

Application for Promotion to Distinguished Professor

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Teaching

Exemplary Curricular Innovation

I redesigned the University of Akron Myers School of Art Printmaking Program curriculum in collaboration with Prof. Hui-Chu Ying between 2007 and 2009. The new program was implemented in the fall of 2009. Our curriculum is distinguished from many printmaking programs by its rigor; delivery of detailed technical information for traditional and contemporary printmaking media; attention to critical theory; and development of conceptual skills. The program is designed to prepare students to take their knowledge of printmaking into practice as working artists, partners in industry, or continued education at the graduate level. Students complete assignments both independently and collaboratively and engage in experiential learning projects with visiting printmakers. They learn to work in communal environments in which equipment/resources are shared and discourse with peers/colleagues is vital to growth. Projects are designed to foster graduates' abilities to work both as practicing visual artists and entrepreneurs developing and marketing product lines of printed ephemera. Students study of the democratic history of printmaking as a driver of social change and are encouraged to continue this legacy by becoming active members of their communities through assignments that promote voting, attention to social causes, and support of non-profit organizations.

The Myers Printmaking Program is designed to support the greater Myers School of Art mission through focus upon skills transferable to other areas in the visual arts. Printmaking is ideal for this as the development of work through process, project planning, time management, critical analysis, and problem-solving are all essential life skills that are integral to printmaking.

Curricular development, management, analysis, and improvement are a continuous part of my practice as an educator. Whether in the classroom, at student exhibitions, or through the presentation of student work at national conferences, I am always questioning the effectiveness of my assignments, lectures, and the overall printmaking curriculum. Subtle adjustments as well as foundational changes are a regular part of the development and delivery of content in my classes. I continue to write new and refine existing lectures that focus upon the history of printmaking and its contemporary practice. Daily ten-minute *Printmakers You Should Know* presentations provide the opportunity to expose students to artists whose work is of significance to the printmaking

Evidence of Teaching Success

For evidence of Teaching Success please visit:

<https://www.charlesbeneke.com/distinguished-professor-application/>

Teaching Activity Since Promotion to Professor in June 2013

Courses Taught

ART 213	Introduction to Printmaking
ART 214	Relief/Screenprint
ART 216	Intaglio/Lithography
ART 250	Foundation Review
ART 317	Print Matrix
ART 319	Printmaking Review
ART 418	Multiples & Multiplicity
ART 419	Special Topics in Printmaking: Book Arts
ART 419	Special Topics in Printmaking: Posters & Zines
ART 419	Special Topics in Printmaking: Printmaking for Graphic Designers
ART 496	Art Internship/Professional Experience (Field Experience)
ART 497	Independent Study in Art
ART 499	Honors in Art

Visiting Artist

2021	Winthrop University, Rock Hill, South Carolina, Virtual.
2019	Birmingham Southern College, Birmingham, Alabama.
2017	Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia. Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland, Ohio.
2016	Utah State University, Logan, Utah.
2014	Sheridan College, Sheridan, Wyoming. The University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Public Presentations

2024	Sequence: Note to Self, Ohio Arts Council, Columbus, Ohio.
2023	Seven Contemporary Printmakers Panel , Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi. Buchtel College of Arts & Sciences 2022-23 Professional Development Leave Presentations, University of Akron, Akron, Ohio.
2022	What's Race Got to Do with It? A Face-2-Face Conversation about Being an Artist/Designer and Activist," Rethinking Race 2022, University of Akron, Akron, Ohio. March 1, 2022.
2021	Disturbance: Three Artist's Talks, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, South Carolina, Virtual.
2019	Disturbance: Three Artist's Talks, Birmingham

discipline whether through traditional practice or exploration of developing practices. New technologies are incorporated into class project as they evolve teaching students to think creatively about their practice as printmakers/artists and hold exploration and risk-taking as core values of the discipline.

