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If there is one thing Georgia Southern University professor Jessica Burke has learned, it is to experience the world with an open mind and to not be afraid of something just because it is different or unfamiliar.

Burke is an assistant professor of art and the director of the Foundations Program in the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art. She is originally from Wichita, Kan., and attended Oklahoma State University for her bachelor’s degree. She says her years as an undergrad taught her a lot about pursuing art as a career.

“During my undergraduate experience, I had amazing professors that encouraged me to change my major from Political Science to Fine Art. Tough decision to explain to my folks, but in hindsight, one of the best decisions I have ever made. I was also able to take advantage of so many opportunities beyond the classroom/studio,” Burke said.

She says she would not change a thing about her life or the experiences that she has had while living it. She loves her students, but a few of the things some of them do really get under her skin.

“I love my students, and generally they make me very proud, but it is one of my pet peeves when they use their cell phones during class and try to covertly text, email, and/or update various social media,” she said.
Professor Hines receives several accolades this summer

August 30, 2013

PDN (Photo District News) Photo Annual recently named BFSDoSArts Photography Professor Jessica Hines as their 2013 winner in the Personal Category for her photos included in My Brothers War. PDN is a respected photography publication based out of New York City. For her award, Hines received will a Nielsen Photo Group membership which includes; subscriptions to PDN® and Rangefinder magazines, a PDN® PHOTOPLUS International Conference + Expo Gold Expo Pass, a PhotoServe portfolio ($860 value) and discounts on Rangefinder, WPPI and PDN®contests.

Hines’ work entitled “Southern Stories” was also featured in Elizabeth Avedon’s blog. Avedon is a Photography Book and Exhibition Design Expert.

Currently on display, Hines’ photos are being featured in War/Photography: Images of Armed Conflict and its Aftermath at the Annenberg Space for Photography, Los Angeles, CA. Her work can also be seen on their website in a slideshow presentation.

Posted in Archive, Faculty & Staff, Noteworthy

Tags: Jessica Hines
One of Suwanee’s most iconic figures has been returned to the city and is being prepared for permanent display.

The 9/11 artifact that has been dubbed Remembrance is now resting on a base in Town Center Park, after having been in storage and to Georgia Southern University since its original arrival.

The 1,600 pound piece of steel from one of the destroyed World Trade Center towers originally arrived from New York in 2011. It was formally dedicated in September 2011, and for awhile was placed in front of City Hall.

City officials felt better treatment was necessary, and so Georgia Southern artist Marc Moulton was commissioned last November to work up a permanent display.

Work is still in progress. The display will have a base about 30 feet in diameter, and it will be fashioned like a sundial. The base is expected to contain a timeline of events as they unfolded on September 11, 2001.

A dedication for the new display is scheduled for September 11, 2013.

Posted in Archive, Faculty & Staff, Noteworthy

Tags: Marc Moulton
MFA Candidate Virginia Russell to complete residency at Penland

August 30, 2013

Master of Fine Arts Candidate Virginia Russell has been accepted to complete a prestigious residency at the Penland School of Craft, North Carolina. Her eight-week assistantship will begin on September 23, where she will be working with Karen Newgard and Liz Sparks during a clay session. This session will explore techniques for making pots by pushing the limits of clay on and off the wheel. Glazing will also be an important part of this workshop.

Founded in 1929 by Lucy Morgan, Penland School was originally an outgrowth of a craft-based economic development project she had started several years earlier. When Morgan retired in 1962, she was succeeded by Bill Brown who updated and expanded the school's offerings, added longer fall and spring sessions, and created resident artist programs at the school. Today, Penland encompasses about 400 acres and 51 buildings, and more than 1,200 people come each year seeking instruction.

Posted in Archive, Awards and Recognition, Noteworthy

Tags: Master of Fine Arts, Student Success, Virginia Russell