2017/18 Letterpress Annual report  
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**Shop Use**

During the 2017-2018 academic year Letterpress open studio hours were held on Mondays from 9am-12pm, Tuesdays from 1pm-8pm, and Thursdays from 2:30pm-6:30pm in the Spring and Mondays 12:30pm - 5:30pm, Wednesdays 12:30-4:30pm, and Thursdays 2:30-6:30pm in the Fall. Our total attendance for the school year was 486 visitors. This number accounts for students and faculty who chose to utilize the sign-in sheets at the front door and does not include the advance and intermediate students who were given permission to use the letterpress shop outside of open studio hours.

Shop demonstrations were offered to classes and organizations outside of open studio hours.

August 28th - Christian Vargas printing wedding invitations
August 31st - Graphic Design and Law Student (David Samples) making poster to advertise UTK Law School

September 6 - Printmaking and English students
September 7 - Printmaking students
September 12 - Polish Exchange Students
September 13 - English Students for Poster Project
September 14 - English Students for demo
September 15 - Ellen Orner for personal project
September 18 - April Martin (MFA) and graphic design students
September 20th - MFA for printing
September 26 - Staff (Ellen Orner) and English students
September 27th - Graphic Design and MFA for Business Cards
September 28th - Hillary Haven’s English class for demonstration, Graphic Design BFA, (Poetry BFA) Wedding Invitations
October 2nd - Sculpture MFA and Printmaking MFA
October 3rd - Painting MFA
October 10 - Law Student

October 4th - 101 Foundations (Christian Varagas Class)

October 14 - English and Graphic Design BFA students

October 15 - Handbills (Katie Miller)

October 19 - Graphic Design BFA

October 20 - Architecture Demo

October 26 - Architecture Department Class Visit

October 30 - Demo for English Department, MFLL (Personal Project)

November 1 - English 411

November 2 - English Students, Printmaking MFA (Ashlee Mays)

November 6 - Painting MFA

November 15 - BFA 103 Students

November 16 - Information Sciences MFA for Wedding Invitations and TBA MFA

November 18 - English Students

November 21 - English Students

November 27 - Graphic Design 103

November 30 - English and Graphic Design

December 1 - English Students

December 4 - Graphic Design and English Students

January 23rd - Graphic Design

January 25th - Enligh Professor (Hillary Havens) and Painting MFA

February 8 - Painting MFA for bookmaking

February 12 - Dr. Mary Campbell (Valentines Day Cards)

February 13 - ARC Inquiry

February 19 - Printmaking MFA for show Invitations

February 20 - 103 Bookmaking Project

February 22 - Printmaking MFA (Love is An American Value Posters)

February 24 - ART 291 Poster Project

February 26 - MSIS (personal Project)
February 27 - Book Arts Class (Bryan Cook)
March 1 - Architecture Class Presentation
March 5 - BCMB Personal Project (“Fun!”)
March 6 - Graphic Design Students
March 9 - English Demo (Hillary Havens’ class)
March 13 - Art 103 (Personal Project)
March 21 - Demo Intro to Poetry Class (Gerard Cohen-Vrignaud) and English Department Demo
March 22nd - Printmaking MFA and Bookmaking Class Project
March 24 - Printmaking Technitian (Personal Project)
March 27 - Intermediate Printmaking Class
March 29 - Intermediate Printmaking
March 31st - Graphic Design
April 3rd - Hillary Havens English Class Demo
April 5 - English Department Poster Assignment and Printing Demo
April 7 - Roane State Community College Visitors for Demo, Printmaking MFA (Johanna Winters making posters for Performance Night)
April 10 - English Department and Neuroscience Department Student (“for fun”)
April 12 - English Department
April 16 - English Department
April 17 - English Department
April 19 - Graphic Design for Independent Study
April 23 - 103 Artist Book Class
April 24 - English Department students
April 25 - Foreign Language Student (independent project)
April 26 - 302 English Student
May 3rd - Graphic Design student (Independent Project)

During the course of the year, the Letterpress shop brought in students and faculty from a diverse range of departments. This included Printmaking, Graphic Design, the Law School, Architecture, Neurosciences, Foreign Language, Polish Exchange students and many more. One
of the largest presences this year was the English students. Professor Hillary Havens and Gerard Cohen brought two classes per semester each in for assignments as well as completing their own letterpress printed posters. Bryan Baker’s bookmaking class also used the space frequently to complete several bookmaking assignments.

