SUSTAINABLE Wege Center Announced page 05
EXCEPTIONAL Excellence Winners page 06
HONORABLE Distinguished Alumni page 17
"Lebanon Waterfront" was painted in 2010 in the Youth and Adult Continuing Studies class "Painting With Oils" by 14-year-old Sofia Elian. Working from a photograph, Sofia painted her family’s favorite seaside destination of Byblos and its beautiful shops, restaurants and scenery. Sofia was born in Grand Rapids, but her family moved to Amchit, Lebanon, for her father’s business. The family has returned to summer in Grand Rapids for 13 years.

Cover photographer James Lacroix (’10, Photography) enjoys photographing people, particularly with special lighting effects, and shooting with old Polaroid cameras. He also collects screen prints from various artists, and favors the color blue, as evidenced by his extensive wardrobe of blue shirts and shoes.

On the Cover

As I indicated when I announced my retirement, I have launched a blog—OliverHEvans.com—and hope it will be of interest. At the risk of seeming self-obsessed, I have found the photo of me when I came to Kendall fascinating, even if somewhat disconcerting, given how young I appear at least to my current self to have been.

Being at Kendall has been such a pleasure and has entailed such little stress for me that I can honestly say it is the mere passage of time, and not any strain of being at Kendall that has “matured” my appearance.

Looking ahead to the 2011–2012 academic year, I am delighted that enrollments continue to be strong. At the moment, for example, the number of new students is especially healthy and overall our enrollments for fall are running slightly ahead of last year at this time.

Further, I look forward to the implementation of the Fashion Studies Program, which will officially begin this fall and about which I expect to blog on a regular basis.

In July, I expect Board of Trustees approval for a BFA in Collaborative Design and for a BFA in Medical Illustration. The former program has been developed by a group of faculty under the leadership of John Berry, the head of Design West Michigan. In developing this program, the taskforce actively engaged with external advisors, including Eva Maddox, an architect with Perkins+Will in Chicago and founder of Eva Maddox Branded Interiors, a part of Perkins+Will; Susan Szenasy, Editor in Chief of Metropolis Magazine; Edwin Schlossberg, Founder and Principal of ESI Design; Roger Martin, Dean of the Rotman School of Business; and Ralph Caplan, recipient of the 2010 Design Mind Award, presented in Washington, DC, by President Obama. The advice consistently focused on developing designers who think beyond the narrowness of a particular design discipline and on the larger issue of design thinking.

The Medical Illustration Program will be a Kendall/Ferris degree developed and carried out in collaboration with Michigan State University’s medical school. Again, collaboration has been the key to this program, developed under the leadership of David Gianfredi, Assistant Professor of Illustration.

Once I announced my retirement, I found myself being asked about my plans. I felt as though I were eighteen again and being asked what I would do when I grew up. The delightful thing about being at Kendall in the first place was that I never expected to be here; and at the moment the most delightful thing is to celebrate the leadership that has led to these two programs, neither of which I would ever have predicted or anticipated. And I think programs such as these are simply previews of the excitement that will continue to inform Kendall’s future.

Oliver H. Evans, Ph.D., President/Vice Chancellor
CONTINUING STUDIES: ART KNOWS NO AGE

It's a breezy Saturday morning in April. Kendall students are scattered throughout the building, putting last-minute touches on projects and presentations. Artwork for the annual senior exhibition covers the walls. In a sixth-floor classroom, young artists’ (average age 7) heads are bent over drafting boards and little feet dangle as no one is much taller than 4½ feet. Each one is concentrating on creating a written and graphic answer to the question written on the blackboard by Miss Marie: “What is art?”

The youngsters are enrolled in “The Three P’s: Pens, Paper and Pencils,” one of the many Saturday art programs featured through the Youth and Adult Continuing Studies program, which Kendall has offered for more than 30 years. (And Miss Marie is Marie Couretas, who holds a BFA in Art Education from Kendall.)

Kendall’s Youth and Adult Continuing Studies program started in the late 1970s. The program’s offerings were advertised on a print piece that was little more than a two-page newsprint flyer offering classes to youth, grades 7 through 12, and adults. “Back then, the program offered youth art programs on Saturdays, and the Continuing Ed classes for adults were truly for those who wanted to continue their education,” says program Director Brenda Sipe. The adult offerings included several sections of Art History, Woodworking, Fine Art Drawing, Life Drawing and Perspective. Tuition was $70 per credit hour, and classes were taught at the previous College Avenue location.

CLASSIC STANDARDS, NEW FAVORITES

Sipe has managed the Youth and Adult Continuing Studies Classes, Workshops and Day Camps program since 2001. She holds an MFA in Painting and has been an adjunct instructor in art programs at Interlochen Center for the Arts, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids Community College, Western Michigan University, Grand Valley State University and Kendall.

Over the years, the program and the number of classes grew in step with Kendall’s presence in the community. Today, the Continuing Studies roster of instructors numbers 120, with 30-40 teaching at any given time. Sipe and her department work to create many of the courses listed in the 44-page catalog (this summer, themed “Have Imagination, Will Travel”). Offered are Adult Classes, Adult Workshops, and Youth/Young Adult Classes for ages 5-6, 6-9, 8-12, 10-14 and 13-17. Night and weekend classes are scheduled to coincide with Kendall’s semesters, and summer Day Camps and Portfolio Camps offer a week of concentrated study. “I started Portfolio Camp in 2002,” says Sipe, “and it’s very popular with our high school dual enrollment students, as well as high schoolers who want to build and strengthen their portfolios in preparation for application to art school.”

Continuing Studies offers classes that are fundamental for artists, such as Drawing, Painting With Acrylics and Oils, and Photography, yet some other classes have gone by the wayside and have been replaced with updated classes. “One of the major changes happened in Photography. We had offered film-based classes; now everything is digital (which is one of the first offerings to fill and often has a waiting list), although we continue to offer a black-and-white darkroom class, which is popular with teens who want to go to art school.” Continuing Studies classes also include Interiors, Fashion, Metals, Music, Writing and other media.

Another significant trend came around 2001, when Continuing Studies started offering computer classes. Says Sipe, “In the beginning we simply called the class ‘computers’; now we list classes by specific software taught, including Final Cut Pro, Dreamweaver, After Effects and other current programs, including Photoshop, which is incredibly popular. In fact, our two most popular areas are photography and computer skills, both considered to be practical job skills in a Foundering economy. Of course, there are other places that teach classes in these two areas, but at Kendall, students get the marvelous combination of our great facilities with seasoned instructors who have a great artistic eye.”

(continued on next page)
ALL AGES, THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY

Students who take Continuing Studies classes range from age 5 to senior citizens. The program also sees quite a few college-age young adults and teens who may be deciding on a career or have taken a semester off yet want to keep brushed up on their skills. Others take classes to create their own Web site and marketing materials for their small business, or to create work that they can sell.

This summer, Continuing Studies is offering a series of educator recertification workshops. Starting in July, each four-day class is worth one graduate credit hour and may be used for maintaining or renewing certification. Being offered are Advanced Life Drawing Techniques, Using the Computer as an Artistic Tool, Materials Madness With Oils or Acrylics, Storytelling With Book Design, and Overview of Adobe Creative Suite.

Sipe has also partnered with several organizations to promote Continuing Studies throughout the community. This summer, Continuing Studies is partnering with the John Ball Zoo to offer a unique series of art classes for youth and adults. The subjects? The zoo's many animal and plants. In July, a watercolor class for those ages 16+ and two sketching classes for youngsters ages 8-14 will be taught at the John Ball Zoo by Kendall instructors.

Continuing Studies is also involved in a partnership with the Grand Rapids Public Schools, which has provided scholarship money that will allow approximately 50 students to take classes in a variety of subjects, including digital photography and fashion design.

Outside the classroom, Sipe is involved with BRAINS (Behavioral Resources and Institute for Neuropsychological Services), an organization dedicated to helping individuals of all ages and their families understand the complexities of human functioning through comprehensive assessment and integrated treatment.

“I was on their fundraising committee,” says Sipe. “Once the word got out that I’m an artist, the organization asked me to curate monthly shows in its waiting room. So many of their patients need exposure to art as part of their treatment. I hang work by instructors, grad students and young artists, and in exchange I’m allowed to place our catalog in the waiting room. Nearly 1,000 patients pass through BRAINS’ facility each month, so it’s great exposure for our classes. In fact, a lawyer recently purchased an MFA student piece. She saw it, then came back with a tape measure and bought it. It was the perfect piece for her conference room!”

