

Report

of the President of the School of the Art Institute

AT THE BEGINNING of the 2005–06 academic year, as part of a national effort at recovery, the School announced a plan to assist some students whose lives had been most severely affected by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. At a time when our own enrollment has been growing steadily, reaching 2,008 undergraduates and 580 graduate students, we were able to make available a limited number of spaces in the residence halls and waive tuition and fees for the fall 2005 semester for some of the hardest hit.

Providing global perspectives to our students remains an important priority, and this past year SAIC faculty led study trips to Athens and the island of Skopelos; Beijing, Chengdu, Nanjing, Shanghai, and the thirteenth-century walled city of Weishan; as well as Ireland; Paris and the festival in Avignon; Prague and Vienna; and Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro. Faculty and student achievement was extraordinary, with two faculty receiving the most coveted prizes for residencies at the American Academy in Rome and four students who were awarded Fulbright scholarships.

The School leased the top floor of Louis Sullivan's legendary Carson Pirie Scott Building to house our entire student services operation. Another critical development was the leasing of additional space at the Sullivan Center for a large new studio complex for Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Designed Objects (AIADO), scheduled for occupancy in late summer 2006. Clearly the most significant recognition of our expanding academic programs in design and technology was our first-ever invitation to SaloneSatellite, Milan, where thousands of designers and manufacturers meet to exchange ideas. Twelve students from the departments of AIADO; Art and Technology; Painting; Writing; and Fashion Design created an installation entitled *waterShed*. The project was facilitated by the generous collaboration of Apple, Sonare Technologies, Herman Miller Company, and Winzeler Gear.

Throughout the year the School continued its strong partnership with the City of Chicago, joining the Mayor's Office and fellow Chicago institutions and retailers in September to celebrate Fashion Focus Chicago 2005, as part of which SAIC and Gen Art presented the panel discussion "Insider Tips for Running a Creative Fashion Business." Audience members received a firsthand look at what happens behind the scenes when the creative world of

fashion mixes with the bottom-line realities of business. The School also joined the Chicago Loop Alliance and fellow Loop institutions in presenting the Street Beat fashion show on State Street. Design students and faculty also worked with the City's departments of Planning and Development, Transportation, and Environment developing community projects that addressed real-world problems such as sustainability and public communication as part of a specialized curriculum called "The Green Zone."

Fashion 2006 took place for the first time in the historic Marshall Field's department store. Prominent fashion personalities in Chicago awarded over fifteen student scholarships and grants. Designer Nicole Miller was honored at the annual gala hosted by the Auxiliary Board. We deeply appreciate the Auxiliary Board's many years of commitment to our students.

Our student newspaper, *F Newsmagazine*, won Best Overall Design again from the Student Society for News Design, and a Silver Crown Award from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association at Columbia University School of Journalism. Editor Russell Gottwaldt, a talented comic artist, won the most distinguished award for student cartoonists—the Charles M. Schulz Award from the Scripps Howard Foundation, sharing the stage in Washington, D.C., with some of the top professional journalists in the country; this was the only award the foundation gave to a student journalist this year.

The School was featured on Apple's Web site *Education Profiles in Success*, promoting our advancements in technology. SAIC added over 450 students with Apple laptops to its pervasive computing program. Students in all academic areas were provided with access to a broad variety of technology tools, including a shared library of software.

Throughout the year the School undertook several major overhauls of physical space to improve academic offerings. At Ox-Bow in Saugatuck, Michigan, a large new residential facility with dining rooms, kitchens, lecture room, and new workshops was built and completed for the summer session 2006. These fully winterized facilities are a very significant move forward for Ox-Bow and were funded through the extraordinary generosity of the estate of Dilly Burke and the Ox-Bow board chair, Todd Warnock.

The Department of Art Education successfully completed its accreditation review by the Illinois State Board of Education, receiving evaluation of two teacher preparation degree programs: the Bachelor of Fine Arts with Emphasis in Art Education and the Master of Arts in Teaching. The School welcomed 112 high school art teachers to its fifth-annual Teacher Institute in Contemporary Art (TICA), the only program of its kind hosted by a prominent national arts school and supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and AXA, at no cost to participating teachers. A Teaching Institute in Museum Education (TIME) was organized in conjunction with TICA and was given by Rika Burnham of the Metropolitan Museum of Art with Elliott Kai-Ke of the J. Paul Getty Museum. This seminar explored what is taught in art museum education programs and how it is taught, and what constitutes good gallery teaching practice.

We are pleased to report another successful year for the Gene Siskel Film Center, which continues to break box office records with its many international film festivals and series.

Alumnus LeRoy Neiman and his wife, alumna Janet Neiman, returned to Chicago to make an extraordinarily generous gift to SAIC to support scholarships, and Mr. Neiman conducted a master class in drawing with fifteen students from the Chicago Public Schools.

Commemorating and celebrating the accomplishments of over 800 graduating students, the School held the first graduation ceremony ever in Millennium Park at the Pritzker Pavilion. The graduation speaker was designer, scholar, and curator Bruce Mau, the founder of Institute without Boundaries. Honorary doctorates were bestowed upon Mr. Mau, Mr. Neiman, and printmaker and sculptor Elizabeth Catlett.