FROM THE DIRECTOR

November is the traditional time to celebrate harvest home in New England, and we have much to be thankful for at the school this year. In particular, enrollment has been bountiful despite the dour economic climate. Registrations for workshops have surpassed our previous record by more than seven percent, while the Twelve-week Intensives and Nine-month Comprehensive have once again reached full capacity. In addition, we are launching a new program of community-oriented woodturning workshops this month and they are filling rapidly.

To what should we attribute this abundance? Personally, I am never one to dismiss good, old-fashioned, luck. But I’d also like to believe that some part of the Center’s success should be credited to our educational model, which encourages students to explore their capacities for design hand-in-hand with developing strong technical skills.

The relevance of this model was highlighted just yesterday by a 37-year-old woodworker from Kalamazoo who has been an outstanding workshop assistant this year. Rob is searching for a way to design and build more fine furniture, and do less of the architectural work and repairs that currently pay his bills. “I want to function at my full potential,” he said, “not dumb down my efforts.” With that statement, I believe Rob speaks for many of our students and instructors. Whether amateur or professional, they come to the Center because the skilled work of bringing something original and beautiful into the world with their own two hands rewards the spirit in ways that are hard to come by elsewhere in this day and age.

The success of the Center in serving the educational needs of its students is the work of many hands over many years. We would not exist without the hundreds of alumni and friends who generously contribute their time and resources as volunteers, board members, and donors. And much of the credit also belongs to our administrative staff and instructors, who demonstrate their personal commitments to excellence day in and day out through their work at the school. My heartfelt thanks to you all!

GRADUATE REPORT

It has been six years since we launched our first Nine-month Comprehensive in September, 2004. Most of our graduates enrolled with the goal of becoming self-employed designer-makers and by now 76 of them have reentered the gravity of the real world. Furniture making is a challenging career at the best of times, and we thought it would be worthwhile to ask how they are faring in this adverse economy. Altogether, we caught up with 53 alumni. Some have been back in the workforce for as many as five years. Others departed our campus as recently as five months ago. What we heard was both encouraging and sobering.

Statistically, 58% of our respondents are currently self-employed as woodworkers, 10% are employed by woodworking companies, 10% have lost woodworking jobs due to the recession and are currently unemployed, 13% are in school elsewhere, and 9% are otherwise employed or retired. Altogether, including three who have gone on to graduate school for design, 85% of our Comprehensive alumni are actively engaged in woodworking as a profession, which is a remarkably positive statistic.

Listening closely to that 85%, however, it is evident that the road to success as a furniture maker requires tenacity. As best we can count, only seven of the 31 self-employed build furniture exclusively.

(Continued on page 4)
WELCOME BACK

We are delighted to welcome two former trustees, Rick Kellogg and Jerry Morton, back onto our Board of Directors after a one-year absence.

Rick Kellogg is a businessman from Houston, Texas, who is also currently a Trustee of the Jefferson Scholars Foundation at the University of Virginia. He chaired the successful $2.4 million capital campaign that allowed us to expand the Center from one building to four in 2003-2004, served as President of our Board from 2004 through 2009, and still holds the position of Vice-chair of our ongoing Campaign for Creative Excellence. “I was thrilled to be asked to return to the Board,” said Rick, “It is a privilege and a pleasure to be involved with such a wonderful community of people.”

Jerry Morton first joined our Board of Directors in 2001 and served until 2009. He also recently completed nine years on the Board of the Portland Symphony Orchestra. A retired cardiac surgeon, Jerry headed the department of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery at Maine Medical Center from 1987 to 2001. Currently, he volunteers as a pilot for Angel Flight, a national organization that provides free air transportation to financially distressed patients. Jerry has taken workshops at the Center for many years and feels that, of all of the boards on which he has served, his experience at the Center has been the most personally rewarding. “I am honored,” says Jerry, “and welcome the opportunity to return to the Board as long as I can continue to offer something meaningful to the school.”

2010 CROQUET WINNERS

June 18 Kenneth Copp and Charlie Durham
July 1 Joe MacKinnon
July 8 Silas Kopf and Alf Sharp
July 15 Mark Juliana and Alan Pullman
July 22 Craig Stevens and Mami Suzuki
July 29 Craig Stevens and Mami Suzuki
August 5 Chris Styler and Mark Tresnowski
August 12 Lucy Greenberg and Mark Juliana
August 19 Greg Crispell and Kim Winkle
August 26 Craig Stevens and Mami Suzuki

September 2 Rob Chamberlin

Kenneth Copp and Charlie Durham celebrate their victory with Kenneth’s mare Melody.
FACULTY NEWS

Elia Bizzarri (Pittsboro, NC) was the guest on two episodes of Roy Underhill’s PBS show, The Woodwright’s Shop, in November.

Neil Erasmus (Pickering Brook, AUS) and Richard Vaughan (Sumner Park, AUS) are on the steering committee to establish a national Australian organization for professional furniture designers and artists in wood.