Sipe concludes, “In Continuing Studies, we like to say that creativity never expires; it’s never too early or too late to get involved in art.”
WEGE CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

When the restored old Federal Building opens in 2012, Kendall will have finalized its sustainability plan, the cornerstone of which will be the Wege Center for Sustainable Design, made possible by a $1 million gift from philanthropist Peter Wege. That plan calls for an integrated, whole-systems approach to sustainability in art and design education, a wholly revamped look at how the college approaches preparing future leaders.

“Over the past year or so, the college has been evaluating and revising its processes and practices relative to sustainability, engaging in an evaluation of its current practices and the potential for enhancing those practices,” said Kendall President Oliver Evans. “The decision to establish a Center for Sustainable Design in the Federal Building has provided a further opportunity to build upon the work. Within an institution dedicated to art and design, a commitment to sustainability must be a part of the academic programs, but its presence in those programs must reflect the college’s entire commitment to sustainability.”

Furniture Design Chair Gayle DeBruyn has helped shepherd the college through the evaluative process on how sustainability fits within the organization.

“It’s a process that started first in the classroom and required buy-in from the students before spreading throughout the organization. The students have pushed Kendall to consider becoming a climate-neutral campus, helped establish baseline metrics for a greenhouse gas inventory from 2009 to 2010, and piloted a test run of Recycle Mania,” DeBruyn said. Because of their efforts, Evans will also sign the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment.

“Oliver has been encouraging through allowing me to bring this into the classroom at a student level. It was really quite strategic. We’ve been graciously welcomed to the collegiate community to look at how we might move forward and at our core competencies – the things we bring to the region that are unique in design and fine art – and how we can strengthen what has been done from a collegiate and government and business level,” DeBruyn said. Armed with that information, the administrative team developed a task force to develop a structure for a sustainability plan and how to implement it, as well as how to engage with external partners and alumni.

Ferris State University President David Eisler said, “I can’t see a future for Kendall offering design degrees without sustainability built into it.” Moreover, he said he could envision no better embodiment of Kendall’s sustainability aspirations than to renovate and reuse the historic Federal Building.

“The reality is that Grand Rapids has torn down most of its historic buildings,” Eisler said. “This is a real example of a magnificent historic building from 1911. When you think of sustainability with a building, the most sustainable is the one you don’t tear down. It’s a natural fit with the Federal Building and the idea of sustainability.”

Kendall will house the Wege Center for Sustainable Design on the fourth floor of the Federal Building, along with the largest Material ConneXion® collection in the state. While plans are still in development, the center will likely feature collaborative space for interdisciplinary design education and hands-on learning, Eisler said.

“Design has been in Kendall’s DNA from day one. It’s always been a part of what Kendall does,” Eisler said. “When you think of the transitions in the Michigan economy, so much of the furniture is no longer manufactured here, but the design skills remain. Design is an economic driver for West Michigan. When you think about the future of the design world, you think about sustainable design. That’s where the field is moving. The intent behind the Wege Center for Sustainable Design is to bring sustainability as a core-organizing concept for Kendall’s work in the design field.

“We needed private, philanthropic support to bring this project home. We are very grateful for the support of the Wege Foundation for this building.”
ANNUAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS RECOGNIZES 14 EXCEPTIONAL GRADUATING SENIORS

Kendall’s Annual Excellence Awards Exhibition celebrates one student selected by the faculty in each of our 14 programs.

Lisa Ambrose, Illustration. Ambrose dreamed of becoming a jockey, a veterinarian or an artist. Instead, she spent 15 years as a product design engineer before attending Kendall. • She has participated in numerous competitions and exhibitions across the country, most recently the Society of Illustrators 2011 Student Competition (Society of Illustrators, New York, N.Y.) and earned first place in the 25th West Michigan Regional Competition. • “As an artist, my greatest joy is painting the things I personally find most interesting. Fortunately for my audience, my interests are broad, so the subjects, styles and mediums I choose for my work vary widely, yet one theme I tend to gravitate toward is the human figure, which enables me to express the complex and nuanced feelings we all experience.”

Brittanie Bondie, Photography. Bondie received her first degree in fine arts from Western Michigan University in 2007. Upon attending Kendall a year later, her aim was to obtain a teaching certificate in art; however, she changed her major to Photography. • Her work has appeared in several exhibitions, including the Salvation Army Kroc Center Gala Exhibition, the Kendall Faculty/Student Juried Invitational Exhibition, the Kendall Photo Association Show Opening and the Midwest Society for Photographic Education in Kalamazoo, Mich. • Bondie hopes to continue her education by earning her MFA, and eventually to become an educator at the collegiate level.

Christopher Bruce, Art Education. Bruce holds a K-12 Visual Arts Certificate and is the art educator at the Rockford Freshmen Center. He is also an education programs assistant at the Grand Rapids Art Museum. Bruce has presented at both Michigan and national art education conferences, where he advocates for the promotion of literacy through the visual arts. “I believe that a love of learning is a natural part of us all.”

Jessie Fleury, Drawing. Fleury began her academic career at Kendall by taking second place in Kendall’s annual Art Day competition. • Fleury's Christian faith and family are the things she holds most important in her life, and they are the inspiration for her work. “I am inspired by Christian theology, especially concepts of sin and redemption. This series includes figures that are infected with disease, as a metaphor for the corrupt side of human nature. This series also includes figures submerged or floating in cleansing, rejuvenating water.”

Angela Hauch, Digital Media with a focus in 3-D Animation. As a child, Hauch considered a career as a geologist, gymnast or artist. She chose artist. • In 2010, Hauch spent her weekends in Chicago at Woodlawn Avenue Productions, interning on the documentary film The Edge of Joy. In her short film Cuckoo for Two, a lonely cuckoo seeks companionship from a lovely paperweight, but he must overcome his fear of heights in time to bring them together. “I hope to leave my audience with a smile and a light heart, forgetting about their cares as they root for a happy ending.”

Arthur Johnson, Interior Design. Johnson began as a part-time student at Kendall in 2006 while working at Grand Rapids Community College. While he was completing his degree, his passion for design inspired him to next pursue a Ferris MBA with a concentration in Design and Innovation Management. • Johnson’s work integrates eco-friendly design initiatives that encompass universal design elements, which allows for holistic attributes that are aesthetically appealing and results in forward-thinking perspective and designs.

Nichole Kazmar, Fine Art: Painting. Growing up, sketching was always a hobby for Kazmar. During high school, she became a little more serious about art but had little direction or guidance, so she spent most of her time practicing drawing techniques on her own until she began taking painting classes at the Battle Creek Art Center. • She is a member and gallery curator of Exquisite Corpse Artist Collective. Located in Kalamazoo, Mich., Exquisite Corpse is an artists collective and gallery that promotes contemporary art by emerging artists.
**Myra Maness, Fine Arts: Printmaking.** Maness twice participated in the Ox-Bow School of Art and Artists’ Residency program and has participated in workshops, sales, exhibitions and volunteer efforts. When she is not creatively engaged, she enjoys spending time with Sadie Bird, a middle-aged German shepherd. Regarding her thesis pieces, "Chaotic Beauty," Maness states, “The individual is but a thread, albeit a complex one, woven into the intricate web of all existence. ... The work I create remains my quest for beauty amidst a world of chaos.”

**James Morrisey, Graphic Design.** Morrisey has known he wanted to be a graphic designer since high school. He has been employed at Lacks Industries as a graphic designer since 2007. Recently, he won a 2011 silver student ADDY for his Food Portion Control campaign. Morrisey plans on using his design skills and creative thinking to take on the exciting world of branding and advertising. “I would like to use this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped me along with my career throughout my time at Kendall. It truly means the world to me. I am thrilled to be honored with this award.”

**Trista Parmann, Art History.** Parmann had an interest in art but soon became devoted to art history. The variety involved in taking both art history academics and studio courses, has led her to be well-rounded in the arts. Following graduation, Parmann is returning to Italy, where she studied Renaissance Art, to obtain her master’s in museum studies. “I strongly believe that bridging a museum with its community is a key component to the arts, and if a community is engaged in the understanding of the past, its knowledge is invaluable for the preservation of the future.”

**Bryce Porter, Industrial Design.** Porter began his collegiate career by attending Muskegon Community College, where in 2007 he was the recipient of the Presidential Purchase Award for work in fine art. A member of the IDSA student council, Porter has worked on design projects with Chevron North America, Attwood Marine, Hush Puppies and Leggett & Platt. In 2011, he was granted three patents, and his work will be featured in Chicago at NeoCon 2011. Porter currently works with the consumer design team at Bissell Homecare. His design philosophy is simple: explore, ask, learn, create, inspire, grow, contribute, excel.

