FROM THE DIRECTOR

The meadow outside is laced with early-morning frost. Another workshop season has drawn to a close. As often, with the shortening of the days, I vividly sense time’s passage. Yet this year, with my sixty-sixth birthday approaching, the gathering weight of the past is balanced with a quiet exhilaration, with a feeling of being swept forward like a leaf on a current.

One source of my autumnal buoyance is the exhibition that I visit every day in our Messler Gallery. The 21 objects in “Regeneration: Fine Woodworkers Under 30” are many different things—impressive, immaculate, imperfect, impatient—but more than anything else they are inspiring. Many of the exhibitors display skills and design sensibilities that have been finely honed at schools such as ours. Others are short on technique, but miles long on imagination and clearly hellbent on reinventing the world for themselves. Taken in full, the show crackles with creative passion.

That passion is what we serve at the school. Instructors share their expertise to keep our craft viable as a road less travelled. Board and staff work diligently to make the institution effective in the present and enduring for the future. Alumni and friends contribute generously to ensure the excellence and accessibility of our programs. All of us, I believe, share a feeling of participating in something larger than ourselves. Traveling in such good company, is it any wonder that I look forward to rounding the next bend in the river?

STUDIO FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

As visitors to our campus discover, the staid façade of the Jackson Building conceals a riot of creativity within. In recent months one would have found instructor Brian Reid building an exquisite, Chinese-inspired table with piercings and marquetry; Yuri Kobayashi, who teaches at the Rhode Island School of Design, precisely joining fragile components into an abstract sculpture; Dylan Fuller, a graduate of the North Bennet St. School in Boston, breaking free of tradition by designing a contemporary chair; Peter Hedstrom, a recent M.F.A. from RISD, prototyping a Wegner-inspired chair in bleached ash; and noted wood turner Beth Ireland, from Roslindale, MA collaborating with cabinetmaker Rob Chamberlin, from Grand Rapids, MI on a colorful series of yoked vessels, folk sculptures, and casework. Add to the mix three recent graduates from our Nine-month Comprehensive who are solidifying their skills with chairs, cabinets, and tables, and you have a snapshot of the Studio Fellowship Program.

Since 2005, 63 men and women have been awarded fellowships for anywhere from a month to a year, with six at a time sharing free studio space in the Jackson Building. Most are fledgling furniture makers who work to improve their skills and build their design portfolios in preparation for launching their careers. Others are established professional woodworkers exploring new creative directions. The symbiosis between the two groups can unleash a storm of imagination and productivity.

(Continued on page 4)
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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ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN COMPLETES PHASE ONE

The Center’s $3.3 million campaign to create scholarships, establish a visiting artists program, and improve faculty compensation has successfully completed its first phase. To date, 49 individuals, 2 corporations, and 7 foundations have contributed $2,515,985 to our Campaign for Creative Excellence, bringing it to 76% completion.

During the initial phase of the campaign we reached out to a national constituency of alumni and friends. In the second phase, the campaign committee is building support within our regional community. To facilitate this change in focus, the committee has reorganized itself. Accordingly, we would like to express our deep gratitude to outgoing Chair Peter Haight, and to outgoing members Lewis Cabot, Nathan Hayward, Rick Kellogg, Jerry Morton, and Craig Satterlee. Continuing members Joan Welsh and Dyke Messler welcome new campaign volunteers Karen Cadbury, Barrie Pribyl, Kathrin Seitz, Heidi Steele and incoming Chair Tom Lie-Nielsen to their ranks.

Funds raised to date through the Campaign for Creative Excellence are already having a significant impact on our programs. Successful completion of the campaign, and full implementation of the programs it funds, will be a major step toward ensuring the school’s long-term excellence. We are deeply grateful to all of our contributors for their generous support of the Center’s mission. A full list of contributors will be published in the 2012 course catalog.

2011 CROquet WINnERS

June 16    Gary Anderson and Linda Topper
August 11  Dick Helvig and Kenneth Helvig
June 30    Joanna Ginsburg and Tim McKay
August 18  Don Johnson and Bill Phillips
July 7     Reed Hansuld and Caroline Woon
September 1 Jim Merchant and Rachel Scheer
July 14    Victoria Allport and Peter Korn
September 8 Graham Browning and Rick Croteau
July 21    Dave Caudill and Mark Suesser
July 28    Paul Mignogna and Steve Tuminowski
August 4   Dick Helvig and Kenneth Helvig

Endowment Campaign Committee: (left to right) Peter Korn, Barrie Pribyl, Karen Cadbury, Joan Welsh, Dyke Messler, Heidi Steele, Kathrin Seitz, and Tom Lie-Nielsen.

