FROM THE DIRECTOR

This is our strongest year ever for enrollment, and not by a smidge. Signups for summer and fall Workshops, for example, have come in about 40% faster than in any previous year. Having a rational turn of mind, I’ve looked for a direct cause. But there are no singular external or internal events that could explain this unprecedented surge. No national news coverage, no major marketing initiative, not even a math mistake.

Instead, it seems we are buoyed at the confluence of many rising tides. One is an improving economy. A second is the slow, steady growth of the school’s reputation. A third, happily, is a swell of societal fervor for design and craftsmanship in wood that I couldn’t have predicted ten years ago, although in retrospect it makes sense. Values such as slow, sustainable, authentic, natural, creative, local, and organic, which are so intrinsic to woodworking, have taken root in the public mind as counterweights to daily lives that feel ever more urbanized, corporatized, and digitally bound.

After forty-plus years in the field it is gratifying, finally, to occupy a moment where skilled woodworking is hip. But waves of cultural interest inevitably ebb and flow, while the skills we teach at the Center never cease to answer deeply entrenched human needs. Working in a material as simpatico as wood, realizing the skill of one’s own two hands, translating inspiration into actuality, adding objects of beauty and meaning to the world, we more fully experience our own humanity. This is what gives weight to incremental initiatives such as the assistantships and fundraising announced in these pages, and to the generosity of every volunteer and contributor. Step by step, we are building a strong, nonprofit institution that can serve society not just for woodworking’s present sunny day, but for the long haul forward.

NEW TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Starting this fall, the school will implement Assistantships for the twelve-week Furniture Intensives and the Nine-month Comprehensive, in addition to its longstanding program of assistantships for Workshops.

“This is a win-win-win decision for students, instructors, and assistants alike,” says Board President Dick Whittington. For students, there will be even more individual guidance than the school’s already exceptional 6:1 student/teacher ratio permits.

For instructors, there will be additional time to organize demonstrations and focus their expertise where it’s most needed. For emerging woodworkers selected as assistants, it will be an invaluable opportunity to work closely with skilled instructors in a professional teaching environment, acquire new skills, strengthen existing ones, and develop professional relationships.

The new assistants’ responsibilities vary somewhat from program to program, but all receive personal bench space, 24/7 access to the facilities, and a modest hourly wage. More information may be found under Opportunities at www.woodschool.org.
IN MEMORY OF CRAIG SATTERLEE

This past November, our dear friend Craig Satterlee passed away at his home in Marietta, GA, at age 72, after a brief battle with cancer. Craig first came to the Center in February 1997 as a student in the Furniture Intensive, following his retirement from hospital administration. Subsequently, he played a critical role in transforming the school from private ownership to the strong nonprofit institution it has become. From 1998-2004, Craig led the school as founding president of its board of directors. During his remarkable tenure the square-footage of facilities quadrupled; we introduced significant new programs such as the Nine-month Comprehensive, Studio Fellowship, and Messler Gallery; enrollment tripled; we established a modest endowment; and we built a professional staff and a sustainable organizational culture. In 2004, the board recognized Craig’s gift for inclusive, empowering leadership by naming the Satterlee Building in his honor.

Among his many talents, Craig was an adept woodworker and a generous teacher. For sixteen years, right through the month before he died, he traveled to Rockport to co-teach the two-week Basic Woodworking course with Executive Director Peter Korn. Many alumni will fondly recall Craig’s skill with a joke, along with his encouragement, patience, and enthusiasm. Throughout those sixteen years, Craig continued his invaluable service on the board. “He is deeply missed by the school community,” says Executive Director Peter Korn, “and especially by me. He was my mentor in organizational leadership, my partner in the classroom, and an irreplaceable friend.”

A wonderful memorial film about Craig may be seen on our website, courtesy of Ben Spilling, of Letterbox Films, who was on campus to shoot a documentary last October. It can be found at www.woodschool.org. Click on the “About Us” tab, and then on the “Press” tab. The link is titled “Interview with Craig Satterlee.”
Yuri Kobayashi (Camden, ME) and Tom Hucker will have a two-person show at Gallery Naga in Boston, MA, from June 3 through July 15.

Jim Macdonald (Burnham, ME) is teaching marquetry at Haystack Mountain School of Crafts this May as part of the Maine Craft Association’s Workshop Weekend.