**Joseph Sadony, Furniture Design.** Sadony is the 2010-2011 recipient of the Celia Moh Scholarship, won second place in the ASFD Student Design Competition and has two pieces on the “democratic design” Web site stylefactory.com. This summer, he will intern in Vietnam for Theodore Alexander, one of the leading manufacturers of fine furniture. “Furniture is my life, and I couldn’t be happier with the choices that have led me to this life choice. When designing furniture and accessories, thinking about how a person interacts with a piece and how it blends into their space is key. Human-centered design is important; however, sustainability and a thorough understanding of material and process are constantly on my mind from beginning to end ....”

**Kari Thurman, Sculpture and Functional Art.** Thurman spent most of her childhood at her grandparents’ home. Comparing her grandmother’s traditional role as a housewife with her mother’s as a modern working woman created a paradox that played an integral part in shaping her work, which is rooted in an exploration of female identity and the notion of a feminine ideal. Thurman is the recipient of the Wege Foundation Scholarship, Kendall Portfolio Scholarship, Brighton Optimist Club Art Scholarship and Davies Memorial Scholarship, and was nominated for an Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture. When not sculpting, she is a member of and nonskating official for the Grand Raggidy Roller Girls.

**Kathryn Verrill, Metals and Jewelry Design.** Verrill realized her love for jewelry-making and painting while attending Big Rapids High School. As a result, she attended Kendall as a dual major in Metals and Jewelry. Recipient of the 2010-2011 Brian Rizzi Memorial Scholarship, she also served as vice president of Kendall’s Metals Guild. Verrill’s philosophy can be summed up in one word: integration. She states, “I believe in the integration of new materials with conventional materials, the assimilation of new technologies with traditional techniques, and the incorporation of new ideas with long-established design sensibilities.”
PETER LAWRENCE AWARDED HONORARY DOCTORATE

Dr. Oliver H. Evans presented an honorary doctorate to Peter Lawrence, founder and chairman of the Corporate Design Foundation, at Kendall’s 2011 commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 7, at Fountain Street Church.

Lawrence addressed the 205 members of the class of 2011, saying, “Graduates, you’ve chosen well. Art and design will continue to grow in importance to companies, corporations and the public sector. Grand Rapids is incredible evidence of this increased awareness, and its business community has respect for Kendall graduates. You must continue to present the value of art and design in businesses’ language—keep presenting the case for design in language they can understand.”

He continued, “Let me give you some advice. When I first graduated from college a couple of years ago, they said the future was ‘plastics.’ I urge you, as you design and work on your projects, to consider biology and biomimicry as a design resource. Nature has been at work refining and improving for 3 billion years and has given us a large collection of success stories and lessons to learn from. Bring a biologist on your team to forward innovation and sustainability. I will be working at this intersection, and I look forward to working with some of you that I’ve yet to meet.”

Lawrence is chairman and founder of the Corporate Design Foundation based in Boston, Mass. He has taught about design at business schools including Babson, London Business School, Boston University and UT Austin’s School of Business. For eight years he developed and was director of the Design Management Institute. In 1985, he established the Corporate Design Foundation to improve the quality of life and effectiveness of organizations through design. The foundation also publishes @issue: The Journal of Business and Design. Lawrence received a degree in economics from Lafayette University and a degree in architecture from the Rhode Island School of Design.

Said Evans, “As a person who has had a direct influence upon the experience Kendall provides its students, including playing a key advisory role in the thinking that led to the founding of Design West Michigan, as well as a person who has enhanced the larger understanding of the role of design, Peter Lawrence is an appropriate candidate for this recognition. A leading industry figure, a community leader, a significant voice for the connectedness of design and business, and an educated person with wide-ranging interests and expertise, Peter Lawrence has significant importance for all of Kendall’s design programs as they seek to prepare artists and designers to be leaders.”

KENDALL SPONSORS SPEAKERS

As part of the Duncan Littlefair Great Speakers Events held April 7-9 in Grand Rapids, Kendall College of Art and Design hosted a presentation by New York Times best-selling author Sarah Susanka and John Peterson, founder of Public Architecture and the “1% program.”

Susanka is an architect and author of the Not So Big ... series of books that helps nondesigners understand and evaluate what they need and want in their own housing. Peterson is an architect who encourages other designers to devote 1 percent of their time to pro bono work that puts the resources of architecture in the service of the public interest.

The presentation was open to all students, with Interior Design, Furniture Design, Industrial Design and Graphic Design students in attendance. Susanka and Peterson each talked about how they got their start in the industry and described the paths that have led them to their current positions. The students were invited to ask questions at the end of the presentation, and Susanka stayed to sign books after the presentations were finished.

Students were able to talk with the professionals about how their work happens, where they find inspiration, and the importance of communication among peers and clients. This was an opportunity for students to meet and speak with the author of an influential book series that impacts their own design work in the Interior Design program.
VARNUM PICNIC POSTER: A RIKSEN CLASS TRADITION

Professor Ron Riksen has been teaching graphic design at Kendall for 40 years, and for 25 of those years, Riksen’s classes have participated in a rite of spring: designing the annual picnic poster for law firm Varnum Riddering Schmidt & Howlett.

Riksen recalls how the poster project first came about. “At the time, Varnum Senior Partner Dirk Hoffius was Chairman of the Kendall College of Art and Design Board of Trustees. He is also a fan of the posters for the Herman Miller Annual Picnic, a tradition inaugurated by designer Steve Fyeholm. Dirk asked if my students might be interested in designing a poster for the Varnum picnic, and I agreed to incorporate the project into one of my graphic design classes.”

The poster’s requirements are fairly simple. It needs to include the date and location of the picnic and the firm’s name (recently shortened to “Varnum LLP”) and measure 12 inches by 18 inches.

“In some years, the poster has reflected the picnic’s theme; in others, the poster mirrors the location. Last year, for instance, ‘We always like to take students up to the second-floor hallway near the atrium where all the past posters are displayed, so they can see how the different themes and locations have been graphically represented over the years.’ On a tour of the gallery, Riksen pointed to the first poster, which was composed of torn strips of blue paper. “Many of the early ones were hand-done,” he said. “We didn’t have computers or her peers. “After all,” says Metz, “the highest form of green design is reusing an existing building.”

Combining historic preservation with sustainability knowledge elevates an interior designer above his or her peers. “After all,” says Metz, “the highest form of green design is reusing an existing building.”

She continues, “Unfortunately, people believe that a historic preservation commission sets down rules that tell owners what they can and cannot do, and makes it expensive to renovate or update their home or business. Commissions gladly work with owners to find workable solutions that will maintain the visual integrity of a building. And there are usually great tax incentives that can help offset the costs.

“The Federal Building is a perfect example of the value of historic preservation. It’s a wonderful space with a high degree of historic integrity, and it’s being remodeled as a ‘green’ building. It’s a great example of history meets sustainability. And ultimately, that’s what historic preservation is all about.”

‘19 HOLES’ SCULPTURE ENTRY Earns High Scores

In a game where the objective is to score low, the Kendall Sculpture and Functional Art program scored big by winning the Curator’s Choice Award with their innovative entries in UICA’s “19 Holes.”

Held at the Urban Institute for Contemporary Art during the month of March, 19 Holes is a mini-golf course designed by artists. It featured 19 extreme and inventive holes that took over UICA’s entire building at 41 Sheldon Blvd. – two full floors plus walls, windows and ceilings.

The SFA team won for their upside-down hole, “Blue Greens,” which was built with “grass” on the ceiling, dangling flag pins, and a cloud-filled sky on the ground. And Adjunct Professor Nate Lareau won The People’s Choice Award for his hole, “Tone It Down!”

HISTORIC PRESERVATION MINOR: EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN

If you believe that historic preservation is little more than keeping old buildings from being torn down, Adjunct Professor Jennifer Metz will set you straight.

Metz teaches the classes needed to achieve a minor in Historic Preservation. Introduced to Kendall just seven years ago, the topic has become a favorite of interior design and art history majors. Yes, it does involve visits to really old and not-so-old buildings – and a lot more.

According to Metz, historic preservation seeks to preserve, conserve and protect buildings, objects, landscapes or other artifacts of historic significance. “Preserving national historic landmarks – such as Mount Vernon, George Washington’s home – has been taking place on a national level, but it wasn’t until the devastation of our historic resources during the ‘urban renewal’ of the 1960s that people began to realize the importance of saving more common historic buildings,” she says.

Three classes toward the minor specifically address historic preservation: Introduction to Historic Preservation, Historic Preservation History and Theory, and Historic Preservation Theory and Practice. Throughout the program, students learn how to evaluate buildings and styles; how to conduct archival research into a building’s history; and what makes a building, area, neighborhood or district worthy of preservation. “Age, integrity, architectural type, rarity, and association with certain building trends or historic figures are just some of the criteria,” explains Metz.

