PAGE 03: RENOVATION  Project complete—for now

PAGE 06: RELOCATION  New IT offices serve students better

PAGE 08: COLLABORATION  Class studies sustainability
As we embark on a new decade, I bring optimistic news about the status of our efforts to create a new future for the Grand Rapids Federal Building. In recent months, little has been said here publicly about the Federal Building. That’s in large part because, ever since the estimated costs of a meaningful refurbishment reached a level that threatened to put the project out of reach, the University has worked quietly to explore potential partnerships with a public entity that would again make the project feasible. Such a partnership is extremely complex, and in order to be successful it requires approval by the state legislature—both the Senate and the House—and the governor. Shortly before Christmas, all three of these players took positive action, and while not yet a certainty, the project looks far more viable than it did several months ago.

Prior to the holidays, Ferris State University announced that to facilitate efforts, it has moved its partnership with the construction firm Christman Company into a new phase. In fact, Ferris and Christman began laying the groundwork for the project in spring 2008, when Ferris selected the Christman Company after a competitive search for a partner with the expertise to successfully transform the building into a state-of-the-art learning facility while protecting its important historic elements.

The Christman Company is currently working on a major rehabilitation of the former Ottawa Power Station in downtown Lansing, which will house the world headquarters of the Accident Fund Insurance Company of America. Christman is also building a six-story, $50 million parking structure as part of the project. Additionally, the company has at least 70 accredited Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) professionals on its staff, and earlier this year its own headquarters building received the Associated General Contractors of America’s AGC Building America Merit Award for Building Renovation. The headquarters has also received the Beyond Green High-Performance Building Award from the Sustainable Buildings Industry Council.

In addition to the public/private partnership, a successful fundraising campaign will be key to our plans for the Federal Building. Until now, the challenge has been the total cost of the project, as well as seeking support by presenting an ‘if/then’ scenario—if you will support the project, then perhaps it will happen. We’re now preparing for a major campaign that will communicate to potential donors and the public at large the value of both expanding Kendall’s footprint in downtown Grand Rapids and preserving the heritage of the Federal Building as a LEED-certified structure. This would be a great addition to the reputation our city has already earned in LEED construction—not only as number five in the country in terms of the number of LEED buildings here, but with the greatest number of LEED buildings per capita.

Ironically, when the University first considered acquiring the Federal Building, additional room to grow was not a factor that need at Kendall. But today space is at a premium. Enrollment for fall 2009 was up nearly 300 percent over 1995 figures. Kendall also has increased enrollment by 50 percent just since our merger with the University.

Fortunately, Kendall has completed extensive planning for the new space the Federal Building would bring, including expanded facilities for Sculpture and Functional Art and new exhibition areas, classrooms and administrative space. Our expansion is a visible reminder of the creativity and sense of community that Kendall and Grand Rapids share, as well as proof that both continue to thrive. Increasingly, students have been attracted by our mix of offerings, from Fine Art study to Arts Education to design for industry—and especially design for the furniture world. The new facility will not only increase our ability to deliver the finest educational experience, but also raise our profile and help attract the best and brightest students to the programs Kendall has to offer.

We will continue to track the progress of this effort, and I will keep you informed. Many pieces of this complex puzzle must still fall into place, but the Federal Building becoming an important element in the presence of Kendall and Ferris in Grand Rapids seems more and more likely every day.

Oliver H. Evans, Ph.D., President/Vice Chancellor

ON THE COVER
Alison Sierra O’Connell (Top Photographs) returned to Kendall to photograph the key players in the renovation efforts. Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Sandra Davison-Wilson, Interior Design Assistant Professor Susan Snyder, and Furniture Design Assistant Joyce Butler are shown in the office of president Dr. Oliver Evans. (Story page 3.)

O’Connell is available for personal and commercial engagements, and can be contacted at oconnellphotography.net or oconnellyphotography.com.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
As a part of Ferris State University, Kendall College of Art and Design prepares its graduates for lives as professional artists, designers, educators and leaders in the world of work. We do this by...

