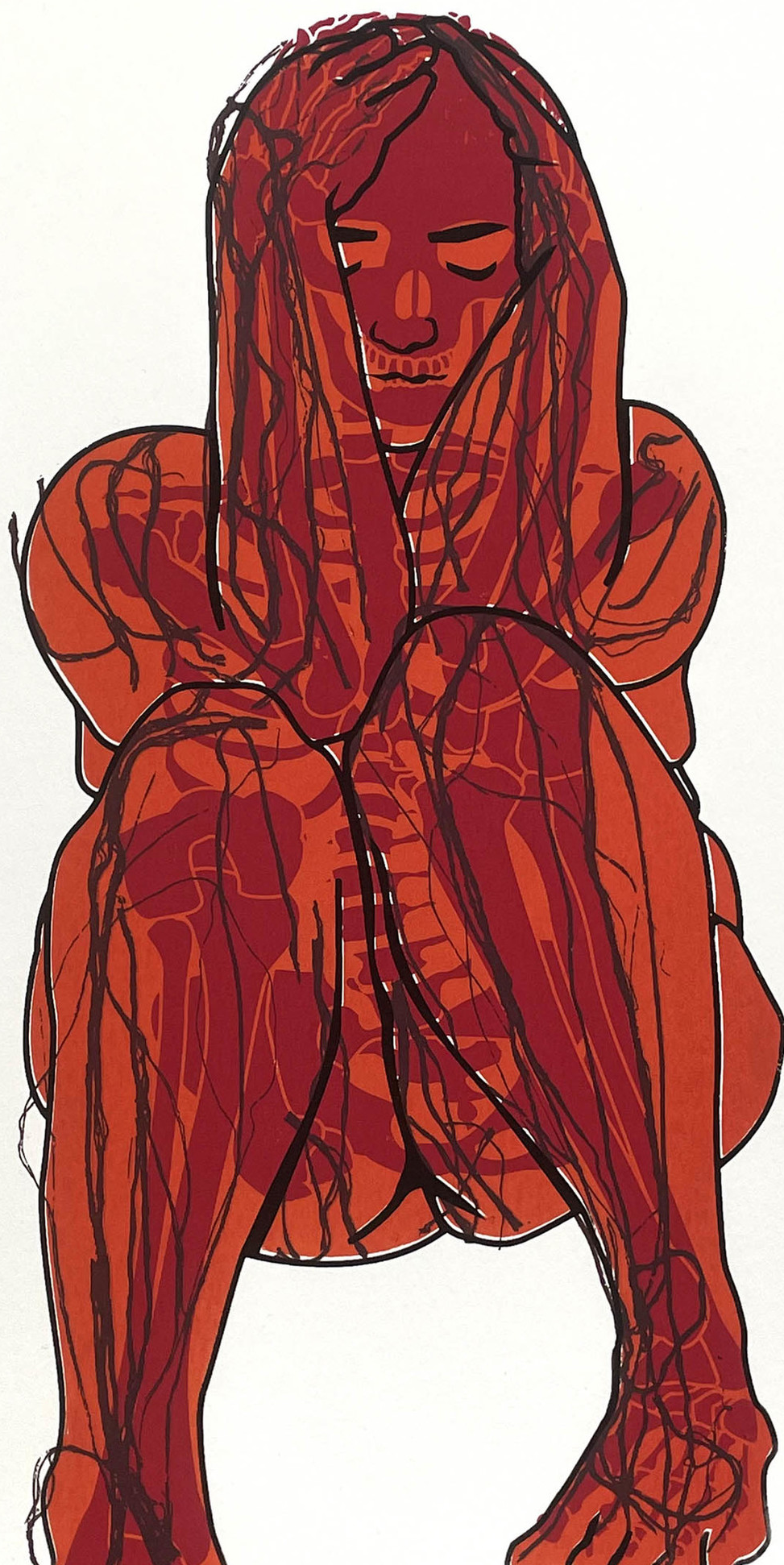




Pennsylvania College
of Art & Design





Work by Alice Bent '27, Fine Art.

