A Busy Spring

The spring semester is in full swing, and students are interviewing for summer internships while seniors prepare their final projects.

Commencement News
This year’s Commencement speaker and honorary degree recipient will be Eli Broad, known to all Angelenos for his extraordinary philanthropy in education, science and the arts.

30th Anniversary Scholarship Benefit Fashion Show
A special highlight of the 2012 Scholarship Benefit and Fashion Show on May 5 is the grand finale. Several fashion design students are working with Cirque du Soleil’s Dominique Lemieux on spectacular costumes (top right) for acrobats, trapeze artists, and ballet dancers who will perform at the event.

Kite Festival
One event to plan for is the Kite Festival at Santa Monica Beach on April 14, 9–4. At this free family event, participants can create and fly kites with world-renowned kite makers and designers Tom van Sant (’57), Melanie Walker and George Peters. Children from Urban Compass, Junior Blind of America, and St. Jude’s Hospital will join the festivities, along with Otis students and alumni. Festival-goers can fly kites, build sand castles, have their face painted or caricature drawn.

NEA K–12 Roundtable
President Samuel Hoi recently participated in an NEA Arts roundtable on K–12 arts education that was webcast nationally. He provided the higher education perspective and described the critical value of arts education in developing 21st century skills.

Mark Your Calendars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 1</td>
<td>Graduate Fine Arts Open House</td>
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<td></td>
<td>El Segundo studios, 1–5</td>
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<td>Apr 14</td>
<td>Santa Monica Beach Kite Festival</td>
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<td>9–4</td>
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<td>Apr 26</td>
<td>Student Leadership Dinner, 6:30–9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 28</td>
<td>Meticulosity exhibition, sponsored by Governors, private opening 3–4</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Scholarship Benefit and Fashion Show</td>
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<td>Beverly Hilton, 6:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>Annual Exhibition of work by Graduating Students, 6–9</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>Commencement 10–noon</td>
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Top Image: Gary Geraths, detail from American Family (for Todd), 8 x 26 feet Charcoal on paper.

CLASS OF 2012 Graduation Announcements Available Now
Graduation announcements in packages of 10, including a deckled-edge envelope, can be purchased for $12 (tax and shipping included) from jbryan@otis.edu or (310) 665–2585

BEN MALTZ GALLERY UPCOMING EXHIBITION
Globalize THIS! & Purely Observational / Everyday Political: Artwork of and Inspired by Corita Kent
March 17 – April 14, 2012
Opening Reception: Thursday, March 29, 5:30–7:30pm
Getting Involved in Campus Life

Otgis College of Art and Design Student Activities is pleased to let you know about opportunities for your son or daughter. Student/Campus Life is undoubtedly an enriching and rewarding component of the student’s college activities, and has been proven to provide a well-rounded experience for students.

Reasons to get involved in Campus Life:

Personal Development
Social development is an essential component for college students to understand and grasp in order to thrive in life after school. Organizations such as the Student Government Association and the Campus Activities Board are ways for students to become acclimated to college, meet others, and develop lasting friendships.

Leadership Development
Students learn invaluable communication techniques by interacting with new people every day. As the Director of Student Activities, I work with student groups and oversee Clubs and Organizations. Students can practice the skills learned in class and apply them to a real-world setting. Students participate in workshops, conferences and lectures that are tailored to their interests and needs. They meet administrators and community leaders, furthering connections to Otis.

Commitment
Getting involved with activities is tough when students are trying to balance school work, being away from home or commuting long distances, working a part-time job, and becoming socially connected. However, research has proven that students who are involved with co-curricular activities and organizations are more likely to graduate and be satisfied with their college experience. Students who make a commitment to get involved will get as much out of the experience they put in. Through involvement, students learn to balance their time and prioritize their responsibilities as they transition after graduation.

You may have questions about student involvement in campus activities. Please contact Student Activities at (310) 846-2595 so that I can assist you!

Mike Luna
Director of Student Activities

Ask Dad

Ed Schoenberg

Ed Schoenberg is the Special Assistant to the President for Student Success. Prior to his current position, he served as Vice President of Enrollment Management. He is also a proud “Otis Dad.” His daughter Jessica received her BFA in Graphic Design from Otis in 2002. He writes his column from his perspectives both as a long time administrator and as a father whose child benefitted from the Otis Experience.

