2013 Commencement
At Commencement exercises on Saturday, May 11, Otis awarded BFA and MFA degrees to 358 artists and designers who are ready for their creative careers. President Hoi stated “You are equipped for success. Otis graduates leave with the individual style, vision, and specialized skills required to excel. For nearly one hundred years, alumni have risen to the top of their chosen fields.” The College also awarded an honorary degree to pioneering author, activist, critic, and curator Lucy Lippard. Carolyn Moskowitz, a Digital Media major, was named Valedictorian. A native Californian from Agoura Hills, Carolyn plans a creative career as a concept artist and illustrator for video games, films, books, trading cards, and multimedia. This year’s Commencement marked a new tradition of inviting the Alumni Council Chair to speak and welcome the new graduates to the alumni community. Chair Judithe Hernández shared a personal story about the value of staying connected to otis, and encouraged alumni to “pay it forward” by helping one another. Fifteen students earned distinction with academic excellence awards. Trustee Bronya Galef represented the Board of Trustees in the Commencement ceremony.

The 31st Annual Scholarship Benefit and Fashion Show
The 31st annual Scholarship Benefit and Fashion Show on May 4 raised more than $1 million for scholarships. 70 professional models in more than 175 student designs for women, men and children walked the runway. Honorees were Kirk Nix of KNA Design, recipient of the Creative Vision Award, Sally Perrin of Perrin Paris, recipient of the first Style Icon Award. The event also included a special recognition of the Otis Sustainability Alliance and its inaugural members: Eddie Bauer, Disney, Quiksilver, Patagonia, Nike and Todd Oldham. Many thanks to the Trustees and Governors for their support, and thanks to the volunteer committee for their efforts. Selected garments from the Benefit runway show are displayed in the windows of Beverly Hills Neiman Marcus, Wilshire Blvd, through May 28. (see highlights video and media coverage, pg 8)

Fashion Design #1 on the West Coast
Otis Fashion Design is #1 on the West Coast according to Fashion Schools listing of the top 10 Fashion Schools, based on academic reputation, selectivity, breadth of the program and faculty, and location.

Laura Daroca
Director of Alumni Relations
Alumni Relations has been incredibly busy this spring providing Otis graduates with a variety of opportunities to stay connected to our robust alumni network and to their alma mater. The spring edition of our newsletter gives a re-cap of all of our spring events, campus-wide news, and accomplishments of the entire Otis community. Help keep us updated on your accomplishments!

Mark Your Calendars
Jun 22 – Aug 3 “3 Solo Projects” at the Maltz Gallery

O Salon
Otis alumni are invited to join alumna Linda Kunik ('06) at her studio on Friday, June 21 at 7pm for a free monthly critique group she began after completing her degree at Otis. Consisting of approximately 150 members, three to five artists bring their work to each salon to be critiqued in a friendly, welcoming environment. Work can range from drawings or paintings, to photography, sculpture, performance art or installation, as well as video, film and writing. To join, contact Linda at lindakunik@gmail.com

Annual Exhibition Preview
On May 9, more than 600 guests including alumni, recruiters from design firms and representatives from cultural institutions, including Deutsch, Disney, DreamWorks, Fowler Museum, Imaginary Forces, Mattel, Spin Master, and Sony, viewed work by graduates at a special preview. Approximately 3,000 friends and family members viewed the work of graduating students the next night.

A Mess and a Pleasure: Practicing in Public, the Graduate Public Practice Exhibition, was shown at ForYourArt through May 11.

Fashion Design #1 on the West Coast
Otis Fashion Design is #1 on the West Coast according to Fashion Schools listing of the top 10 Fashion Schools, based on academic reputation, selectivity, breadth of the program and faculty, and location.

New Otis Job Board
http://otis.experience.com

Center for Creative Professions

http://otis.experience.com
Annual Design Competition Award

Chloe Leung’s ('12) indoor grill design won the grand prize and people’s choice awards in the annual design competition sponsored by Avenue Magazine, Alberta, Canada.

“Students to Watch Annual Issue,” Graphic Design USA

Graduate Graphic Design student Rachel Fishman was selected for Graphic Design USA’s annual “Students to Watch” issue.

International OUTPUT Competition

MFA Graphic Design alumna Joy Scopa ('12) was one of the 80 winners from more than 1,000 submissions in the international 2013 OUTPUT competition.

Recent Grants from Annenberg and Ahmanson

The Annenberg Foundation has pledged $125,000 for general operational support. This generous grant provides maximum flexibility for the College to address its greatest needs in academic year 2013-2014.