Nurturing creative and intellectual excellence

Encouraging free expression

Promoting an awareness of social responsibility

Housing creativity in all forms

Fostering a dynamic learning environment

Providing a solid base of general education

Utilizing the professional skills, knowledge and expertise from the fields of fine and applied arts

As a result of this, Kendall College of Art and Design also provides education for professional artists, designers, educators and leaders in the world of work.
COST-EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Downturns in the economy did not halt plans for improvement, but instead created an opportunity for Davison-Wilson to find creative ways of doing more with less. She explains, “When we renovated the ARC, we consulted with the architecture firm Design Plus, but we put out bids for the different trades ourselves. We were able to act as our own construction company because we had recently hired Lee Cobb, a former project manager with a construction firm, as a full-time facilities director. He was able to supervise all the vendors involved, which saved us a great deal of money.”

The College also made every effort to remodel spaces using local sources, multiple providers and sustainable practices. Carpet squares by InterfaceFLOR contain recycled content and are easy to replace if they become stained or worn. Low-VOC paint and energy-efficient lighting also contributed to a responsible design approach.

When the time came to purchase furniture, Snyder and Davison-Wilson proved to be very savvy shoppers. Says Snyder, “When we cleared out the seventh-floor storage space, we also cleaned out every nook and cranny where furniture had been stored. This provided us with the opportunity not only to make sure that we were using storage efficiently, but also to see what we already had on hand: items were recycled, reused, donated or thrown away. Much of our existing furniture was easily repurposed in better-looking surroundings.”

Davison-Wilson adds, “We did have to purchase furniture, especially for the sixth and seventh floors. Thanks to our affiliation with Ferris State University, we were able to buy new furniture using an educational institution discount, which saved us a lot of money.”

Nancy Howard, a graduate of Kendall’s Interior Design program, also introduced Snyder and Davison-Wilson to the Herman Miller outlet store and the WorkSquared warehouse, where both became familiar faces. “In fact, they know to call us whenever they receive more Capri® chairs, which are used in several spaces throughout the building,” laughs Snyder.

When selecting furnishings for the office of Kendall’s president, Dr. Oliver Evans, both Snyder and Davison-Wilson felt strongly that, because of Kendall’s reputation as a furniture design college, the Administration Office should be outfitted with wood furniture—but only if there was a way to do so cost-effectively. Thanks to alumnus Tim Schad at Nucraft Furniture and to the careful selection of items, the College was able to purchase pieces at an affordable price, including furniture from the NEOC collection, designed by alumnus Joey Ruiter.

Working together, Davison-Wilson and Snyder have achieved great things. Says Davison-Wilson, “We knew when we hired Olivia we had something special. She started at Kendall in the summer of 2007, and she was such a good sport when she learned that she would have an extra assignment: creating the seventh-floor Staff Services area.” Adds Snyder, “It was a great opportunity for me to get to know the staff and plan their office spaces. Otherwise, it would have been months before I got to know the seventh-floor Student Services area.”

Says Davison-Wilson, “In actuality, the completion of the ARC and Administrative Office concludes a multiyear renovation process, but it’s not over. We’re taking a look at the Sculpture and Functional Art spaces in the basement—how we can make them more attractive, yet conducive to the work being done there. The Photography and Printmaking areas could use some updating too. The library is also a candidate for renovation and expansion. We are always updating, refreshing, expanding and improving the facilities for our students.”

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Advanced Carpet & Flooring Inc.
CD Barron Associates, Inc.
C.J.’s Custom/Outlets Inc.
Century Contracting Co.
Commercial Door Installation LLC
Concrete World
Coster Workplace Interiors
Custom Interior Concepts Inc.
D&D Building
Durable Fire Protection Inc.
Design Plus Inc.
Detail Painting Inc.
DHE
Fayen-Johnston
FlatWood Industries
Grand Rapids Office Furniture
Great Lakes Systems, Inc.
Handorn Inc.
InterfaceFLOR, LLC
Interphase Interiors Inc.
Joey Ruiter
K
Lake Orion Window Treatments Inc.
M&M Fencing
Midwest Construction Inc.
Modular Office Interiors
Nucraft Furniture Company
Painting Plus
Pathway Electric & Communications LLC
S.A. Wiman & Co.
Scheper’s Brothers Co. Inc.
Superior Glass Company Inc.
Tubelinen & More, Inc.
The Company Store
Total Fire Protection Inc.
Trendway
Voss Glasses, Inc.
WorkSquared
X‐Frame Demolition Inc.

