

*ARTS*  
ADMINISTRATION  
at Teachers College  
Columbia University

Greetings, ARAD Alums, One and All!

As the academic term 2011-2012 draws to a close, it's a great opportunity to look back at a watershed year.

It has been a time of reassessment, reorganization and renewal. As you know, I have assumed the position of Program Coordinator and Dr. Ami Kantawala has become Program Manager. We have split the manifold administrative and academic duties required to sustain ARAD, but we work collaboratively. It has been a remarkable time: people have been incredibly generous in offering advice, good wishes and all manner of support.

We held two Town Hall Meetings—one for all current ARADers and the other exclusively for the first years. These were opportunities to complain and critique, to be sure, but also offered the chance for us to brainstorm and envision the future(s), as a community. Some of the questions that were aired afforded easy solutions; others were more complex, addressing longer-term issues and goals. These forums have helped us set an agenda for upcoming years.

We are reviewing the curriculum *in toto*, and will be bringing some new adjunct faculty members on board. And ARAD's PTR—TC-speak for Permission to Recruit—went up against 18 other bids from programs throughout the College, to be allowed to hire a new full-time faculty member. This was the largest number of submissions in recent memory, and the competition was fierce. Happily, ARAD's proposal was one of only six that were funded, which means that next year we will conduct a nation-wide search. Once this is concluded, it will be the first time in the history of the program that we will boast two tenure-eligible faculty members, and it signals a strong vote of confidence by the administration for ARAD's future.

Our students have landed an impressive array of internships, and last year's grads have done remarkably well in a very challenging economic climate. It is solid validation of the high esteem with which arts organizations hold the degrees we award. And we are proud to report that we produced 26 new grads during 2011-12.

We will soon add a part-time professional staff member to the office to co-ordinate internships, alumni relations, Columbia Culture Map and special events. In the past these responsibilities were performed by a second year student, on a rotating basis. By making this an ongoing position, we can insure continuity from year to year and also ramp up these activities.

ARAD sponsored a “mixer” with current students and alumni at the Rubin Museum of Art in April, and we plan to increase such events next year. We will also be working closely with TC’s Career Services and Alumni Relations offices to enhance job opportunities for the students as well as strengthen our ties with all of you. And, of course, we love to hear updates from everyone—reports of both personal and professional accomplishments. Please send your news and current contact details to [aradinternships@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:aradinternships@tc.columbia.edu)

Besides my ARAD duties I am Chair of the FEC [Faculty Executive Committee], the faculty group that sets policy for the College. I had already served on the FEC for four years; it is a demanding but satisfying assignment. I was a guest of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem for a month during the semester break, and my latest publication is an article about the Crystal Bridges Museum of Art, which is funded by the heiress to the Wal-Mart fortune, that appeared in the February issue of *Art in America*. I left for South Africa on May 29 to spend my twelfth consecutive summer conducting research there. I am working with an archive from a studio photographer in the city of Pietermaritzburg, dating from the 1970s and ‘80s. I will hold an exhibition of a selection of the images at the University of Johannesburg in 2014 sponsored by the Research Centre for Visual Identities in Art and Design, where I have an affiliation.

Lastly, we are continuing to build scholarship support for the students and if you are interested in making contributions in any way, please contact Dr. Kantawala at [ak974@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:ak974@tc.columbia.edu).

In sum, 2011-2012 marks an important turning point in ARAD’s history. We are building on the established infrastructure while being keenly focused on the future. Stay tuned for more updates about the new and improved ARAD!

Cheers,

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