Otis was selected to participate in the inaugural year of the Ahmanson Veterans Scholarship Initiative. In addition to endowed and annual scholarships, The Ahmanson Foundation awarded a $50,000 renewable grant to support the recruitment and success of veteran students who qualify for the post 9/11 GI Bill. In academic year 2012-2013, seven students are veterans and five have parents who are veterans.

Graduate Studios Open House

The new Graduate Studios in the arts district of Culver City held a successful open house on April 14 in which MFA Fine Arts and Public Practice students opened their studios to the public. Approximately 350 collectors, friends, art writers, gallery owners and museum curators attended. Alumni Relations invited graduates from all MFA programs for a special reception following the open studios. Roughly 50 MFA alumni from a range of decades celebrated the new location with the graduate students, faculty, and staff at a special post-open house reception hosted by Alumni Relations.

ReLAX

New York-based designer Shashi Caan led the Donghia Master Class this March for 14 talented Architecture/Landscape/Interiors students. ReLAX, the week-long design charrette, was based in Caan’s belief in collaboration and the human experience. Students designed “watering holes” for LAX traveler layovers, connecting them to downtown, to the beach and wetlands, and to local residents. Among juror comments were: “It’s refreshing to see a project that brings pleasure back to design, especially to the stressful experience of air travel.” “Great concept of connecting both to existing transportation and communities, such as downtown and Culver City.”

Freeway Studies: This Side of the 405

Freeway Studies: This Side of the 405 at the Ben Maltz Gallery (through June 1) includes work by 33 artists whose studios are west of the 405, north of the 105 and south of the 10. Among them are faculty members Meg Cranston, Scott Grieger, Renee Petropoulos, Jim Starrett, and Chris Wilder; and alumni Alex Becerra ('11), Vincent Ramos ('02), Lucas Reiner ('85), and Sam Watters ('02 MFA). Curated by Director of Galleries and Exhibitions Meg Linton and 2012-2014 Curatorial Fellow Jeseca Dawson ('12 MFA), whose blog documents their 100 visits to artists' studios.

Fine arts exhibition featured on May 21 KCRW “Art Talk”

Critic Edward Goldman, in his KCRW review of a show of work by sophomore students, stated “Through the years I have been to a number of various art school exhibitions, and most of the time I think that the boys and girls have a long way to go. But this time, I was surprised by the maturity of a number of the works and cleverness of the overall presentation. If I didn’t know for sure that I was in a college sophomore show, I would have believed that I was in an exhibition at a well-established gallery or even in a museum.”

Modern Genius MOOC

Otis’ first MOOC (massive open online course) entitled “The Modern Genius,” developed and taught by Parme Giuntini, Assistant Chair of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Director of Art History, begins June 1. Massive Online Open Course Reinterprets Contemporary Art. Only a few AICAD institution offer free global access to high-quality higher education experiences. Efforts such as this advance our mission, our service to ever-widening communities, and our international reputation. (see media coverage, pg 8)
Ready for Creative Careers

I’d like to reflect on the students who completed their degrees this year.

Many of this year’s seniors entered in 2009, the last year that I served as the Vice President of Enrollment Management. I worked closely with a number of students who were awarded their degrees during the May 4 Commencement ceremony. What is remarkable about the students and the parents who supported and encouraged them is that they entered college in the middle of this country’s worse financial breakdown since the “Great Depression.” Some of these students and their families faced job losses, foreclosures on their homes, and the almost complete demolition of the student loan market. Despite these factors, most found a way not only to enroll but more importantly, to stay and finish their degrees. They did so with creativity, desire, and old-fashioned hard work. Most of the students with whom I worked secured at least one internship, and many secured two. Most had to work part-time to help pay for school, and given the demands of our curriculum, neither internships nor part-time jobs were easy to do. And they did it with aplomb. Almost 20% of the BFAs graduated with honors or received an academic excellence award. My hat (and if you know me, you know I mean this literally) is off to this year’s graduates and their families.

What are these students’ prospects after Otis? I would say that they are very good. We know from years of alumni responses to surveys that on average approximately 70% of graduates receive their first job within three months of graduation. How do they do that? Remember the aforementioned internships? Many graduates go to work for companies, organizations or individuals with whom they connected in an internship. They also develop brilliant portfolios and reels to show a prospective employer. When I graduated from a liberal arts college, other than a cogent letter of interest and a standard resume, I could not “prove” to a potential employer what I could do. When my daughter graduated from Otis in 2002, her striking portfolio and the confidence with which she could talk about both the designs and concepts allowed her to find work ranging from jewelry design to graphic design for movie collateral materials, packaging design for Mattel, and e-marketing, web design and in-store graphics for fashion firm BCBG. Eleven years later, she is co-owner and creative director for a branding and marketing firm. Among the students I know in the Class of 2013 are those who will work for an animation studio, serve as studio assistants to major fine artists, join community arts organizations, and others who have found positions at companies such as Eli Lilly and Sony Home Entertainment.

