Spring 2017 Newsletter

Center *for* Furniture Craftsmanship

From the Director

With summer almost in sight, stand-out enrollment, and a handsome show of student work in the gallery, the school is thriving. What better time to settle back and savor our accomplishments? On the other hand, what better time to research how the world is changing around us, ask how we can build on the school's present success to best serve future generations, and commit to the long, hard process of making improvements happen?

One of the rewarding things about woodworking is the extent to which it roots us in the factuality of timber and tools…where no amount of bull or bluster can coax a clean cut from a dull chisel. That regard for reality, which is essential to the sustained success of any enterprise, is precisely the ethos that our Board of Directors brings to governance. (And thank goodness! Wishful thinking would not compensate instructors, heat workshops through cold Maine winters, or otherwise balance the $1.3 million budget required to deliver our superlative curriculum to more than 400 students each year.)

To ground our shared vision for the future excellence and sustainability of the school in the world as it is, the school's leadership is currently reaching out to more than 1500 alumni and friends through a planning study. Their input will enable us to assess the accuracy of our perceptions, learn if our strategies for advancement resonate with the school community, discover good new ideas, and map the best possible road forward.

Whatever the exact itinerary of that route, I am confident it will ensure the school's continued ability, far beyond my tenure, to teach design and craftsmanship to the highest standards, transmit traditional skills while welcoming new technologies, quietly advocate for the value of hands-on creative work to the individual and society, and maintain a curriculum that fulfills the needs of future generations.

Students at CraftBoston

The current Nine-month Comprehensive class, plus two current Fellows, took their work public this spring with a booth at CraftBoston. The primary intent was to learn professional practices

Students' and Fellows' work at CraftBoston, 2017

relating to trade show exhibition. These include booth design, construction, and lighting; permits, paperwork, and publicity; transport, travel, and lodging; and pricing, payments, and invoicing. Equally important was the chance to interact personally with potential buyers and see first-hand how the public responds to one's work.

While sales were sparse, our ten exhibitors say the show was well worth their investment. Not only was it a memorable education in marketing skills, it also turned out to be an empowering experience to see how much the craft-savvy CraftBoston audience genuinely admired the design and execution of their furniture and furnishings.

Comprehensive students (left to right): Claire Scully, Adam Howell, Stephanie Lunieski, and Dean Babin

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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FACULTY NEWS

Dixie Biggs (Gainesville, FL) will be demonstrating at the American Association of Woodturners' 31st International Symposium in Kansas City, June 22-25, which is being held jointly with the Furniture Society. Other demonstrators and presenters include **John Beaver**, **Miriam Carpenter** (New Hope, PA), **Barbara Dill** (Rockville, VA), **J. Paul Fennell** (Scottsdale, AZ), **Michael Hosaluk** (Saskatoon, SK), **Jim Sannerud** (St. Paul, MN), **Mark Sfirri** (New Hope, PA), **Jennifer Shirley** (Indianapolis, IN), **Alan Stirt** (Enosburg Falls, VT), and **Kimberly Winkle** (Smithville, TN).

John Beaver (Pacific Palisades, CA) is the new president of Collectors of Wood Art.

Miriam Carpenter's work is on display at Philadelphia International Airport through June 2017.

This past March, **Chance Coalter** (San Diego, CA) participated on the Wood Design panel at World Wood Day 2017 in Long Beach, CA; other scheduled presenters included **Brian Reid** (Rockland, ME), **Kimberly Winkle**, **Jennifer Anderson** (San Diego, CA), and **Mark Sfirri**. Participants in the event's "Collaborative Project" included **Jacques Vesery** (Damariscotta, ME) and alumnus **Yorgo Liapis** (Toronto, ON).

Ray Finan (Arlington, VT) is exhibiting for the Vermont Crafts Council Open Studio Weekend, May 27-28.

Linden Frederick (Belfast, ME) is opening shows this August at Forum Gallery in New York City and the Center for Maine Contemporary Art in Rockland, ME.

Garrett Hack (Thetford Center, VT) has work in the exhibition *Four Centuries of Furniture in Portsmouth* at Discover Portsmouth through June 18, 2017.

Silas Kopf (Northampton, MA) has been awarded a 2017 Artist Fellowship from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Jim Macdonald (Burnham, ME) is exhibiting guitar marquetry at the Northeast Guitar Expo and the New York Guitar Show this year.

Michael Puryear's (Shokan, NY) *Dan Chair* has been acquired for the permanent collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture in Washington, DC.

Kevin Rodel (Brunswick, ME) was featured on the cover of the April issue of *Fine Woodworking*, for which both he and **Jeff Miller** (Chicago, IL) wrote articles.

Adam Rogers' (Cumberland, ME) furniture for Thos. Moser received three 2016 GOOD DESIGN Awards, from The Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design.

Tim Rousseau (Appleton, ME) is featured on the cover of *Fine Woodworking*'s spring 2017 "Building Furniture" publication, which includes articles he has written on casework and techniques.

Doug Stowe (Eureka Springs, AR) has two new books coming out this October: *Tiny Boxes* from Taunton Press and *Making Classic Toys That Teach* from Springhouse Press.