Upcoming Events

May 2 Class of 2025 Commencement, 10 am, Barshinger Center for Musical Arts, 520 College Ave., Lancaster (**ticketed event**), [livestream here](#)

May 2 Senior Show & Celebration, throughout campus, open to public 5-9 pm


May 3 Senior Show & Celebration, 10 am to 5 pm, throughout campus

May 4 Senior Show & Celebration, noon to 3 pm, throughout campus

May 7 ReMake Learning Days Creative Playground event, 3-6 pm, campus (*see below*)




May 14 CCE Art Recess for Adults, 4:30-6:30 pm, Zoetropolis (*see below*)

May 18 CCE Art at Brunch, 11 am to 2 pm, Zoetropolis



Pennsylvania College of **ART&DESIGN**

204 North Prince Street, Lancaster, PA 17603
717.396.7833 | 800.689.0379



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[PCA&D STUDENT PORTAL](#) [FACULTY/STAFF PORTAL](#)

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New Parent Portal is now live

The Parents Council requested that the College create a Parents Portal just for you. You can also find it at the bottom of the pcad.edu homepage. We hope you will find useful information here.

PARENT PORTAL

Returning? Remember today's FAFSA deadline

A message from Director of Financial Aid & Student Employment Vincent Frank:

This is a friendly reminder that the deadline for Pennsylvania residents to apply for Financial Aid for the 2025-26 school year is TODAY, May 1. If you have not already done this, please do so immediately at studentaid.gov.

This is especially urgent for Pennsylvania residents because the FAFSA must be submitted by May 1 in order to be considered for the Pennsylvania State Grant. The PA State Grant is worth up to \$5,750, which is free money that does not need to be repaid. If you complete the FAFSA *after* May 1, you will automatically be ineligible for the PA State Grant for the entire 2025-26 academic year.

If you do not receive the PA State Grant as a result of missing the filing deadline, please be aware that PCA&D will be unable to replace it with institutional grants.

Several states and U.S. territories (including Delaware, Ohio, West Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Vermont) have reciprocity with Pennsylvania, meaning their state grants may be used at Pennsylvania schools. If you reside in one of those locations, you will need to check with the grant agency for your state or territory for deadlines and other details.

If you need assistance completing the FAFSA, or if you have any other questions or concerns, please reach out to Frank at vfrank@pcad.edu, or Room 209.

News for parents and families of 2025 seniors

Parents and families, at a recent event geared toward our Class of 2025, graduating seniors were presented with the tickets necessary to attend our May 2 graduation ceremonies in person. **A ticket will be required for entry**, so please don't forget to bring yours along on the big day! There also will be a livestream of the event for those unable to attend in person, and that link will be posted [here](#) closer to the May 2 date.

Information about location of Commencement, including a [downloadable map](#), times, and other graduation details, such as Friday through Sunday Senior Show & Celebration hours, can be found [here](#), as well as links to further information if you still have questions. We look forward to welcoming you very soon and to celebrating your student's accomplishments with you!

New grant program for Pennsylvania residents

The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) is administering a new grant program for Pennsylvania residents called the Grow PA Scholarship Grant Program. It provides up to \$5,000 annually in grants to those who participate in one of over 460 majors.

There are numerous caveats, including a requirement to work in Pennsylvania after graduation in an "in-demand occupation" for as many years as the grant is received; if that is not met, then the grant will retroactively turn into a loan that must be repaid to PHEAA.

For a list of qualifying majors, in-demand occupations, and other criteria related to the Grow PA Scholarship Grant Program, please click the following link:

<https://www.pheaa.org/funding-opportunities/grow-pa-scholarship-grant-program>

If your student is a Pennsylvania resident and intends to remain in Pennsylvania after graduation and work in one of the qualifying occupations, they're urged to apply for this.

Funds are limited, and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. For

more information, contact PCA&D's Director of Financial Aid & Student

Employment **Vince Frank** at vfrank@pcad.edu.