Caroline Woon and Reed Hansuld bask in the glow of victory.
FACULTY NEWS

“The Best Oak Money Can’t Buy,” by Peter Follansbee (Kingston, MA) appeared in the October, 2011 issue of Popular Woodworking.

Michael Fortune (Lakefield, ON) wrote two articles for the August, 2011 Fine Woodworking: “Put Your Designs in Perspective” and “Finest Way to Expand a Table.”


“Chasing Mary,” by Stephen Gleasner (Appleton, ME) has been published in The Cordillera: Literature and Art from the World’s Toughest Bike Race (Cordillera, 2010). Stephen is also the subject of a profile by alumnus Patrick Downes, “Visions in Plywood,” in the Winter 2012 issue of Woodwork.

Michael Hosalk (Saskatoon, SK), John Jordan (Antioch, TN), and Steven Kennard (Canning, NS) were represented in “Inside & Outside the Box” at the del Mano Gallery in Los Angeles this past summer.

Instructor Kevin Rodel taking John Whalley’s “Drawing What You See” course this summer.

In July, Beth Ireland (Roslinlade, MA) completed a year-long “Turning Around America” project, followed by a residency at the International Turning Exchange in Philadelphia.

Steven Kennard’s work was featured on the back cover of the August edition of Fine Woodworking.

Silas Kopf (Northampton, MA) had a solo show at the Wexler Gallery in Philadelphia this past spring.

An article by Peter Korn (Rockland, ME), titled “Thinking with Things: Design as Discovery,” will appear in the Winter 2012 issue of Woodwork - soon to be on a newsstand near you!

“Switch to Spraying with Water-based Finishes,” by Teri Masaschi (Tijeras, NM), ran in the June issue of Fine Woodworking.

Kevin Rodel (Brunswick, ME) will be exhibiting his work at the Architectural Digest Home Design Show in New York City from March 22-25, 2012. His article “Gridwork Side Table” was published in the Sept/Oct 2011 issue of Fine Woodworking.

Work by Peter Shepard (South Portland, ME), Michael Fortune, Michael Hurwitz, Garrett Hack (Thetford Center, VT), and Craig Stevens (Anywhere, USA) was featured in a photo essay on asymmetric furniture in the Nov/Dec 2011 issue of Fine Woodworking.


A profile of Peter Turner will appear in the Winter 2012 issue of Woodwork. Also, Peter will demonstrate and exhibit at Wood Expo 2012, part of the New England Home Show in Boston, from February 23-26.

The Maine Crafts Association has named Jacques Vesery (Damariscotta, ME) its “2011 Master Craft Artist.” Also, the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, PA recently added a piece by Jacques to its permanent collection.

John Whalley (Damariscotta, ME) has a solo exhibition “Recollections” at the Vose Gallery in Boston, MA through December 13.

Kimberly Winkle (Smithville, TN) has a solo show at the Tennessee Arts Commission in Nashville, TN through January 2012.

Among the 21 exhibitors juried into “Maine Wood 2012,” which opens in our Messler Gallery on December 2, are Chris Becksvoord (New Gloucester, ME), Gerald Curry (Union, ME), Wayne Hall (Orland, ME), Mac Ray (Damariscotta, ME), Kevin Rodel (Brunswick, ME), Libby Schrum (Camden, ME), and Peter Turner (South Portland, ME).

Christian Burchard (Ashland, OR) had a solo exhibition, “Wrestling with Riddles,” at the del Mano Gallery in Los Angeles earlier this fall.

Tom Caspar (Eagan, MN), Miguel Gomez-Ibanez (Weston, MA), and Yuri Kobayashi (Providence, RI) juried “Maine Wood 2012” for our Messler Gallery. Miguel also juried the South Carolina Arts Commission’s 2012 Craft Fellowship.

This summer’s “30th Anniversary Show” at Pritam & Eames gallery in Easthampton, NY included Tim Coleman (Shelburne, MA), John Dunnigan (W. Kingston, RI), Michael Hurwitz (Philadelphia, PA), Tim Philbrick (Narragansett, RI), and James Schriber (New Milford, CT).
ALUMNI NEWS

Christopher Atwood (Clifton, VA), Virginia Blanchard (Pelham, NY), Cale Caboth (Mt. Pleasant, IA), Jordan Goodman (Chicago, IL), Brandon Kowalski (San Luis Obispo, CA), Phil Leonard (La Grange, IL), Michelle Myers (Woodland Park, NJ), and Steve Vowles (Belleville, ON) were among the 21 exhibitors juried into the national exhibition “Regeneration: Fine Woodworkers Under 30.”