This column is the first in what I hope will be a regular feature of all Parent Newsletters. Going forward, I hope that parents who read this column will send me questions. You will be doing your fellow parents a service because if you have a question, I can guarantee that other parents have that same question. For this first column, I will answer the question that I get most often from parents, students, teachers and counselors:

“What can my son/daughter do with an art school education, and, more specifically, what can you do with an Otis education?”

Having served at six other universities and colleges in my 38 years in higher education, I can attest to the fact that an Otis education is the most rigorous of all of these schools. Our curriculum is intellectually and creatively based to develop students’ skills and critique abilities, both in individual and group sessions. In short, our curriculum matches employers’ objectives, and prepares students for the creative economy. Our graduates are well-rounded individuals who can creatively solve problems, articulate their ideas and concepts both in speaking and writing, work alone or in collaboration with others, accept and learn from constructive criticism, and use their creativity and vision to help shape our world.

“That’s all good”, I hear you say, “but how about some facts and figures?” Well, even with a down economy our graduates are doing well in the marketplace. In a survey of alumni conducted for Otis by a third party (Ruffalo/Cody), 65% of our graduates found employment before or within three months of graduation. In addition, 83% of alumni who have been out of Otis for ten years are making part or all of their living as either an artist or designer. Also, over 75% of our alums say that their overall work/life satisfaction is very good or good. Employment levels and starting salaries vary from department to department but the figures cited above are averages for all departments. For more data on career and employment, contact the Career Services Office at (310) 665-6962. It is important that your student plans ahead for internships and careers.

Let me share my daughter’s story. She was drawing from observation when she was in her high chair, constantly sketching and making things. I contend that she did not choose art; rather, art chose her. I do not believe she could do anything other than what she does. Her education at Otis was rigorous and challenging but by the time she was ready to graduate, she was a confident and articulate graphic designer. She had taken a good number of digital media courses that allowed her to work in both static and motion graphics. Her only regret was that she did not serve an internship. As a result, she didn’t have as much work experience as her classmates who did internships (once again, I would encourage you to convince your student to serve at least one internship).
She got experience after graduation by taking freelance and part-time work. She worked for a firm that developed collateral materials (invitations, posters, and cards) for movie studios to promote their new movies. She also worked for a jewelry design firm and on book design with two authors. Eventually she was offered a position at Mattel doing package design for Barbie Dolls and Barbie Videos. She left Mattel, and went to work for fashion designers BCBG Max Azria. She first worked as a designer for their e-commerce team and website, and is currently on the team that designs the in-store graphics. While she puts food on her table as a designer, she feeds her soul by painting and doing mixed media collages in her studio loft in downtown L.A. So she is a young woman who is making her living in the creative economy, despite the fact that many of our family and friends feared that she would live with her mom and me for the rest of her life and would never get a job. I can proudly say that since leaving Otis she has not been without a job. Jessica’s brother Daniel is a 2010 graduate (not of Otis) with a degree in music composition and performance, and he too is making his living in the creative economy. There is life and employment after art school!

This is obviously just one family’s story but I can tell you that my daughter’s experience is not unique. If your student continues to work hard, and graduates from Otis, he or she can join the next generation of artists and designers.

*If you have a question or topic for Ask Dad, contact eschoenb@otis.edu*

**Ask Dad Continued**

The Library has acquired The Vogue Archive, the entire run of Vogue magazine (U.S.), from 1892 to the present, which presents a unique record of American and international fashion, culture and society from the dawn of the modern era to the present day. In addition, the Library’s Teaching and Learning Center has created 62 videos related to the Woman’s Building exhibition that has just ended at the Ben Maltz Gallery.
A Busy Spring Continued

CE Enrollment Up
Continuing Education enrollment has increased, with much interest in the smart phone app class taught by recent MFA grad Crossman Wilkins ('09). This summer, CE will offer selected online classes. www.otis.edu/ce

