This academic year Letterpress open studio hours were held on Mondays from 12:30 – 4pm, Tuesdays from 9am to 12:30pm and Wednesdays from 9 am to 4 pm. Our total attendance for the school year was 234 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 offered to classes outside of open studio hours include:

08/29/2019: Beauvais Lyons’ ARTA 361 Intermediate Printmaking Workshop class

09/11/2019: Hillary Haven’s English 209 class

09/18/2019: Jake Miller and Marla Sweitzer’s Foundations 103 class

09/16/2019: Hillary Haven’s English 412 Class (This class would return multiple times over the next month to complete their letterpress assignment)

11/06/2019: John Power’s Sculpture and Systems class

01/27/2020: Mary Campbell made posters to promote her ARTH 173 class

02/05/2020: Hillary Havens’ English 424 class

02/11/2020: Beauvais Lyons’ Book Arts and Papermaking class

02/18/2020: Hillary Havens’ English 302 class

02/25/2020: Angelina Parrino’s Foundations 103 class

This year we successfully promoted the Letterpress Studio with posters and a campus wide public event. Visitors came from a variety of disciplines such as Graphic Design, English, Psychology, Computer Sciences, 4D, Foundations, Photography, Architecture, Math, Restaurant Chain Management, History, and School of Art Graduate Students. Multiple students visited the
shop independently to learn how to make their own posters, business cards, and wedding invitations. They were assisted with typesetting, printing, multiple color registration, book making, and basic design.

The English Department has continued to be a strong and recurring presence in the Letterpress studio, hosting four classes over the past year. To prevent bottlenecking, the class demonstrations and assignment due dates were spread out over the semester. Beyond introductory demonstrations, Ashlee Mays and Emmett Merrill worked one on one with each student to assist them in completing their assignments and pushed them to experiment with different colors and layers to develop more dynamic posters. Professor Hillary Havens also contributed 100 sheets of French Paper to the shop.

Beauvais Lyon’s students in both his Intermediate printmaking class and book making class made use of the shop during open hours as well as evening class hours. The Intermediate students were asked to include a letterpress element in their monotype assignment while the book making class experimented with registering letterpress text on foldable zines.

One foundations class per semester used the Vandercook for their book making assignments.

One of the more experimental classes to make use of the shop this year was John Power’s Sculpture and Systems class. The students used the CNC router to create relief blocks on MDF at 12.5 x 19 (the same size of the French Paper we use). They were prompted to experiment with layer colors and patterns to create dynamic and experimental compositions. This project allowed the students to make use of Transparent base and rainbow rolls while layering their woodcuts. The class returned every Wednesday in October to complete this assignment. I highly recommend that the letterpress shop continue to work with John Powers’ classes in the future and perhaps recreate this assignment. The students were very receptive and made some amazing prints.

It should be noted that there was an immediate drop off in attendance in the Spring 2020 semester with the outbreak of COVID-19 and the shop was closed on March 23, 2020 to prevent further spread of the virus. Many students were unable to complete in process assignments when the University transitioned into remote online teaching for the remainder of the semester.

Events

The Kelsey press was used in the Print Club tent at the 225th Anniversary Circle Park Block party on Tuesday September 10th, 2019 from 4 - 7pm. A custom type-high plate with the Block Party’s logo was ordered by Professor Beauvais Lyons. Visitors to the tent were invited to pull their own take away prints from this block. The event also included a demonstration showing screenprinting posters of the 225 logo.
Using the Kelsey Press to demonstrate letterpress printing during the 225 Block Party.

**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. We also have a full set of large wood type that appears to have been unnoticed and unused until now.

The Hellbox of type still sits full of unsorted and abandoned type-faces, but Bryan Baker designed a sorting system for lost type so that in the Fall semester is may slowly but easily be returned to its original drawers. This system involves sorting the abandoned type into galley trays by point size and then returning the type to their correct cases. This should be an on-going practice for technicians on slow days in the shop.

During Fall clean-up day, thanks to the aid of foundations students, we were able to re-sort a majority of abandoned galley trays. We also encourage foundations clean-up to annually have
students assist in letterpress as well as 137 and 443. The impact is extremely beneficial for the order of the letterpress shop.

In the future, we encourage professors and students to NOT USE VEGETABLE OIL as a means for cleaning type or the press. The oil dries and glues the type together, causing damage to the letters when students tend to throw them against the table to break them apart. The oil also gunks up the press bed and track. We should use a solvent based press wash (such as odorless mineral spirits) or lithotine.

Presses

The Challenge Press is still not in complete working order, however thanks to the contribution of Bryan Baker of Striped Light, we were able to clean the chains allowing the press bed to move again. We also cleaned and replaced the rollers. In theory, it should be able to function manually, but it does need to have the pressure re-adjusted. We recommend contacting Bryan Baker to continue work on the press, as it will make printing with students more efficient.

The press has been raised onto scrap wood furniture, as it was previously sinking into the rubber mat. When the school reopens, the shop technicians should replace the furniture with 2 x 4's.

The Kelsey Press was serviced by Bryan Baker before the UT 225 Celebration Event.

The Vandercook SP15 is working well and we will complete a deep clean in May and will replace the backing sheets in the drum.

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, and continues to hold a floor unity corner-rounder that is not in working order. The cutting mats and paper cutter are a benefit to the shop. We also set up a sheet of plate glass near the ink shelves to make that work area more serviceable for mixing inks.

The far-right type case is in need of repair. We removed the type drawers from it because the case was beginning to cave in. We put the drawers of type in a new case, replacing empty drawers that we put upside down in the broken case. This may be an easy fix, but until then, I feel that this switch makes the type more accessible in a working case. We might also look for a used type case to replace this current one.

We removed one of the furniture cases as having three cases of furniture was excessive for the traffic we have in the shop. We also believe that having a third furniture case promoted poor furniture sorting (too many open spaces to hide extra furniture).
The wood spacing has been resorted and any extras, or strange sizes have been gathered and prepared to cut down at Striped Light in August.

**Budget**

All expenses of equipment maintenance, paper, inks and solvents are provided through printmaking lab fees and partially through the foundations program. This year we spent approximately $659.25 on paper over two paper orders throughout the year. It is advised that a new paper order should be made in advance of the Fall 2020 semester. Given their extensive use of the facility, continuing to get financial support from the Department of English to purchase paper is appropriate.

As most foundation classes have mandatory use of the letterpress shop, we believe it would be beneficial to have some foundations students help clean the shop on end of semester cleaning day. They were a huge help to us this year and we hope foundations can continue to send a few students to help out at the end of every semester. In addition, each student is allowed 10 sheets of French Paper paid for by the print department so we believe this assistance is a fair trade.

David Harman, owner Native Maps, donated his end sheets of large scale French paper. This paper stock should be cut down into a manageable size in the Fall semester and I expect this will save the shop a lot of money on paper orders. It is currently residing in French paper boxes in the entrance hallway.