Field trips are an important part of the program. Recently, students went to the 1920s Felt Estate in Saugatuck, got a look at the 1949 John A Building on the corner of Division and Fulton in Grand Rapids (the latest location of SiTeLAB), toured Heritage Hill (one of the largest urban historic districts in the country), and were part of a lucky few who have been inside the old Federal Building to get a sneak peek at the renovation progress.

Metz is most often asked what one does with a minor in Historic Preservation. “It teaches anyone analytical thought and archival research techniques, and it gives interior designers an edge,” she explains. “Knowledge of a building’s history makes a huge difference when someone is deciding how to renovate a building, which, in this economy, more developers are doing instead of building new. Designers are armed with historically accurate information instead of conjecture and guessing.”

Combining historic preservation with sustainability knowledge elevates an interior designer above his or her peers. “After all,” says Metz, “the highest form of green design is reusing an existing building.”

She continues, “Unfortunately, people believe that a historic preservation commission sets down rules that tell owners what they can and cannot do, and makes it expensive to renovate or update their home or business. Commissions gladly work with owners to find workable solutions that will maintain the visual integrity of a building. And there are usually great tax incentives that can help offset the costs.

“The Federal Building is a perfect example of the value of historic preservation. It’s a wonderful space with a high degree of historic integrity, and it’s being remodeled as a ‘green’ building. It’s a great example of history meets sustainability. And ultimately, that’s what historic preservation is all about.”
DR. NELL IRVIN PAINTER, AUTHOR, HISTORIAN AND ARTIST

On Feb. 23, Kendall welcomed Dr. Nell Irvin Painter, award-winning scholar and writer and one of today’s pre-eminent African-American historians.

A graduate of Harvard University, Painter went on to become the Edwards Professor Emerita of American History at Princeton University. She is the author of seven books and countless articles relating to the history of the American South. Her critically acclaimed book Sojourner Truth: A Life, a Symbol won the nonfiction prize of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association and focuses on the life of the black abolitionist and women’s rights advocate. The New York Times described her most recent book, The History of White People, as “monumental in sweep” and praised the book as both a major and accessible treatment of a controversial and timely subject.

From 1997 to 2000, Painter directed the Program in African-American Studies at Princeton University. Prior to joining the faculty of Princeton in 1988, she taught at both the University of Pennsylvania and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Painter has been a fellow of the Guggenheim Foundation, the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, the Bunting Institute and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford. She has been a recipient of the Brown Publication Prize awarded by the Association of Black Woman Historians and has been a fellow of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Painter was selected as the President of the Southern Historical Association for 2007 and President of the Organization of American Historians from 2001 to 2002. She received her Ph.D. from Harvard University; her M.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles; and her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley. She also earned a BFA degree from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University in 2009 and is currently a graduate student in painting at the Rhode Island School of Design.

PRINTMAKER’S WHALE, “THE FRESHWATER ZARS WHALE”

The Grand Rapids Public Museum has been collecting objects of local and intergalactic significance for more than 155 years, and has amassed a collection of almost a quarter million artifacts and specimens.

Recently the museum acquired a fabricated, life-size, two-dimensional translucent work of art depicting a large, fictitious “freshwater whale,” created to be suspended from the ceiling. The work includes two fictitious artifact identification tags.

This two-dimensional, sheer fabric, full-scale interpretation of a whale was fabricated by a Kendall printmaking class for a special monthlong public program and exhibition that was held at the old Grand Rapids Public Museum’s building on Jefferson Avenue. This special project was not your ordinary museum exhibit. Rather, it was a project that was purposely designed to turn over the curatorial and fabrication role to 30 college faculty and more than 200 students, while the museum staff provided support and oversight to ensure the museum facility and collections were properly cared for and protected. The resulting exhibition was titled “Michigan – Land of Riches: Re-examining the Old Grand Rapids Public Museum.”

“The Freshwater Zars Whale” was inspired by the 1905 finback whale skeleton that hung from the ceiling of the Jefferson building for more than 50 years before it was reinstalled to hang on permanent display in the middle of the Van Andel Museum Center’s first-floor gallery since 1994.

The “whale” was made by a group of students in upper-level Printmaking classes at Kendall under the direction of Professor Mariel Versluis for the “Michigan – Land of Riches” exhibition, which was curated by Paul Amenta. The student team that created the whale was Jacob Zars, Alicia Wierschke, Phil Scally, Lacy Peterson, Alicia Heximer, Victoria Marcetti and Cassie Heuton. The initial drawing was done by Jacob Zars. To finalize the project in preparation for its installation in the exhibit, the students wrote a fictitious account of the capture of the whale and how it came to hang in the museum. The fictitious handwritten 1832 correspondence and accompanying hand-colored drawings depicting the whale’s capture have been added to the museum’s accession file.

FACULTY NEWS

Adam D. DeKraker, Assistant Professor of Photography, is the juror for the Newaygo County Council for the Arts 2011 Statewide Photography Competition. DeKraker was recently selected as a manuscript reviewer for the fifth edition of Exploring Color Photography (Robert Hirsch), is an active member of the Society for Photographic Education and serves as an MFA advisor to the Arts Institute of Boston at Lesley University.

Professor Suzanne Eberle presented “Lecture: Popular Icons in Contemporary Art” at Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. Eberle discussed some of the iconic symbols used by contemporary artists, and explored how they are used and why they resonate so deeply with both artists and viewers.

Susanna Engbers, Associate Professor and Chair of General Education, spoke at the 2011 Conference on College Composition and Communication Annual Convention. Engbers’ presentation was titled “Practicing the Art of Rhetoric at an Art and Design College.”


Elizabeth Ivy Hawkins (’07, MFA Painting), current adjunct faculty member, had her work selected to be included in an Alumni Representative at the Kendall “News and Schmooze” event at the Art Directors Club in Manhattan. She also had a body of work on display at the Grand Rapids Ballet, was invited as a guest lecturer and artist at Grand Valley State University, and was selected for a commissioned installation project at the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park.

Professor Darlene Kaczmarczyk, Photography Chair, participated in a panel discussion at the Public Memory Symposium at Indiana University-Northwest in Gary, Ind. The topic of her presentation was “Memory and Place, the Making of the Calumet Region: An American Place.” Additionally, Kaczmarczyk will be teaching at the Maine Media Workshops in June. Adjunct Instructor Gary Caldella, Photography, will also speak at the Maine Media Workshops in conjunction with his book The Calumet Region: An American Place, published last year by the University of Illinois Press.

Professor Jon McDonald, Illustration Chair, was profiled in the April 10 edition of the Grand Rapids Press.

Phil Renato, Allesee Metals/Jewelry Design Program Chair, and his students Patrick, Caitlin, Hattie, Ryan and Katie visited the New York offices of Shapeways. Shapeways is a community where members can upload a design and have it printed in 3-D. Renato is a member of the Shapeways community.

Professor Deborah Rockman, Drawing and Printmaking Chair, was invited to exhibit in “Associations,” the final show at the current UICA location before the institute moves to its new space on the corner of Fulton and Division.

Left to Right:
Dr. Nell Irvin Painter
The mythical Freshwater Zars Whale suspended from the ceiling of the old Public Museum on Jefferson Street
Assistant Professor Gypsy Schindler exhibited “Transparent” at the Newaygo County Council for the Arts “Artspace” in Fremont, Mich. Schindler’s work focuses on the figure, using traditional mixed media processes of drawing and painting while integrating nontraditional surfaces and installation presentations.

The Library of Michigan recently selected Assistant Professor Adam Schuitema’s book Freshwater Boys, as a Michigan Notable Book. The library chose exceptional Michigan books published in 2010 that bring attention to Michigan authors and topics. Schuitema and other writers were recognized at the Library of Michigan in Lansing at the “Night for Notables” event.

Art Education program Chair Cindy Todd, Ph.D., was keynote speaker at the 2011 State Conference for Middle School Educators. Todd is also president of the Michigan Art Education Association. Before becoming a professor, Todd taught K-12 art in the public schools for more than 14 years. She was awarded Rochester Public Schools’ Secondary Teacher of the Year award and has juried art exhibits for the MAEA and for the Scholastic Arts competition.

IN MEMORIAM


KENDALL SPONSORS THIRD ANNUAL CANSTRUCTION®

Visitors to the spring West Michigan Home & Garden Show were greeted by a gnome standing next to an army tank, not too far from a boxing glove and an ear of corn—all made of cans.

These were the entries in the third annual Canstruction® competition, where art students and design firms create sculptures using cans of vegetables, beans, tomatoes, olives or whatever else they can find to make their vision a reality.