Duncan Gowdy (Worcester, MA) has a blanket chest in the traveling show “National Treasures,” which appeared at the Ohio Craft Museum this past summer. He was also represented in “The Next Wave: a Third Generation of Studio Furniture Makers” at the Windsor Art Center in Windsor, CT, and in the “30th Anniversary Show” at Pritam & Eames gallery in Easthampton, NY.

“Cut Better Dovetails with Shopmade Tools” by Clark Kellogg (Houston, TX) ran in the “handwork” section of the August, 2011 issue of Fine Woodworking.

This past June, Chlora Low (Philadelphia, PA) exhibited at two Philadelphia-area events: “Art in the Open” and “Art + Soul Food.”

Mark Palmquist has opened a furniture studio in Frederick, MD; visit markpalmquistdesign.com for more information.

Lance Smith (Greeley, CO) won first place in the Tables category for the Post-Secondary Level at the AWFS (Association of Woodworking & Furnishings Suppliers) North American “Fresh Wood” student competition in Las Vegas in July.

In October, a screen by Leslie Webb (Frisco, TX) was featured in the “More than Architecture” exhibit in the Fine Arts Library at the University of Texas at Austin.

Exhibitor Steven Vowles at the “Regeneration: Fine Woodworkers Under 30” opening.

STUDIO FELLOWSHIP UPDATE (Continued from page 1)

One of the challenges for the Fellowship Program, from the beginning, has been to attract motivated young furniture makers from outside of our own graduate pool. Free bench space in a well-equipped shop with access to dozens of instructors is enticing. But Rockport is socially isolated and free studio space leaves substantial overhead for materials and living expenses. Still, this year the program has run at an impressive 93% of capacity, with more than half of the 18 participants coming from beyond our own graduate ranks.

Currently we are implementing a Visiting Artists program, funded through a portion of our current endowment campaign, that will bring highly accomplished professional woodworkers on campus to explore new work of their own, shoulder to shoulder with Studio Fellows. This spring Australian furniture maker, David Uplift-Brown, served as our first Visiting Artist. Day by day, one could see Studio Fellows taking in the speed with which Uplift-Brown conducted a thorough design process, and then whipped through construction of half a dozen, highly complex, sculptural chairs. Likewise, one could also see Fellows being energized by Uplift-Brown’s one-on-one mentorship. For the future, we expect the added presence of Visiting Artists to shift the Studio Fellowship Program into an even higher gear and, as a consequence, bring even more exceptional, emerging furniture makers on campus to explore new work and advance their careers. Applications are always welcome.

Former Studio Fellow Ginny Blanchard took first place in the “Traditionally-inspired” category at the “Regeneration” exhibition.

Copier Wanted

We need to replace our antiquated office copier with a newer, more efficient model. A new or slightly used Xerox 5135 or equivalent would be ideal. If you think you can help, please email kai@woodschool.org.
# 2012 Workshops Preview

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

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<td>October 15-19</td>
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Registration for the 2012 Workshops officially begins December 15, 2011, although we are happy to take your information in advance.

In the unusual circumstance that a workshop is over-enrolled at 5pm EST on December 15, a lottery will be conducted to select the participants.

All registrations after December 15 will be first come, first served.
Maine Wood 2012, which opens on December 2, is a tour de force of furniture, carving, turning, and sculpture. We received a record number of submissions, 113 to be exact, and the 21 objects chosen by the jury are outstanding. But, truly, there were enough top quality pieces for at least two strong exhibitions.

Jurors were Tom Caspar, editor of American Woodworker; Miguel Gomez-Ibáñez, President of the North Bennet St. School; and Yuri Kobayashi, instructor at the Rhode Island School of Design. Co-sponsors are the Guild of Maine Woodworkers, Kennebec Valley Woodworkers Association, Maine Crafts Association, Maine Woodturners, Maine Woodworkers Association, and Western Mountain Woodturners. More than $2,000 in prizes, contributed by generous corporate sponsors, will be awarded at the opening.

For a complete list of exhibitors and a preview of the work, visit the Messler Gallery at www.woodschool.org.

MESLIER GALLERY EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

Maine Wood 2012
December 2, 2011 – April 6, 2012

Current Student Work
April 13 – May 30, 2012

New Work by Faculty
June 9 – September 14, 2012