Students Learn From Luminaries
Art and design students have opportunities to work with luminaries from their fields. Visiting faculty members in Fine Arts this spring are artists Laura Owens and Edgar Bryan, and curator Sorab Mohebbi. Architecture/Landscape/Interior students participated in a week-long master class (below) led by Donghia Designer in Residence Xavier Vendrell. Brooke Davis Anderson, LACMA’s deputy director of curatorial planning, presented a series of lectures on outsider art. Product Design presented Dan Fogelson, who discussed a sustainability case study on Coke and the Emeco Navy Chair, and Linda Weintraub spoke on eco art. Graphic Design visiting lecturers have included Italian photo editor Mauro Bedoni, French typographer Jean Francois Porchez, motion designer Jens Gelhaar, web designer Ryder Ripps, N.Y. graphic designer Danielle Aubert, and Berlin-based typographer and graphic designer Andrea Tinnes. Lectures by visiting illustrators included Mark Todd and Esther Pearl-Watson, Herakut, Laura Krifka, Adam Mars ('07) and Brandon Ragnar Johnson. Fashion design expert Rose Apodaca spoke about her new book on Fred Hayman of Rodeo Drive fame.

OTIS’ LEGACY
Clay’s Tectonic Shift
In his Feb 9 review, L.A. Times Art Critic Christopher Knight describes a “slow swirl at the edge of the Pacific,” referring to the break in tradition known as “Otis clay.” When Peter Voulkos came to Otis to start a ceramics program in 1957, he brought a method based on Abstract Expressionist concepts. As Billy Al Bengston explained, “Watching Pete manipulate clay was the most masculine and magical thing I had ever seen.” Postwar pottery flourished in Southern California, and two exhibitions are fittingly part of the Getty’s Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945-1980: “Clay’s Tectonic Shift” at Scripps College’s Williamson Gallery and “Common Ground” at AMOCA, Pomona. Alumni and former faculty included in the exhibitions are Robert Glover, Peter Voulkos, Billy Al Bengston ('56), Michael Frimkess ('57), John Mason ('57), Kenneth Price ('57), and Paul Soldner ('58).

Spotlight

OTIS IN THE HAMMER MUSEUM’S NEXT L.A. BIENNIAL
Made in L.A. / Made by Otis
The UCLA Hammer Museum and LA><Art have announced the artists for the first L.A. Biennial exhibition Made in L.A., June 2 – Sept 2. Otis artists are well-represented, including Fine Arts Chair Meg Cranston, Graduate Fine Arts Chair Roy Dowell, alumni Vincent Ramos ('02) and Mario Ybarra ('99), faculty members Michele O’Marah and Joel Otterson, and 2011 Boardman Visiting Artist Ruby Neri. The curatorial team worked for 16 months to make their final selections for this exhibition, which will feature a separate Venice Beach Biennial in July, public performances, billboards, and site-specific installations.

College News

2012 Excellence in Teaching Awards
The recipients of the 2012 Excellence in Teaching Awards are Meg Cranston (Fine Arts), Full-Time, Mark Wyse (Fine Arts), Part-Time/Adjunct, and Gary Geraths (Foundation, Digital Media), Distinguished Educator Award. Concurrently, Gary Geraths will receive the LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce Eddy Award for Excellence in Education.

Students Create Video for the Pasadena Public Library
For the Pasadena Public Library’s initiative “One City, One Story,” Communication Arts students created and illustrated A Fictional Pictorial Journey of the Sarajevo Haggadah through the Centuries, an exhibition and imovie through April 1 at http://cityofpasadena.net/library/news_events/ocos/2012/online_events
Dr. Parme Giuntini, Director of Art History, was the faculty adviser

“Creature Features” Returns
Derek Thompson (Illustration ’94) of PIXAR led “Creature Feature” a two-day intensive workshop in March.
Faculty News

Maja Blazejewska designed Contested Visions, (right) an LACMA exhibition catalogue.

Joshua Callaghan, Farrah Karapetian and Larry Johnson are in a group show at Royale projects, Palm Springs, through Mar. 25.

Jane Castilho’s work (below) was included in the Sur Biennial at Rio Hondo College, and reviewed by faculty member Scarlet Cheng in Artillery, Feb–March.

Chair Meg Cranston was included in an exhibition Paper Does Not Blush at Galerie Michael Janssen, Berlin, through March 3. She wrote about the work of Thomas Hirschhorn at the Venice Biennale Swiss Pavilion in “Their Favorite Exhibitions of the Year,” Artforum, Dec. 2011.