Come visit alumni in the Art Garden on May 3

As part of Lancaster City's ArtWalk celebrations, Pennsylvania College of Art & Design's Alumni Council is hosting a meetup in the College's Art Garden on May 3, from 10 am to 4 pm. Come join us at the corner of Prince and Chestnut streets for some family crafts in partnership with the Center for Creative Exploration, a display of alumni art, a chalk spray mural, and more fun! Rain location is in the College Atrium. ArtWalk itself continues Sunday, May 4, from noon to 4 pm, and you can [find a map here](#) of all the exciting locations. We're No. 12 on the map with our Senior Show!



Atrium renovations get underway this month

In just a week, renovations to the College's Atrium space get underway!

Until mid-August, we'll be undertaking a major (and long-awaited!) Atrium refresh under the design guidance of Tippetts/Weaver Architects, and the management of Benchmark Construction. A few highlights: reimagining the current stairwell to the Mezzanine level to include a seating wall; the addition of two new "social pods" for students to meet up at the top of the stairs; the inclusion of retractable hanging scrims that may be used to separate parts of the Atrium or as projection screens to animate the space; and new flooring. It's a big change from the current space, and we're excited to see how our student body enlivens the space when classes get started again this August! The Tippetts/Weaver schematic above should give you a basic idea of the final plans.

The shows must go on: Educating a rising workforce

THE LIVE EXPERIENCE INDUSTRY has long been hampered with our power, attracting talented professionals who work their magic behind the scenes to pull off productions that delight and astound audiences. For decades, this workforce honed its craft through an ad hoc mentorship model, with career veterans sharing their knowledge with apprentices. Let's face it: it's a cool industry, and there was a seemingly endless stream of young people eager to gain a foothold in all elements of backstage production, willing to do the grunt work to gain experience.

It is important to professionalize our work.

The worldwide work stoppage in the industry during the pandemic broke this model, resulting in massive attrition as workers retired or transitioned into other industries. We saw more than a third of our most skilled talent leave and never come back, which resulted in losing that brain trust of mentorship. The pandemic years also revealed problems in our industry that can no longer be ignored as our industry matures as a professional career pathway.

As I see it, there are four key problems affecting the four factors to address in our industry: the lack of talent to support the industry; the lack of talent to support the industry; the lack of talent to support the industry; the lack of talent to support the industry.

Lack of talent to support the industry
As an industry, we have a mishmash of training programs that leave it to each individual employer to outline what skills are required

to meet the needs of roles in our industry. This disjointedness has led to an inability to effectively on-ramp new entry-level talent into our industry, shows them a clear career path and the growth skills needed to achieve advancement level, and effectively measure the volume and economic contribution of that broad employee base at a federal level. It's a vicious cycle that we can break by solving for better entry-level skill set training, clear delineation of skills required for roles, and becoming visible in the context of the federal government and broader economy.

Lack of uniformity in the skill sets
Every employer, union, or individual contractor has their own idea of what they need for training (some programs are better defined than others), but none of them is aligned to any overarching standard that could uplift the entire industry by de-siloing the path required to grow from an entry-level employee in the industry through the advancement of higher roles and the additional skills or certifications required to achieve that.

The training model of the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees (IATSE) union is robust, as are many large private employers; however, only the members or employees of each organization can attend these trainings and, as a result, they are siloed. Universal standards and certifications are needed to professionalize our industry.

Three years ago, Jim Digby and I hosted the Creative Industry Roundtable. Instead of one leader attempting to speak on behalf of the whole event industry, we flipped that model to host a table of key industry influencers that as a body represented all the stakeholders. Each year, the group selects the most important and

timely effort to put their collective support behind. In 2024, that effort was workforce development. The result was to rally in support of the EEVDF (Events Education Workforce Development Federation) with Laura Pulker and her initiative to update the NAICS codes, ONET codes, and a career cluster framework that would benefit everyone across the entire event industry.

Lack of uniformity in funding and support to properly develop our workforce, we need standardized funding and support. This doesn't mean that we need one entity to rule them all because frankly, we are an industry of creatives who tend to recoil at the idea of centralized authority. But we do need consensus and collaboration to grow to our potential.

