Another excellent class passed into the professional world this June as your Director grows ever more nostalgic about the lives and careers of the wonderful people he has met in the Graduate Program during his seven years at Williams College. Some sixty students have now matriculated under his mentorship, or just about half the total number of graduates since the Program was founded in 1972. Whatever the statistical meaning of this fact, it has made your Director feel more paternal, more conscious of rites of passage, and acutely aware of his own mortality. This year, 1986-7, he will take his first sabbatical leave since coming to Williams (more on that later). In the meantime, the Program will be under the able interim Directorship of Charles Parkhurst, B.A. Williams '35, M.F.A. Princeton, '41, formerly Director of Graduate Studies in Art History at Oberlin College, formerly Assistant Director of the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., formerly Deputy Director for Special Projects at the Williams College Museum of Art, and currently Director of the Prendergast Systematic Catalogue Project at the Williams College Museum of Art.
Nostalgic academic year 1985-6 opened with twelve second-year and thirteen first-year students on hand, the largest First-Year Program’s history. Worth mentioning in the beginning are the ten-day visits to dealers in the Performing Art Galleries, the history of collecting and art dealing and included ten days of visits to dealers and galleries in preparation for the grand opening on October 17, 1986—but more on that in the next Annual Report.

Graduation as usual climaxad the academic year with eleven students receiving their Master’s Degrees. Brent Benjamin, who posted the highest grade-point average in the class, was named Robert Sterling Clark Fellow of 1986. In what seems now to be a growing annual custom, a number of former students, including six from the Class of ’85, returned to watch the ceremonies and share nostalgic memories. In anticipation of June 1987, Acting Director Parkhurst cordially invites all old M.A.’s back to the campus for a reunion party to be held on Saturday afternoon (June 6) before the Sunday finale.

As of this writing, four members of the Class of ’86 are employed in museum work (one each at the Williams College Museum of Art and the Emerson Art Gallery at Hamilton College, and two at the National Gallery of Art), one is acquiring a private gallery, and two are pursuing Ph.D.’s, at Yale and the University of Texas.

Your Director is free at last to embark upon the first leg of his sabbatical year. He leaves for Florence and Rome on October 27, residing respectively at the Villa I Tatti and the American Academy until December 1. He then returns to Williamsport until January when he’s off to Princeton to spend a semester as a member of the Institute for Advanced Study. In April and May he moves to Oxford University in England. During the summer of 1987 he will reside again at home working to finish his project, a book to be entitled The Influence of Renaissance Art on the Rise of Modern Science.

Samuel Y. Edgerton, Jr.
CLASS OF 1975
Anna Cohn (2800 Woodley Road NW, Washington, DC 20016) is directing GENERATIONS, the exhibition for the Smithsonian's new International Gallery in the Quadrangle Building, the 400,000 square foot museum facility under the National Mall, scheduled to open in June 1987. Jay Fisher (1607 Park Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21217), in his position as Curator of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs at the Baltimore Museum of Art, has recently been spending more of his time on raising purchase funds and working with collectors, and he vacationed in France and Germany this summer. From Amy Golahny Kopley (1311 Daubois Avenue, Dallas, TX 75208), it was announced that she and her husband were planning an African safari in October. No word from: Kenneth Ledoux, Ann Rosenthal, or Maureen Walsh.

CLASS OF 1976
Jeanne Berggren Plekon (RR 2, Box 193, Holmes, NY 12531) is working at Buder's Digest as a Programmer Analyst. Gary Burger (326 Oblong Road, Williamstown, MA 01267) is still Director of the Berkshire Museum in addition to being active as a trustee or board member with at least ten state and local cultural associations. Lois Fichtner-Rathus (2 Whippoorwill Lake Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514) was granted tenure at Trenton State University last May, was awarded a New Jersey Department of Higher Education Grant for her book, “Native America: Life, Legends and Art” to be held February 1987, and is now working on her second textbook. Michael Shapiro (5291 Westminster Place, St. Louis, MO 63108), in his capacity as Curator of 19th and 20th Century Art, has recently bought paintings by Roy Lichtenstein, Donald Sosin and Howard Hodgkin for the collection of the St. Louis Art Museum. From the Metropolitan Museum’s calendar we learned that Philip Verre, Chief Curator, Bronx Museum of the Arts, gave a lecture at the Met in March entitled “Hidden Heritage: Afro-American Art 1800-1850.” Kathy Zimmerer-McKevil (5252 Kallin Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90808) spent her academic year teaching art history and running the University Art Gallery at California State University, Fullerton.

