

Introduction: The 3rd quarter of 2024 has been a period of growth and challenges for the School of Graphic Arts (SGA). This report offers an overview of our recent activities, accomplishments, and strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing our services and operations.

Participation in Kid\$earn Program: SGA has had 4 residents assisting in the printshop. 1 ILP resident works 20 hours a week assisting in various areas of the shop, is learning the Altec Production process, and plans to assist in the Graphic Arts department. We also have a direct-care resident who is taking a vocational course through J.F. Webb that works with us for an hour each day for school credit along with working after school in the Kid\$earn program.

Expansion of New Services: As mentioned at the last board meeting, we had purchased 2 laser engravers from the donation to SGA by the Alumni Association. We had the opportunity to showcase the products and provide a few on-site custom orders at Annual Communication. This was a big hit with a lot of excitement about the different projects we offer. With the insight from how Annual Communication went, we prepared some additional items for Homecoming. With the help of resident Scottie, we produced Tumblers, Padfolio's, Coasters, and patches to sell at homecoming. We also offered custom ordering of tumblers along with Glass and Crystal Christmas Ornaments.

Equipment Enhancement: Looking forward with the budget for next year, LuAnne and I sat down and discussed what areas we needed to upgrade in. With the continued changes of postage increases and customers going digital, we are focusing more on the Wide Format and lasering aspects that we offer. If approved, SGA will be leasing a Riso Printer to improve the overall productivity of printing Envelopes, Letterhead, Business Cards, and Carbonless forms. This will allow us to take some of the load off our current aging leased production machines. With the lease of this machine, I plan to reach out to other local printers to offer our services of printing their envelopes at a reduced rate from what it currently costs them. We are also looking to acquire an additional wide format printer, as we have had many requests for larger sizes and different media signage. SGA will also be acquiring an additional Laser machine, with the remainder of the OOAA donation, that offers the ability to print and die-cut. Allowing us to provide custom cut stickers and vinyl decals that have been requested of us in the past.

Conclusion: The 3rd quarter of 2024 has been a dynamic period of both growth and new challenges for the School of Graphic Arts (SGA). Participation in the Kid\$earn Program has allowed us to engage residents in meaningful vocational experiences, enhancing their skills while supporting the shop's operations. The expansion of new services, particularly with the introduction of laser engraving, has proven to be a success, with strong sales at Homecoming and increased demand for custom products.

Looking ahead, the planned equipment upgrades will position SGA to adapt to industry trends and improve overall efficiency. The acquisition of a Riso Printer and additional wide format and laser machines will not only enhance our in-house production capabilities but also open up new opportunities for partnerships with local printers and customers. As we move into the next quarter, SGA is well-prepared to capitalize on these advancements and continue growing our services, fulfilling both educational and operational goals.

Thomas Boyd – SGA Manager