Austin Matheson (Miami, FL) was commissioned to build a cathedra chair for the president of the University of Miami for ceremonial events.

For the June issue of Fine Woodworking, Reed Hansuld (above, Brooklyn, NY) co-authored “Add Muscle to Your Miter” with Timothy Coleman (Shelburne, MA) and alumnus Duncan Gowdy (Holden, MA).

Christian Burchard (Ashland, OR) was profiled in the February/March issue of American Craft, which also issued a 2015 digital bonus issue featuring furniture and commentary by instructors Asher Dunn (Rumford, RI) and Jennifer Anderson (San Diego, CA), as well as alumni Libby Schrum (Camden, ME) and Michaela Stone (Rockport, ME), and former Studio Fellow Sarah Marriage (Baltimore, MD).

Tom Caspar (Minneapolis, MN) retired as editor of American Woodworker and Woodwork last year, but continues to teach and write. He works out of a five-person coop shop called WAMS (We Actually Make Stuff), in Minneapolis.

Asher Dunn’s Studio Dunn and Jonathan Brower (Pascoag, RI) are featured in Rhode Island Monthly’s 2016 Home Design issue.

Keith Gotschall (Salida, CO) is demonstrating at the Utah Woodturning Symposium (May 12-14), as are Michael Hosalk (Saskatoon, SK) and Michael Moch (Albuquerque, NM).

Garrett Hack (Thetford Center, VT) was on the cover of April’s Fine Woodworking, which included his article “Bedside Table,” as well as Tim Rousseau’s (Appleton, ME) article “Learn to Resaw.”

Tom Hucker (Newark, NJ) will receive the Furniture Society’s Award of Distinction at the society’s annual conference in Philadelphia in June.

An article about Brian Reid (Rockland, ME) appeared in the March/April issue of New England Home.

An article by Kevin Rodel (Brunswick, ME), titled “Limbert-Inspired Coffee Table,” ran in the Jan/Feb issue of Fine Woodworking, as did articles by Peter Galbert (Sterling, MA) and Stewart Wurtz (Seattle, WA).

The Cumberland Dining Chair designed by Adam Rogers (Cumberland, ME) for Thos. Moser received a 2015 ‘Good Design Award’ from the Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design. Adam’s Hartford Collection for Moser won a 2016 ‘Architizer A+ Jury Award.’

Seth Rolland (Port Townsend, WA) has a solo show titled “Balance and Tension” at the Bellevue Arts Museum in Bellevue, WA, from May 20 – August 14, 2016.

Doug Stowe (Eureka Springs, AR) has three new books out this year, including Build 25 Beautiful Boxes, published by Popular Woodworking Books.

Mary May (Johns Island, SC) will demonstrate period carving techniques at the midyear conference of the Society of American Period Furniture Makers in Lancaster, PA, in June.

In August, David Upfill-Brown (Gerrigong, AUS) is exhibiting – with 47 other Australian wood artists – in “Treecycle 2016” at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney.

Brian Persico (Windham, NY) exhibited at the BDDW showroom in Milan for the Salone Del Mobile.

Michael Puryear (Shokan, NY) is in the “Made for You: New Directions in Contemporary Design” show at the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art in New Paltz, NY, through July 10.
ALUMNI NEWS

Craft regarding the question “How do you explore craft at home?”

Ray Finan (Arlington, VT) recently exhibited at Spring Crafts at Lyndhurst 2016 in Tarrytown, NY. He will also participate in the Vermont Crafts Council’s Open Studio Weekend on May 28 & 29.

Alumni Jordan Gehman (Madison, WI), Patrick Kana (Easton, MD), and Michaela Stone (Rockport, ME) will be among exhibiting artists in “On the Edge of Your Seat: Chairs for the 21st Century” at the Center for Art in Wood, in Philadelphia, from May 6 – July 23. Also participating are instructors Jennifer Anderson (San Diego, CA) and Adrian Ferrazzuti (Guelph, ON).

Kyle Huntoon (Detroit, MI) was a finalist on Ellen’s Design Challenge on HGTV.

A white oak picnic table by Clark Kellogg (Houston, TX) was featured in the Collective Unconscious section of American Craft’s April/May issue.

Mike Korsak (Pittsburgh, PA) had a cabinet in the gallery section of Fine Woodworking’s March/April issue.

