

# Report of the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the School

I AM PLEASED to report that the School of the Art Institute of Chicago had another very successful year. Enrollment was up 4%, while operating earnings and cash flow exceeded plan by \$1.3 million and \$2.0 million, respectively. This marks the fourth consecutive year of positive earnings and cash flow.

Enrollment reached an all-time high of 2,608 full-time-equivalent (FTE) students. While both the graduate and undergraduate programs grew, the undergraduate program had the most significant growth of 5% to 2,232 FTE in the fall semester. Additionally, SAIC's international student body grew by 6%, and now represents over forty countries.

The School received international attention throughout the year for excellence in design education. The Fashion department was featured in *Women's Wear Daily*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, and *Chicago Tribune*. A project created by students in the Architecture, Interior Architecture and Designed Objects department, 18% GRAY, in collaboration with the Italian company Industreal, received excellent reviews after exhibiting at Fabbrica del Vapore during FuoriSalone 2008 in Milan. Press coverage included *Elle Décor Italia*, *Domus*, *Living Design +*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *Chicago Magazine*.

Individual alumni, faculty, and students bolstered the School's international reputation by making profound contributions to the contemporary art world and by receiving impressive recognition for their work. Anne Wilson, a faculty member in the Fiber and Material Studies department, received the prestigious Richard H. Driehaus Individual Artist Award. The Getty Foundation awarded the School a grant for Nora Taylor, Alsdorf Professor of South and Southeast Asian Art, to pursue her research on "Contemporary Experimental Performance Culture in Vietnam." Seven alumni and faculty members from the SAIC were featured in the 2008 Whitney Biennial. Graduate student Sung Suk Yoo won the \$25,000 prize for the prestigious Schiff Foundation Fellowship for 2008. Sarah Trantum, a graduate design student at SAIC, received \$30,000 for her entry in the Ruckus Nation competition.

Under the leadership of Development Chair Stephanie Sick, the School has reached a total of \$37 million for its endowment campaign. Included in this success are gifts made by the Sage Foundation, the Grainger Foundation, Mrs. Rosaline Cohn, Ms. Marion Parry, and the Joseph L. and Emily K. Gidwitz Memorial Foundation.

The New Artists Society surpassed its goal of \$1 million for the year, growing in both membership and programming. Relationships with our alumni and faculty were fostered through an engaging trip to Los Angeles and intimate studio tours in Chicago. Bruce and Joyce Chelberg, longtime friends of the School and New Artists Society members, contributed most significantly with an unprecedented gift for merit scholarship support for SAIC students. Other very generous gifts from Craig and Janet Duchossois, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fain, and Mr. and Mrs. Barre Seid enhanced the enthusiastic contributions made by all of the New Artists Society members. New Artists Society scholarship support is essential to student success and contributed to the expansion of the student population, which saw a 4% increase in full-time-student enrollment.

The School also introduced new initiatives designed to spotlight our alumni success throughout the world and build pride within our wide-reaching community of artists, designers, and scholars. Through the mailing of “America’s Studio,” a DVD history of the School, the School reconnected with over 12,000 alumni. In August, the School launched a new alumni Web site, [my.saic.edu](http://my.saic.edu), that aims to build a virtual community and provide easy access to services for SAIC alumni around the world.

I wish to personally thank Tony Jones for his excellent leadership as President of the School. His dedication over the past eighteen years has inspired extraordinary achievements by the faculty, staff, and students, and we are honored that Tony has accepted the position of Chancellor. The Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors are dedicated to continuing Tony Jones’s legacy and taking the School to even higher levels of success under the leadership of its new president, Wellington “Duke” Reiter. The hard work of the presidential search committee has yielded excellent results in bringing Mr. Reiter to SAIC, and I know that the School’s successes over the past four years helped to convince him that the School would be an ideal next step to his professional career.

This year also marks the end of my term as Chairman of the Board of Governors. Over the past eight years, it has been my privilege and pleasure to lead the remarkable group of people who make up the Board of Governors. We welcomed Jack Crowe and Eric Lefkosky this year to the Board, and they have quickly become enthusiastic advocates for the School. It has been our mission to build the reputation of the School and help the outstanding faculty and staff in their efforts to educate the artists and designers of tomorrow. Extraordinary contributions this year by my fellow board members Melissa Sage Fadim and Karen Frank allowed the School to create the Sage Studios for Fashion Design and the Karen and Jim Frank Photography Studios. These new studios profoundly increased student access to cutting-edge technology and will help students reach their full creative potential. As I have experienced the work of students, faculty, and staff at the School during my time as Chairman, I have been inspired by their endeavors to help change the way we see and think. They have opened my eyes and I am proud to have been so intimately involved in helping young artists pursue their talents. Their creativity and dedication—as artists, designers, architects, writers, thinkers—are the forces that will shape the future.

Finally, I welcome Cary McMillan, who will be appointed as the new Chairman of the Board of Governors for the School. I know that he is dedicated to working closely with Duke to design the future of the School and solidify its reputation for excellence in art and design education. I am excited about these energetic new leaders, and I am confident that they will continue the School’s legacy with vision and intensity.

**Barry L. MacLean**

*Chairman*