

Alfred University

February 2021

Out of the Classroom

A newsletter of faculty activities and accomplishments

Andy Shome spoke at the [Artificial Intelligence and Education](#) Virtual Conference held in India and sponsored by the government of India on November 2, 2020. The synopsis of the presentation is titled “The Inevitability of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Higher Education and Why AI Will Help Us Become Outstanding Educators.” Andy presented his thoughts on, using artificial intelligence and digital platforms combined with Socratic pedagogy to make higher education relevant to each student and scale this innovative pedagogy to a cohort of 1000 in his undergraduate business classroom.



Peter von Stackelberg presented a webinar entitled “Art Styles: Challenges & Solutions for Digital Artists” on Jan. 16, 2021. The webinar focuses on techniques for identifying and developing unique visual styles for digital artwork used in graphic novels, illustrated stories, and other forms of visual storytelling. The webinar was presented in Digital Art Live, a monthly publication, published in Europe. This is the ninth in a series of webinars von Stackelberg has done on visual storytelling.

Niki Tulk was voted vice president of the national organization Women and Theatre Program (WTP) and will step into the role as President in August 2021.

The organization’s mission is to bring theatre professionals together with academics and activists. In the years since their inception, WTP has sponsored panels and activities at ATHE’s (Association for Theatre in Higher Education) annual conference. In 1980, WTP began holding its own annual pre-ATHE conference. WTP conferences feature panels, informal discussions, workshops, and performances as a means to foster both research and production of feminist theatre activities. WTP conference topics have included the intersection of theory and performance, multicultural theatre, lesbian theory and theatre, and many related aspects of feminist inquiry. The continuing goal of WTP is to enable feminist inquiry and to provide opportunities for discussion between those who teach, perform, and theorize about feminism, theatre, and performance.

Dr. Xingwu Wang’s article [Can Mobile Information Communication Technologies \(ICTs\) Promote the Development of Renewables? – Evidence from Seven Countries](#) published on ScienceDirect.

Raul Barcenes led two professional development sessions at the New Mexico Music Educators Association Professional Development Virtual Convention on Friday, January 8, and Saturday, January 9. He presented “Leading in a Culture that Can’t Change: How to Successfully Navigate your New Position Confidently Amongst Obstacles” and “Redefining Musical Intuitiveness in a COVID Classroom: Exploring Resources, Modalities, and Technology in Teaching Music” with over 120 New Mexico music educators in attendance. These sessions are designed to help active secondary and elementary music teachers, who usually teach in active modes, find ways to best teach students in less-than-ideal situations in order to create an optimal environment for young musicians. Raul has actively worked to help music educators across the country navigate instructional responsibilities throughout the pandemic and has standing invitations at other state conferences.

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Drawing from resources at Scholes Library, Associate Professor of Art History **Meghen Jones** presented the paper “Tomimoto Kenkichi’s *My Ceramics Making* and the West” at the Nov. 29 online symposium *Waga Tōki Tsukuri (My Ceramics Making)* hosted by the [Arts Resources Research Center of the Kyoto City University of Arts](#) on Nov. 29 (all in Japanese). The symposium celebrated the republication of Tomimoto’s groundbreaking 1952 ceramic art textbook, *My Ceramics Making*. Her presentation compared how individualism, modernist “pure” form, and creativity were addressed in the Japanese textbook vs. counterparts published in Euro-America such as Charles Fergus Binns’s *Potter’s Craft* and Daniel Rhodes’s *Clay and Glazes for the Potter*. Other online events in the fall included guest lecturing on the topic of Peter Voulkos and Japan for former AU professor Ezra Shale’s *Ceramics as Cultural Identity* course at the Massachusetts College of Art, and speaking at a [Ceramic Object Study Session](#) panel led by AU alum Garth Johnson at the Everson Museum on the occasion of the exhibition “The Floating Bridge: Postmodern and Contemporary Japanese Ceramics.” In July, she was interviewed for the podcast [Michigan Talks Japan](#), with conversation on topics such as genres of Japanese ceramics, her 2019 co-edited book [Ceramics and Modernity in Japan](#), and research for the upcoming Alfred Ceramic Art Museum exhibition *Path of the Tea Bowl*.



Photo from the Everson Event, November 2020

Samantha Dannick had her article, "[The Invertebrates Scale of Librarianship](#)" published in *College & Research Libraries News*.

Dr. Rob Reginio of the English Division organized, led, and presented on the panel "The Persistence of Bob Dylan: Damaged Life, Endurance, and History." The panel was presented and received positive responses at the 2021 Modern Language Association's annual international conference in January. The panel was selected as a special session and explored the way Dylan's songs interrogate the discourses of race, nation, and law that are of pressing importance at this historical moment. Dr. Reginio and his co-panelists are working on a book based on the work they presented during the conference.

Karen L. Porter, Professor of Sociology, Division of Social Sciences, completed work on a specialized services contract with ACCORD Corporation, the lead agency for a planning grant from the Western NY Health Foundation, to address poverty in Allegany County. Karen supervised the work of four student interns from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, all sociology majors: Sydney Dominick, Trinniti Gunn, Amanda Meehan, and Elliott Safford who gathered and analyzed data from local participants in both a community forum and in focus groups. The results of the project, "Voices of Poverty: A Call to Action in Allegany County," were shared in a final report to the Western NY Health Foundation.