With four entries and four awards, each one earned an honor:

- Structural Ingenuity Award: “Can a Tweet Set You Free?” by Paradigm Design Inc.
- Best Meal Award: “Knocking Out Hunger in Our Community” by Via Design Inc.
- Juror’s Favorite: “Canome” by Integrated Architecture
- Best Use of Labels Award: “Can on the Cob” by the Kendall student team

Canstruction collected more than 11,000 pounds of food, which was donated to the Salvation Army’s Booth Family Services, a member of the ACCESS Pantry Network.

LANGUAGE ARTISTS: CREATURE CONNECTIONS

What do you get when you cross a duck with a cat? No, it’s not a joke, but just one of the many creatures created by Grand Rapids Public Schools third-grade students in a pilot program created by the Kendall Art Education program, The Grand Rapids Art Museum and the Grand Rapids Public Schools.

“The program uses visual thinking and written strategies to help students use all their senses when looking at visual images or creating written descriptions,” said Kendall Art Education Program Chair Dr. Cindy Todd. “It’s a way to help developing brains make the important connection between words and pictures.”

The team working on the curriculum included Todd; Jon Carfango, GRAM Education Director; Barbara Wisse, GRPS Literacy Consultant; Lynn Woods, English Language Arts Curriculum Coordinator; and Julie Powell, GRPS Supervisor of Fine Arts and Media. The team met once a week to design pre-visit activities for teachers, design activities within GRAM that use visual and thinking strategies, and train docents in teaching observational skills. Kendall interns Rena Busuttil, Christopher Bruce and Katrina Peschka created teachers’ materials, including a booklet, a CD of images, PowerPoint presentations and other resources.

Teachers prepared the youngsters for their museum experience, then took their classes to the GRAM, where students used all their senses to immerse themselves in the artwork, discussed what they saw, and took part in hands-on activities.

Once they returned to the classroom, they wrote essays about their experience, using critical writing skills that included the use of nouns, verbs and adjectives, and comparing/contrast. Students also created their own works of art, including a collage of an imaginary animal. “Once they created their animal, they wrote an essay describing the animal, its habitat, how it moves, its food source and more,” said Todd. “For example, if a child created a duck/cat, it certainly couldn’t live in the desert—and would it be afraid of the water or not?” The final phase of the program challenged students to use their writing skills to compare and contrast Charles Burchfield’s painting “Song of the Bobolink.”

“These written skills are a very important segment of the fourth-grade MEAP scores, so it’s critical that third-graders be taught such skills in a memorable way,” says Todd. “This fall, when the students take the MEAP, we will pay close attention to their writing skills to measure results and fine-tune the program.”

The program has already proven successful, having been incorporated as a learning unit into GRPS’ third-grade curriculum. And, the program is the recipient of a $10,000 National Endowment for the Arts grant, which has been matched by Farmers Insurance Group.

On May 17, 60 of the pieces made by the third-graders were displayed at the GRAM. Leaders discussed the program, two students read their essays to the audience, and all the students discussed their work as family and friends circulated in the gallery.

“Kids are on fire for arts experiences,” says Todd. “‘Language Artists: Creature Connections’ is satisfying the need for vital visual and written skills in Grand Rapids’ public schools.”
STUDENT WINS ADDY BEST OF SHOW

Kendall students captured three gold and 20 silver ADDY awards at the American Advertising Federation, West Michigan Chapter’s gala event, held Feb. 24 at the Grand Rapids Art Museum.

Senior Ryan William Lockwood was the big winner with three ADDY awards, including a gold and student Best of Show for his mixed media campaign for the Aptera, a three-wheel electric car. He was surprised at how well he did in his first time entering the competition. “I just thought it would be cool to get professional feedback,” said Lockwood, a graphic design major who is hoping his awards will help him land a job in the advertising industry.

GOLD ADDY & STUDENT BEST OF SHOW

Ryan Lockwood
“Aptera Advertising Campaign” Mixed Media Campaign
Instructor: Rob Jackson/Concept Development

GOLD ADDY WINNERS

Brian Bourque
“Kids’ Food Basket Billboard” Out-of-Home
Instructor: Rob Jackson/Concept Development

Jessica Worden
“Sideshow Beer” Sales Promotion Packaging
Instructor: Angie Dow/Portfolio Class

SILVER ADDY WINNERS

Shannon Averill
Instructors: Jason Alger & Angie Dow

Katie Brandt
“Aster Rose Tea” Sales Promotion Packaging
Instructors: Joan Sechrist, Ron Riksen/Package Design

“Play-Doh” Consumer or Trade Publication Campaign
Instructor: Joan Sechrist/Concept Development

“Preservation Wayne” Non-Traditional Advertising
Instructor: Joan Sechrist/Advertising Design

Yana Carstens
“NIOBE Body Care Package Design” Sales Promotion Packaging
Instructor: Ron Riksen

Zachary Hill
Instructor: Karen Johnson/Design Publication

Coryne Hillmann
“Heritage Hill” Consumer or Trade Publication Campaign
Instructor: Joan Sechrist/Advanced Advertising

Amber Kaminski
“Bioplastic” Elements of Advertising Animation
Instructor: Bill Fischer
Above and right, top to bottom:
Ryan Lockwood, “Aptera Advertising Campaign”
Amber Kaminski, “Bioplastic”
Yasmin Ladha, “Jes Kramer Website”
Brian Bourque, “Kids’ Food Basket Billboard”
Scott Schermer, “Laker Rugby, ‘This Is Who We Are’”
James Veinbergs, “‘Phobia’ fictional television series title sequence”

Michelle Kozak
“Time 4 Life” Editorial Design Cover
Instructor: Suzanne Jonkman/Publication Design

Yasmin Ladha
“Jes Kramer Website” Interactive Media Web site

Ryan Lockwood
“City of New York, ‘Empire City’” Collateral Material Poster
Instructor: Rob Jackson/Concept Development

“Kendall College of Art and Design, ‘KCAD Blood Drive’”
Non-Traditional Advertising
Instructor: Rob Jackson/Concept Development

Alex Meiser, Margaret Schiefer, Lydia VanHoven, Angi Zamarripa
“Grand Rapids Public Museum, ‘Michigan – Land of Riches’”
Sales Promotion Point of Purchase
Instructor: Jason Alger

James Morrissey
“American Public Health Association, ‘Food Portion Control’”
Mixed Media Campaign
Instructor: Joan Sechrist/Advanced Advertising

Scott Schermer
“Laker Rugby, ‘This Is Who We Are’”
Consumer or Trade Publication Single
Instructor: Joan Sechrist/Advanced Advertising

“Laker Rugby, ‘This Is Who we Are’”
Mixed Media Campaign
Instructor: Joan Sechrist/Advanced Advertising

Sarah Vanderson
“Autism International Foundation, ‘This Is Autism’”
Consumer or Trade Publication Campaign
Instructor: Joan Sechrist/Advanced Advertising

“Autism International Foundation, ‘This Is Autism’”
Out-of-Home
Instructor: Joan Sechrist/Advertising Design

Lydia VanHoven
“antiapathy.org, ‘Anti Apathy in Americans’”
Mixed Media Campaign
Instructor: Joan Sechrist/Advanced Advertising

James Veinbergs
“‘Phobia’ fictional television series title sequence”
Elements of Advertising Animation
Instructor: Joan Sechrist/Advanced Advertising

Above, top to bottom:
Lydia VanHoven, “Anti Apathy in Americans”
Michelle Kozak, “Time 4 Life”
Alex Meiser, Margaret Schiefer, Lydia VanHoven, Angi Zamarripa “Grand Rapids Public Museum, ‘Michigan – Land of Riches’”
A BRUSH WITH KINDNESS

Gabrielle Fahlen’s passion for sustainability is palpable. Just discussing the subject makes her eyes light up. The only thing Fahlen (known as “Gabe” to friends) is more passionate about is her devotion to affordable housing and Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical Christian ministry dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat volunteers have built, rehabilitated, repaired or improved more than 400,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 2 million people.

Last semester in her Collaborative Design class, Fahlen’s project involved designing a Habitat for Humanity home that could sustain itself “off the grid.” Such homes do not rely on the municipal water supply, sewer, natural gas, the electric power grid or similar utility services.

Unfortunately, Michigan doesn’t have enough year-round sunshine to make such a home possible in Grand Rapids at this time, but that didn’t diminish her enthusiasm. “Habitat is building homes in Grand Rapids with 12-to-16-inch block walls, solar heating and cooling, and radiant heat. It is possible to have an affordable, energy-efficient home,” she explains. “In fact, the home is now returning 2 percent of the energy used back to the grid,” she said with a grin.

