

AMHERST COLLEGE
Office of the Dean of the Faculty

June 15, 2007

Dear Members of the Amherst Community,

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Elizabeth E. Barker as Director and Chief Curator of the Mead Art Museum. She will begin work at the College on July 15. Lizzie will bring to the position depth of experience and talent as a museum administrator and curator and as an art historian specializing in British and American art of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries areas of particular strength at the Mead. The search committee, Tony, and I were impressed with her stated commitment to college art museums' "unique potential to serve as vital academic resources, laboratories for groundbreaking experiments and original research, and forums for the public presentation of the resulting discoveries."

Lizzie will come to Amherst from Colgate University, where she is currently Director of the Picker Art Gallery. Prior to assuming that post, she spent her career at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, beginning as a curatorial intern in 1994 and rising to Associate Curator of Drawings and Prints a mere ten years later. Lizzie has served as a Guest Curator at the Yale Center for British Art for the past four years and as a Fellow in the Department of Prints and Drawings at the British Museum in 2000. She earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in Art History (2003) and a Certificate in Curatorial Studies (1997) from New York University's Institute of Fine Arts, and received a B.A. in the History of Art from Yale (1992). An expert on the British Enlightenment painter Joseph Wright of Derby, she has published on topics ranging from Italian Renaissance drawings to modern American prints and is currently preparing an exhibition on the contemporary American artist Chuck Close.

In her new position, Lizzie will oversee the care of the Mead's collections, acquisitions, exhibitions, programs, and the museum's staff and management. She will work closely with faculty members across the disciplines, and with students to foster their involvement with the museum as interns, docents, artists, scholars, and visitors. She will reach out to area schools and community organizations to engage residents of the Pioneer Valley more deeply in the activities and resources of the Mead. She will also collaborate with the College's advancement office to cultivate support for the Mead's activities and collections and to generate interest among alumni and other friends of the museum.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the search committee: Robert Bezucha (Chair), Carol Clark, Suzannah Fabing, Rick Griffiths, Michael Kasper, Carol Keller, and Kenneth Rosenthal. We are also in the debt of Lisa Graziose Corrin, Director of the Williams College Museum of Art, for serving as counsel to the committee.

Please join me in welcoming Lizzie to Amherst this summer.

All my best,



Gregor (∴ Call
Dean of the Faculty and
Professor of Mathematics