CLASS OF 1977
Beth Carver Wees (289 Gale Road, Williamstown, MA 01267) has been promoted to Curator of Decorative Arts at the Clark Art Institute and is teaching a graduate seminar on English silver this fall. She recently organized an exhibition of Lalique glass from a private collection, which traveled to the George Walter Vincent Smith Museum of Art in Springfield, MA, from the Clark. For those who “remember her when,” Beth reports that their daughter, Sarah, is now a freshman at George Washington University. Henry J. Duffy (75 Prospect Street, Demarest, NJ 07627), an Adjunct Instructor of Art History at Marymount College, was Guest Curator for the New York Society Library’s exhibition “Storied Shores: Lake George in Human and Legend,” which opened in New York in September. Henry also continues to work at Lyndhurst and on his articles. From The New York Times sent to us by a classmate, we learned that Michael Klein has left gallery work and has become an artist’s agent, representing artists in the U.S. and in Europe. Robert Mattison (530 Parsons Street, Easton, PA 18042), a long-time collector from the College who remembers that her first name is John, announced that her daughter, Sarah, is now a freshman at George Washington University. Judy Weiss (589 Rissott Road, Rochester, NY 14620) curated an exhibition held at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY, and in addition to her weekly column on the contemporary painter, Grace Hartigan, his catalogue, “Grace Hartigan: Painting the Renaissance,” was finished earlier this year. Susan Dodge Peters (189 Rossiter Road, Rochester, NY 14620) curated an exhibition held at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY, and in addition to her weekly column on the contemporary painter, Grace Hartigan, his catalogue, “Grace Hartigan: Painting the Renaissance,” was finished earlier this year. Susan Dodge Peters (189 Rossiter Road, Rochester, NY 14620) curated an exhibition held at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY, and in addition to her weekly column on the contemporary painter, Grace Hartigan, his catalogue, “Grace Hartigan: Painting the Renaissance,” was finished earlier this year. Susan Dodge Peters (189 Rossiter Road, Rochester, NY 14620) curated an exhibition held at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY, and in addition to her weekly column on the contemporary painter, Grace Hartigan, his catalogue, “Grace Hartigan: Painting the Renaissance,” was finished earlier this year. Susan Dodge Peters (189 Rossiter Road, Rochester, NY 14620) curated an exhibition held at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY, and in addition to her weekly column on the contemporary painter, Grace Hartigan, his catalogue, “Grace Hartigan: Painting the Renaissance,” was finished earlier this year.
CLASS OF 1982
Wanda Bubriski (535 Orange Street, New Haven, CT 06511) worked as a photographic researcher for Anna Cohn '75 on the GENRATIONS exhibition at the Smithsonian earlier this year. Beginning in September she is pursuing the Ph.D. in art history at Yale. Sandra Ludig '76 North Hoosac Road, Williamstown, MA 01267 married David Brecke on March 1, 1986, and a house which they've recently bought in Great Barrington. Sandy continues work as an Assistant Editor for RILA and on writing her dissertation. Paula Kozol (42 Atlantic Avenue, Cohasset, MA 02025), Curatorial Assistant in the Department of American Decorative Art and Sculpture at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, co-authored the Catalogue of American Sculpture at the Museum of Fine Arts and Catalogue of Art at the State House, both to be published late this year. She is a member of the Mass. Arts Commission and of the Special Legislative Commission on a John F. Memorial, but she sends this personal message: she looks forward to spending more time with friends and less time with animate objects; she says she is sorry she has been so preoccupied of late but would love to get together with fellow alumni. Anne Reed (13 Brewster Street, Providence, RI 02906) married Dr. Mark Shannon on September 7, 1985, and is now working at Blithewold, a turn-of-the-century mansion and arboretum in Bristol, RI, where she is doing research on the art collection and organizing an exhibition, “Images of Blithewold—Then and Now.” John Wetenhall (2111 Jefferson Davis Highway, #1210N, Arlington, VA 22202) is a Fellow at the National Museum of American Art at the Smithsonian. Also in the past year he was promoted to a second-degree black belt in Aikijujitsu and became a member of the American Teachers’ Association of the Martial Arts. No reply from Julia Bernard, Maureen Minott Kerr, or Nancy Sojka.

