

Exhibition Upcoming

NEWS



Museum as Classroom

Teaching Enhancement Award winners will use Haggerty in pilot project

“Student-centered, interdisciplinary and adaptable...” That’s how the Committee on Teaching described the proposed project “Clear Picture: Looking at Communities from an Art Museum,”

winner of this year's Way Klingler Teaching Enhancement Award. The project leaders, Dr. Eugenia Afinoguenova, associate professor of Spanish in the Klingler College of Arts and Sciences; and Dr. Pamela Hill Nettleton, assistant professor of journalism and media studies in the Diederich College of Communication, will receive \$20,000 to fund the project.

The idea was presented to the professors by Haggerty Museum of Art leaders, who had been seeking ways in which they could become a creative alternative to a classroom. In interaction with the museum's permanent collection, Afinoguenova and Nettleton will teach courses dedicated to language, literature, and writing about the arts that use the Haggerty and its exhibits as a learning laboratory. Their students will help develop the exhibition as curators, writers and guides.

"Recent research on student museum-going has found a strong correlation between visiting art collections and developing critical thinking skills, building up social tolerance and showing greater historical empathy," Afinoguenova says. "We plan to test some of these hypotheses and write an article together about it."

Nettleton, who has written about dance, classical music, opera and dining for the past 20 years, added: "It's so important for a critic to see art from many perspectives and through fresh eyes, and I'm excited for my students to get to experience the Haggerty alongside students studying another major and students who are bilingual."

Both professors are effusive in their praise for the Haggerty's leadership and willingness to open itself up and allow professors and students to co-create an exhibition.

For any museum, this is unprecedented," Afinoguenova says. "Yet, under Director Wally Mason's leadership, the Haggerty has demonstrated a unique vision: turn the museum into a learning laboratory."

According to the professors, the project is designed as a pilot — not just for Spanish and journalism, but also for other departments to use the Haggerty in cross-disciplinary ways.

- Christopher Stolarski, Office of Marketing and Communication, Marquette University

This [article](#) originally appeared in the [March/April 2014 edition of Marquette Matters](#), a publication produced by Marquette University for faculty and staff.

Dr. Eugenia Afinoguenova, (left) associate professor of Spanish in the Klingler College of Arts and Sciences; and Dr. Pamela Hill Nettleton, assistant professor of journalism and media studies in the Diederich College of Communication, at the Haggerty Museum of Art.



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