Beyond the presence of class assignments, independent projects blossomed this semester. Printmaking MFA candidate, Ashlee Mays used the letterpress studio to produce posters reading “Love is An American Value”. The posters were hung publicly across the campus to create a positive environment in the face of some select hostile protest groups.

On a smaller scale, individuals who had visited the letterpress shop for projects would return independently to make their own projects. It was not uncommon on the sign in sheet to find “Fun!” written under the “Reason for Visiting” box. The majority of these students were not art majors but rather studied Law, Foreign Language, and science.

Visits to the Letterpress shop this year have quadrupled since the 2016-17 fall and spring semester.

SPECIAL PROJECTS / IMPROVEMENTS

In an effort to continue to not only act as an educational resource but also provide service to varying campus institutions we spent this semester working on a number of special projects.

One of those projects is the new tradition of creating custom letterpress posters for visiting artists in the Art and Architecture lecture series. We were commissioned to create art posters for visiting artists (Kathryn Polk and Moreshin Allayari) in both Printmaking and Time Based Art. The finished posters not only incorporated letterpress but screen print as well.

Another significant special project undertaken this semester happened in conjunction with the Hodges library lecture series and panel related to Martin Luther. Alex McKenzie and Emmett Merrill performed a live printing session during one of the panel’s using a small platen press. The prints included quotes from Luther and were distributed at no charge to the public in attendance.

Improvements to the shop came largely in the form of type reorganization and the fixing and adjustment of the shop’s smaller platen presses.

Suggested improvements for the future consist of more specificity in scheduling class projects the involve letterpress use. For the majority of the second semester there were often 5-8 students in the shop at a time due to overlapping due dates and limited shop hours. The shop really should only have 2-4 students working in the space at a time. Exceeding this number results in students putting type and spacing away incorrectly and ultimately renders the shop ill prepared for future use. It should become strict policy that any class wishing to use the shop for a project must schedule their use in the first two weeks of the semester.
TYPE

We have a large collection of the following lead typefaces: Bodoni, Universe, Cheltenham, Craw Clarendon, Wedding Text, Romany, Spartan, Bodoni, Stymie, Bernhard, Franklin Gothic, Nubian, Gothic Condensed and more. Wood type styles range from antiques to goths, with various weights of gothic faces making up the majority. Several type cases were resorted along with line spacing and thin copper and brass spacing for ease of use. The shop contains a wide selection of random image plates, dingbats, rules, cuts, and mechanical photo-image plates that visitors can add to their compositions.

In an effort to aid in the layout of the shop we reorganized and consolidated larger lead spacing above 30 points. We also added another of wooden furniture to the shop.

PRESSES

The Vandercook SP-15 continues to be the workhorse of the shop, however this year we did see increased use of a number of the smaller platen presses for various projects. The Challenge press has ceased function completely this year as it needs to have new chains installed on the underside of the press bed.

EQUIPMENT

The studio continues to use rubber based inks as well as a small selection of oil based inks. The shop has tools for cutting leading and a miter cutter. While the current paper cutter is sharp and functions decently well the guard and measurement bar are not entirely accurate and could be replaced.

BUDGET

All expenses for equipment maintenance, paper, inks and solvents are provided through the printmaking lab fees. Due to the higher volume of students using the shop this semester, predominantly from the Art and English Departments, we recommend an increase in the budget specifically for paper. Paper was the most fragile resource this year, it was necessary to restock five different times this year (a vast increase from the previous year).