CLASS OF 1983
Julie Aronson (47 Fairway Road, Apt. 2D, Newark, DE 19711) is beginning the Ph.D. program in art history at the University of Delaware where she will concentrate on American art. Right before leaving Washington she was attempting to finish writing entries for the American naive painting catalogue of the National Gallery to be published in 1988. Tom Fels (347 West 51st, New York, NY 10019) has been awarded a 9-month fellowship from the Metropolitan Museum which he will use to do a study of 19th-century American photography. Anne Havings (83 Crescent Street, Northampton, MA 01060) began work October 1 as a Curatorial Assistant in the Department of Prints and Drawings at the Smith College Museum of Art. James Weiss (188 Bishop Street, New Haven, CT 06511) finished his Ph.D. at Yale while teaching undergraduate courses. In his own paintings and photosilkscreen “word art” he has adopted the alias of Steve Funn. No response from: Vincent Carnevale, Cynthia Deith (returned to sender), Peter Lynch, or Ellen Wood.

CLASS OF 1984
Bradley Brigham (c/o Stavros, Inc., 691 South East Street, Amherst, MA 01002) is working as an advocate/peer counselor for an independent living center while “hacking away” at a Ph.D. at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Michael Floss (229 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01060) sent us notice of the exhibition, “Janet Fish: Recent Paintings and Pastels 1980-1985,” which was shown at the Smith College Museum of Art from April 8-June 1, 1986. Tom McVarish (179 Franklin Street, Stoneham, MA 01280) is still working at Mass. General Hospital on the Cardiac Unit. In preparation for a spring 1987 trip to Germany to visit the Bavarian Rococo churches, Tom will be studying German this fall at the Goethe Institute in Boston. Nancy Spector (no address yet) will become Assistant Curator of the Contemporary Arts Museum in Houston in October. No returns from: Nancy Green, Rodney Nevitt (returned to sender), Robert Phelan, or Charles Shepard.