Per-Johan Dalh’s project “Loft P” was featured in RUM#8, and the first issue of the iPad magazine SCAR (Scandinavian Architectural Review). He presented his PhD research at the 2012 Hawaii International Conference on Arts & Humanities.

The “2636 Residence” by Chava Danielson and Eric Haas received a Preservation Design Award from the California Preservation Foundation for the restoration of R.M. Schindler’s Babeshko Apartments, and was published in the Feb. 2012 issue of Dwell.

Graduate Fine Arts Chair Roy Dowell will have a solo exhibition at Galeria Nina Menocal, Mexico City, April 10–May 19. He received an ARC (Artists’ Resource for Completion) Grant from the Center for Cultural Innovation.

Dana Duff was featured in an exhibition 10 Years L.A. @ Foundation Kaus Australis at The Prospectus, Pacific Design Center. She created a new video installation (top right) in collaboration with Shirley Tse at Shoshana Wayne Gallery through March 24.

Dawn Hollingsworth was elected President of the International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD) Education Trust for 2012.

Annetta Kapon is included in a four-person exhibition at Lola Nikolou Gallery in Thessaloniki, Greece through April 2 and in the 22nd Photo Biennial of Thessaloniki, April–July.

John Knight is included in the Whitney Museum Biennial, March 1–May 27.

Greg Kochanowski received a 2011 AIA/LA Next LA Honor Award for his project, with Roger Sherman Architecture & Urban Design, “Target Nation: Thinking Out of the Big Box.”

Graduate Public Practice Chair Suzanne Lacy received the lifetime achievement award from the Women’s Caucus for Art. She organized a three-day “open classroom” event Re/Locating Learning: Public Practices as Art at the College Art Association’s annual meeting in L.A. (see more on page 6)

Chair Kali Nikitas presented her work in the “GUAGE” series at Cal St L.A. She will participate in “TYPO SF” in April.

Tucker Neel (’07 MFA) was selected by New York’s CUE Foundation's Young Critic Mentoring program to write the catalogue essay for Greg Wilken (’04)’s The Road of a Thousand Wonders show. He also wrote the catalogue essay for Nancy Baker Cahill’s exhibition Fascinomas at the Pasadena Museum of California Art.

Alison O’Daniel’s film Night Sky was screened at Black Box with live musical accompaniment on Jan. 29, and featured in Artforum.

Renee Petropoulos performed Analog (Mostly) Among Nations at the MAK Schindler House in February, and at the College Art Association meeting, and she is included in the exhibition Figures and Grounds: Approaches to Abstraction at the Arts Club of Chicago, and Breaking in Two at the Arena 1 Gallery as part of PST.

Assistant Chair Alex Slade had a solo project at Artium in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain in February. He, Lisa Ohlweiler, and alumna Carly Steward (’03) were featured in Camera Austria.

Yael Samuel presented a paper at the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association Conference in November. She also edited two publications for Edition Jacob Samuel: Marina Abramovic’s Spirit Cooking, and Chris Burden’s Coyote Stories, which are included “Print/Out” at the Museum of Modern Art through May 14.

Ann Summa’s work is included in Faraway, So Close, a group exhibition at Morono Kiang Gallery, through March 31.

Mary Weatherford was included in Bakersfield Project at Todd Madigan Gallery, Cal State University, Bakersfield.

Chris Wilder and alumnus Alex Becerra (’11) were included in Demin Solution/Ambien Sex, Gallery 4677, L.A., Jan-Feb.
Alumni News

Solo Exhibitions

Mia Araujo ('07 Fine Arts) Corey Helford Gallery, Culver City

Alumna Robyn Baker ('10) interned at one/one communications in Amsterdam, and designed the catalogue:output 14.

Sandow Birk ('89 Fine Arts) American Qu’ran, Koplin del Rio Gallery, Culver City

Sabine Dehnel ('03 MFA Fine Arts) The Things of Life, Morgen Contemporary, Berlin


Peter Liashkov ('67 Fine Arts) Paper Cowboy, Nevada Museum of Art

John M. White ('69 MFA Fine Arts), Offramp Gallery, Pasadena

Juan Capistran ('99 Fine Arts), included in the 12th Istanbul Biennial

Highlights

Steven Bankhead ('01 MFA Fine Arts), Fine Arts faculty member included in article, “Top 10 Moments of the Year in L.A. Art” by Catherine Wagley, LA Weekly

Kate Harding ('03 Fine Arts), Program Coordinator in Fine Arts, was featured in the exhibition Contrasting Visions, East Central College Art Gallery, Union, Missouri.

