

CENTER *for* FURNITURE CRAFTSMANSHIP



FROM THE DIRECTOR

These days, pretty much everyone I speak with asks how the school is faring in this recession. The answer is that we are weathering the storm like a soundly-built ship, buffeted by wind and waves, but so far holding our course steady and true. Which is to say, in less poetic language, that enrollment has declined only slightly and we are in little danger of cutting programs, laying off staff, or running a crippling deficit.

At a time when many nonprofits are on the ropes and many of the businesses with which we are in contact—lumber yards, tool companies, publishers, furniture manufacturers—have painfully reduced their work forces, we are among the lucky ones. Part of the credit goes to conservative management, but it also seems that recession causes people to recalibrate their priorities, and that high quality woodworking education remains among them.



What makes craftsmanship appealing against a background of economic instability may be the sense of fulfillment one

cultivates in the workshop. Craft exercises a person's full capacities—hands, heart, and head—in a holistic way that is both enjoyable and empowering. Instead of buying happiness, you learn to make it. Instead of accommodating to a world devised by others, you learn to construct it for yourself.

Since the time of the Industrial Revolution, craft has been a road less traveled. Yet there is much to be said for meaningful, self-expressive work today, whether one does it as a hobby or a profession. The Center exists to make that path accessible to anyone who has the desire to explore it, and we are grateful to the

many alumni, friends, and foundations who advance our mission through the annual appeal, building projects, and endowment. Certainly the most pleasurable way to support the school, however, is to participate in one of our courses. So please, join us in Rockport for a workshop this summer!

UPFILL-BROWN RELINQUISHES HELM

This June, when David Upfill-Brown packs his bags for his home in Australia, he closes out a remarkable five-year tenure as Lead Instructor of our Nine-month Comprehensive.

Back in September 2004, when Upfill-Brown first arrived at the Center, the school had just expanded and Upfill-Brown had been recruited to wrangle a brand-new curriculum into shape. "We were looking for the best furniture making teacher to be found anywhere," recalls Executive Director Peter Korn. "Hiring David was like uncorking a fine champagne."

In five short years, Upfill-Brown has built the Comprehensive into one of the country's preeminent training programs for professional furniture makers, although he is the first to credit the tag-team of co-teachers who join him in the ring. "How can you beat teaching with like minds from all over the planet?" he remarks. "I've learned so much from those guys."

Liz Phillips, who graduated in 2007, is now making furniture professionally in Boston. Phillips recalls, "David brought so much energy and joy to the whole experience! His willingness to get in the trenches with the students was singular and he had four suggestions for every challenge that came up."

Upfill-Brown's return to Australia is part of a long-term plan to get back into a workshop of his own. Still, he plans to continue teaching at the Center several months a year, covering both the final project of the Comprehensive and the start of the summer Twelve-week Intensive.

CENTER for FURNITURE CRAFTSMANSHIP

Center for Furniture Craftsmanship is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization. Our mission is to provide the best possible education for people who want to design and build functional, beautiful, expressive work out of wood to the highest standard of craftsmanship.

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The Center for Furniture Craftsmanship does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, or sexual orientation.

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Some of the 60 alumni and co-teachers who gathered to honor David Upfill-Brown on April 25

UPFILL-BROWN RELINQUISHES HELM

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Reflecting on his time at the Center, Upfill-Brown said, "One of the remarkable things about this school is the lack of bureaucracy, which gives teachers room to be on the ground with their students 24/7, unfettered with administrative issues."

Looking forward, he added, "Having worked for five years with Aled Lewis, who will become Lead Instructor, I know he's the right man for the position, and I'm looking forward to the reversal of our roles!"

WELCOME MASON McBRIEN

Mason McBrien became the Center's Assistant Facilities Manager in January 2009. After years of self-employment building custom furniture, museum installations, and historic garden architecture in New Hampshire, Mason enrolled in the Center's 2007-08 Nine-month Comprehensive and subsequently was awarded a Studio Fellowship. His work has been published in *Fine Woodworking* and most recently in Lark Books' *500 Tables*. In his position at the Center, Mason maintains the school's machinery and assists students and instructors in the Twelve-week Intensive program.



REPORT ON ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

The Center's *Campaign for Creative Excellence*, which was announced last June, has received a total of \$2,161,000 in gifts and pledges from 38 contributors to date. The goal of the campaign is to advance the excellence and sustainability of the school with \$3 million in new endowment. These restricted funds are being designated to improve faculty compensation, underwrite scholarships, and initiate a Visiting Artists Program.

The campaign was originally targeted to end this December, but the campaign committee has elected to extend the campaign as necessary. "Frankly, many friends are telling us

that the school is at the top of their priority list, but that they are unwilling to make new financial commitments in this economy," says Campaign Chair Peter Haight.

Fundraising consultant Betty Ann Copley Harris has been advising the school throughout the endowment campaign. "The solid success of the endowment campaign to date, despite this tough economy, is a credit to the Center's exceptional leadership and programs," she comments. As the *Campaign for Creative Excellence* moves forward to its goal, we will continue to share our progress with the Center's donors and friends.