In recent years I have dedicated focused attention to ensuring that all lectures are diverse in the demographic of artists represented: race, gender, nationality, binary/non-binary, western/non-western, etc. Further research has focused upon identifying instances of western exceptionalism in historic and contemporary printmaking and making certain that lectures/handouts/assignments present a more truthful picture of printmaking's past and future potential.

To support expanded and experiential learning in the printmaking program I collaborated with the Akron Art Museum upon several occasions by programming student events at the museum to compliment exhibitions. These include:

- organizing, participating in, and running student intaglio printing demonstrations during exhibition openings and
- organizing a Printmaking Open Portfolio at the Akron Art Museum as Thursday evening programming for the Multiplicity exhibition. Participants included The Cleveland Institute of Art, Kent State University, The University of Akron, and Youngstown State University students, faculty, and visiting artists.

The COVID pandemic and the changes it created in higher education required an expansive reshaping of the delivery of content that is dependent upon shared equipment and space. At the height of the pandemic in the spring of 2020 this involved redesigning projects; developing new printing processes; purchasing and distributing materials for home printing; and producing video demonstrations. To help students complete the semester I packed and delivered/shipped boxes of materials to students; filmed and edited 12 demonstration videos; refined my skills in and taught web design to advanced students; and created an international student competition called *Lockdown Prints* in which students developed home processes, created prints, and made handouts to teach their methods to others.

In the fall of 2020 I continued my curricular adjustments creating a hybrid delivery format that allowed students to work safely in the printshop. This involved the further incorporation of unconventional printing practices that could be implemented at home and the development, filming, and editing of 50 additional demonstrations and lectures. I continue to use many of these videos today as well as film new demonstrations to expand in-class instruction and support student success.

To view my printmaking demonstration videos, please visit: <https://www.charlesbeneke.com/distinguished-professor-application/>

In addition to my work in Printmaking, I have also undertaken other curricular responsibilities since my promotion to the rank of Professor. These include:

- Southern College, Birmingham, Alabama.
No Walls for Printmaking, 2019 Guanlan Forum, China Printmaking Museum, Guanlan, China.
- 2018 **Fresh 2018 Artist's Panel**, Summit ArtSpace, Akron, Ohio.
Opening Ceremony, Texchange, SGC International 2019 Annual Conference, Dallas, Texas.
Alison Saar Introduction (Lifetime Achievement in Printmaking Award), Texchange, SGC International 2019 Annual Conference, Dallas, Texas.
- 2017 **Disturbance: Three Artist's Talks**, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio.
Disturbance: Three Artist's Talks, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia.
Why?, Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland, Ohio.
Why?, Three Minutes to Midnight, Terminus: 2017 SGC International Annual Conference Atlanta, Georgia, March 17, 2017.
- 2016 **Buckets, Clouds & Beasts**, What STEM Learns from US, Flux: 2016 SGC International Annual Conference, Portland, Oregon, March 31, 2016.
Radiative Forcing, Hoshimoto Lecture Series, Utah State University, Caine College of the Arts, Logan, Utah.
- 2015 **Trajectory**, Dialogues on Democracy, Hathaway Brown School, Cleveland, Ohio.
Specter, Gallery Talk, Akron Art Museum, Akron, Ohio.
- 2014 **Artificial Nature: Building an Ecological Vision through Printmaking**, "Vortex or My Life as an Unnatural Disaster," Print City Detroit, 2014, Mid-America Print Council Conference 2014, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan.
Radiative Forcing, The University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Visiting Artist/Scholars Sponsored

- 2024 **Joseph Lupo**, West Virginia University, Charleston, West Virginia. *thINKeditions* Visiting Printmaker, comics workshops, and public lecture.
- 2021 **Myles Calvert**, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, South Carolina. Exhibition and virtual public lecture.
- 2020 **Sarah Ellis**, Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky. *thINKeditions* Visiting Printmaker and public lecture.
- 2019 **Tanja Softic**, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia. *thINKeditions* Visiting Printmaker and public lecture.
- 2018 **Emmy Lingscheit**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. *thINKeditions* Visiting Printmaker and public lecture.
- 2017 **Michelle Martin**, The University of Tulsa, Tulsa, Oklahoma. *thINKeditions* Visiting Printmaker and public lecture.
- 2016 **Kathryn Polk**, The University of Arizona, Tuscon, Arizona. *thINKeditions* Visiting Printmaker and public lecture.
- Kate Bingaman-Burt**, Portland, Oregon. Workshop and public lecture.