RENOVATION DETAILS

Lower Level
Student Commons balcony and basement level: New carpeting and gently used repositioned furniture from around the campus create a great place for students to hang out with friends.

First Floor
New Activities and Resource Center: A new Herman Miller reception station was built to allow two work stations. The waiting area, reception and support room furniture was purchased gently used. Faculty offices, tutoring rooms, support spaces and storage areas contain repurposed or gently used furniture.

Second Floor
Vibrant paint and carpeting create exciting spaces for liberal arts and art history courses. New classroom seating was purchased from Midwest company K, and all classroom tables were purchased new from Holland manufacturer Trendway. A new wooden bench was manufactured by Random, a local cabinetry company, and the bench cushion was covered with remnant fabric donated by the Herman Miller Company Store. The Visual Resources Collection space was updated with repurposed furniture. Faculty offices received gently used seating.

Third Floor
Studio spaces were redesigned and rebuilt for the students.

Fourth Floor
All Ionia-side classrooms have new Trendway tables. Chairs for the fourth-floor classrooms are being replaced with gently used seating as it becomes available. The Technology Support Lab was relocated and remodeled with gently used furniture, new paint and carpeting from other projects. The Open Computer Lab has been refreshed with repurposed tables and chairs, new paint, and carpeting from the second-floor project. Faculty offices for the Graphic Design program received gently used seating. Art Education faculty/staff offices were relocated to the fourth floor and received gently used furniture. The Digital Fabrication Lab was relocated and updated with gently used storage and new countertops.

Sixth Floor
In 2009, the entire sixth floor was remodeled. A neutral paint scheme was used to better display Fine Arts student work. Low-maintenance poured concrete floors were installed and new furniture was purchased for the space, including Caper stools from Herman Miller.

On the Division Avenue side, walls were relocated, creating both classrooms and faculty offices. New drywall, ceilings and lighting fixtures were installed throughout. The unfinished Ionia Avenue side received new plumbing, electrical, and heating and cooling systems.

Seventh Floor
The Digital Media classrooms received gently used seating and reworked table systems. New construction for the Administration Office was completed in space previously used for storage. All the seating, file cabinets and tables were purchased gently used. Desk systems were purchased new from local companies Herman Miller and Nucraft. The president’s desk was designed for Nucraft by Kendall graduate Joey Ruiter.

The Student Services area was remodeled in summer 2009, with new paint and carpet. Furniture was purchased new from local company Herman Miller. The furniture that was replaced has been repurposed throughout campus.
The Open Lab is also home to “Leonardo,” the workhorse printer that is used by nearly every student.

The New Technical Support Lab is where students who are stymied by software, systems or other technical problems can come for on-the-spot assistance. Menold, who is interim IT director, shows the new space with pride. “This used to be the Metals and Jewelry programs’ fabrication lab, but we traded spaces with them,” he explains. “They got our old storage room at the end of the hall, which is actually bigger than this space, and we got a room where our IT staff has some privacy and room to work.”

Upon entering the new Technical Support Lab or calling the department phone, clients are immediately greeted by a work-study student, who serves as the first point of contact. Says Menold, “We had work-study students before, but we had no place to put them. In our new space, a work-study student is nearly always present, so students, faculty or staff don’t have to wander around looking for help.”

In many cases, the work-study student is able to solve simple problems, freeing up the staff to handle larger issues. “Students ask all kinds of questions, ranging from ‘How do I get on the wireless network?’ to ‘How do I configure my computer?’” Interior Design students have a particularly difficult time, because the software that they are required to use is Windows based, so we have to walk them through a program called Boot Camp, which allows a Mac computer to run Windows software,” says Menold.

