

January 10, 2014

Happy New Year and welcome back!

We certainly have started the New Year with a memorable blast of winter! With 12-14" of snow on the campus and temperatures ranging from 0 to -15 degrees Fahrenheit, we are reminded yet again that nature is an unpredictable, powerful force indeed. I hope each of you made it through this past week relatively unscathed. I think perhaps we are paying for the mild winters of the last couple of years!

After a short delay, the Cranbrook Community is once again open and full of activity. Across the campus, roads and parking lots are clear and we stand ready to offer a wide range of exciting programs and experiences to alleviate any "cabin fever" you may be experiencing. A special "thank you" to our landscaping crew for working around-the-clock to help us reopen.

Cranbrook Schools starts the year looking forward as they prepare for their annual Winter Open House for prospective students on January 12. These twice annual recruitment events offer families the chance to meet some of our extraordinary faculty, get an up-close look at our facilities, and speak with members of our admissions team. Those who attend find out why a Cranbrook education truly offers opportunities that last a lifetime. If you know of a family who would appreciate the Cranbrook experience, I hope you will invite them to attend.

The School's annual World Affairs seminar on February 21 will focus on Global Health. Guest lecturers include members of the Lacks family who discovered, decades after the fact, that a family member's cells were being used in laboratories around the world, as documented in the international bestseller, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. Other guest speakers will be featured along with 20 student-led workshops in which participants will engage in a range of "healthy" activities including yoga, meditation, Tai Chi and dance.

Please mark your calendars to attend Cranbrook School's annual musical. This year's musical is *Meet Me in St. Louis* with performances on February 21, 22, and 28, and March 1.

Our sophomores will soon experience one of Cranbrook School's most unique programs during The Wilderness Expedition March 8-19. This 10-day backpacking and wilderness camping trip takes students to the rugged Smoky Mountains in the Nantahala and Cherokee National Forests along the North Carolina-Tennessee border. Participants are organized into crews of 8-10 students and accompanied by two adult leaders and a student leader. During the Expedition, each crew is introduced to an exciting and rugged wilderness environment that develops in our students a positive attitude towards challenging situations while teaching specific outdoor skills.

Brookside kicks off its annual fundraising events on February 7 with the Kaleidoscope "Great Gatsby Gala" Parton Party at the Townsend Hotel. On March 8, the strolling dinner and auction, "Kaleidoscope Drives Woodward" will be held at Brookside School. I hope you consider attending these important events for Brookside.

In the Art precinct, a series of lectures and events will take place weekly through the end of March ... from a look at how curatorial work occurs and an in-depth exploration of Cranbrook's unique connection to the early automotive industry, to an artist talk by living legend William Wegman, perhaps best known for his iconic Weimaraner photos. Also of particular note will be the lecture by Brett Littman, who is the director of The Drawing Center in New York, and the book launch of the catalogue for the Museum's current exhibition, *My Brain is in My Inkstand: Drawing as Thinking and Process*. This complex and fascinating exhibition examines the work of 22 artists, redefining the notion of drawing as a thinking process in the arts and sciences alike.

The Art Academy is in the middle of its "high season" for recruiting and admissions, with applications due on February 1. Our current second-year students are busily creating their thesis projects and contemplating the Graduate Degree Exhibition, which will culminate their time at Cranbrook. The Academy's annual Degree Exhibition opens to the public on April 20, 2014.

At the Institute of Science, we are pleased to announce the return of our lecture series in partnership with The Nature Conservancy. This popular series brings the intellectual and cultural resources of one of the nation's leading guardians of our natural resources to the Institute of Science. The lectures kick off on January 23 when Aquatic Ecologist Matt Herbert discusses efforts to reduce the impact of invasive species in the Great Lakes. Other Nature Conservancy lectures follows once monthly through April. Plus, if you have yet to experience the Institute's 6,000-square-foot travelling exhibition, *Dinosaurs-The Lost World*, now is a terrific time to visit, in advance of the returning school crowds. This remarkable, self-produced show is the largest dinosaur exhibition currently in the Midwest, and was curated by the Institute's own John Zawiskie.

House and Gardens closes a very cold January by bringing blooming plants to the exterior of Cranbrook in the form of polychrome photographs on aluminum. This unique event is called *Winter in Bloom-Laurie Tennent Botanicals* and captures several of the Cranbrook Gardens' specimens in such detail that visitors will believe they are back in the midst of the summer bloom in our beautiful gardens! The event includes a fundraiser cocktail party on Friday, January 31, followed by a free outdoor tour the next day. At the very least, this colorful installation will serve as a reminder that spring will indeed return.

Last year the popular PBS *Antiques Roadshow* visited Cranbrook. You won't want to miss the February 10 episode of the show on Detroit Public Television, which will feature Saarinen House and objects from the collections. Tune in to experience one of Cranbrook's historic houses when their visit is broadcast to more than 10 million viewers.

Recently I had the opportunity to talk with President Emeritus, Dr. Lillian Bauder about her time at Cranbrook (from 1983 until 1996). This quote from Lillian captures so nicely how she felt about her experience here: "This place--Cranbrook--challenges people toward excellence, sustains them while they engage in the challenge, and, for those who are fortunate enough to be a part of Cranbrook for a period of time, enters them. They become a part of Cranbrook, and Cranbrook becomes a part of them."

Lillian's statement reminded me of the timelessness of what we do here, and how much Cranbrook comes to mean to those of us who steward this place for future generations. Please know that I appreciate each and every one of you for being among those who "engage in the challenge" of Cranbrook and make it a part of who you are.

If you would like additional information on the programming and events mentioned in this letter, please visit our website www.cranbrook.edu or call 248.645.3000.

I look forward to sharing an exciting 2014 at Cranbrook with you. As always, I am interested in your thoughts and ideas. Please feel free to contact me.

Very Best Wishes,

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