- serving as the Emily Davis Gallery Interim Director in which I supervised and the organized the exhibition calendar for the gallery; planned, installed, and deinstalled exhibitions; supervised Arts Administration graduate student assistants; and supervised undergraduate gallery interns,
- serving as the ART 499 Honors in Art faculty advisor in which I designed and implemented the student production of self-published or print on demand thesis books to document and serve as records of student Honors in Art projects for the Honors College and Myers School of Art, and
- coordinating the Foundation Forum: Studio & Foundation Forum: Lecture curricula design.

Superior Evaluations by Peers and Students

Student evaluations since I was promoted to the rank of professor have continued to rank in the excellent (4 to 5) range. Student comments are consistently positive.

Student Work Samples

To view samples of student work, please visit:

<https://www.charlesbeneke.com/distinguished-professor-application/>

Program Recognition

The University of Akron Myers School of Art Printmaking Program has received national recognition from my participation in SGC International (SGCI) and the Mid-America Print Council (MAPC), our nations most prominent printmaking organizations. One of the highlights of conferences is the Open Portfolio at which attendees display their work and discuss it with other conference attendees and members of the public. Printmaking faculty actively participate in the Open Portfolios as individuals presenting work, but more importantly serve as mentors giving feedback to undergraduate, graduate, emerging printmakers, and colleagues while also recruiting students for graduate programs. Myers printmaking students who have attended conferences were required to participate in Open Portfolios. The experience is always anxiety provoking for first-timers, but is the most anticipated event for them at future conferences. I have invariably received positive comments on my students, their work, and the strength with which they present themselves.

Another conference event at which our program has been distinguished is the Exchange Portfolio. At conferences there are many curated portfolios of prints. To compliment these invited portfolios there is always an Exchange Portfolio in which anyone can participate. Awards are presented for practicing, emerging, and student printmakers. Myers students Winnie Dalbaugh and Chad Uehlein won the student awards in two consecutive years.

thINKeditions & Visiting Printmakers Sponsored

Visiting artist programs provide rich, diverse educational experiences for students, faculty, and the extended community in the visual arts. I am always amazed by these opportunities' deep impact. One can almost see students' minds opening to their potential as they interact with visiting artists.

Visiting Artists expand the Myers School of Art's printmaking curriculum by providing:

- 2015 **Jenny Schmid**, The University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. *thINKeditions* Visiting Printmaker and public lecture.
- 2014 **The Little Friends of Printmaking**, Los Angeles, California. Myers Residency and public lecture.
Mark Hosford, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. *thINKeditions* Visiting Printmaker and public lecture.
- 2013 **Adam Leestma and Sage Perrott**, Elkins, West Virginia. *thINKeditions* Visiting Emerging Printmaker and public lecture.
Sue Hershberger Yoder, Stow, Ohio.
Taryn McMahon, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.
Randy Bolton, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. *thINKeditions* Visiting Printmaker and public lecture.

Conferences Attended

- 2019 **Texchange**, Southern Graphics Council International Conference, Dallas, TX.
Guanlan Forum, China Printmaking Museum, Guanlan, China.
Venice Bienalle, Venice, Italy.
- 2018 **Altered Landscapes**, Southern Graphics Council International Conference, Las Vegas, NV.
- 2017 **Terminus**, Southern Graphics Council International Conference Atlanta, GA.
- 2016 **Flux**, Southern Graphics Council International Conference, Portland, Oregon.
- 2015 **Sphere**, Southern Graphics Council International Conference, Knoxville, TN.
- 2014 **Bridges**, Southern Graphics Council International Conference, San Francisco, CA.
Print City, Mid America Print Council Biennial Conference in Detroit, MI.
- 2013 **Print MKE**, Southern Graphic Council International Conference, Milwaukee, WI.