An Interior Design senior, Fahlen believes “Everyone deserves a home that not only functions well but looks good too.” So after her Collaborative Design class ended, she began volunteering with Habitat for Humanity’s A Brush with Kindness program, an exterior home preservation service designed to revitalize the appearance of neighborhoods, encourage connections within the community and, most importantly, help preserve affordable housing stock. A Brush with Kindness ensures that families live in safe and well-maintained homes by offering painting, landscaping, weather stripping and minor repair services for homeowners in need.

Fahlen has been volunteering with A Brush with Kindness in the Wealthy Heights section of Grand Rapids, located west of Eastown. She has been working with a professional designer to create exterior color palettes for each new or renovated home, using whatever materials have been donated. “So often, a Habitat home sticks out in a neighborhood because it is bland in appearance,” she explains. “Everyone deserves good design, and when the exterior of one home is spruced up, soon others in the neighborhood begin to take more pride in their homes.”

A senior, Fahlen hopes to remain involved in Habitat and become a sales rep for a company that specializes in sustainable materials. “I would know about the materials and be able to recommend sustainable products. That would be cool.”

FURNITURE MAJORS PLACE IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

Furniture Design senior Joseph Sadony took second place in the American Society of Furniture Designers (ASFD) 2011 Student Competition. The annual competition is open to junior- and senior-level college students enrolled in an accredited design program. Entrants were challenged to design a production-friendly cocktail table for the Phillips Collection.

Sadony won with his “Pebble Table.” Steve Hodges, President of Steve Hodges Associates, commented on Sadony’s work, saying, “I thought the Pebble Table concept was well-thought-out and really exemplified the concept of organic design. I was also impressed with the thought he gave to the manufacturing of the piece.”

Receiving Honorable Mention was another Furniture Design senior, Ellen Branz, for her “Fungi Table.” Judge and Kendall alum Troy Hollis (‘05, Furniture Design) remarked, “The Fungi Table offers a creative use of nature’s beauty in a functional object.”

Entries were judged by professional furniture designers based on presentation, creativity, use of materials, aesthetics and feasibility of manufacturing.
What can an art educator do when school budget cuts only allow him or her to teach art in the fall semester of the school year? Kendall Painting Club to the rescue!

The club visited Covell Elementary School in Grand Rapids on March 18 for an interactive painting demonstration with Covell students. The club created a paneled mural measuring 2 feet by 8 feet and prepared it for painting. Then they went to the classroom and worked with the elementary students, showing them how to mix and apply colors to complete small areas of the painting. At the end of the afternoon, the Painting Club donated the mural to the elementary school for permanent exhibition.

KENDALL PAINTING CLUB ASSISTS COVELL ELEMENTARY

BODIES OF ART: AQUALUSH

By Shannon Averill (‘10, Graphic Design)

This was my first year to attend a Bodies of Art Fashion Show. I had seen pictures in previous years, and it always looked like a lot of fun, so this year I decided to go. The posters announcing the event “AquaLush” on Feb. 27, St. Cecilia’s at 7:30 p.m., were calling my name. Designed in a sharp upside-down V, they were both intriguing and surprisingly sophisticated (designed by student Travis Martin).

I showed up half an hour early to capture some of those makeup moments in the back but was surprised to find most people ready and raring to go. This was an extremely organized event led by Kendall students Mikaela Kaupp, Leigh Ann Cobb and Ashley Hoffman. Their day started in the morning, with rehearsing. Models and designers headed over to the Douglas J Aveda Institute in the early afternoon to have their hair and makeup done by Kendall librarian and makeup maven Elise Brown and Douglas J Aveda students. Practice was made perfect as the fully garbed models graced the runway at 6 p.m. Then most people had the opportunity to relax before their big debut, chowing down on some Jimmy John’s. Doors opened at 7 p.m., and the attendees took the opportunity to gussy up; dresses and sparkly items adorned many.

I snagged a program for the evening and was impressed (again) by the quality of the design (by students Ashley Meade and Alicia Magnuson). Naturally, being a graphic designer makes me notice these things, but the program also attests to the professionalism of the event. Each fashion designer had a little description of his or her entry that was interesting and informative.

Cobb and Kaupp hosted the evening and introduced a wonderful local band named Alexis. The lead singer’s stage presence made for an entertaining show, not to mention the quality of their performance; I felt like I had stepped into another watery world – surely this could not be a student-run event. The singer’s stage presence made for an entertaining show, not to mention the quality of their performance; I felt like I had stepped into another watery world – surely this could not be a student-run event. The stage was the essence of Caribbean bliss; blues, teals and cool green lighting shone in fluid reflection on the ceiling. Matching lamps and sea life-inspired artwork by Kendall student Jessica Montgomery hung above the stage, adding the finishing touches for a dramatic mood.

The show started and the mood was exhilarating. Models walked the part with confidence in their stride as they flooded the stage wearing fun and intriguing outfits. The ideas behind the work were diverse: some designers chose the elegance of nature, others focused on environmental issues and a few chose the historical context of the sea. With 29 models, 16 designers and a distinct passion for beauty, the event was an inspiration.

After the parade of work, the “Aquarium Ball” afterparty was held upstairs. I caught up with Brown and Nicole DeKraker, the crucial advisors to the event. They were as proud as could be, and I bet quite exhausted as well. Music and dancing soon caught my attention; photographers, smiles and motions of joy rounded out the evening.
STUDENT NEWS

DIGITAL MEDIA
SmArt, a multimedia arts festival at Open Concept Gallery in downtown Grand Rapids, displayed video projects by Brittanie Bondie, Jennifer Elias, Justine Gunnesson, Alicia Lyon, Tony Sheehan and Cody Sistava, Randy Stewart, Amline Tomlinson and Whitney Williams. The videos were projected on an outdoor wall of the gallery from April 4 to 8.

DRAWING
Jessica Montgomery, senior, has been awarded a paid internship for the summer at The Gallery in Beaufort, S.C., located on Bay Street. Bay Street currently houses more than 10 galleries, and Beaufort was recently declared one of the top 12 “best small art towns” in the country. Montgomery has also received an internship with ARTworks, which is a community art center, theater and gallery that uses the arts to strengthen and enrich artists, audiences, collectors and visitors through art experiences and educational programs.

FURNITURE DESIGN
Once again, Kendall is represented on stylefactory.com. Senior Matt Wilder has created The Tinker Lounge and Ottoman, a fun accent piece reminiscent of youth. Wilder was inspired by his childhood obsession with construction playthings, such as Tinker Toys. The ability to create interesting designs out of simple pieces is showcased in the “Tinker Lounge.” Holding true to the design inspiration, a high-density coated foam similar to the material used in Nerf toys is used for the seat pads. The “Tinker Lounge” pays homage to simpler times for the young at heart.

INTERIOR DESIGN
Senior Jessica Kronlein took home first prize in the Michigan IIDA Virginia North Student Design Competition, held in February. The competition, open to all junior and senior Interior Design students enrolled in a CIDA-accredited program and who are IIDA Michigan Chapter Student members, awards $300 to the winning entry that either addresses the health, safety and welfare of the public or demonstrates a commitment to environmental sustainability.

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN
Grand Rapids company Design Quest offered $2,000 in prizes for innovative furniture design, and the public was invited to help award the People’s Choice prize during the opening reception on March 17. Capturing the People’s Choice award were seniors Emily Knight and Corey Barnes for their “Eclipse Table.” This year’s competition had a record number of submissions from 30 countries. Only 20 percent of the entries moved on to the final round of judging.

ILLUSTRATION
Kat VanderWeele, La’Kenya Terrell, Lisa Ambrose and Stephanie Campbell were accepted into the 2011 Society of Illustrators Student Scholarship Competition and Exhibition.

PHOTOGRAPHY
Seniors Annie De Young, Jeni Elias, Justine Gunnesson and Kelsey Wohloianik are finalists in Photography Forum magazine’s “Best of College Photography Annual 2011.” More than 3,000 students from the U.S., Canada and around the world participate in this contest, and finalists represent the top 1 percent of the entries. All four students’ work will be published in the annual.

Graduate students Bridgette Broughman, Emily Gerlach, Nicole Turner, Ashlee Lambart, Patrick Kinne and Patrick Denneau took a trip to Detroit to see Tyree Guyton’s “Heidelberg Project,” a special installation by Guyton done for the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit and the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Freshman Chelsea Seekell started painting on canvas shoes in 2009 after seeing a pair of white canvas shoes at Target and deciding to personalize them herself. Her business began to grow when people saw her shoes and asked her to create their own custom pair. Seekell has created original masterpieces for the feet of men, women and children all over the United States, and has even painted pairs for people in Sweden. See Chelsea’s designs and fan her on Facebook.

