Spring 2018 Newsletter

Center *for* Furniture Craftsmanship

FROM THE DIRECTOR

On June 28, 1993, six intrepid souls converged for a two-week Basic Woodworking course at a shop that was still under construction behind my house in Rockland, Maine. In the 25 years since that first class, the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship has grown somewhat. More than 2,000 aspiring woodworkers have taken Basic Woodworking. Thousands of avocational and professional-track woodworkers have learned finer points of design and craftsmanship through a spectrum of additional Workshops, Intensives, Comprehensives, and Fellowships. Hundreds of outstanding instructors have traveled to Maine from all over the globe to share their expertise.

It's difficult to see the contours of a landscape when you're planted in the middle of it. But travel to recent 25th-anniversary events in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Washington has heightened my perspective on just how much the school has accomplished. I'm not referring to its superbly maintained shops, dedicated staff, forward-looking non-profit governance, culture of generous teaching, or international repute, wonderful as they are. I'm speaking about the end result—how people successfully use the Center as an educational tool with which to build better lives.

In each city, I caught up with alumni (some of whom had disappeared from our radar years ago) who are deeply engaged in real-life careers as woodworkers and designers. I was already aware that saplings we had nurtured were taking root here and there. Now I see the beginnings of a forest.

To practice a craft is to learn that the material of the world does not bend easily to our intent, yet with persistence and discipline we can bring new beauty into being and new meaning to our lives. Craft may be a road less traveled in our digital culture, but it offers an invaluable alternative to the confined experience of life at a keyboard. As we celebrate the school's first quarter century and look ahead, the value of our mission to future generations has become more important than ever.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE NEWS

The Center has received strong early support for the new strategic initiative announced in last fall's newsletter. The 14-person Board of Directors has pledged almost $2.0 million to implement the plan's goals, with every member contributing. In addition, a major foundation has just awarded a $500,000 matching grant to advance the plan's objectives.

The strategic initiative is a roadmap for future growth that was developed by the Board of Directors over a three-year process with significant input from the school community. Its premise is that bigger is not necessarily better. Instead of constructing more buildings and enrolling more students, the Board intends to leverage the quality of existing programs for greater social impact.

In full, the strategic plan calls for sustainably implementing the following priorities through new endowment:

- To promote the long-term vitality of the woodworking field through scholarships that enable the most talented candidates from future generations to enroll in our Fellowship program and Nine-month Comprehensive course, regardless of means.
- To strengthen vocational education in America by training woodworking instructors from schools and non-profit organizations that serve economically disadvantaged populations.
- To ensure the Center's continued ability to thrive with Executive Directors of the highest caliber at the helm by establishing a Chair for Executive Leadership.
- To build national appreciation for craftsmanship and design in wood by expanding the reach of Messler Gallery exhibitions.

As we implement this transformative plan, the next step will be to confer with many of the school's longstanding benefactors over the next twelve months. In the meantime, we welcome your questions and suggestions. Please direct them to Peter Korn, Executive Director, at peter@woodschool.org or 207-594-5611.

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), **Christian Burchard** (Ashland, OR), **J. Paul Fennell** (Scottsdale, AZ), **Stephen Hatcher** (Olympia, WA), **Michael Hosaluk** (Saskatoon, SK), **John Jordan** (Cane Ridge, TN), **Kristin LeVier** (Moscow, ID), **Graeme Priddle** (Asheville, NC), **Melissa Engler** (Asheville, NC), **Mark Sfirri** (New Hope, PA), and **Jacques Vesery** (Damariscotta, ME) are represented in the exhibition *New Horizons*, which opens at Allied Arts Gallery, in Richmond, WA, from May 22 – July 1 and then travels to the Gallery of Wood Art in St. Paul, MN, from August 1 – September 30.

Jacques Vesery was the featured artist in last January's Sparking the Grassroots Aesthetic Movement *exhibition, at Café ArtScience in Cambridge, MA.*

Chance Coalter (San Diego, CA) will be artist-in-residence at the Sturt Craft Centre in Australia this fall.

Adrian Ferrazzutti's (Guelph, ON) work is featured in *The Craft of Veneering* by Craig Thibodeau, which is scheduled for publication by Taunton Press in October.

Peter Follansbee (Kingston, MA), **Peter Galbert** (Sterling, MA), **Teri Masaschi** (Tijeras, NM), **Mary May** (Johns Island, SC), and **Tim Rousseau** (Appleton, ME) were presenters at *Fine Woodworking Live*, which took place in Southbridge, MA, in April.

Work by **Beth Ireland** (St. Petersburg, FL) and **Kristin LeVier** was featured in the exhibition *Gender Bend: Women in Wood, Men at the Loom* at the Fuller Craft Museum in Brockton, MA, earlier this year.

Mike Korsak (Pittsburgh, PA) partnered with the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) to exhibit at the Pittsburgh Home and Garden Show's Designer Showcase in March. He will be Artist in Residence at the Center for Turning and Furniture Design at Indiana University of Pennsylvania for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Kristin LeVier is a featured demonstrator at the *32nd Annual International Symposium* of the American Association of Woodturners in Portland, OR, from June 14-17. Other presenters include **Christian Burchard**, **Keith Gotschall** (Salida, CO), **Stephen Hatcher**, **Graeme Priddle**, and **Al Stirt** (Enosburg Falls, VT).

Jeff Miller's (Chicago, IL) article on *The Chippendale Challenge* was the cover story for *Popular Woodworking*'s April issue.