Student Travel

- 2019 **Texchange**, Southern Graphics Council International Conference, Dallas, TX.
Venice Bienalle, Venice, Italy.
- 2018 **Altered Landscapes**, Southern Graphics Council International Conference, Las Vegas, NV.
Franz Masereel Centrum, Student Residency, Kasterlee. Side trips to Brussels, Antwerp, and Bruges.
- 2017 **Terminus**, Southern Graphics Council International Conference Atlanta, GA.
- 2016 **Flux**, Southern Graphics Council International Conference, Portland, Oregon.
- 2015 **Sphere**, Southern Graphics Council International Conference, Knoxville, TN.
- 2014 **Bridges**, Southern Graphics Council International Conference, San Francisco, CA.
Print City, Mid America Print Council Biennial Conference in Detroit, MI.
- 2013 **Print MKE**, Southern Graphic Council International Conference, Milwaukee, WI.

- in-depth introduction to the artwork, conceptual framework, and studio practices of visiting artists,
- expanded exposure to specific expertise in the diverse media that fall under the umbrella of printmaking,
- opportunities to interact with printmakers of demographics differing from Myers art faculty,
- experiential learning through assisting in the production of fine art, limited edition prints, and
- critical feedback from nationally and internationally recognized printmakers.

thINKeditions, the Myers School of Art's subscription print club that I founded in 2010, has become an exceptionally rewarding part of our printmaking program. This self-supporting program brings in a visiting printmaker each year. These individuals produce an edition of prints with the assistance of our students and faculty. They also run workshops and present public lectures. Individuals who choose to become members of the subscription print club for \$250 receive a print from the edition completed during residencies. This experiential opportunity is not only valuable for students participating in the production of a prominent printmaker's print, but also for the Akron community members who are presented with the opportunity to collect prints at a very affordable price and visit our printshop to observe print production.

To view *thINKeditions* prints, please visit:

<https://www.charlesbeneke.com/distinguished-professor-application/>

Visiting Artists Sponsored since beginning my career at The University of Akron Myers School of Art:

- *thINKeditions* Visiting Printmakers: 11
- *thINKeditions* Visiting Emerging Printmakers: 4
- Visiting Printmakers: 16
- Total: 31

Visiting Artists Sponsored since promotion to professor:

- *thINKeditions* Visiting Printmakers: 9
- *thINKeditions* Visiting Emerging Printmakers: 2
- Visiting Printmakers: 5
- Total: 16

Visiting Artist/Guest Lecturer/Panelist

I have consistently served as a visiting artist; conducted workshops; given public lectures; served as a panelist; and presented at regional institutions, colleges and universities nationwide, and national and international conferences. Sharing my knowledge of diverse printmaking processes and my working methodologies beyond the UA campus provides me the chance to understand my pedagogy and practice from a higher perspective through the instruction of different cohorts of learners and provides opportunities to promote The University of Akron to audiences far beyond the regional reach of our institution. Interaction with students, faculty, and community members on these occasions provides critical insight into my skills as an educator and presenter. Invariably I learn new approaches to printmaking that I bring back to my classroom to enrich the educational opportunities of Myers School of Art students.

These opportunities have also been of vital importance to my growth as an artist. While they are a natural extension of both my teaching and creative practice, they have provided the additional benefit of putting me in a place of reflection upon the greater body of my work—rather than singular projects—and my context within the contemporary print world. These occasions have yielded insight into my practice and illuminated avenues for new directions in my work as an individual who creates imagery that is both two-dimensional and installation/sculpturally based.