Stephen Gleasner (Appleton, ME) received an Award of Excellence at the National Woodturning Symposium in Hartford, CT this past June.

Beth Ireland

Beth Ireland (Rosindale, MA) is kicking off an eleven-month touring project called “Turning Around America.” Beth will travel, teach, and demonstrate across America from a van that she has renovated into a woodworking shop and living space.

Silas Kopf (Easthampton, MA) was disqualified from the 2010 All-school Championship Croquet Tournament for inappropriate dress on the court.

Andrew Lawton (Derbyshire, England) was recently awarded a Bespoke Guild Mark by the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers.

Aled Lewis (Oxford, England) is profiled in the annual issue of Woodwork Magazine, which is edited by Tom Caspar (Eagan, MN). The article was written by Center alumnus Patrick Downes (Saco, ME).

Betty Scarpino (Indianapolis, IN) was represented in the exhibition “Is Ornament a Crime?: Re-Thinking the Role of Decoration in Contemporary Wood” at the SOFA exposition in Chicago this November 5-7.

Libby Schrum was this year’s winner of the $25,000 John D. Mineck Furniture Fellowship, awarded by the John D. Mineck Foundation in partnership with Boston’s Society of Arts and Crafts.

Congratulations to Assistant Facilities Manager Mason McBrien and his wife, Kate. Their son, Alden Thatcher McBrien was born on September 17, 2010.

Clay Foster and Jennifer Shirley (Indianapolis, IN) are participating in the “Masters of Contemporary Woodturning” exhibit at Vale Craft Gallery in Chicago, IL through November 27.

Miguel Gómez- Ibáñez (Weston, MA) was a panelist at the “Crafting a Nation” conference held in October in Washington, DC.

Garrett Hack’s (Thetford Center, VT) article “A Solid Drawer Bottom is Worth the Effort” appeared in Fine Woodworking (June/July 2010).

David Haig’s (Nelson, NZ) Signature Rocking Chair is featured on the back-cover of Fine Woodworking’s Nov/Dec issue.

Michael Hosaluk (Saskatoon, Canada) was the recipient of the Saskatchewan Arts Board’s 2010 Lieutenant Governor’s Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Tom Caspar

Hugh Montgomery (Bainbridge Island, WA) and Stewart Wurtz (Seattle, WA) are exhibiting in Northwest Fine Woodworking’s “30th Anniversary Member Showcase” through December 1.

Michael Puryear (Shokan, NY) is included in Makers: A History of American Studio Crafts (University of North Carolina Press, 2010), the first comprehensive text book on craft.

Former instructor and studio fellow Carter Sio returned this summer to participate in Kim Winkle’s “Turned and Painted Furniture” workshop.

“Timepieces,” an exhibiton of paintings by John Whalley (Damariscotta, ME), was held at Greenhut Galleries in Portland, ME this past August.

Kimberly Winkle (Smithville, TN) was a recipient of a Tennessee Arts Commission Individual Artist Fellowship for Crafts this past July and also won a 2010 NICHE award in the Painted Wood category in February.

Faculty were represented in the new book 500 Cabinets (Lark Books, 2010). They include Jennifer Anderson (San Diego, CA), Timothy Coleman (Shelburne Falls, MA), Neil Erasmus (Pickering Brook, Australia), Aaron Fedarko (Camden, ME), Jenna Goldberg (Providence, RI), Mason McBrien (Union, ME), Hugh Montgomery (Bainbridge Island, WA), Michael Puryear (Shokan, NY), Brian Reid (Rockland, ME), Kevin Rodel (Brunswick, ME), James Schriber (New Milford, CT), Alf Sharp (Woodbury, TN), Carter Sio (Newtown, PA), Toby Winteringham (Norfolk, England), and Stewart Wurtz (Seattle, WA).
ALUMNI NEWS

Ray Finan (Arlington, VT) has left the corporate world to pursue furniture making full-time. In September he exhibited at the Seventh Annual Vermont Fine Furniture & Woodworking Festival in Woodstock, Vermont. For more info visit raymondfinan.com.

A garden bench by Clark Kellogg (Houston, TX) is featured in “CraftTexas 2010” at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, September 25, 2010 through January 9, 2011.

Evan Lightner (Raleigh, NC) is featured with ironsmith Ben Galata in “Handcraft is Contemporary Design,” a two-person exhibition at the Gregg Museum of Art & Design at North Carolina State University, through December 18.

Chloris Lowe (Philadelphia, PA) is teaching woodworking as an adjunct faculty member at Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell, PA.

The Readers Gallery of the June issue of Fine Woodworking featured work by Matthew Lindsay (North Yarmouth, ME), Gregg Lipton (Cumberland Center, ME), Pat Megowan (Corvallis, OR), Libby Schrum (Camden, ME), and William Wells (Ypsilanti Township, MI).