Although the technical issues addressed in the lab are decidedly cutting-edge, the decor is intentionally reminiscent of other areas of the College. Weaver and Wollman now have their own individual desks, which are located behind a screen for privacy. The new desks are twice as large as before, making it easier to work with students on more complex technical issues. The Interphase carpet squares on the floor of the lab are the same as those used on the second floor. The walls are painted a soft bluish-gray, which is easy on eyes that have been staring at computer monitors. And the furniture was either recycled from other areas of the College or purchased gently used. Once considered out of date, the lab now has a retro look that the students find very appealing. The result is a warm, friendly and open environment that was remodeled very cost-effectively. Menold points to a small conference table in the lab, saying, “Many times, students will continue to sit and work at this table long after their problems have been resolved. It’s so comfortable and inviting that we actually have to ask students to leave.”

Although Weaver and Wollman have a place to work, don’t expect to find them behind their desks very often. The Christmas break is typically their second busiest time (following September), and recent weeks found them immersed in an overhaul of the Open Computer Lab, also on the fourth floor. “Although the laptop initiative, which requires all students to have their own laptop, has been around for almost two years, we still need a space where students can come to work,” Menold explains. “Perhaps they’ve forgotten their laptop or it’s in for repairs, or they’re working on a project that requires software that is too expensive for them to purchase. Regardless of the reason, we felt the Open Lab needed some freshening too.” Computers and monitors had to be disconnected and moved out of the way so that sound-absorbing carpet tiles could be installed. Identical workstations of the proper height for computing replaced folding tables, and three walls were painted a warm caramel color, with the fourth becoming a pine green accent wall.

The Open Lab is also home to “Leonardo,” the workhorse printer that is used by nearly every student. “This used to be the Metals and Jewelry programs’ fabrication lab, but we traded spaces with them,” he explains. “They got our old storage room at the end of the hall, which is actually bigger than this space, and we got a room where our IT staff has some privacy and room to work.”

Right: Rafael Viñoly helps a student with her laptop.

Facing page, left to right: Rafael Viñoly responds to a question from the audience.
The “Form and Purpose” panel.

Although the Open Lab is home to about 20 desktop computers, classrooms have moved in the opposite direction. Room 408, a Digital Media classroom set up by Professor Bill Fisher, has only three computers in it, though at first glance it appears to have many more. Says Menold, “If you look closer, they are just screens, so students can plug their laptops into the monitors, giving them larger screens to work from—or allowing them to work using both their laptop screens and the larger screens. And the Graphic Design classrooms are even starker. Students work from their laptops; there are only three desktop computers and no additional monitors.”

In remarkable contrast is Room 405—the Audio/Video Lab. Says Menold, “This room is equipped with the Corvettes of computers, really top-end stuff. It’s where the high-end video and graphics editing classes are taught, and laptops just don’t have the capacity to handle the memory-intensive programs needed. And it’s also equipped with the high-end software needed, which can cost thousands of dollars.”

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The Collaborative Design class brings together students from a variety of majors to gain firsthand experience in working for a real client in the community. This fall, Kendall College of Art and Design was the client, engaging the student team to find ways to improve Kendall’s sustainability. The first step in raising awareness among the students is making the issue of sustainability more tangible and less of an abstract concept. Sustainability is about improving whole systems, finding creative solutions and not letting thoughts stagnate. The phrase “triple bottom-line sustainability” refers to three areas of benefit from sustainable projects: financial, environmental and social. 

In her nomination letter, Todd said, “Sciba exhibits all the characteristics that a college professor looks for in a quality future educator. She is a kind and supportive person who is dedicated and competent. She is extraordinarily organized, personable and confident. She has a great way with children, a willingness to learn and a positive, upbeat attitude. She is very deserving of this award.”

Congratulations, Sarah!