The Creative Industry Roundtable also resulted in forming The Exhibitions & Events Empowerment Foundation with founding board members Laura Pulker and Odie Perkins as co-chairs, Mark Johnson as vice chair, Erin Grube as Secretary, and myself as treasurer, with strategic adviser Jim Digby. This Foundation will act to secure funding by way of grants and sponsorships that can then be given to organizations in need of support who are directly working on industry training or workforce development programs, including apprenticeships.

Too many siloed groups working out of sync
Our industry developed organically, serving many different audiences and stakeholders across the globe, but as shows move from regional productions to worldwide tours, standardization is paramount so that we all can share a common technical language, even when we don't share a native tongue. When

we are in silos, our initiatives can work against each other and are especially confounding to a young workforce without enough hands-on experience to be discerning. We can tend toward tribalism in our own clubs of people on tour or at industry events. While this can serve to build camaraderie and belonging during a production, it doesn't serve as a welcoming model for those hoping to break into the industry.

To combat these problems, I see six solutions that can change this dynamic:

- **Entry-level and intermediate student education:** We need to engage the great resources and training facilities that already exist and coordinate and collaborate for a more unified set of career cluster frameworks.
- **Workplace on-ramping:** We need to codify observation programs, pre-apprenticeships, and apprenticeships to ensure we continue to have great on-the-job training resources.
- **Mentorship from experts in the field:** As our industry grows, we need more opportunities to garner advanced knowledge. A way to do this is by making training available to entry-level employees through numerous organizations and trade show environments, including NAMM, LDI, InfoComm, USITT, and others.
- **Funding to move initiatives forward:** In order to effectively see industry-wide projects through, we need more centralized funding resources. The formation of the Exhibitions & Events Empowerment Foundation aims to secure larger government funding and disburse funds to organizations that meet specific criteria for workforce development.
- **Access to trade certifications:** After seeing the need, IATA has pioneered this with IETCP certifications in rigging and electrical (with variations of each). Additionally, Audiovisual and Integrated Experience Association (AVIXA) offers professional certifications in AV design knowledge, installation, and networking.
- **Access to national standards:** By adopting national standards in the industry, we could



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ADC Tracks introduces 3 new automation products voted "Best New Products" in their categories by LDI judges and PLSN Magazine. Hottie & The Blowfish agree, proving ADC reliability and durability in their 44-city tour.

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unify the capabilities in the workforce. Currently, ANSI standards are available for free through IATA. Groups of industry experts write the standards, which are exclusive to the industry, covering things like rigging, lighting, video, staging, fog effects, etc. The Event Safety Alliance has also published The Event Safety Guide (part of which is an ANSI standard), which is billed as "the definitive collection of event safety knowledge." By making their annual conference

open to students, it's a real opportunity to obtain this knowledge at the start of a career.

Many of us in the industry are already working toward these solutions. We all know that a concerted effort to build the next generation workforce is imperative, especially with so many mentors gone. We have a real skill shortage in the industry. As we look toward our future, it is important to

PCA&D/ALT highlighted in industry publication

Protocol, a publication of the entertainment technology industry, has published a think piece highlighting the partnership between Pennsylvania College of Art & Design and the Academy of Live Technology at Rock Lititz in its Spring issue. ALT is the home of the College's Live Experience Design & Production major. The article is authored by Todd Spencer, President of Ventana, a business consulting firm that specializes in serving event, entertainment, and hospitality companies. *The Shows Must Go On: Educating a rising workforce* focuses on the need of the live event industry to renew itself after the pandemic, and the vital role that training and educational initiatives such as the PCA&D/ALT partnership provide. You can read the full Protocol piece [here](#); it begins on Page 8.

