

# Report

## *of the Chairman of the Board of Governors*

**T**HE COMBINATION OF a world-class museum and a school of art is compelling—a workplace and a showplace for art within the city of Chicago. Simultaneously with the museum’s fund-raising effort for the Modern Wing, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago is in the midst of its own campaign to optimize arts education for the twenty-first century. The School’s unique history and curriculum create a potent combination for the new century, where art, design, and commerce intersect.

The quality of the academic and creative process—what our students and faculty experience when they are here, and how that influences their work—is our foremost priority. The School of the Art Institute is ranked the number one graduate school of fine arts in America and among the top five at the undergraduate level. In a recent survey of art critics conducted by the National Arts Journalism Program at Columbia University, the School of the Art Institute was voted to be “America’s most influential art school.”

We are confident that we can continue to be recognized as the most inventive, creative, and exciting art school in the world by investing in our faculty and students and helping them remain preeminent figures in art, design, and new technology. The School’s endowment campaign is designed to secure funds for faculty chairs, student scholarships, and academic initiatives and departments. We are proud to report that \$24 million toward the School’s overall goal of adding \$100 million to its endowment has been raised to date. Included in this success are two endowed chairs that have been established by John H. and Neville Bryan and Marilynn B. Alsdorf, along with a prestigious gift toward faculty research from the Grainger Foundation.

The School is most grateful for these extraordinary gifts in support of our renowned faculty.

I am also pleased to share news of an important gift from a School alumnus to establish an endowed scholarship fund: LeRoy Neiman has donated \$3 million to assist students with financial needs and to create a master class program for talented high school students from

the Chicago Public Schools.

As the School's campaign efforts move forward, we are grateful for the leadership and support of Campaign Co-Chair John H. Bryan and for the leadership of Development Chair Stephanie Sick, along with the guidance provided by the School's Board of Governors and the Art Institute's Board of Trustees, who are so much a part of the School's fund-raising initiatives.

Last November the School became the recipient of the Hyde Park estate of Professor John Kurtich. The \$1.25 million estate will establish and support the new John W. Kurtich Research Library for Architecture and Interiors. John's personal collection of books, digital images, slides, and intellectual properties will be the focal point of this lasting and heartfelt gift from a beloved faculty member.

As the School's design and technology program continues to grow, we are honored to announce our partnership with Motorola through the creation of the GFRY Design Studio, which was established in memory of Geoffrey Frost, Motorola's Chief Marketing Officer, through a gift from the Motorola Foundation. Abbreviating Geoffrey Frost's first name to four letters, GFRY, is a tribute to the remarkably successful marketing strategy Frost devised for Motorola's iconic cellular phones such as the PEBL, RAZR, and SLVR. The GFRY Design Studio is located on the twelfth floor of the historic Sullivan Center at 33 S. State Street and is part of the Department of Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Designed Objects.

This past year our students and faculty continued to garner high acclaim in their respective fields. Faculty members who received notable honors over the past year include Painting and Drawing Professor Richard Rezac, recipient of the prestigious Gorham P. Stevens Rome Prize in Visual Arts by the American Academy in Rome. Fashion Department Chair Nick Cave received a grant from the Joyce Foundation award program that enabled him to complete new works for the exhibition *Nick Cave: Soundsuits*, held from April 22 to July 9 at the Chicago Cultural Center. Painting and Drawing faculty member Gaylen Gerber designed the premiere exhibition, *Eldorado*, at the recently opened Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, commonly known as the MUDAM Luxembourg.

The May 2006 graduating class included graduate student Insun Cho, who was awarded the fiercely competitive Schiff Foundation Fellowship for Architecture. The Schiff Fellowship is the largest award of its kind in the country. Ms. Cho received recognition for a project, titled *Moments in Flow*, that addresses the need for reconfiguring transportation in outlying urban areas. We are also pleased to announce that Anushka Shivdasani Rovshen received the prestigious Gelman Travel Fellowship Award, which was the first of its kind presented to an SAIC student. This prize from the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Trust provides the recipient with extensive travel support during the year following graduation.

With the news of the School's successful financial position, along with the ever-growing recognition of the work of our faculty, alumni, and students, we look forward to communicating and celebrating the School's accomplishments throughout the upcoming year.

Barry L. MacLean, *Chairman*