

School of Graphic Arts Board Report

Reporting Period: 1st Quarter 2025

Introduction

The 1st quarter of 2025 has been a period of growth and challenges for the School of Graphic Arts (SGA). This report provides an overview of our recent activities, accomplishments, and strategic initiatives focused on enhancing our services, expanding vocational training opportunities, and preparing for future needs.

Program Participation: Kid\$earn Program

SGA continues to participate in the Kid\$earn Program with six residents actively assisting in the printshop. The residents have been assisting with projects like laser engraving the cups for the Cup Campaign, and laser cutting the items for the Black Tie Gala. The notecard going into the cups will state that the cups were engraved by a resident of MHCO.

Two residents also hold employment off campus.

These efforts not only strengthen our production capacity but also provide valuable hands-on experience and career readiness for participating residents.

Expansion of New Services

SGA received a donation from the OOAA that we plan to use to expand our offerings, potentially into area of heat press shirts, bags, and other items. This offering would not only benefit SGA but also MHCO with events like homecoming where we could potentially make shirts on demand in house.

Equipment Enhancement and Future Planning

Riso envelope printer has boosted our production allowing our pressman to assist in other areas like the Altec Production. This has allowed our Graphics Department time to focus on projects like the proceedings for Grand Lodge.

We have also been able to move some of the printing that was initially being printed on the copiers to this machine, which we have seen less frequent downtime of the aging printers.

Wide Format Printer

During the 4th quarter we purchased a new wide format printer and have found that the possibilities of what we can now create are endless. Currently we are working on creating a temporary wall mural that will be displayed in Downtown Oxford during Culture Fest. Some

items we have already printed are decal stickers for the Cup Campaign, Acrylic Signage for St. John's Lodge #3 and PPE signage for CertainTeed. Unknown to us at the time, the signs we created for CertainTeed were being placed in a competition among all the North American locations in the US, Mexico, and Canada and our design won. It is now being shared globally with all locations which could lead to more business with this company.

Conclusion

The 1st quarter of 2025 has been a time of meaningful growth and opportunity for the School of Graphic Arts. Resident involvement through the Kid\$earn Program has expanded, providing valuable hands-on experience while supporting key projects such as the Cup Campaign and the Black Tie Gala. With two residents also securing off-campus employment, we are seeing real progress in career readiness initiatives.

Strategic use of donations is enabling SGA to broaden its service offerings, with plans to introduce heat-pressed apparel and event merchandise. Equipment enhancements, including the addition of the Riso envelope printer and a new wide format printer, have significantly boosted production efficiency and creative capabilities. Early successes — such as winning a design competition for CertainTeed — demonstrate the growing impact and potential of our expanded services.

Overall, SGA continues to build momentum toward greater innovation, vocational development, and partnership opportunities, positioning us for even greater achievements in the months ahead.

-SGA Manager, Thomas Boyd