

Mr. Barrett accepted, cont.

By Alex Hess

...that they are all different, citing that each school wants an essay and undergraduate degree information. The Transart Institute MFA program to which he applied also requested to see his artwork, along with essays justifying the artwork and why he should have been considered for their school.

Barrett was one of 18 who was accepted out of 700 applicants to the program. Applications were vetted by four main criteria: previous artistic achievement, potential for growth and creativity, independence of thought and interest in the Transart Institute community.

Barrett believes that he met the school's criteria by discovering a way to manipulate the submission rules, which request approximately 15 files or artwork, to his advantage, while not compromising the integrity of his work.

"At the time," he said, "I was creating diptychs, which means that I was forming two opposite photographs and pairing them next to one another like a panorama to form a relationship surrounding content and design." In this manner, Barrett was able to show the school 30 individual photographs, grouped together to make 15 artworks.

The MFA program entails three summers of intensive course work in residency in Europe, the first of which Barrett has spent in Berlin, Germany. Barrett describes his time in Berlin as "stressful and awesome at the same time."

Students met at 9:30 in the morning to learn about contemporary artists and theory and were given two hours to break for lunch, in which they could prepare a response to what had been discussed in class using any media of their choosing. Afterward, students would attend critiques or project planning sessions, where they would discuss avenues for their work.

"Some critique sessions became personal and often ended in tears," said Barrett. "However, critiques are important and offer feedback for each artist."

Barrett participated in three workshops during his course in residency. The first was called Sensory Perception, in which students learned about incorporating senses into their artwork. He did not care for this workshop. However, he thoroughly enjoyed his last workshop, called The Waiting Game, which focused on building and communicating anticipation in artworks.

He was heavily occupied by his studies and only had time to see about a third of the city, of which he took photographs on his

first and last days of residency. However, he still found time to make friends with fellow students. "I can say that I have friends all over the world," he said.

When not in residency, students create their own course of study by realizing individual art and research projects with the help of Institute faculty and self-chosen artistic mentors in their own area. Barrett has chosen Jean Marie Casbarian, a Massachusetts-based artist and teacher, as his mentor. Casbarian, who works with photo, video and performance art, holds critiques with Mr. Barrett via Skype and meetings in New York City.

The program also gives students the option of attending a winter residency in New York City. Barrett is unsure as to whether he will attend those, but he does plan on attending the critique sessions to see friends and gather feedback.

"I came to the conclusion that this MFA program truly combines art, technology and philosophy together in an abstract and progressive manner. The international format offers a means of communication, even if there are disagreements, and, believe me, there are a ton of disagreements. It offers a format for a lot of discussion and interpretation that can seem chaotic, but somehow it all works out by the end of the residencies."

NASA sends missile to the moon

By Rachel Holly

Much to the surprise of Americans when they woke up on October 12th, NASA unveiled a plan that they were going to do something that many thought was a far-fetched plot worthy of a sci-fi drama: bombing the moon.

Before you prepare for the worst, NASA seems to have methods behind their madness. NASA's LCROSS (Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite) mission was for a beneficial purpose: to see if there was significant evidence of water present on the moon's surface.

The plan was that NASA would launch a missile the size of a bus, otherwise known as a Centaur rocket, that could be steered from the ground and guided to the specific crater that is believed to harbor the frozen water. By crashing the missile into the surface of the Moon, it would create large plumes of space dust that would become trapped and suspended in the atmosphere to be collected and studied by scientists on Earth.

Although it seemed like a rather solid plan, many of the promised pictures and live-streaming feed of video were a large disappointment to the scientific world. Despite the fuzzy and less-than optimal documentation, it did not stop many from throwing "at home viewing" parties to watch the impact right from their backyard.

All around Parkland, many people had thoughts on what NASA must have been thinking when the idea to "bomb" the moon came up in their agenda.

"Why are they bombing it to find water, wouldn't we already know? Does this mean that the Apollo missions and 'man on the moon' were all staged?" said earth science teacher Mrs. Igo.