A sideboard by Adam Peterson (Maplewood, MN) won the Judges Award at this summer’s “27th Annual Northern Woods Exhibition” of the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild.

“Get Sharp—Fast,” an article by Deneb Puchalski (Waldooro, ME) appeared in the July/August 2010 issue of Fine Woodworking.

The Colby Museum of Art in Waterville, Maine is presenting “currents5,” a solo exhibition of process- and performance-based work by Gina Siepel (Weston, MA), from November 4, 2010 – February 13, 2011.

Rich Soborowicz (Kent, WA) exhibited in Northwest Fine Woodworking’s recent “30th Anniversary Member Showcase,” in Seattle.


Quite a few of our alumni are represented in the new book 500 Cabinets (Lark Books, 2010), including: Jacque Allen (Asheville, NC), Christopher Atwood (Clifton, VA), Cale Caboth (Mt. Pleasant, IA), Patrick Downes (Saco, ME), Jordan Goodman (Chicago, IL), Duncan Gowdy (Worcester, MA), Yuri Kobayashi (Providence, RI), Pat Megowan (Corvallis, OR), Myrl Phelps (Danbury, NH), Jack Rodie (York, ME), Brian Sargent (Candia, NH), and Rich Soborowicz (Kent, WA).

GRADUATE REPORT (Continued from page 1)

Of those, three have steady commissions, two are underemployed with sporadic commissions, and two are just getting their shops up and running.

It appears that most of our self-employed graduates are finding that a workable business model, this early in their careers, is to earn their bread and butter through architectural woodworking or carpentry, while building up their furniture practices. A good example is provided by James Cohen, a 28-year-old who went to work as a fabricator for an architectural design/build firm in Brooklyn after completing the Comprehensive in 2006. He left that company after a year and a half to start his own design/build business, which now occupies a 2100 sq. ft. workshop where James usually works alone, although he hires other freelance woodworkers to help with large jobs. Recently, he completed an eight-month-long residential loft renovation on the lower east side of Manhattan done almost entirely with reclaimed antique pine. Other projects have included a full media room, air-conditioning covers, a walk-in wine room, and “too many doors to count.” Many of these projects were architect-designed, but have led to furniture commissions. When we caught up with James, he had just been awarded the millwork package for a Japanese watch maker’s store in Soho. He is also working closely with an architect to fabricate a line of high-end, totally “green” baby furniture. James says that self-employment has become less worrisome as he has developed a loyal set of clients and that new business comes in steadily through word of mouth.

A second graduate who is taking on a range of work is 35-year-old Orion Boshes, who settled in Rockland after graduating from our first Comprehensive in May, 2005. Following the course he worked for 4 1/2 years in the cabinet shop at Phi Home Design in Rockport, where he mostly built casework, doors and other architectural woodwork. Then, in 2009, he set out on his own, often working in tandem with another self-employed alumnus, Andrew Bradford. Currently, Orion rents space in a shared shop in Rockland, where he splits his time fairly evenly between architectural cabinetry and custom furniture. In addition, he is currently developing a line of architectural lighting for sale through galleries and interior designers. Asked how he feels about self-employment, he says, “It’s twice as much work for half as much money, but I love it.”
## 2011 WORKSHOPS PREVIEW

Course descriptions will be posted to www.woodschool.org by December 15. Titles are subject to change.

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Registration for the 2011 Workshops officially begins on December 15, 2010, although we are happy to take your information in advance. In the unusual circumstance that a workshop is over-enrolled at 5 pm EST on December 15, a lottery will be conducted to select the participants. All registrations after December 15 will be first come, first served.
This autumn the Messler Gallery is hosting *Furniture Masters of New Hampshire*, an exhibition of fine furniture by our friends at the New Hampshire Furniture Masters Association. While the primary mission of each organization differs—NHFMA is a professional trade association and the Center is a nonprofit school—their core values are the same: both organizations strive to advance the craft of furniture making at the highest standard of excellence.

Demonstrating the NHFMA members’ fluency in technique, diversity of styles, and reverence for wood as a material, this exhibition is an exemplary showing for the craft. From Jeff Robert’s classic reproduction of a *Newport Document Chest*, to Thom Walsh’s exotic tineo-veneered *Sleigh Endings* love seat, to Brian Reid’s contemporary *Bleached Ice* jewelry stand, the show provides an inspiring array of well-constructed and designed work. The exhibit has been well attended by the public and received favorable media attention in *Design New England* and *Woodshop News*.

*Thom Walsh, Sleigh Endings, 2007*

**MESSLER GALLERY EXHIBITION SCHEDULE**

*Contemporary Maine Wood Sculpture*
December 3, 2010 – February 4, 2011

*Celebrating the Studio Fellowship*
February 11 – April 8, 2011

*Current Student Work*
April 15 – May 26, 2011

Return Service Requested

25 Mill Street, Rockport, Maine 04856

Center for Furniture Craftsmanship