
- April 6: Dr. Cherise Smith (University of Texas at Austin), "Cauleen Smith's Remote Viewing"
- May 18: Dr. Claudia E. Zapata (UCLA), "Latine/x and Chicax Artists in Web3"

On May 17, the Digital Image Lab (DIL) hosted the Iranian Studies Symposium, organized by the Iranian Studies Initiative here at UCSB. A big thank you to Mohammadreza Mirzaei for all his work in organizing the event.

The DIL also hosted a talk by Swati Chattopadhyay on May 25 as part of the IRC's ongoing series on mapping and GIS technologies. Professor Chattopadhyay discussed her project "[Building the Modern World: Keywords](#)," which used Scalar, an online platform, to examine the non-linear relations between networks of new terms that were deployed to describe and comprehend the emergence of new social and spatial relations during the long nineteenth century.

Upcoming Events

[Visit our website](#) regularly for updates on our 2023-2024 Lecture Series and other events.