"Bombing the moon? I am all for it!" said earth science teacher Mr. Robitaille.

Even though many seem to have a rather optimistic view of NASA's mission, some have skepticism.

"I do not think they bombed it, really. They just launched missiles at it," said freshman Colleen McMahon.

"We do not have anything to worry about, it is only the size of a bus. The Moon was hit with much bigger things and nothing happened to it then," said freshman AJ Bazos.

NASA did not find any evidence of water lurking in the specific crater after all. NASA plans to keep searching for water in years to come with similar missions, so keep an eye to the sky to watch the progress.

Jaindl Elementary School begins construction

By Mark Walsh

In 2005, Parkland School District began to look for a new place to build an elementary school. The plan was to move the students from the very crowded Fogelsville Elementary to a new school built in the Upper Macungie area. After discussing plans at about 25 different sites, a generous donation was made from the Jaindl family to donate over 27 acres of land off Cetronia road. The donated plot, once used primarily to grow soybeans, will house the new school, which will hold seven hundred students. The school is part of the Green Lead program, a program that acknowledges energy saving buildings that follow a strict code from the initial building process, to the powering of the building.

The new school district boundary lines will affect all current elementary schools except Ironton and Kratzer. The very overpopulated Fogelsville and Kernsville will spin-off students to other schools. Fogelsville's southern boundary line will populate the Jaindl Elementary School while giving eighty students to Cetronia and one hundred fifty students to Parkway Manor. Fifty students from Kernsville will also be moved to Schnecksville, creating a much-needed medium of students at each school. Students who already are attending schools that will be affected, will be given an optional choice to stay and

notify the school district of school arrangements. Bussing will be provided for students who wish to remain in their current schools.

The contracting company chosen in 2006 to build the school is Hill International. Hill Int., which has previously worked with Parkland School District in charge of remodeling Springhouse Middle School in 2005, has constructed buildings all over the world. The construction is planned to finish early



new school will also feature a double-sided auditorium, and green library. The library will be more naturally lit and given a very modern touch.

Jaindl Elementary School will receive a silver medal from the Green Lead program and receive anywhere from five hundred to eight hundred thousand dollars. The school has a green heating system, lighting system, and water filtration system. The money from the program will be used to maintain the new technology placed in the schools to assure its continual energy saving.

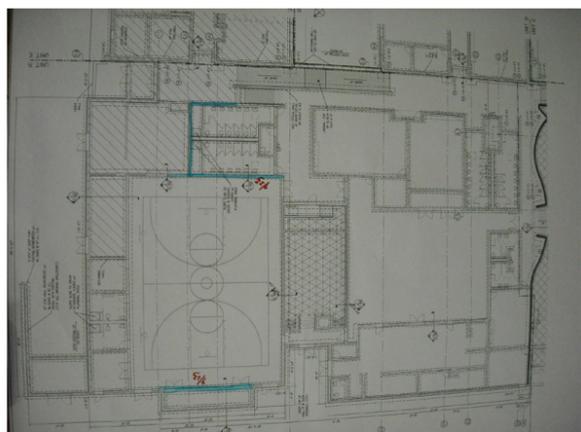


photos by Mark Walsh

2010, in time to open doors for students for the 2010 - 2011 school year. Phil Bugg, general contractor of the project says the overall cost of the project is around 21 million dollars.

Blueprints for the school show three wings of classrooms, with a 12 foot. elevation difference from the first to third wing. Students will be grouped in wings by grade giving the illusion of "moving up" while moving through grades. The

The Fred J Jaindl elementary school, Parkland School District's 8th elementary school, will help solve the overcrowding problem of a growing district. The new school will provide a modern touch to its building process, as well as energy saving ideas for a less costly run school. The memory of Fred J Jaindl will live on through his donation to higher learning.



finish their 5th grade year in their current school. Families have until January 1st to