PROFESSOR RUTH O’KEEFE PASSES AWAY

On Nov. 25, 2009, with her family at her side, Ruth Logan O’Keefe passed away after a brief yet valiant fight with cancer. Professor O’Keefe recently completed her pathway of teaching at Kendall College of Art and Design, where she taught the Ceramic Sculpture course. Teaching was her passion, and she always looked for ways to bring current events into her classes. She felt that her students could contribute something to young minds—and that she learned as much from her students as they learned from her.

“We need to be students and collaborators who understand the need to work with sustainability in all aspects of design,” said Michael C. Bower, Kendall’s president and chairman. “We need to be students and collaborators who understand the need to work with sustainability in all aspects of design.”

The winter semester’s Collaborative Design class will build on the foundation laid by the Fall ’09 class by working on projects and continuing to develop ways to help educate Kendall stakeholders about sustainability. This will mark the first time that the Collaborative Design class has been able to continue its work with a client for a consecutive semester, allowing the class to take on the large-scale project of improving sustainability at Kendall.

COLLABORATIVE DESIGN CLASS ADDRESSES SUSTAINABILITY AT KENDALL

By Dean Lowsma, Junior, Industrial Design

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Art Education program Chair Cindy Todd

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Says Van Duinen, “When it was announced that we were in the top 10 finishers, we received a cash prize of $125,000, a portion of which the team donated to God’s Kitchen in communities by creating painted murals, tile mosaics and sculptures. The murals Van Duinen creates using the bricolage technique have transformed blighted underpasses on Chicago’s Lake Shore Drive into works of community art.

Because of his work with the Chicago Public Art Group, Van Duinen received several awards, including the distinguished Golden Apple Award for Teaching and the Kendall College of Art and Design’s Distinguished Alumni Award, both in 2003. His most recent mural won the Chicago Reader “Reader’s Choice” Award for Best Public Art.

Says Van Duinen, “I heard about the Artprize competition from my brother Carey, and we decided to work with the Children’s Museum because as kids we grew up not very far from downtown Grand Rapids.”

“We saw some of Tracy’s work, and we thought it would be a perfect fit for us,” Place says. “And the fact that he would let children participate in the making of the tiles and putting them onto the wall was just great. ‘Imagine That!’ highlights children’s imagination and creativity. It depicts three children and things that kids think about. A little girl with a construction hat and a drill…a reporter…all things that kids can dream about and aspire to be.”

“Imagine That!” took approximately 1,200 man- and child-hours to complete. More than 300 area children contributed to the mural, from suggesting design elements to painting some of the tiles.

Grand Rapids artist Roger Bruneel (’79, Advertising Design), an award-winning artist and photographer, recently had a seven-room show inside the Grand Rapids Children’s Museum’s Porter Gallery (“Roger Bruneel: Keeping It Real”). In addition, the museum’s common area used canvas to create a large-scale art piece based on his decades of making art, the exhibition traces Bruneel’s career path from early painting explorations with metal and natural to collage-inspired photographs to his second series on the environment called “The Green Room.” "Building Blocks” represents probably the best [one can] do in the post-classic world,” he said of the exhibition.

Furniture designer Tap Logan (’85, Furniture Design) has joined Architectural Elements of Michigan in Traverse City. Logan recently launched his Thomas Logan collection of fine furniture and cabinetry.

Interior designer Kathryn Dyn Mercier (’86, Interior Design) recently painted The Stock Exchange, a conversion furniture and home goods gallery located in Grand Rapids, Ml. Mercier’s painting, "Urban Decay," features a depiction of the ever-changing movement of sustainability by offering previously owned furniture and decorative pieces of excellent quality.

Mih Klingsinrath (’87, illustration), a Grand Rapids Press illustrator and designer, creates books for educators that are full of comic elements aimed at getting kids to read. Klingsinrath has illustrated three graphic novels designed to engage young adults for a Canadian publisher, including Chester’s Choice, in which a hula hoop reading with a movement of sustainability by offering previously owned furniture and decorative pieces of excellent quality.