Chris Pye (Whitney-on-Wye, UK) is making a music stand inspired by Vaughan Williams' tone poem, *The Lark Ascending*, for an exhibition of original music stands by members of the Master Carvers Association. It will debut at the Leeds Piano Festival in May and tour England.

Brian Reid (Rockland, ME) has been awarded a Maine Artist Fellowship by the Maine Arts Commission. Recently, he was Windgate Artist in Residence at Purchase College in New York.

Designs by **Adam Rogers** (Cumberland, ME) for Thos. Moser were recognized with 2017 *Good Design Awards* by the Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design. They include his Atlantic Chair, Hancock Table, and Foreside Bed.

The April issue of *Fine Woodworking* featured articles on *A Shooting Board that Handles Five Jobs* by **Tim Rousseau** and *Simple Box-joint Sled* by **Doug Stowe** (Eureka Springs, AR).

Mark Sfirri juried *Hawaii's Woodshow 2017* in Honolulu.

Jennifer Anderson (San Diego, CA) curated the exhibition *Wood Diversified*, held this spring at Palomar College in California. It included work by **Chance Coalter** and **Reuben Foat** (San Diego, CA).

Marcus Soto (Stone Ridge, NY) is a partner and lead designer at New York Heartwoods, which is exhibiting at *Wanted Design* in New York, NY, during Design Week, from May 19-22.

2018 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
Stringed Instruments 1.0	Beth Ireland & Keunho Peter Park	July 2-6
Carving Spoons, Carving Sculpture	Kristin LeVier & Josh Vogel	July 23-27
Marquetry	Jim Macdonald	August 6-10
Lighting Design	Asher Rodriquez-Dunn	August 20-24
Basic Woodworking	Peter Korn & Mary Ellen Hitt	Aug. 27-Sept. 7
Fine Cabinetry	Jonathan Brower	August 27-31
Greenwood Spoons and Vessels	Jarrod Dahl	September 3-7
Curvature	Chance Coalter & David Haig	September 10-21
Multi-axis Spindle Turning	Mark Sfirri	September 24-28
Hand Tool Camp	Mason McBrien	September 24-28
Focus on Form and Design	Jacques Vesery	October 1-5

ALUMNI NEWS

Dean Babin (Rockland, ME) received the 2017 Alden Artisan Advancement Award of the New Hampshire Furniture Masters Association. Dean's work is also featured in the Reader's Gallery of the June issue of Fine Woodworking.

Mimi Bai (Brooklyn, NY) was a participant in the Artist Studios Program at the Museum of Arts and Design last winter. This fall she will be artist-in-residence at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts in Omaha, NE.

Vaishu Ilankamban (New Hope, PA) is Assistant Designer at George Nakashima Woodworker in New Hope, PA.

Virginia Blanchard (Thomaston, ME) and **Jeremey Zietz** (Richmond, VA) exhibited at the Philadelphia Furniture Show in April.

Heide Martin (Appleton, ME) will be the Windgate Artist in Residence at San Diego State University from January – May, 2019. She has also been selected for the 2019 Windgate International Turning Exchange Residency sponsored by the Center for Art in Wood, in Philadelphia. In addition, the June issue of *Fine Woodworking* features a cabinet by Heide on the back cover and includes an article by her on *Stylish Serving Trays*.

Claire Scully (Austin, TX) is on the Board of Directors of Broads and Boards, a non-profit in Austin, TX, that empowers women in woodworking through workshops and events.

Heather Tauck (South Hadley, MA) was represented in *Not Your Granny's Rocker* at Boston's MassArt in early May. She is also showing at the North Bennet Street School's *Annual Celebration of Craft* from May 7 – June 30 in Boston.

Hannah Beem Blackburn (New Gloucester, ME) and husband Chris have opened Full Circle CraftWorks at their homestead farm in New Gloucester, Maine.

Michael Danchak (Durham, CT), **Brian McAlpine** (Scituate, MA), and **Jesse Shaw** (Watertown, MA) were featured exhibitors at *Fine Woodworking Live* in Southbridge, MA, in April.

Michaela Stone (Rockport, ME) received a 2018 Educational Grant from the Furniture Society to attend the Summit Artist in Residence Program in Eden, Utah.

CENTER *for* FURNITURE CRAFTSMANSHIP
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MESSLER GALLERY NEWS

MAINE WOOD AWARD WINNERS

Eight sponsored awards were presented at last January's opening of *Maine Wood 2018*. **Libby Schrum**, from Camden, took top honors for her Beføle Stools winning both the "People's Choice Award" and "Best in Furniture."

Other winners were:
Melinda Aste: "Best New Maker"
Saer T. Huston: "Best Original Design"
Aled Lewis: "Outstanding Craftsmanship"
Rob Macks: "Jurors' Best in Show"
Michaela Crie Stone: "Best Original Design"
Jacques Vesery: "Best Turned Object"

We would like to thank our generous award sponsors — DMT Diamond Whetstones, Holt & Bugbee, Lie-Nielsen Toolworks, Packard Woodworks, Rare Woods, Rockler Woodworking and Hardware of South Portland, ME, Rugby Architectural Building Products (formerly Maine Coast Lumber), and Woodcraft of Portsmouth, NH — for their support of this biennial exhibition. For further information visit the Messler Gallery at www.woodschool.org.

Installation view of "Maine Wood 2018"

MESSLER GALLERY SCHEDULE

Current Student Work
April 20 - May 30, 2018

New Work by Faculty
June 15 - September 12, 2018

Scholars and Fellows Exhibition
September 21, 2018 - January 2, 2019