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# Graduate students attend Art Basel Miami Beach; Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art van painted by Kenny Scharf

DECEMBER 18, 2015

Earlier this month, nine Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) graduate candidates from the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art (BFSDoArt) drove to Miami, Florida, for Art Basel Miami Beach, a large international art fair that connects artists, gallerists and collectors from around the globe. They returned with a greater understanding of the art world and a department van which is now itself a work of art.

Each year, Art Basel shows significant work from the masters of Modern and Contemporary art as well as work from emerging artists. There are sculptures, paintings, installations, photographs, films, large-scale artworks, films and performances.

Gallery Director and Professor Jason Hoelscher, M.F.A., and the students attended Basel and several other art fairs including Ink, Aqua, Untitled, Scope, Pulse and NADA. In all, they took in about 600 galleries worth of exhibitions.

Hoelscher introduced students to several regional and New York City-based gallerists, artists and curators, helping students to begin establishing their professional networks.

"They all seem to have had their minds suitably blown," Hoelscher said. "It was a great opportunity



*Artist Kenny Scharf*

for us to introduce them to the great, wide world of art. I think it helped them to understand what they can do in the real world once they complete their M.F.A."

The group also had an opportunity to meet well-known, Los Angeles artist Kenny Scharf and see him in action.

A few weeks before the trip to Miami, M.F.A. candidate Courtney Ryan learned

about Scharf's work during a class. She mentioned him in an Instagram post, he responded, and they began corresponding.

"He does these things he calls '[Karbombz](#),'" Ryan said. "For him, they're a way to bring smiles to the roads, so if people are stuck in traffic and getting angry, well then they have something fun to look at."

When Ryan learned Scharf would have pieces presented at Art Basel and would be in Miami working on a mural, she asked if he would be interested in painting a Karbombz on the "Betty Bus," a van donated to the BFSDoArt by benefactor and former First Lady of Georgia, Betty Foy Sanders.

He agreed and the students met him during their final day in Miami. He took a break from the mural to paint the van.

"He was asking us questions about the bus and how it worked," Ryan said. "When he asked what color we wanted our Yikies, we showed him Betty's picture and told him she has these amazing red glasses. So all of the faces painted on the bus are red to represent her glasses."

Scharf, posted this to [Instagram: kennyscharf](#) The nicest MFA students from Georgia Southern University drove down in their "Betty Bus" to ArtBasel and got a Vanbombz! before heading back north.

This trip and others like it are made possible by The Betty Foy Sanders Student Travel Fund. The BFSDoArt is committed to offering quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs that prepare students to become professional artists, designers, art historians and creative leaders.

# College of Health and Human Sciences students embrace service opportunities

DECEMBER 18, 2015



Eight Georgia Southern Sport Management students along with Assistant Professor of Sport Management, Christina Gipson, Ph.D., spent the University's Thanksgiving break volunteering at the AdvoCare Invitational, Nov. 26, 27 and 29, at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex near Orlando, Florida. Each year, ESPN hosts a weekend long affair at the Walt Disney World Resort where participating college basketball teams practice, play and enjoy the Disney World Resort Theme Parks. During the four day event, the students obtained hands-on experience working in the ticket office, working behind the scenes, and shadowing media broadcasting. Students also had the opportunity to

network with sport management professionals, Lou Holtz and Dick Vitale, during a two hour discussion panel.

The School of Human Ecology Fashion Merchandising and Apparel Design students spent Dec. 10 delivering shirts to children at the Statesboro Head Start. As a final project in Apparel I, Assistant Professor Rachel Eike, Ph.D., placed students into small production teams to produce two children's wear button-up the front shirts that would be given to a child in the community in need. Eike stated that the shirts produced through the generous donation of fabric received from Mrs. Amy Floyd and reported that the idea to have the students give back to the community with their final projects came to her at a conference, where another faculty member shared that their students partnered up with local community to construct projects. For the past two semesters, the Apparel I students have made shirts and have stored them in Eike's office. After the students finished their projects this semester, they had roughly 20 shirts completed.

By donating the shirts, Eike hopes that she was



able to "teach the students about giving to others." Arrangements were made with the Statesboro Head Start for the students to deliver the shirts and meet with the children. The students enjoyed being able to give back to the community and feel it was a positive experience.