SCULPTURE AND FUNCTIONAL ART
Tristan Sisbach was the winner of the Ferris State University Festival of the Arts Civic Sculpture Competition. Her entry celebrates her love of the Great Lakes. Sisbach’s sculpture will be installed in Big Rapids’ Swoe Hill Park, off Baldwin Street.

MFA
Sarah Knill and Steven Vinson were the recipients of the two scholarships made available by Kendall for study at the Golden Apple Art Residency Program in Maine. The two submitted a detailed collaborative project proposal in their bid for funding. Shelley Newman Stevens (’04, MFA Painting), director of the Residency Program, adjudicated the scholarship awards. In addition, Stevens and her husband, Greg, generously offered to fund a third scholarship and selected MFA candidate Taylor Greenfield. All three students will be joining professionals from other institutions this summer in Maine for a unique community-oriented art experience.

“Figurative Works,” an exhibit at Eastern Michigan University (Ypsilanti, Mich.), contained the work of Nick Reszar, who had two pieces in the show.

5Smart, a multimedia arts festival at Open Concept Gallery in downtown Grand Rapids, projected video projects by Kendall students on an outdoor wall of the gallery from April 4 to 8. The 5Smart Festival curator was Bridgette Broughman and the graphic designer was Nikki Turner.

Adjunct Professor and MFA Photography graduate Bridgette Broughman exhibited in “The Language of Light,” an exhibition at the Photoplace Gallery in Middlebury, Vt., and in “Of Memory, Bone, and Myth,” an exhibition at The Third Street Gallery in Grand Forks, N.D., sponsored by the University of North Dakota’s Art Department.

CLUBS
Kendall Colors, a student diversity group, took part in the Diversity and Leadership Symposium as a part of the West Michigan Presidents’ Compact Committee. Students offered workshops to 85 Grand Rapids students on the transition from high school to college. Club members, who represent a variety of design disciplines, also offered a workshop on design and branding. Working for a mythical nonprofit, students created a logo and discussed different aspects of the logo and how it can be interpreted through different backgrounds.

GUARDIAN DIGITAL MEDIA student Tony Shechtman, student Cayden Sielawa and professor Randy Stewart created a logo and discussed different aspects of the logo and how it can be interpreted through different backgrounds.
ALUMNIS GATHER IN NYC

New York City had been pummeled with winter's wrath this year, but a warm reception greeted Kendall alumni at the first Big Apple gathering on Jan. 18.

Our venue was the prestigious Art Directors Club. We selected it not knowing that several alumni are members. What a pleasant surprise when we found out!

We already have two other Kendall reunions that take place during other national events. One gathering takes place in June during NeoCon in Chicago, which is attended by graphic designers, photographers, interior designers, furniture designers and industrial designers. The other takes place during the International High Point Market in October and attracts alumni whose professions are affiliated with the furniture industry. Because our out-of-Grand Rapids reunions have been slanted toward the design industries, we wanted to offer our fine art graduates an opportunity and a cool place where they could gather.

And gather they did! Nearly 50 people attended, split 50/50 between alums and their friends and colleagues, representing illustration, jewelry design, graphic design, industrial design, photography, drawing, and painting and furniture design and representing classes as far back as the '80s and as recent as last year. Besides me, Kendall President Dr. Oliver Evans and Alumni Board President Terry Friessen were also there.

We also gave attendees an opportunity to show their work to each other – and to the local neighborhood. Here’s a big shout-out to The Big Screen Project, which allowed us to project about 100 images onto the exterior of a neighboring building. Images could be seen from a nearby restaurant and neighborhood of shops. The show lasted for about five hours and was a smashing success.

The best part of the evening? Watching people reconnect with each other and share their memories of Kendall. There’s a great community of Kendall advocates in New York, and it was an honor to provide the venue for everyone to connect and find their next opportunity for collaboration.

We realize that New York in January isn’t the best for travel. A lot of people who could have attended chose not to come into the city on that icy day. So, we’re hoping to make the New York reunion an annual event in conjunction with the International Contemporary Furniture Fair in May, beginning in 2012. We’ll keep you posted.

In the meantime, I ask alums to friend us on Facebook and gather on LinkedIn. We’d love to hold more reunions, but we need to know where those consolidated pockets of grads are located. Tell us!

– Peter Jacob, Director Alumni Relations

KENDALL HONORS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI IN ANNUAL EVENT

The Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner was held Thursday, May 5, at the Grand Rapids Art Museum in downtown Grand Rapids.

This year’s honorees were Gwen O’Brien (’97, Graphic Design), Distinguished Alumni Award winner, and Matt Brown (’05, Industrial Design), Recent Graduate Award winner. A special tribute was given to Sara Molina (’03, Interior Design) for her volunteerism with the Kendall Alumni Association and the Grand Rapids community.

As Creative Director and Principal at Grand Rapids design studio Plenty Creative, Gwen O’Brien is steeped daily in all things visual. O’Brien’s love for art and design was nurtured at an early age – she always loved art class in elementary school, she had an extremely fun and creative mom (former Kendall College of Art and Design Instructor Jeanette O’Brien), and she attended Kendall’s summer youth programs.

In 2003, O’Brien and Dottie Rhodes opened Plenty Creative, pulling together a team of top creative professionals who collaborate to create and execute the most effective messaging for a variety of clients. O’Brien is a founder of the AIGA West Michigan chapter and has served as its vice president. She also served on the Kendall Alumni Board for many years, including as president in 2008–2009.

Matt Brown graduated from Kendall in 2005 with a BFA in Industrial Design. Brown was the recipient of the Studio Excellence Award in Industrial Design. He also received the 2006 Industrial Designer Society of America Student Merit Award and, in 2006, presented at the IDSA Conference in Detroit, Mich.

Brown received his Master’s in Interaction Design from the Uméå Institute of Design in Uméå, Sweden, which led him to his current position as an Interaction Designer/Industrial Designer at IDEO in Boston.

Outside his mainstream work, Brown writes a monthly "Design Fancy” column for core77.com, focusing on fictional designers and the fictional things that they created during their careers. He designs and constructs all of the objects he writes about. On his personal Web site, www.skrov.com, his unusual designs include a food dish that allows pets to draw while eating, a self-slicing pizza and a slant-ruled notebook, among other items of interest.

When Sara Molina isn’t busy working or volunteering, she is reading books, drawing with sidewalk chalk, or enjoying movies with her three beautiful children and loving husband, Albert.

Molina’s volunteer efforts at Kendall started when she was a student and have continued through more than seven years of service on Kendall’s Alumni Board, including serving as chairperson for the Alumni Relations Committee for more than three years, during which she has spearheaded numerous events, including the Beaux Arts Ball, the Distinguished Alumni Awards and SITe:LAB.

Molina has also worked with other local arts and cultural organizations, including Activesite, UICA, the Grand Rapids Ballet and Habitat for Humanity. Her dedication to the Grand Rapids community is evidenced by her most recent position as Event Coordinator with TEDxGR, a prestigious national speaker series event that took place in Grand Rapids in May 2011.

Selecting the winners were fine artist Michael Pfleghaar; Nicolai Czuma-Bront, Senior Industrial Designer, Haworth Studio; and Luisa Schumacher, Director of the West Michigan Center for Art and Technology.

This year’s award was created by Industrial Design alum John Warner. Three elements were used to create the awards. The marble came from the same quarry that Michelangelo used. Warner purchased the cherry wood from a company that was unfortunately going out of business. “I got it for pennies on the dollar, with the promise that I would use it to make something beautiful,” he said. The stainless steel came from a greenhouse where he worked while in college.

Wrapping up the evening, Kendall President Dr. Oliver Evans remarked, “As fortunate as we are at Kendall to be surrounded by creativity and artistry every day, we become immune to how remarkable our students and alumni are. Tonight is a wonderful opportunity to honor our graduates and their contributions to the fields of art and design.”
ALUMNA STARS IN CREATING COOL SCULPTURES

Armed with chain saws, chisels and sledgehammers, Michigan-based chef Randy Finch and his team of ice artists, which included Kendall Sculpture and Functional Art major (’09) and Studio Excellence winner Jovannah Nicholson, blew the lid off ice sculpting by developing out-of-this-world, original designs.

Nicholson was introduced to Finch and Derek Maxfield, owners and operators of Ice Sculptures Ltd., during 2009’s ArtPrize. Finch asked her about her ability in 3-D art, and if she wanted to go to his shop to work with ice.

“It was great to work with a new medium,” Nicholson said. She was familiar with working with wood and clay, but wanted to learn more about ice sculpting, so she began to learn and work at Ice Sculptures Ltd., helping Finch and Maxfield during ArtPrize 2010.

“Working with ice is a lot of fun,” Nicholson said. Little did she know that Ice Sculptures Ltd. was already being considered for the new series, “Ice Brigade” on the Food Network.

