



Welcome to the Winter 2004 issue of Contact. This is the first in a three-part series on the arts at Adrian College, where we'll take a look at some of the interesting things happening in the areas of art and design, theatre, and music.

In this issue, we take a closer look at the art and design department and its alumni. In later issues, we'll cover the other main aspects of the

arts at AC, when we look at the music and theatre departments.

We also use this issue to set up the series with a couple of arts-related articles. Professor Jeff Ball talks about how central the arts are to the AC experience—be it plays, exhibitions, or concerts—and offers a brief argument for the arts.

Ever thought about buying a piece of art? Then you'll want to read Cathie Royer's interview with **Joe DuMouchelle '84**. DuMouchelle actually studied business at Adrian, but you couldn't ask for a more qualified expert on collecting art and artifacts. Hear about his trip to the ruby mines in Pakistan, and pick up some helpful pointers about collecting along the way.

Just to mix it up a little bit, we also include an article that doesn't have anything to do with the arts. The story about Cambios explains some preliminary research by two AC professors that they find really promising.

Before you check the issue out for yourself, let me point out one new feature. At various places throughout the magazine, you'll notice a mouse icon. When you see that little guy, it means that more information on the topic can be found online. Through conversations with alumni, it's apparent that not everyone is yet aware that the online version of Contact even exists. Not only is the site up and running, but it now has a new, user-friendly address: **contact.adrian.edu**. The online version has most of the content of the printed version, plus web-only features. Whenever you're connected, Contact is just a click away.

Brad Whitehouse

Brad Whitehouse, Editor

I just read your piece on Don Kleinsmith in the fall issue of Contact. Mr. Kleinsmith was my advisor and a good friend. I remember when I had him for freshman English, he took us to the Croswell Opera House to see "Death of a Salesman." He would also read to us every Friday at the end of class the Two-Minute Mystery of Dr. Haledjian. When I became an English teacher, I got a copy of that book and read it to my students on Friday as well. He just did a lot of neat little things that I, and I think a lot of other students that had his classes, will always remember. Thanks for reminding me about him and my wonderful years at Adrian.

Brian Jones '88
Sandusky, Mich.



A Renaissance In The Arts

I grew up in an atmosphere where the arts were highly valued. My mother was an accomplished artist who taught drawing and painting at the high school and college levels. One brother followed in her foot-

steps, pursuing a very successful career as an artist and professor of art. My other brother is a capable pianist and singer. Unfortunately, my artistic career was limited to several walk-on parts in college productions when I was a child and an untold number of piano lessons with no discernible progress. (I'm afraid the lure of athletic pursuits was more powerful than the desire to go beyond scales and simple pieces. Lack of talents may also have entered in.) Still, early in my life I gained a deep appreciation of the arts as a unique medium for expressing human thoughts, emotions and possibilities.

I have very much enjoyed, therefore, being at Adrian at a time when the arts have experienced a renaissance. A part of what has occurred is simply a growth in participation in our traditional programs. The choir, now 90 strong, has returned to the size and quality it enjoyed several decades ago. There is sufficient interest and talent to produce an ambitious array of theatrical productions each year, including student written, directed and acted one act plays, an excellent musical and several other major plays. Both the number of art majors, and the quantity of excellent art produced by students, continues to rise. (In an effort to accommodate the growing demands for space for artists, we're including studios in the new Ridge Student Center.)

Crossover opportunities are also growing. We are now producing graduates with specialized training in art therapy. They benefit from a partnership we have developed with the Adrian Training School, which houses teenagers with serious behavioral problems. Students are also selecting concentrations in arts management and musical theatre. Most encouraging may be the widespread participation in the arts by students who are not art or music or theatre majors, but who paint and sing and perform for sheer enjoyment and as a valuable element in their broad-based liberal arts experience.

At Adrian we believe that the best undergraduate education is characterized by breadth and balance. We seek to produce graduates who know how to bring to bear the wisdom of many disciplines and many viewpoints. We want our graduates to understand and accommodate a wide variety of cultures and cultural expressions. We want them to be agile thinkers and effective problem solvers. And we attempt to help them find balance and fulfillment, to know how to survive the inevitable twists and turns of life.

The arts are an essential element of this approach to education. I have no doubt that many of our graduates will look back on this aspect of their undergraduate experience as one of the most enjoyable and useful chapters in their Adrian College careers.

Stanley Caine

Stanley Caine, President