As we near the end of the 2017-2018 academic year, Dr. Gussak’s position as Department Chair is coming to an end after ten years. Therefore, I have taken the time to reach out to Dr. Gussak and interview him briefly on what it has been like to be the department chair and what changes he has seen during that time.

What was the department like when you first became chair in 2008 vs. now?

I became Chair at the beginning of the recession. At that time, programs were cutting back and there were only five faculty left that were tenured or tenure-track, along with some adjunct professors.

We began an initiative to start rebuilding the faculty, and within a short time, we were able to start replacing positions and creating new lines. Now we have nine faculty, with a tenth coming on board before the end of this semester. We also eliminated the undergraduate program and replaced it with the Five-Year BA in Art/MS in Art Education with Teacher Certification program. That benefited not only our department, but the art department as well and has gone a long way to creating very robust, talented, and dedicated art teachers. We also added a fourth program several years ago – the Museum Exhibition and Visitor-Centered Exhibitions (MEX) program whose focus is "edu-curation."

"We continue to demonstrate that we are on the cutting edge of arts programming."
As a result, we continue to demonstrate that we are on the cutting edge of arts programming. We have also moved twice – once from the basement of the old Johnston building, to Eppes and Kellogg, and then back again to the beautifully renovated and spacious William Johnston Building, which has become one of the centerpieces of this campus.

Our department has changed its focus toward one of social justice, embracing our motto “Art for Life.” As a result, all of our programs have become much more integrated with the various surrounding and even national communities. The job placement rates for all of the programs has increased to more than 90% success within 3-6 months after graduation. Those are just a few examples of the many things that we can point to with pride over the past ten years.

What have you appreciated most during your time as chair?

I have appreciated that the faculty have allowed me to do this job. The faculty have been so much fun to work with, and as all of them are leaders in their respective fields, they understood clearly what it took for me to do this job. Quite honestly, they made this job much easier than it could have been.

"I have also appreciated the opportunity to expand our programs and create some wonderful experiences and opportunities, and being allowed to work on a communal vision of what we can be."
What are your future plans?

My future plans are to continue my work and become much more involved with the Department of Corrections here in Florida as well as Arts in Corrections programs around the country and the world. I am in the middle of a new book that will be completed by December, and I am finalizing the proposal and contract for a second one.

While I have had the ability to continue my research and writing as Chair, I look forward to having an opportunity to expand this work. But most of all, I look forward to spending more time in the classroom, more opportunities for supervising interns, and giving my all to what I really want to do, which is teach the future art therapists.

One thing I won’t miss is sometimes it is not always good to see what is behind the curtain, and to see all the machinations, nuances, and negotiations that occur at every level to make this university and college such a success.

One of the things I will miss is getting the opportunity to work with my fellow Chairs from all the other departments. However, after ten years, it is time for someone else to take this department even further.

What do you hope to see for the future of the department?

I hope that we will continue to improve on our placement rate, our social justice initiatives, and to be one of the top departments in the United States, with each individual program being the top in their respective fields. But most of all, what I really hope is that I will continue to have fun in this job.
EXCITING EVENTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT 2017-2018

2017 Paint-Around Gala & Auction

Spring 2017 Community Mural Project on Gaines Street

Fall 2017 Community Mural Project at AMWAT Moving, Warehousing, and Storage

2018 Art and Education for Social Justice Symposium

2018 Florida Art Therapy Association Symposium and Day-On-The-Hill

2018 Art Therapy Spring Workshop with Dr. Ellen Horovitz

Programmatic alumni receptions held at all professional National Conferences

Spring 2018 Ringling Museum/MEX Field Trip

June 2018 Art Education Workshop with Olivia Gude
Yi-Wen Wei is a current doctoral student in the FSU Department of Art Education in the College of Fine Arts at Florida State University. She was inspired by a dedicated Taiwanese Arts Education professor to follow her dream and pursue a doctoral degree in the United States after being an elementary school teacher for seven years.

Her life journey and work experiences with children from a variety of social and culture backgrounds have cultivated her research interest in exploring the relationship between social class and arts education. Social class, as "an elephant in the room," plays a crucial role in arts education but is rarely discussed. Yi-Wen is committed to devoting her life to promoting arts education for all children.

The Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards is celebrating Women’s History Month by highlighting graduate student research and accomplishments across the university. Department of Art Education doctoral student Yi-Wen Wei was featured on March 13th as a part of the Women’s History Month series.

"I feel encouraged when my research topic is recognized by the National Art Education Foundation Research Grants. To be a committed teacher and future scholar, I will continue to deepen my understanding of art education, gaining real life experiences, and cultivate my leadership skills."
Tama has been employed at the International Center of Photography since graduating from FSU. In the early 2000s, after a “mid-life crisis” she decided to take the New York bar exam and after passing the exam, the position of Legal Counsel for ICP was created for her. Tama’s position as Legal Counsel allows her to work in several different areas, including contracts relating to exhibitions and films as well as work involving museum accreditation, education and tax issues.

She credits Allys Palladino-Craig with influencing her work in museums because of her depth of knowledge about the inner workings of museums, and states that her degree from FSU provided her with a solid base to build experience and an understanding of museum life-cycles.

Mia Ulmer
MS Art Therapy, August, 2017

Ulmer is currently a Provisional Art Therapist and working as an Art Therapist Contractor in Columbia, SC, for four sites. She facilitates art therapy groups for adolescents with substance use and mental health disorders, adults with mental health disorders, and the homeless population with a range of mental health issues. In March, Ulmer will begin working full-time as a Counselor I for Palmetto Health’s Adolescent Recovery Center.

Moreover, Ulmer works as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Art at Claflin University in Orangeburg, SC, where she teaches two Art Appreciation courses. In addition to also working as an Art Instructor at Studio Cellar in Columbia, SC, she volunteers twice a week at the Wm. Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center, where she offers individual and group art therapy sessions for geriatric veterans with dementia. Furthermore, she was a speaker at the SC Department of Corrections 4th Annual Behavioral Health Conference.
On January, 2018, the Department of Art Education in collaboration with the Lamar Dodd School of Art and the School of Social Work, University of Georgia, hosted the 9th annual Art and Design Education for Social Justice Symposium.

Conceptualizing that social justice is a broad objective that inspires an interdisciplinary approach, Art and Education for Social Justice encourages exploration of how art and design can support such initiatives. The goal of the symposium was to share the methodologies and results of practices that strive to have a direct public impact. The encounter focused on the guiding question: How are art and design inspiring, affecting, and promoting social change?

The 9th annual Art and Design Education for Social Justice Symposium provided an opportunity to gain insight into a range of practices aligned with social justice, and aimed to start a conversation across disciplinary areas. It embraced a perspective informed broadly by the notion of cultural pedagogies and looked forward to contributions from both in and outside the field of education.

This Symposium focused on multiple thematic areas that include the power of imagination (Strategies for re-envisioning, re-imagining, or re-conceptualizing our past, present and future), Ethics/aesthetics (projects that develop and contextualize art making as praxis), communities, coalitions and collaboration (critical approaches to participatory projects) and the political now (emergent practices of resistance, resilience and solidarity in the current political climate).

We look forward to our next Symposium in 2020!
The Department of Art Education would like to congratulate Dr. Antonio C. Cuyler for receiving the Diversity & Inclusion Award from the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs (FDCA)!

The FDCA, Florida’s state arts agency, grants the Diversity and Inclusion Awards as a way to identify and acknowledge individuals that significantly endeavor in and are successful at fostering diversity and inclusion within arts and cultural programming in the state of Florida. Recognizing Florida’s diversity as a main quality that results in the state’s vibrant cultural landscape, the Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs utilizes the Diversity & Inclusion Awards Program to further encourage Florida’s cultural organizations to continue their efforts in increasing diversity and inclusion throughout the state.

Recipients of the Diversity & Inclusion Award often address diversity and inclusion in the following areas:

- Demographic Diversity
- Socioeconomic Diversity
- Cultural Heritage
- Sexual Orientation
- Age
- Accessibility

Dr. Cuyler received the Diversity & Inclusion Award from the FDCA for his service learning program that has placed approximately 33 students who have served 1,510 hours in culturally-specific arts organizations that explicitly serve people of color, people with disabilities, and the LGBT+ community through their missions.
ARTS ADMINISTRATION & MEX

In March 2017, Dr. Villeneuve and Dr. Rowson Love saw the publication of their book, Visitor-Centered Exhibitions and Edu-Curation in Art Museums. Edited by Dr. Villeneuve and co-edited by Dr. Rowson Love, the book reflects the visitor-centered philosophy of the MEX program. A collaborative approach to exhibition planning and design, edu-curation combines museum education and exhibitions to create visitor friendly museum experiences.