In the first episode, the team designed the Midwest’s first ice lounge, in Royal Oak, complete with a fully equipped bar, a raw sushi station and a pool table. Later in the episode, the Ice Brigade members created an elaborate punch bowl for former Los Angeles Laker Magic Johnson at his mother’s 75th birthday celebration.

“It was very intimidating, because he’s Magic Johnson,” Nicholson said. The series also followed the members of the Ice Brigade as it created a life-size chessboard in downtown Grand Rapids, a working DJ booth and a piano, among other amazing creations. Two other Kendall alumni, Adam Friedrich (’08, Graphic Design) and Mike Watson (’08, Digital Media), served as production assistants on the series.

KENDALL ALUMNI DESIGNS NEW FURNITURE LINES FOR ART VAN

When Maria Havenaar (’05, Fine Arts: Painting) was attending Kendall, she lived in the nearby historic district, Heritage Hill, in a beautiful brick mansion that had been subdivided into apartments.

Little did she know that her vintage apartment would inspire her designs for “Grand Bay,” Art Van’s H.O.M.E.S. line of Michigan-inspired furniture.

The 28-year-old Kalamazoo native works at Wheelless and Associates, a freelance design firm in North Carolina, where she does furniture design and illustration. She recalls, “The mansion had a mahogany staircase and lots of great moldings. I was thinking about those details when I designed this furniture. It was great to be able to work on something that connects you back to a wonderful place.” Havenaar said, “This is a pretty exciting collection.”

Havenaar’s Grand Bay Collection is styled after 18th-century English design with a relaxed West Indies feel. Heritage Hill’s design influence is evident in the decorative beaded molding and cathedral mahogany veneers with antique finish hardware.

Havenaar is one of two Kendall graduates who have been tapped to design furniture as part of Art Van’s Michigan H.O.M.E.S. Collections.

Keith Binns (’86, Furniture Design) designed the Rock Harbor Collection, which features hickory veneers, copper metal accents and bold geometric shapes. The rustic furniture line evokes Michigan small towns including his own, Romeo, 40 miles north of Detroit. He also drew from his memories summering up north in his family’s cottage in Norwood, located between Traverse City and Charlevoix. Binns, who co-owns Berry & Clark Design Associates in Hickory, said Art Van gave him a lot of leeway in designing the collection.

“They pretty much let us do what we wanted,” he said.

Grand Bay and Rock Harbor are the first new lines introduced since H.O.M.E.S. was unveiled in 2007, said Bob Price, Art Van’s senior vice president of merchandising for the Warren-based retailer. Muskegon native Dan Yates (’89, Furniture Design) designed the first collections: rustic Copper Harbor and the casual Grand Shores furniture lines.
Lisa Ambrose (*'15, Illustration) took third place for her work “Thai Trade on the Kilong Damnoen Saduak” at the Winter Art Festival 41st Annual Juried Show held at the Uptown Gallery, Grand Haven, Mich. She also received the Muskegon Museum of Art Merit Award for “Needs More Red.” Her work “Repose of an Established Habit” was awarded first place in the 25th West Michigan Regional Art Competition held at the Lowell Area Arts Council, Lowell, Mich. She also received second place for her watercolor “Arga Ways and Means” in the 2010 Fine Art Finals Midwest Regional Collegiate Scholarship Competition.

Flint oil artist Tim Kranz (*’10, FMA Fine Art) and Owosso fiber artist Marri Liddle-Lameti are participating in the season-opening exhibition at the Shwaassee Arts Center, Jan. 18–Feb. 27. Liddle-Lameti teaches art at Owosso High School and for Kendall. The University of North Carolina Asheville’s Craft Studies Initiative continued its series “Meet the Maker: Conversations of Meaning” with a presentation by Windgate Fellowship recipient Dustin Farnsworth (*’10, Woodworking/Functional Art and Printmaking).

Tieka Diorolf (*’10, Digital Media) was heard with John Berry and Shelly Irwin on WGVU in a radio program discussing the fashion culture in West Michigan. Diorolf recently gained employment at Williams Group Advertising in Grand Rapids as a print and interactive designer. She also runs a very successful fashion blog called SelectivePotential.com.

Amber Kaminiski (*’10, Digital Media) is a Digital Media Specialist at Digital Video Services in Ada, Mich.

James Veinbergs (*’09, Industrial Design) has focused his attention on teaching, volunteering and drawing. As a teacher and volunteer in Mozambique, he researched the different dynamics and struggles for power among students, teachers, politicians and other members of his community for more than ten years. After returning to the U.S., Mohundro has spent the past year creating drawings that represent his experience in Mozambique and developing Healthy, Hearty Bushwick. The community health project aims to improve the quality of life of HIV-positive Brooklyn, N.Y., residents who struggle with substance abuse and mental illness, through art and healthy lifestyle changes.

Alumni Notes

John C. Wagoner (*’09, MFA Painting) had an exhibition called “Made Out of Paint” in Shreveport, La., at the Shreveport Regional Arts Council Artspace Gallery. Wagoner is a lecturer at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa.

Kelly Allen (*’08, MFA Drawing) was recently featured in Hi-Fructose magazine, which features new contemporary art. Hi-Fructose is published in California and distributed internationally. Allen was given a 32-page spread, which included numerous full-color reproductions of her work as well as an in-depth interview.

Chris Conran (*’08, Graphic Design) had posters he designed for the Traverse City “Run for Shelter” event published in the June issue of Archive magazine. Run for Shelter benefits Goodwill Inn of Traverse City, the largest homeless shelter in Northern Michigan. Conran created the work at his employer, Greenlight Marketing.

Anne Hiddema (*’08, Metals/Jewelry) is now working for nOir Jewelry in Manhattan. Famous for its brass costume jewelry, nOir made jewelry for two designers for Mercedes-Benz at New York Fashion Week: The Blonds and L.A.M.B by Gwen Stefani. Since graduation, Patrick Mehundro (*’07, Fine Arts/Drawing) has focused his attention on teaching, volunteering and drawing. As a teacher and volunteer in Mozambique, he researched the different dynamics and struggles for power among students, teachers, politicians and other members of his community for more than ten years. After returning to the U.S., Mohundro has spent the past year creating drawings that represent his experience in Mozambique and developing Healthy, Hearty Bushwick. The community health project aims to improve the quality of life of HIV-positive Brooklyn, N.Y., residents who struggle with substance abuse and mental illness, through art and healthy lifestyle changes.

Steve Heneveld (*’07, Digital Media) is a storyboard artist at Nickelodeon Studios in Burbank, Calif.

Matthew Hurley (*’06, Furniture Design) has been added as a designer at stylefactory.com, the first online destination to unite the world of design objects with social commerce. Site visitors can vote for Hurley’s “Mozambique Chair,” which features dark wood above a polished stainless base.

Paridee Kositchiranant (*’03, Illustration) designs knitwear for women for the Ralph Lauren RLX line. Created to answer the demand for superior high-performance outfitting, RLX united the highest standards of luxury, technology and style. Kositchiranant’s designs will be at Saks and Neiman Marcus next season.

Yvette Cummings (*’00, Fine Arts) has been awarded the 2011 Stephen L. Dalton Distinguished Teaching Award by the Extended University of the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C.

Cory Pekke (*’91, Associate Professor of Painting, Eastern Oregon University, exhibited in the faculty show at the university’s Nightingale Gallery.

Sy Ellen (*’61) had a solo show, “Lakeside,” in the Robert Williams Gallery at the Box Factory for the Arts, 200 Broad St. in St. Joseph, Mich. Two highlights in this exhibit are “Serendipity” and an unlikely self-portrait that puts Ellens himself at the center of his landscapes.
STUDENT EXHIBITION 2011

A Kendall tradition, Exhibition Week gave this year’s class of 205 seniors the opportunity to display work evidencing their college career.

GALLERY NEWS

August 25 – September 10, Gallery 114
Lydia Larson, Steven Vinson, MFA Thesis Exhibitions

September 21 – October 9, Kendall Gallery, Gallery 114
ArtPrize at Kendall

October 17 – November 5, Kendall Gallery
Untitled Exhibition, featuring the paintings of Richard Kooyman, Nina Rizzo and Michelle Wasson

October 31 – November 12, Gallery 114
Sarah Knill, Alicia Wierscke, MFA Thesis Exhibitions

November 14 – December 7, Kendall Gallery
Mariel Versluis, Sabbatical Exhibition

November 21 – December 6, Student Gallery
Greg Johnson, MFA Thesis Exhibition

November 21 – December 6, Gallery 114
Nick Reszetar, Katherine Downie, MFA Thesis Exhibitions