Brooklyn-based furniture makers Nils Berg, Shannon Bowser, Kate Casey, and Brian Persico were exhibitors at New York’s Architectural Digest Design Show in March, as was Libby Schrum (Camden, ME).

Kate Casey was interviewed for the Voices section of the Dec/Jan issue of American Woodturner.

Libby Schrum (pictured above) and Leslie Webb (Georgetown, TX) will have chairs in the American Craft Council’s “Grovewood Rocks!” exhibition in Asheville, NC, from June 4 - August 28.

Michaela Stone received awards for Jurors’ Best in Show and People’s Choice at the Messler Gallery’s “Maine Wood 2016” exhibition. Instructor Kevin Rodel received the award for Best Original Design.

Leslie Webb’s Natasha Table was presented in the Goods section of the Feb/March issue of American Craft.

Jim Zink (Meredith, NH) won Best in Show for Innovation at last November’s Fine Furnishings Show in Pawtucket, RI. He will also have a booth at this coming November’s Fine Furnishings Show, as will Corwin Butterworth (Wakefield, RI), Kyle Huntoon, and Jesse Shaw (Watertown, MA).

PLANNED GIVING INITIATIVE

The Center’s Board of Directors is pleased to introduce a formal planned giving program to advance the long-term excellence of the school. “With more than two decades of successful growth behind us, a structure for accepting and managing planned gifts is an important and timely next step,” comments Bruce Bergen, chair of the Board’s Planned Giving Committee.

Planned gifts enable alumni and friends to make impactful contributions without compromising the status of their current finances. Often, they are components within a donor’s estate plan, and may include financial instruments such as bequests and trusts, as well as gifts of appreciated securities, real estate, and life insurance policies. Some planned gifts, such as charitable remainder trusts, can provide the donor or their loved ones with lifetime incomes, and many confer tax advantages. The greatest benefit, though, is knowing that one’s legacy will carry the challenges and rewards of craftsmanship forward to future generations.

To recognize donors of planned gifts, the Center is creating an honorary “Acorn Society.” Who, after all, more than a woodworker, appreciates that mighty oaks from little acorns grow?

For more information on planned giving at the Center, please visit woodschool.org/donate or contact Executive Director Peter Korn at 207-594-5611 or peter@woodschool.org.
2016 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.*

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<td>Decorative Turned Surfaces</td>
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WELCOME ABOARD

We are pleased to introduce two new trustees who will be joining the Center’s Board of Directors this June.

Mark Tresnowski is an alumnus of the school and amateur woodworker in Inverness, IL. His day job is Managing Director and General Counsel at Madison Dearborn Partners, LLC. He also sits on the boards of the Private Equity Growth Capital Council and Children’s Home + Aid in Chicago.

In 2015, Mark earned his master’s degree in liberal arts at the University of Chicago with the thesis “Infinite Jest, Infant Adults & the True Self: A Winnicottian Analysis.”

Joan Welsh, who previously served on our board from 2005-2014, is completing her eighth and final year as representative for Camden, Islesboro, and Rockport in the Maine House of Representatives. She is retired from a career in nonprofit administration and experiential education, during which she held the positions of Executive Director at Hurricane Island Outward Bound School, Director of Academic and Student Affairs at Rockport College, and Deputy Director of the Natural Resources Council of Maine.
CALL FOR ENTRIES

Alumni and Fellows Exhibition
January 20 - April 5, 2017

All alumni and former Studio Fellows are encouraged to submit work for this juried exhibition. Furniture, turning, carving, and sculpture are welcome. Jurors will select work that achieves excellence in design and fabrication. Submissions should be images of completed work, not drawings or models. Submitted work must not have been previously exhibited at the Messler Gallery.

Application Deadline: September 1, 2016

Jurors: To be announced

Shipping: The Messler Gallery will cover shipping charges within reason. Crating and arrangements for shipping are the exhibitor’s responsibility.

Entry Information: www.woodschool.org/wood-school-gallery/call-for-entries

MESSLER GALLERY EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

Current Student Work
April 15 - May 25, 2016

New Work by Faculty
June 10 - September 14, 2016

DC Current
September 23, 2016 - January 4, 2017

Alumni and Fellows Exhibition
January 20 - April 5, 2017