CLASS OF 1985
Ann Murphy Burroughs (480 Valley Road, # B18, Upper Montclair, NJ 07042) is working full time as a Curatorial Assistant in the Department of Drawings and Prints at the National Academy of Design in NYC and has taken up gardening and golf to avoid becoming a “golf widow.” Susan Currie (728-200 North Adams Street, Arlington, VA 22201) has changed departments at the National Gallery; she is now working in the Department of Exhibitions and Loans where she was an intern in the spring of 1984. She has continued to enjoy Washington, particularly the mild winters. Alice Evarts (333 East 85th Street, New York, NY 10028) is enjoying her work in the Contemporary Art Division at the Knodeller Gallery and when she wrote she was looking forward to a two-week trip to Italy at the end of August. Nora Heimann (444 Upton Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55410) is in her second year of an NEA internship at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and has begun an internship at the Walker Art Center, also in Minneapolis. Nora co-authored the catalogue, “A Collection Rediscovered: European Paintings from the Tweed Museum of Art,” from the exhibition she helped organize, which was a two national tour. Nora has taught a public lecture course at the Institute on the development of modern art as well as gave lectures to Friends and docent groups throughout the year. She plans to begin the Ph.D. in the fall of 1987. Steven High (46 Noyes Street, Portland, ME 04103) is directing the Baxter Gallery at the Portland School of Art and teaching a course in 20th-century art history there. He just completed work on a “Young German Painters” catalogue to be printed this fall. Gregory Rubinstein (2245 Observatory Place NW, Washington, DC 20007) has been rehired for a second year of work on the catalogue raisonné of the permanent collection of 17th-century Dutch and Flemish paintings at the National Gallery. In fall 1987 he plans to return to England to begin the Ph.D. at Cambridge. Sharon Rudolph Pemmenen (Quillen 4F, Escovedo Village, Stanford, CA 94305) is working in an administrative position at Stanford University while her husband works on his Ph.D. in physics, but she is keeping her eyes open for other possibilities in the Bay area. Although it is difficult being away from family and friends, Sharon says, “you can’t beat nine months of sunshine!” Margaret Smith (204 Pearl Street, # 24, Burlington, VT 05401), a Curatorial Assistant at the Shelburne Museum, has been busy working on a special project of cataloging the nineteen French 19th-century pictures from the Havemeyer collection at Shelburne, hopefully for publication, in addition to her regular duties of researching, writing, and assisting with loans and exhibitions. Jill Steinberg (1618 21st Street NW #104, Washington, DC 20009) is an editor at the National Gallery. She has become involved with the Smithsonian Associates Travel Program and in September helped to lead a hiking trip through the Canyonlands and Arches National Parks in Utah. Robert Wolterstorff (2043 Spruce Street, Apt. 3R, Philadelphia, PA 19103) is on his second year of an NEA curatorship internship in the Department of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and has been doing lots of traveling. No word from Suzanne Devine. This class wins the best response prize!

CLASS OF 1986
Sarah Cash (511 D Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003) is a Research Assistant in the Department of American Paintings at the National Gallery and is working on the research and writing of the systematic catalogue of their collection of American naive paintings, which is to be published in 1988. Laura Doyle (2000 Connective Avenue # 310, Washington, DC 20008) is an Exhibitions Assistant at the National Gallery working on the Georgia O’Keeffe show which will open there in November 1987 and then travel to Chicago, Dallas, and New York. Laura reprinted her recent trip to New Mexico in conjunction with organizing the exhibition. Lucy Winters Durkin (3 Bradley Lane, Sandy Hook, CT 06482) phoned to report that after about six weeks of negotiations, she and her husband, Tom, have bought an art gallery and framing shop in Danbury, CT. She emphasized that they will handle oils, prints and water colors, not posters. Lucy judged a local art show in September and has begun to attend auctions in search of art for her gallery. Carolyn Halpin-Healy (Chez Aratan-Spire, 218 Av de Versailles, 75016 Paris, France) attended the Attingham School this summer to study the history of British country houses as well as their furnishings and collections. She and her husband, Tim, are living in Paris for the year where Tim is working on a grant to study physics. Carolyn is taking advantage of the opportunities by spending a lot of her time in museums while trying to find work as a free-lance researcher. Zheng Hu (18 Hall Street, North Adams, MA 01247) married Joyce Rokerson (Graduate Class of ’87) on June 28 and is now the Special Assistant to the Director at the Williams College Museum. Ann Simmon (no home address yet) began her duties as Curator/Registrar for the Fred L. Emerson Gallery at Hamilton College in Clinton, NY, on October 1. Mark Stansbury-O'Donnell (1214 Chapel Street #24, New Haven, CT 06511) is beginning the Ph.D. program at Yale this fall. Susan Webster (6810 Thomas Springs Road, Austin, TX 78736) moved to Austin in July and began study toward the Ph.D. at the University of Texas this fall. Charles Wilke (479 Greystone Lane, Proctor Heights, IL 60070) has been working at the Williams College Museum with many peers from the Class of ’86 until the reopening. He then plans a month-long trip to Florence before hitting the pavement in New York or Chicago to find a gallery job. No word of plans from: Brent Benjamin or Elizabeth Trippett.