The book features multiple examples of visitor-centered exhibition practices from different viewpoints and museums from the U. S. and abroad. Most of the chapters are authored by professionals currently working in the field as curators, directors, educators, evaluators, interpretive planners, and professors. In addition, two doctoral students from the MEX program, Jay Boda and Alicia Viera, co-authored a chapter each.

SOUTHEASTERN ARTS LEADERSHIP EDUCATORS

The 2018 SALE Conference was entitled for educators and graduate students intending to become educators in arts leadership. It focused on sharing experiences, challenges, and opportunities, as well as setting a mission, objectives, and a strategy for SALE.

Department presenters included Art Administration’s faculty Dr. Pat Villeneuve and Dr. Antonio Cuyler; doctoral students Jay Boda (from the Museum Education and Visitor-Centered Exhibitions Program), Elise Kieffer, Boyie Kim, and Juyeon Song; and alumna LaToya Davis-Craig (from the FSU College of Fine Arts School Dance).

The Department congratulates the presenters for their outstanding presence and representation at the Inaugural SALE conference!
The Department’s Art Education students, faculty, and alumni attended the 2018 National Art Education Association (NAEA) National Convention in Seattle, Washington. Many FSU students, faculty, and alumni presented and received awards during the convention. Some of the highlights included presenting doctoral students Alexandra Allen, John Jay Boda, Jennifer Hamrock, Ashley Hartman, Cindy Jessup, Annie McFarland, Paige Smith-Wyatt, Yiwen Wei, and Anthony Woodruff. Master’s student Jorge Bustamante, presented as well. Alumni presenters included Jaehan Bae, Minuette Floyd, Karen Hutzel, Allison Paul, Debrah Sickler-Voight, Ansley Simmons, Sunny Spillane, Steve Willis, and Vichien Couper. Professors Rachel Fendler, Dr. Sara Scott Shields, Dr. Pat Villeneuve, Dr. Ann Rowson Love, and Dr. Jeff Broome presented as well. Of note, Dr. Jeff Broome is also the National Higher Education Division Director for the NAEA.

With regards to NAEA awards, Laura Chapman, FSU alumna, received the Eisner Lifetime Achievement Award, while Susannah Brown, FSU alumna, received the Higher Education Art Educator Award. Congratulations to both Chapman and Brown!

When not presenting and attending workshops and presentations, attendees socialized at the FSU NAEA Friends and Family NAEA Reception, which was held on Friday evening at the Gordon Biersch Seattle!

The Department thanks Art Education faculty, students, alumni, friends and family for attending and contributing to such an enriching event!
I feel truly honored to serve as the Interim Chair of the Department of Art Education for the 2018 – 2019 academic year, and to be working alongside my good friend and colleague, Dr. Antonio Cuyler, who has been named Associate Chair. As someone who has a long history of affiliation with the Department—first as an undergraduate (1991-’94), then as a doctoral student (2003-’06), and now as a faculty member (2011-present)—I understand both the historical legacy of our programming and the leaders who have helped to shape it. Our most recent Departmental Chairs—Dr. David Gussak, Dr. Marcia Rosal, Dr. Sally McRorie, and Dr. Tom Anderson—have all left “big shoes” to fill and I’ll do my best to honor the enduring excellence that they, and others before them, have established during their respective tenures. I owe special gratitude to Dr. David Gussak for his mentorship over the past year, his trust in me, and for guiding the department to new heights under his leadership. During Dave’s term the Department has seen tremendous growth including, but not limited to:

- The establishment of new departmental spaces in the recently renovated and state-of-the-art William Johnston Building
- The creation of new programming in Museum Education and Visitor Centered Exhibitions (MEX)
- The implementation of the 5 year combined degree program leading to teacher certification in art education
- Unprecedented growth and accolades for the art therapy program
- A new faculty line in arts administration
- The creation of a new online Masters program in art education