Burton Hasebe ('04 Communication Arts) was selected by Print Magazine for its annual “20 Under 30.”

Ismael Lamas (Architecture/Landscape/Interiors ‘06) as Designer with SPaCE, won “The City of Beverly Hills Architectural Design Award 2011” for the Missoni Flagship store, for which he designed the exterior skin.

Mary Younakof ('06 MFA Fine Arts) showed the new installment of her 343 Dresses: The Chromatic Convergence Project, at the Pacific Deign Center. Annie Buckley ('03 MFA Fine Arts) reviewed the exhibition in the Huffington Post.

Hazel Mandujano ('03 Fine Arts, '10 MFA Graphic Design), current Coordinator of Graduate Graphic Design, is an artist-in-residence at Cal State L.A. Luckman Gallery.

In Memoriam

Ken Price ('57 Fine Arts) at left, died in February. As Christopher Knight wrote in the L.A. Times, “In the decades following World War II, Price was among the first generation of iconoclastic L.A. artists to attain international stature.”

Franklyn Liegel ('77 MFA Fine Arts) died in February. A beloved Continuing Education instructor, he exhibited nationally and internationally, and he was awarded artist fellowships in Taos, New Mexico, and Costa Rica.

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In Case You Missed It...

Black History Month

*Under the Baobab Tree* hosted two Black History month events and a poster campaign. Students Andrea Wimberly (poster above) and Norma Escolero designed the posters. Their Mardi Gras celebration included King Cake, beads, masks and a tap dance performance by Aaron Williams and Anissa Irving, and later in the month, percussionist Joseph Mitchell and woodwind specialist Bill Roper performed pieces inspired by African American art.

The GROUP

Scholarship recipient Sirelle Hammoudian met her benefactor Linda Laskin at the annual GROUP scholarship luncheon in February.

Otis In the News

The 2.17 *Huffington Post* had a story with fourteen photos on the Maltz Gallery's *Doin it in Public* exhibition. Other press for this exhibition include 1.26 Women's Views on Art, 2.4 Westside Today.com, 2.28 Modern Art Notes by Tyler Green, 2.17 Feminine Moments, 3.4 The Art Blog, 3.9 Art Practical, 3.12 Pasadena News Now, and 3.26 Laist.

The 2.3 *Santa Monica Mirror* featured the Graduate Public Practice projects for Santa Monica Place, “Consuming Nature” and “Portable Park IV.”

Artforum’s “Scene & Herd” 2.28 reported on Chair Suzanne Lacy’s “Re/Locating Learning” project at the CAA meeting.

Arts for LA 1.11 featured Otis’ Report on the Creative Economy in its coverage of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Town Hall meeting.

*The Argonaut* 3.8 quoted Fine Arts Assistant Chair Alex Slade on an exhibition of photographs by Ansel Adams.

OTIS REPORT ON THE CREATIVE ECONOMY

Making a Case for Arts Education

The *Huffington Post* article “Cuts to Arts Education Would Shortchange Our Children,” references the Otis Report on the Creative Economy in making a case against budget cuts to arts education. “The prospect of arts vanishing from LAUSD schools is all the more shocking given the critical role that the arts play in driving the Los Angeles economy. The 2011 Otis Report on the Creative Economy commissioned by Los Angeles’ Otis College of Art and Design...” http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robin-bronk/lausd-arts-education-cuts_b_1341850.html?ref=yahoo&ir=Y ahoo

OTIS AT CAA

Faculty at College Art Association

At the annual meeting of the CAA in L.A., Suzanne Lacy organized a three-day “open classroom” event — *Re/Locating Learning: Public Practices as Art*— (right). Dana Duff participated in a reprise of Eugenia P. Butler’s “Kitchen Table” talks, and Renee Petropoulos performed Analog (Mostly) Among Nations.