Demuth Invitational highlights 5 with PCA&D ties

Five artists with Pennsylvania College of Art & Design ties are featured in the Demuth Invitational, one of the region's most prestigious exhibitions. *In Good Company: Demuth Invitational*, is on display at the Demuth Museum, 120 E. King St., Lancaster, through June 15 and work highlighted includes that of **Evan Kitson '10** (adjunct, Fine Art), **Leah Limpert Walt '18** (adjunct, Foundation, Illustration, & Center for Creative Exploration), Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs **Justin Phillips '01**, **Aaron M. Thompson** (assistant professor, Fine Art & Foundation), and **Christine Welch** (PCA&D co-founder). [Go here](#) for more information about the exhibition.

ReMake Learning Days, a creative playground

A free ReMake Learning Days Creative Playground event will be held on campus Wednesday, May 7, from 3-6 pm. Open Process art and making for parents and younger children with Lancaster TotSpot, mindful making with Hillside Place Studio, and open art tables staffed by the College's Center for Creative Exploration. Funded by ReMake Learning Days... see you there for creativity and fun!



Award-winning work by Emma Ries, left, and Ryan Gano.

Ries, Gano win Graphic Design honors

Congratulations to **Emma Ries** and **Ryan Gano**, who have been named winners in the 2025 The Real Show Student Design Competition. Both are Class of 2026 Graphic Design majors. Ries is a Gold Award winner for her PSA on banned books, "FReadom", and Gano was recognized as a winner for his PSA design on a healthcare "Monopoly" parody. The contest is sponsored by AIGA DC/Communication Arts Magazine, and presented by George Mason University School of Art.

PCA&D-Zayed exchange
explores 'Searching'



Photo by Tamara Lugardo.

The PCA&D-Zayed Photography Exchange has released its final post of the academic year -- don't miss checking it out! This final prompt was "Searching." PCA&D students whose work is featured include **Allie Bretz** '26, PHV; **Lauren Veloz Castillo** '27, Design Thinking; **Kiri Chhun** '25, PHV; **Kaylyn Cuff** '28, PHV; **Elaina Darr** '27, PHV; **Rylee Hohney** '25, PHV; **Owen Knauer** '27, PHV; **Tamara Lugardo** '27, PHV; **Dahlia Navarro** '27, PHV; **Robin Salsman** '27, PHV; **Bee Taylor** '26, PHV; **Aswan Warren** '26, PHV; **Autumn Woods** '27, PHV; and **Sam Yesko** '26, PHV.

The photographs on this blog are the result of a cultural exchange between photography students studying at the College of Art and Creative Enterprise, Zayed University in Abu Dhabi and Pennsylvania College of Art & Design.

FACULTY LIFE GRANT RECIPIENTS

Tyler Kline
Benjamin Lowery
Stephanie Manzi
Paul Rider
Aaron Thompson
Leah Limpert Walt
Eric Weeks

2021-2024

New exhibition in the Main Gallery

Pennsylvania College of Art & Design has welcomed a new Main Gallery exhibition highlighting PCA&D's commitment to educating not only our students but also our faculty in the pursuit of lifelong learning and professional development. The seven exhibiting artists have received grants from the College to attend residencies or courses where work was produced or new skills and techniques were learned. The artwork on view is a

result of those experiences, either created at the time or through applying what they learned to new work.

May Art Recess is a Hillside collaboration

May's Art Recess for Adults, sponsored by PCA&D's Center for Creative Exploration, is a collaboration with Hillside Place Studio. Founded by artist and educator **Stephanie Deininger**, Hillside is centered on investigating the connections between the creative arts and therapeutic benefits in the context of wellness/well-being. This month, Art Recess for Adults explores a "sense of place" as the theme for reflection and mindfulness. Dive into abstraction and collage techniques to create work and think about how and why we travel and what landscapes can represent for us as we take a mini holiday. See you May 14, from 4:30-6:30 pm, at Zoetropolis, 112 N. Water St., Lancaster. Suggested \$2 donation.



CCE's summer camps, classes, and workshops are now open for registration

The College's Center for Creative Exploration is open to all members of the public, with experiences that are a great way to stretch your creative wings and knowledge. Explore options for [Adult Enrichment](#), [Pre-College for High School Students](#), as

well as [Young Artist options for Grades 1-9](#). Curate your own creative camp experience for your young artist!