It’s safe to say that the Department has never been in better shape, and that the current faculty are among the most respected leaders in their respective fields in terms of research, teaching, and service. As such, Antonio and I are fortunate to begin our terms with nothing but firm ground to stand upon. We will be working alongside amazing colleagues doing amazing things, and we look forward to collaborating with them all in refining and sharpening our skills in all of the things that we already do so well. Perhaps our biggest task in the year ahead is to keep up with all of the tremendous and positive growth that has happened throughout the Department in recent years. As such, Antonio and I look forward to pursuing opportunities that will help to support the increase in student enrollment in art therapy, in cultivating dynamic internship possibilities in the MEX program, and in nurturing potential growth in arts administration, online programming, and student teaching placements in art education. We look forward to tackling these exciting opportunities by collaborating closely with our outstanding faculty, staff, students, and alumni by providing platforms, support, and trust to succeed and flourish as they always have.
As a two-time alumna of FSU, I am thrilled to have earned promotion & tenure. Not simply because FSU is a research one university, but also because moving to Associate Professor means that the relationship I began developing with the university almost 17 years ago will continue to grow. I am also empowered and incredibly humbled to become the first person of color to earn promotion & tenure in our Department. Hopefully, we will continue this practice so that alumni, faculty, and students benefit from the contributions of diverse faculty. I whole-heartedly believe that a diverse and inclusive FSU makes for a competitive and prosperous FSU. I look forward to continuing to pursue excellence in my research, service, and teaching. I have some really cool projects planned for the next phase of my career, including a book on the careers of executive opera managers of color. Go, Noles!

I returned to Florida State University in fall 2014 to launch the new MA/PhD Museum Education & Visitor-Centered Exhibitions program. It’s been an exciting first few years and journey through the promotion and tenure process. During the first year of our program, I worked with the staff at our partner museum, The Ringling, to establish our visitor studies research agenda and plan for MEX student internships at the museum each fall semester. Each fall, I teach visitor studies at the museum, while the students conduct their internships. In addition to the MEX interns, we have students from Tallahassee who travel to Sarasota for this weekend class, which focuses on applied research methods to better understand visitor experiences in the galleries. I am thrilled to receive promotion and tenure here at FSU and look forward to new adventures in research, teaching, learning, and leadership.
The Department of Art Education is excited to welcome Dr. Barbara Parker-Bell, who joined the faculty as the new Director of the Art Therapy program in January 2017.

Dr. Barbara Parker-Bell grew up in Michigan, receiving her BFA in Drawing and Painting from the University of Michigan. She later received her Masters in Expressive Therapies from Lesley University, and she earned her Doctorate from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine with a focus in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy approaches and health psychology, particularly helping clients cope with medical illnesses.

Dr. Parker-Bell comes to us from her previous position as Professor and Director of the Art Therapy program of Marywood University in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where she served for 16 years. In addition, much of her work involved adults, children, and families with separation anxiety, social phobias, and anxiety resulting from traumatic incidents or health issues.

Her work with clients is guided by a humanistic approach; she states it is very important to her to appreciate the “client as the expert in their journey.” She also finds value in the Cognitive Behavioral Therapy approach and the depth of what can be accomplished with clients through CBT. Dr. Parker-Bell’s extensive clinical experience will help her prepare students not only for what they will experience with clients in the field but also how to work within the system of the clinical world.

In the Fall of 2016, Dr. Parker-Bell received a Fulbright grant in Tomsk, Russia, teaching an undergraduate art therapy class and a Master’s level class in family art therapy. She states that much of her work in Russia centers on understanding different cultures’ approaches to art therapy, and being open, mindful, and supportive of where they are at now, and how multicultural approaches to art therapy may shape our own understanding of the field.

As the new director of the Art Therapy program, Dr. Parker-Bell is most looking forward to the possibilities and collaboration with students and faculty. During visits, she experienced the excitement FSU students and faculty have about their work, and she says that their enthusiasm was infectious. She is very much looking forward to getting to know everyone and collaborating to move the program forward in benefit of the students. We are very excited to have Dr. Parker-Bell join us.