

**Required Final Report for Professional Development Grant**  
**Associate Professor Neal Harrington 4/21/14**

**7. Final Report:**

- Electronic copies of the final written report must be submitted to the department head, dean, and Vice President for Academic Affairs no later than September 30th following the end of the project period. The Vice President for Academic Affairs, in consultation with the Professional Development Committee chair, is responsible for reviewing and approving these reports as needed.
- Grant recipients will not be eligible for future grants until the final report is received and acknowledged.
- The final report must follow the indicated format:
  - A. Title Page
  - B. Restatement of problem researched, creative work, or professional enhancement opportunity
  - C. Brief review of the professional enhancement opportunity, creative work, or research procedure
  - D. Summary of findings, outcomes, or experiences had
  - E. Conclusions and recommendations

**B. Abstract**

My name is Neal Harrington and I am an Associate Professor of Art and Director of Norman Hall Gallery. Norman Hall Gallery presents five to six exhibitions per fiscal year which are funded through the College of Arts and Humanities. I am applying for a Professional Development Grant to fund a special event/exhibition called "Drive By Press". The cost of this event/exhibition lies outside of my normal budgetary allowance.

Drive By Press was founded by Gregory Nanney and Joseph Velasquez in 2005 as a way to share their enthusiasm of woodblock printmaking to people and places around the United States. The duo purchased a van and outfitted it with a printmaking press that slides outside of the van. This allows for convenient printing anywhere the van can go. The result is truly a "drive-by" experience! Drive By Press has visited over 200 Colleges and Universities and has traveled over 200,000 miles visiting just about every state in the union printing their special one of a kind t-shirts at music events, festivals, and academic art departments.

Norman Hall Gallery is an essential resource to the students of Arkansas Tech and the surrounding community by displaying artworks of many styles, mediums, and subjects. The variety of art displayed broadens the learning experience for the viewer. Norman Hall Gallery is committed to educating as well as entertaining the viewer and this event/exhibition is designed to do both.

### **C. Purpose/Objectives**

Drive By Press will provide an exhibition of their vast collection of contemporary woodblock prints during the month of March, in addition to their two-day campus visit.

On the first day of the campus visit, the Drive By Press team will participate in a gallery lecture during the opening reception. This lecture will cover the history of their organization, discussions about the exhibition on display, current trends in the field of printmaking, and things to know about selecting a graduate school.

Day two will involve student critiques with the Drive By Press artists. The critique will consist of reviews of individual art student portfolios. Constructive criticism, other professional opinions, and suggestions will be discussed with the students.

Following the critiques, the Drive By Press team will host an outdoor printing event from the DBP vehicle. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held in the Norman 213 or Norman Hall Gallery. This printing event is a stipulation of their visit to campus. Due to costs, expenditures, and the delay in receiving honorariums, the sales of woodblock printed t-shirts on the campus allows the Drive By Press organization to meet their operational costs. The event would be held from noon until 4:00 pm. Woodblock hand-printed t-shirts will be sold to the student body for \$20.00 per shirt or \$10.00 per shirt if the student supplies their own shirt. The students participate by selecting a design of their choice and participate in printing the image on the shirt.

### **D. Summary of findings, outcomes, or experiences had**

The Art Department had an extremely positive response to the Drive by Press gallery exhibition. As Norman Hall Gallery Director, I would say that it was one of the highest attended opening receptions that we have hosted. Mr. Nanney's artist talk/presentation about the history of the Drive by Press organization was inspired and entertaining. Our students are still talking about this event. Many students participated in one-on-one critiques about their art with one of the Drive by Press artists. The student's future in the art field and practical advice about the next step after receiving their degree was also discussed during the critique.

Day two involved on-site printing of t-shirts with original wood blocks. This was held at BazTech and many shirts were printed and sold. This event was informative and motivational to students. Drive By Press also elaborated further on the inspiration and development of the organization. This showed the students how a simple idea that was tied into a Graduate thesis project could become a successful business venture. It required forethought, planning, and a lot of hard work for Drive By Press to get to this level of success. Several Tech students and faculty purchased shirts and wear them around campus.

## E. Conclusions and recommendations

In conclusion, I feel that this event \touched off a spark of creativity in the Art students and inspired many to pursue their art goals. My recommendation is to host an annual t-shirt printing workshop each year and try to capitalize on the energy and interest that this event has brought to our printmaking program and the art program in general. Personally, I was inspired and in awe of the amount of time and effort that Drive by Press has invested in bringing printmaking to the whole nation.

As they say on their website, "Spread the ink!"

Photographs of the event supplied by Liz Crisman.



Mr. Nannery giving his gallery/artist talk.





T-shirt printing event