Since beginning my career at The University of Akron Myers School of Art this has included:

- Visiting Artist: 27
- Public Lecture & Panel Presentations: 44
- Panels Chaired: 8

Since promotion to the rank of professor (2013) this has included:

- Visiting Artist: 8
- Public Lecture & Panel Presentations: 22
- Panels Chaired: 1

Pedagogical Organizations

Participation as a member in national and international pedagogical organizations has been a vital part of my career as an artist and educator. This activity has not only ensured that I am always up to date in my knowledge of the evolution of contemporary print practice and understanding of the history of printmaking, but it has also helped

me build relationships with printmakers from every state and countries across the world—Poland, China, Romania, Finland, Pakistan, Bulgaria, Mexico, Thailand, Argentina, Great Britain, Iran, Spain

The breadth of my expanded education through pedagogical organizations has inspired me to give back to these organizations to ensure their continued health and future growth as drivers in education. I have held various board positions for both organizations including being president of both SGCI and MAPC. Details of these activities are addressed in the service section of this dossier.

Student Travel

I have regularly attended SGCI and MAPC conferences taking as many as 12 students with me. There are many events geared for a broad audience while there are also opportunities geared specifically towards faculty, practicing artists, and students. It has been rewarding seeing students make lasting connections that have fostered collaborative projects with students at other universities and gaining valuable critical feedback on their work from professors at other universities. Upon returning it is clear that students have learned the value of travel, lifelong learning, engaging with diverse peers, and pushing oneself beyond the limits of one's comfort zone.

The Folk Charitable Foundation Venice Biennale International Travel and Study of Art Scholarship is presented to Myers students who are outstanding in their academics, creative work, and service to the school. I traveled with students to the Biennale in the fall of 2019. The opportunity to travel with students on this trip was a dream and I am eager to lead it again with Emily Davis Gallery director Arnie Tunstall in the fall of 2024. Seeing the Venice Biennale is incredible. Seeing it with students and experiencing Venice with them is exhilarating. For many students this is their first opportunity to travel internationally and for some their first opportunity to see a large art festival. The entire trip, whether visiting venues and exhibitions with students or hearing about their group adventures over dinner, is magic!

The Franz Masereel Centrum is an active artist's residency program for printmakers with established careers much of the year. Certain periods, however, are reserved for academic programs to bring their students for week-long residencies in which they have full access to the printmaking studios and stay in the residency's iconic A-frame lodgings. Prof. Hui-Chu Ying organized a residency for our students in the fall of 2018 and I accompanied her to work with students in the printshop and assist in supporting their adventures. Our students were paired with student from a Swiss university for residency. Myers students did outstanding work and took full advantage of the opportunity to explore new processes and use equipment to which they have no access in our home printshop. Students shopped riding by bike to Kasterlee and cooked for themselves. Work days were interspersed with day trips to spectacular Bruges and to Antwerp to visit the Plantin-Moretus Museum, a world renowned printing museum. The residency ended with an exhibition of all students work and we closed our group's time there with a communal dinner that we all cooked for each other. It has been amazing to see the lasting impact the adventure had upon our students and the creative growth that it fostered in their work.

Student Success

Printmaking Major Career Successes

- River Butcher, comedian, writer, producer featured on Comedy Central, Conan, HBO, and Ellen.
- Sarah Ellis, Assistant Professor, Jacksonville State University.
- Danielle Kramer, Chief Operating Officer and Producer, Exactly Right Media (podcast network).
- Stevie Tanner, Cleveland Institute of Art Printmaking Studio Manager.

Printmaking Major and Minor Graduate School Placement

- River Butcher, University of Notre Dame
- Alexandria Couch, Yale University
- Ryan Craycraft, University of Delaware
- Sarah Ellis, University of North Texas
- Nathaniel Gilchrist, Northern Illinois University
- Fred Hirshman Savannah College of Art & Design
- Emily Nicastrò, University of North Texas
- Emily Poor, Cranbrook Academy of Art
- Stevie Tanner, University of Delaware
- Anna Young, Cranbrook Academy of Art