Jennifer Shirley was featured in the Gallery section of last December's *American Woodturner*, which had a cover article on **Dixie Biggs**.

Al Stirt will be presenting at the 2017 symposium of the Association of Woodturners of South Africa in George, South Africa, September 22- 25.

Joshua Vogel's (Kingston, NY) book, *The Artful Wooden Spoon* (Chronicle Books, 2015), was recently translated and published in both Japanese and Chinese.

A custom cabinet designed by **Richard Williams** (Amersham, UK) was awarded a 2017 Guild Mark from The Furniture Maker's Company. It was built by employee **Alex Roebuck** (Mississauga, ON), who is one of our alumni.

2017 WORKSHOP AVAILABILITY

There's still time to sign up for a week or more in beautiful Maine this summer!
The following courses have space available as of publication. Although fully enrolled workshops are not listed, we encourage you to get on the waitlist for any course that is of interest to you.
Please call 207-594-5611 for inquiries or visit www.woodschool.org for course descriptions.

WORKSHOP TITLE	INSTRUCTOR	DATES
Drawer Making	Tom Caspar	June 19-23
Live-edge Tables	Robert Erickson & Tor Erickson	June 19-30
Live-edge Bowls	Warren Carpenter	July 10-14
Mid-Century Casework & Tambour Doors	Reuben Foat & Brian Reid	July 17-28
Form and Surface	Miriam Carpenter & Mark Sfirri	July 24-28
Introduction to Veneer	Chance Coalter	August 7-11
Lighting Design	Asher Rodriquez-Dunn	August 21-25
Introduction to the CNC	Mark Juliana	Aug. 28-Sept. 1
Discovering Rattan	Mark Catalini	September 4-8
Upholstery Techniques	Mike Mascelli	September 25-29
Sawn and Sculpted Vessels	John Beaver	October 16-20

ALUMNI NEWS

Peter Buley's (Brooklyn, NY) company, Analog Modern, exhibited at the Architectural Digest Design Show in March. Other exhibitors included **Kate Casey**'s (Brooklyn, NY) PEG Woodworking, **Libby Schrum** (Camden, ME), and **Bobby Sukrachand** (Brooklyn, NY).

Katie Hall (Mahone Bay, NS) and **Alex Kehoe** (Port Williams, NS) exhibited in "WhichCraft" at the Harvest Gallery in Wolfville, Nova Scotia last fall.

Jonathan Brower (Passcoag, RI) has filmed a video on "Cabinet Case Construction" for Craftsy.com, in association with Woodcraft Magazine.

Bowen Liu (Rochester, NY) will present her work during New York City's Design Week with a booth at ICFF from May 21-24 and another at the Wanted Design Launch Pad, May 20-23.

Tim Lovett (Portland, ME) has purchased the Maine Made Furniture Company in Wilton, ME.

Cedric Martin's (Woodstock, NY) business, Pacama, was the subject of an article at remodelista.com in April.

Heide Martin (Appleton, ME) is one of four exhibitors chosen for the Furniture Society's booth at ICFF, May 21-24.

Stephen Moles (Kingsport, TN) has been elected president of the East Tennessee Woodworkers Guild.

Libby Schrum wrote an article on a "Mid-century Credenza" for the May/June issue of *Fine Woodworking*.

Michaela Stone (Rockport, ME) is currently the Windgate Artist in Residence at San Diego State University.

A cabinet by **Bruce Willey** (Nashville, TN) was featured in the gallery section of April's *Fine Woodworking*.

Jesse Shaw (Watertown, MA) exhibited at CraftBoston in April. He was also the subject of a February 17 article in the Boston Globe, *titled "Stow Craftsman Uncovers Wood's Inner Light."*

MESSLER GALLERY NEWS

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Maine Wood 2018
January 19 - April 11, 2018

We are pleased to announce the Call for Entries for our sixth "Maine Wood" biennial.The exhibition is designed to 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 2018" are Fabio Fernandez, Director, Society of Arts+Crafts, Joshua Friend, Editor, *American Woodturner*, and Mira Nakashima, Creative Director, George Nakashima Woodworker.

Application Deadline: August 31, 2017

Awards: Eight prizes totaling $2,400 provided by Downes and Reader, DMT Diamond Whetstones, Rare Woods, Lie-Nielsen Toolworks, Holt & Bugbee, Woodcraft of Portsmouth, Packard Woodworks, and Rockler Woodworking and Hardware of South Portland, ME.

Additional information and submission guidelines are available at www.woodschool.org/wood-school-gallery/maine-wood-call-for-entries.

Co-sponsoring organizations: Maine Crafts Association, Maine Woodturners, and Maine Woodworkers Association.

Exclusive Media Sponsor: Maine Home+Design Magazine

Current Student Work, 2017

MESSLER GALLERY SCHEDULE

Current Student Work
April 28 - May 31, 2017

New Work by Faculty
June 16 - September 13, 2017

Contemporary Wood Lighting
September 22, 2017 - January 3, 2018

CENTER *for* FURNITURE CRAFTSMANSHIP
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Return Service Requested