

Artists in residence

Off-hours, these Children's Hospital Boston employees let their artistic talents shine



Cardiologist **Kathy Jenkins, MD, MPH**, director of the Program for Patient Safety and Quality, started printmaking 10 years ago and she has had a different mindset ever since. "I understood the creative mindset better and actively engaged in thinking about new ways to approach issues and solve problems," she says. "I got more comfortable seeing the entire picture." Jenkins works with natural images like plant life and leaves and has prints hanging all over the hospital, especially in her colleagues' offices. She has her own studio, Carriage House Press, in Cambridge, which she shares with another artist, and she sells her prints online and at art shows. "My physician friends were shocked to learn I was an artist and my artist friends were shocked to learn I was a physician," she laughs. Visit her Web site at www.carriagehousepress.com/links.htm



Nancy Shotola, manager of the Pulmonary Function Lab and former biology major, has always seen herself as both an artist and a scientist, so she splits her week between both of her interests. When she's not finding creative ways to make breathing tests fun for her little lab patients, she works as a potter. "Ceramics brings out my scientific side because it's such a precise and technical art," she says. Shotola spends three days a week in the Harvard Ceramics Studio in Allston, throwing, glazing and painting plates, cups and bowls. In a year, she makes about 300 pieces and takes two weeks off every year from Children's to fire all her creations.



Some may argue with Radiologist-in-Chief, **George Taylor, MD**, when he says he could never make a living selling his photography, especially when they see his landscape photographs in his Cape Cod gallery in the Fegan lobby or his X-rays of flowers on display at the Museum of Science. "What drives me is finding beauty in areas people don't normally look," he says. "Or capturing an emotional state that is gone in a second." Taylor took up photography 15 years ago and has plans to take his art in a new direction—into the operating room, where he'll capture the ritual of surgery through photographs (with patient and family consent, of course). Visit his Web site at www.taylorimaging.net

Call her old fashioned, but **Barbara Burr, MD, MPH**, staff psychiatrist, wouldn't give her black-and-white film up for a digital camera any day. "I'm a psychiatrist, so I talk all day," she says. "But the dark room is a quiet place. Also, I do a lot of looking and watching at my job so the similar visual aspect of photography interests me." Burr was always in charge of taking photographs for her family during get-togethers, but it wasn't until she started taking classes five years ago that it became her passion. Now she has a dark room in her basement where she develops photographs of the nearby Blue Hills and her grandchildren. She prefers candid shots of them, when they are caught up in the world around them.



VP of Public Affairs and Marketing, **Michelle Davis**, is an avid landscape painter who gets most inspired when she's painting outdoors. "I enjoy being in nature and capturing those images," she says. Her interest started at a young age, when she and her three siblings played drawing games together: One person would draw the body of a figure, fold it over and the next person would draw the head. "You would open up the page and find a funny or mythical-looking creature," she remembers. Today, painting is still a family affair for Davis, who likes to paint with her talented mother. Luckily for Davis, being a busy VP doesn't mean she has to check her creativity at the door of the hospital. "Fortunately, my job requires a lot of creativity on a strategic level and in terms of messaging and visual presentation of our many materials," she says.



Before Art Coordinator **Jessica Finch** worked for Children's, she was commissioned by the hospital to create painted boards shaped like rocket ships, kites and other fun objects, and they still hang on many inpatient floors' walls. Finch also works with mixed mediums and found objects: She used metal and wood to create a constellation mural in the Emergency Department waiting room, and spools of thread to create bodies of bugs in a piece in the waiting room of Farley 5. "From an artist's perspective, a hospital is an amazing venue to display your work because it's so public and it's there for everybody to see," she says.



Four years ago, **James Mandell, MD**, president and CEO, discovered the color and beauty found in the depths of the ocean when he learned how to scuba dive with his new son-in-law. He couldn't help but capture what he saw on his sea voyages using a special underwater digital camera. Although he doesn't worry about sharks, Mandell says, "The main difficulty is the fact that you are floating while taking the picture. You need to learn to maintain neutral buoyancy." His favorite places to go scuba diving-shooting are Hawaii and the Caribbean in the Caymans, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

Are you a Children's artist?

If you would like your art to be considered for inclusion in an upcoming exhibition, send pictures of your work to jessica.finch@childrens.harvard.edu or via interoffice to Wolbach-015.