Alumna Jaclyn Drenth (’07, Illustration) has been working as an illustrator/designer since graduating in 2007. Her work has included work for a number of clients including the Des Moines Art Center in Iowa. She will be teaching basic advanced art skills to children and teens. She also had two paintings accepted into the 2009 Iowa State Fair juried fine arts competition. Her piece “Rhinocerous on Fire” was sold to a couple who were heavily involved in the Des Moines Art Center and the Des Moines Art Center. She is taking a year off to move to Idaho and is working as a full-time illustrator.

The Kendall Gallery in Grand Rapids. Grand Rapids-based Revel Custom Wine Cellars launched its line of custom wine cellars in June, with painted oak cabinets for some bottles and “wine wheels”—floor-to-ceiling cabinets that rotate on half-hinges. The distinctive design, created by Julie Krehbiel (’04, Illustration), is an easy way to show off wine collections to friends or prospective customers, because bottles are more visible than they are in a traditional wine cellar where each bottle must be pulled out of its bin to be identified.

The morning that I left to drive to Texas, I was at Metro Health at 5 a.m., taking photographs for reference. Then I hit the road,” recalls Heurer. “We were incredibly impressed by Nate’s work,” says Katie Sosnowich, promotional marketing manager for IQ Media. “He displayed a remarkable sense of craftsmanship, going to the hospital a day or two before moving to get his own sketches and experience the surrounding landscape.”

The approved design is a large depiction of Metro Health Hospital. Says Heurer, “One of the key elements is the landscaping and greenery. The designers want it made very clear that the facility is a green facility. “Heurer is working in watercolor with graphite and colored pencil on paper. The final piece will measure about 22 inches by 30 inches. The American Furniture Hall of Fame, Inc., has selected a design by Mark Tucker III (Furniture Design) for its new AFFIE award, one of the industry’s highest honors. Tucker’s contemporary design was selected from among many submissions during a recent competition. The award features copper flames as a symbol of the enduring spirit of the industry, as well as the energy behind the innovation, accomplishment and honor achieved by members of the Hall of Fame. The symbol of infinity that anchors the flames is handcrafted by Appalachian metal artisans and set on a turned wooden base of solid reclaimed black walnut.
2010 KENDALL GALLERIES EXHIBITIONS

KENDALL GALLERY
Feb. 16–Mar. 19  Celene Hawkins, Sculpture, Installation, Photographs
Mar. 29–Apr. 21  Ethan Murrow, Drawings and Video
May 4–July 23  2010 Studio Excellence Awards

GALLERY 114
Mar. 10–Mar. 31  Concentration: A Graduate Group Exhibition
Apr. 12–Apr. 24  Justin Kellner, MFA Thesis Exhibition
May 3–15  John Shaw, MFA Thesis Exhibition
May 3–15  Tim Kranz, MFA Thesis Exhibition

GALLERY 204
Mar. 17–Mar. 27  Dustin Farnsworth and Gregory Oberle
Apr. 6–Apr. 20  Cory Vanderzwaag, Korin Holinshead and Jacob Lewkow
May 3–May 17  Devin Slattery, MFA Thesis Exhibition

COMMENCEMENT 2010

DATE  TIME  ACTIVITY
May 4  4 p.m.  Student Exhibition Opening
May 4  4 p.m.–7 p.m.  Student Exhibition Opening Reception
May 4–7  9 a.m.–9 p.m.  Annual Student Exhibition
May 8  9 a.m.–2 p.m.  Annual Student Exhibition
May 6  6 p.m.  Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner
May 6  10 a.m.  Kendall Retirees’ Brunch and Tour
May 7  10 a.m.  Commencement Rehearsal (Fountain Street Church)
May 7  6 p.m.  Excellence Awards Dinner
May 8  8:30 a.m.  Faculty/Staff Recognition Breakfast (Student Commons)
May 8  10:30 a.m.  80th Annual Commencement Ceremony (Fountain Street Church)
May 8  Noon  Post-Ceremony Reception (Student Commons)