FACULTY NEWS

Jennifer Anderson (CA) was invited to exhibit in the Furniture Society booth at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair in NYC in May.

Curtis Buchanan (TN) will be in a TV documentary this spring about 22 crafts people from the Southeast.

Christian Burchard (OR), **Michael Hosaluk** (CAN), **John Jordan** (TN), **Betty Scarpino** (IN), **Al Stirt** (VT), and **Jacques Vesery** (ME) are featured in *Masters: Woodturning* (Lark Books).

Christian Burchard (OR) has a solo exhibition on exhibit at the Fuller Craft Museum in Brockton, MA through November 26, titled “Days of Spring—Memories of Intimate Connections.”

Tom Caspar (MN) has started a blog at americanwoodworker.com.

Charlie Durfee (ME) is featured on the cover of *Fine Woodworking* (Apr 09), which includes his article, “Build a Bow-Front Hall Table.”



Instructor Tom Kealy

Adrian Ferrazzutti (CAN) has a new website: adrianferrazzutti.com.

Stephen Gleasner (ME) was recently in an exhibition at the Carla Massoni Gallery in MD as well as the “Winter White Show” at the Carver Hill Gallery in Rockland, ME.

Garrett Hack (VT) wrote “New Spin on Fan Inlays” for *Fine Woodworking* (Apr 09).

Wayne Hall (ME) has already outgrown the larger studio he moved into last September.

Two of **John Jordan’s** (TN) pieces were acquired by the Philadelphia Museum of Art and one by the Fuller Craft Museum.

Tom Kealy (UK), **Andrew Lawton**



Instructors Brian Reid and David Haig triumphant on the croquet pitch last August

(UK), **Aled Lewis** (UK), and **Toby Winteringham** (UK) had work in the “21st Century Furniture—the Arts & Crafts Legacy” exhibition in London in April.

Silas Kopf (MA) wrote an article on Boule marquetry for *Fine Woodworking* (Feb 09), with a companion video online. Since last summer’s crushing defeat at the hands of Peter Korn during the Furniture Society croquet tournament in Purchase, NY, Kopf has been engaged in a fierce training regimen.

Alan Lacer (WI) gave a turning demo in WY, which completed his 25-year venture to teach or demonstrate in all 50 states.

Paul Loebach (NY) was profiled in *Surface* magazine (Mar 09).

Jim Macdonald (ME) had work in the “Winter White Show” at the Carver Hill Gallery in Rockland, ME.

Teri Masaschi (NM) is offering two



Aled Lewis, the new lead instructor for the Nine-month Comprehensive

seminars at the AWFS show in Las Vegas in July.

Austin Matheson (ME) has relocated to a 3,000 sq. ft. shared shop in Rockland, ME.

Clifton Monteith (MI) has work in the current “Fashioning Felt” exhibition at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in NYC through September 7.

Peter Pierobon (CAN) has a solo show at the David Kaye Gallery in Toronto, Canada, and is opening his own gallery (716 Gallery) in Vancouver, Canada.

Chris Pye (UK) had work in “Casco Bay Woodsculptors” at the Dan Kaney Gallery in March in Portland, ME.



First-time instructor Richard Vaughan from Australia

A screen by **Brian Reid** (ME) was in the Readers Gallery of *Fine Woodworking* (Apr 09).

Betty Scarpino (IN) and **Hayley Smith** (AZ) are presenters for “InGrained: Women and Wood Art Symposium” at the Visual Arts Center of Richmond, VA in May.

Pete Schlebecker’s (ME) piece “Breathing Drawers” appeared in *Fine Woodworking* (Feb 09) with a companion video online.

Carter Sio (PA) was profiled in *Bucks Life* magazine (Jan/Feb 09).

Al Stirt’s (VT) Butternut fluted bowl (1987) was acquired by the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

Peter Turner’s (ME) “Hickory and Ash Blanket Chest” was published in *Fine Woodworking* (Feb 09) and he has a new website: petersturner.com.

David Upfill-Brown (AUS) was featured in an article written by alumnus Patrick Downes (ME) in *Woodwork* magazine (Spring 09).

Jacques Vesery (ME) won 1st place for sculpture in Art Buzz, a juried annual competition and publication.

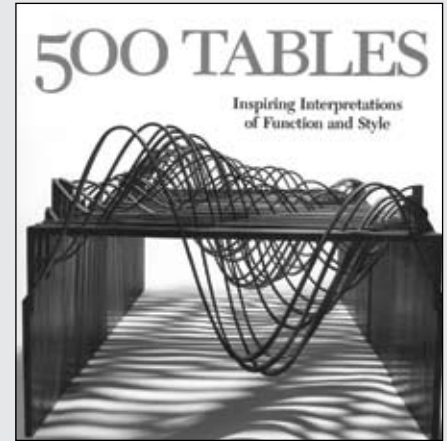
John Whalley (ME) had a solo exhibition at the John H. Surovek Gallery in FL.