Of special note: There are more than 60 offerings for Young Artists--so, if you're looking for summer vacation options for your student, click on that Young Artist link above and take a look at our wide variety of choices for creative exploration!

If you're not sure what a friend or loved one would want to study, give them a choice: CCE Gift Cards are a great option! You can purchase those by clicking on the blue button below.

CCE GIFT CARDS



Recent PCA&D accomplishments ...

- Congratulations to **Kiri Chhun '25**, Photography & Video, who served as the official Media Intern for Lancaster City Restaurant Week. Chhun, whose favorite form of photography is portraiture, had an amazing experience, which you can follow [here](#). To see more of Chhun's work, [visit his website](#).
- **Daniel Fishel** (adjunct, Illustration) has had work chosen for the American Illustration 44 annual. The piece, for Spotlight PA, conceptualized local protection agencies' lack of response to elder adults suspected of suffering from abuse and neglect. Based in Philadelphia, they joined PCA&D for the Fall 2024 semester. You can see more of their work at o-fishel.com/.
- **Mike Hawthorne** (adjunct, Illustration) was one of the artists who recently completed a mural of Puerto Rican superhero La Borinqueña in Philadelphia with the support of Mural Arts Philadelphia. "My vision," said La Borinqueña creator Edgardo Miranda-Rodriguez on Instagram, "was to give the Puerto Rican community public art that celebrated the biodiversity of our Caribbean archipelago Borikén and the historic women that from the islands to the United States contributed to our shared culture nations." Miranda-Rodriguez's exhibition, *Arte de La Borinqueña*, was featured in the College's Main Gallery in 2023.
- **Amelia Mellberg '21**, Illustration, has illustrated a full-length children's book. "Time for Speech", by Sandy Harberg, walks a child through a speech therapy session so they know what to expect. You can learn more about the project [here](#).
- **Alanna Peck '20**, Graphic Design, has begun a new position as Graphic Designer with N.K.S. Distributors, Delaware.

- **Jason Ward** (adjunct, Fine Art/Foundation/Illustration) joined Anya Goldina from Elizabethtown College last month for "Anatomy: An Artistic Study of the Human Form" at the Lancaster Medical Heritage Museum. The pair addressed anatomy from two perspectives, artistic and medical.
 - *Modern Mythos*, an exhibition by **Kelby Weaver** '24, illustration, opened for April First Friday at Lancaster Art Vault, 100n N. Queen St. Weaver presented an Artist Talk on Saturday, April 26, and also has exhibited at Seasons Taproom and at Rock Lititz. To see more of Weaver's work, visit his website [here](#).
 - *Apparition*, work by **Sam Yesko** '26, Photography & Video, will be featured at [Decode Gallery](#) in Tucson, Ariz., through May as part of their Self Portrait Exhibition.
 - Congratulations to **Robert Young** (Chair, Illustration), who has had two entries chosen for this year's [American Illustration 44](#) annual.
-

How we share news with your student

We encourage you to ask your student if they are checking their email and the College's social media accounts to stay updated:

- The [College Instagram account at @pcad_edu](#) shares announcements and reminders.
- The [College Facebook account](#) does the same.
- Early each Monday morning year-round, *This Week at PCA&D* lands in your student's College email Inbox. This newsletter brings students up to date on what will be going on around campus and Lancaster that coming week. Gallery events, speakers, clubs, and more are all here.
- Every Friday, our *Student Opportunities* newsletter goes out via College email. This newsletter contains art-related internship, job, and volunteer opportunities both on campus and off.

PCA&D uses a mix of all of these resources to keep our whole campus community up to date. And, of course, there's this monthly newsletter aimed at families, which joins monthly communications to alumni and our community of supporters.



Find and engage with us on social media

Parents, an easy way to keep up with PCA&D events, news, celebrations, and announcements is to follow us on social media! We share everything from student artwork and awards to upcoming exhibitions, faculty, staff, and student accomplishments, and need-to-know updates on what's going on at PCA&D. See you online!

Facebook: Find us [here](#).

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