

On Tue, Mar 9, 2021 at 11:57 PM Raymond Krohn <[raymondkrohn@boisestate.edu](mailto:raymondkrohn@boisestate.edu)> wrote:

Dear Reader:

I recently read an article about the scheduled elimination of the Art History Department at John Carroll University, as well as the termination of its tenured faculty. As a member of the Class of '99, and a proud holder of a B.A. in Art History, I am deeply saddened by this news. I do not know if I can adequately express the distress that I currently feel without coming across as hyperbolic. I shall try, nevertheless.

As a first generation college-goer, I tremendously benefitted from the holistic training and intimate learning environment that John Carroll affords. As an Art History major, in particular, I had access not only to stimulating courses, but also professors and instructors who took a special interest in their students. Without dedicated scholar-teachers as guides, I honestly cannot imagine myself ever enrolling in graduate school or pursuing a career in higher education.

I am certain that past and present JCU students may state similar things about faculty in other departments and programs. Yet, Drs. Robert Getscher, Leslie Curtis, Linda Koch, and others, taught me how to see, discern, and decipher. As an undergraduate, I read and wrote slowly, and still do so to this day. The visual literacy and decoding capabilities that I acquired as an Art History major made me more confident about myself as a thinker. I am forever indebted to my mentors. Even though I have failed to remain in direct contact over the years, they continually occupy my thoughts.

My Art History B.A. is one of my proudest personal possessions. Imagine, then, the depths of my despair when I learned, via an otherwise innocuous Internet search wherein I typed the phrase, "art history john carroll," that a committee of deans and faculty decided to destroy that which I hold so dearly.

To this day, I adhere to the core Jesuit principle of *cura personalis*. I continually strive to honor my alma mater and the educators from whom I gained so much inspiration and encouragement by fostering the intellectual growth and personal development of my own students. Can John Carroll legitimately advertise itself as a Catholic and Jesuit institution if it dismantles the Art History Department? I think it cannot, because the whole person will no longer be taught.

What shall follow in the wake of Art History's destruction? Might not another committee break apart Classics, Philosophy, English, or even Religious Studies? I do not like to deploy slippery-slope arguments, but I am greatly upset by this turn of events. By terminating Art History, John Carroll has effectively undermined its commitment to a transformative, liberal-arts education. Consequently, I would like the removal of my name and address from alumni mailing lists. I will forever cherish my Art History upbringing, but I can no longer respect the broader institution in a like fashion.

If you have read this in its entirety, I appreciate your time.

Sincerely,

Raymond James Krohn, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Department of History  
Boise State University  
[raymondkrohn@boisestate.edu](mailto:raymondkrohn@boisestate.edu)