Congratulations to the seventeen faculty and the eleven alumni who were featured in Lark Books’ recent publication, *500 Tables*!

Faculty

Steven A. Butler (NJ)
David Colwell (UK)
Neil Erasmus (AUS)
Aaron Fedarko (ME)
Michael Fortune (CAN)
David Haig (NZ)
Ejler Hjorth-Westh (CA)
Thomas Huckler (NJ)
Mason B. McBrien (ME)
Jere Osgood (NH)
Michael Puryear (NY)
Kevin Rodel (ME)
James Schriber (CT)
Carter Sio (PA)
Bill Thomas (NH)
David Upfill-Brown (AUS)
Richard Vaughan (AUS)



Alumni

Marianne Albanese (PA)
Jacque Allen (NC)
Cale D. Caboth (IA)
Miles Epstein (CA)
Mark Foehl (PA)
John Godfrey (NJ)
Duncan Gowdy (MA)
Naushon Hale (MA)
Jack Rodie (ME)
Roy Slamm (ME)
Bill Wells (MI)

ALUMNI NEWS

Ray Finan’s (OH) sideboard appeared in the Readers Gallery of *Fine Woodworking* (Feb 09).

Kipp Krusa (TN) has a new web site: kippkrusa.com.

Mason McBrien’s (ME) tool chest, made during the Comprehensive, was featured in the Readers Gallery of *Fine Woodworking Tools & Shops* (Winter 2008-2009).

Tom Monahan’s (MA) tool chest was featured in the Readers Gallery of *Fine Woodworking Tools & Shops* (Winter 2008-2009).

Ben Thompson (ME), **Laurie Stearns** (ME), and **Carrie Camann** (ME) joined with instructor Chris Pye for a March exhibition, “Casco Bay Woodsculptors,” at the Daniel Kany Gallery in Portland, ME.



Carrie Camann in Chris Pye’s Relief Carving course

In March, **Leslie Webb** (PA) exhibited at the Architectural Digest Home Design Show in NYC.

2009 SUMMER WORKSHOPS

There's still time to sign up for Workshops and spend a week or two in beautiful Maine this summer! In addition to Basic Woodworking, the following workshops still have space available as of publication:

WORKSHOP TITLE	INSTRUCTOR	DATES
Introduction to Turning	Stephen Gleasner	June 1–5
Vessels Turned and Carved	Matthew Hill	June 8–12
Really Basic Woodworking	Liza Wheeler	June 15–19
Intermediate/Advanced Carving	Chris Pye	June 29–July 10
In the Krenov Tradition	Jennifer Anderson and David Welter	July 13–24
Learn to Turn	Beth Ireland	July 13–17
Beyond Basic Bowls	Mark Gardner	July 20–24
Cabinets and Casepieces	Jerry Curry and John McAlevey	August 10–21
Woodturning for Beginners	Nick Cook	August 17–21
Finishing from A to Z	Teri Masaschi	August 24–September 4
Design and Craftsmanship	Ted Blachly and Jere Osgood	September 7–18
Restoration and Repair	Teri Masaschi	September 7–18
Woodturning Fundamentals	Alan Lacer	September 14–18
Machine Skills and Design	Aled Lewis and Tim Rousseau	September 21–October 2
Computer-aided Design	Paul Loebach	September 21–25
Woodturning II	Alan Lacer	September 21–25
Unplugged Woodshop	Tom Caspar	September 28–October 2
Advanced Veneering	Darryl Keil	October 12–16



Thursday night lobster potlucks



Students sitting on their Really Basic Woodworking projects

MESSLER GALLERY NEWS

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Maine Wood: 2010 Biennial Exhibition

December 4, 2009–February 12, 2010

The Center for Furniture Craftmanship is pleased to announce a Call for Entries for its second biennial exhibition to seek out and showcase the breadth, creativity, and excellence of wood craftsmanship in the state, and to help promote the artistic and economic development of Maine's growing community of fine woodworkers. The jurors for Maine Wood 2010 are Anissa Kapsales, Editor, *Fine Woodworking*; Gretchen Keyworth, Director, Fuller Craft Museum; Silas Kopf, Furniture Maker

Application Deadline: August 7, 2009

Awards:

Six awards with prizes totaling \$2,000. Award-winning entries will travel to the Center for Maine Craft in March 2010.

Additional information, entry forms, and submission guidelines are available at woodschoool.org/gallery

Lead sponsorship is generously provided by Bangor Saving Bank, with the following co-sponsoring organizations: the Guild of Maine Woodworkers, Kennebec Valley Woodworkers Association, Maine Crafts Association, Maine Woodturners, Maine Woodworkers Association, and Western Mountain Woodturners.



Opening reception for Current Student Work

MESSLER GALLERY EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

Current Student Work

April 24–May 29, 2009

New Work by Faculty

June 5–September 4, 2009

Boxes and Their Makers

September 11–November 25, 2009

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Return Service Requested

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25 Mill Street, Rockport, Maine 04856