

# Report

## *of the President of the School of the Art Institute*

**T**HE YEAR 2004–2005 began with very ambitious goals and finished with significant achievements for the School. Overall full-time-equivalent (FTE) enrollment of degree-seeking students reached 2,293, an increase of 3.8% over last year. Commencement was held at the Civic Opera House, where 637 students received their undergraduate or graduate degrees. Artist Ann Hamilton addressed the students, faculty, and assembled guests, and she, artist Jaume Plensa, and collector and philanthropist Ruth Horwich were presented honorary doctorates. In addition, three new graduate programs were introduced: Master in Architecture (MArch); Master of Interior Architecture (MIA); and Master of Design in Designed Objects (MDes). These programs will officially begin enrolling students in fall 2006, and they are shaped to enable graduates to have an immediate impact in the professional world of design.

For the fourth consecutive year, summer degree programs surpassed our initial goal with enrollment up 4.1%. The Teacher Institute in Contemporary Art (TICA) held its seventh summer session, attended by 110 high school teachers, including those who took part in a new TICA alumni session that was offered in response to strong demand from former participants. Thus far, this groundbreaking program has attracted over 500 teachers from around the country. New for 2005 was the introduction of the Teaching Institute in Museum Education (TIME). Developed jointly with the museum's Department of Museum Education, this pilot project, with the participation of educators from the Getty Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, drew museum professionals from the U.S. and the Diego Rivera/ Frida Kahlo Museum in Mexico City.

The Early College Program enrolled over 900 students in fall and spring weekend courses and the summer institute residency program. The ECP summer institute registered 300 students representing 36 states plus China, France, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand. In addition to our curriculum in visual arts, architecture, and design, we launched a new summer residency program in creative writing. This fall's enrollment of 74 entering degree students who had previously attended the ECP amply demonstrates the value of these offerings. International initiatives as a whole continue to produce positive results, with 401 enrolled students representing 39 countries. A gathering held in May in Seoul was attended by nearly 100 of our Korean alumni, parents, and friends.

A design team of School students and faculty were invited to enter the 17th Annual International Contemporary Furniture Fair in New York for the first time, and they were awarded first place in design innovation. The installation *collective difference* garnered much praise and publicity as a juried installation that was part architectural structure, part product. A special thank you is owed to the School's Visiting Committee on Design, along with generous support from Winzeler Gear, Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill, and Booth Hansen.

Faculty achievements were again too numerous to list, but must include mention of the Guggenheim Fellowships awarded to faculty members Maud Lavin of Visual and Critical Studies and Art History, Theory, and Criticism, and Joseph Grigely of Visual and Critical Studies. Trips to Berlin, Los Angeles, New York, Prague, Rome, and Venice were offered to students wishing to study off campus or abroad. The Cooperative Education program provided internships to 437 students with over 1,400 employers across the nation.

Featured among the many lecture and visiting artist series were appearances by Vito Acconci, Coco Fusco, Jeff Koons, Ellen Gallagher, Karim Rashid, Enzo Mari, and architect David Adjaye. Many of these programs met with record levels of attendance and capacity crowds. In addition, 28,059 visitors toured the Betty Rymer Gallery's five exhibitions this year.

The art world was deeply saddened by the news of the sudden death of Chicago artist and SAIC alumnus Ed Paschke. Ed's contribution to the art world will proudly live on through the hundreds of students he mentored and the unique style of his work. A celebration of his life, along with that of his wife, Nancy, who was also a talented artist and an SAIC alumna who passed away shortly after Ed, was hosted by the School in January to a standing-room-only crowd. Among those honoring Ed and Nancy Paschke were artists William Conger, Tony Fitzpatrick, Michelle Grabner, Jeff Koons, LeRoy Neiman, Laurie Steele, and Alderman Burton Natarus. Renowned New York artist and School alumnus Leon Golub also passed away following a long illness. A moving tribute to his life was held in the Art Institute with many friends, colleagues, and collectors.

Our alumni make us proud in their professional achievements as educators, artists, writers, designers, filmmakers, and historians. Apichatpong "Joe" Weerasethakul received the Special Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival for his film *Tropical Malady*. Two alumni were nominated for the prestigious Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching, and Mathias Schergen received the award in a special ceremony in May, offering us another example of the influence SAIC has on the education of young people.

The Gene Siskel Film Center honored director Michael Mann for his contributions to the world of film. Rental of the facility for symposia, private screenings, and other conference and professional events has provided added revenue to complement the Film Center's operating budget.

The Auxiliary Board, under the leadership of John Burcher and gala chair Amy Meadows and co-chairs Averill Leviton and Jessica Lagrange, hosted yet another very successful "Head to Toe" fashion gala showcasing the designs of SAIC fashion students. This event netted over \$300,000, with *Sex in the City* designer Patricia Fields honored with a Legend of Fashion Award. Award-winning Broadway costume designer William Ivey Long, the School's first recipient of the Legend of Fashion Award, presented the honors.

Lastly, the School has made tremendous financial progress compared to the previous year. A net surplus of \$1.6 million was \$6.1 million better than last year's deficit of \$4.5 million, and the year's cash flow surplus of \$5.4 million was a \$7.8 million improvement over the prior year—improved results that were attributable to higher revenues and lower overall expenses.