Although the economy has improved since the 2008/09 “downturn,” it is still considered a tough employment environment. Yet the Surdna Foundation’s SNAPP (Strategic National Arts Alumni Project) survey found that employment and employment satisfaction in the arts were as high as or higher than other fields of employment (2011 poll of nearly 40,000 who graduated with degrees in the arts).

Every year our Annual Exhibition reminds me what an Otis education does. The brilliant work on display in all majors impressed and amazed the more than 600 employers, collectors and alumni who attended the Preview Exhibition, and the nearly 3,000 family, friends and neighbors who were treated to exciting art and design work, much of which was developed with sustainability in mind.

Please join me in saying congratulations to the Class of 2013!

If you have a question or a topic you would like to see addressed in a future Ask Dad Column please email “Dad” at eschoenb@otis.edu
Scholarship Benefit Runway Show

**Left Column:** Claire Pettibone ('89); Bob Mackie; Christopher Wicks; Cynthia Vincent ('88)

**Middle Column:** Heather Brown ('04) for Urban Outfitters; Bob Mackie; Billabong; EleVen by Venus Williams; Mary Jo Bruno

**Right Column:** Cynthia Vincent ('88); Claire Pettibone ('89)

Photography by Nathan Gulick
Undergraduate members of the Class of 2013 displayed their work on May 9 and 10.

From top left, counterclockwise: Architecture/Landscape/Interiors, Product Design, Toy Design, Fine Art, Communication Arts, Digital Media (right).

Photography by Kristina Campbell
Faculty News

2013 Teaching Excellence Award Recipients:

Bill Kelley (Graduate Public Practice)
Part-Time/Adjunct

Renee Petropoulos (Graduate Fine Arts)
Full-Time

Harry Mott (Chair, Digital Media)—Distinguished Educator Award

Faculty member Judie Bamber’s work was included in two books by Phaidon: Vitamins D2: New Perspectives in Drawing and Queer Culture (Themes and Movements Series) by Catherine Lord and Richard Meyer.

Faculty member Adam Berg’s solo exhibition Consensual, opened at Edward Cella Gallery on May 4.

Faculty member Joshua Callaghan, is participating in the first Bienal del Sur in Panama.

Fine Arts Chair Meg Cranston was awarded the Artadia prize for her work in the NADA New York fair. The work was also pictured on May 10 in the New York Times. Her show at LAXART, “Emerald City,” was selected by Artforum as a critic’s pick, and featured in the LA Weekly.

MFA Fine Art Chair Roy Dowell’s work was included in the group exhibition LOCAL FISH at Ernie Wolfe Gallery in Los Angeles.

Cynthia Lightfoot, featured on KPCC’s new arts and culture blog.

MFA Fine Arts Faculty member John Knight’s work is exhibited at Portikus in Frankfurt, Germany through June 30.

MFA Public Practice Chair Suzanne Lacy discussed La Piel de la Memoria (The Skin of Memory) with youth and human rights groups in Medellín, Colombia as a precursor to the launch of Collective Situations: Readings in Contemporary Latin American Art 1995–2010, an anthology coedited by Public Practice faculty member Bill Kelley Jr. and Grant Kester, at 18th Street Arts Center.

Faculty member Cathy Lightfoot has a show at XVY Art & Design. L.A. through June 1.

Alumni News

Annie Buckley (’03 MFA) curated On Seeing-Divination, an exhibition series in The Huffington Post that features emerging and established artists from around the globe.

Daniel Phillips (’08) and Kim Karlsrud (’07)’s Greenaid slingshots were featured in Sunset Magazine’s March issue.

Hazel Mandujano (’03), faculty member and alumnus JT Steiny (’84), and Amy Fortunato (’12) participated in the the LA Zinefest, February.

Chris Oatey (MFA ’06)’s exhibition Performing Methods at CB1 gallery was reviewed by David Pagel in the LA Times on March 14.

Sergio Bromberg (’10)’s Venice 6114 Gallery hosted an exhibition of work by Jesse Benson (’03 MFA), April 13-May 4.

John Mason’s (’57) “Blue Wall” is on display through October 13 at the Laguna Art Museum.

The New York Times featured Architect and Interior Designer Steven Learner (’86), the Founder and Creative Director of Collective, a new design fair held in New York, May 8-11.

Apartment Therapy profiled Erin Adam’s (’87)’s store, Brainworks Home.

Corrie Gregory (’91) was featured in TR3’s online article entitled “Where the Wild Things Are…Now”.

Marco Rios (’97) wrote Fifteen Seconds of Fame: The Andy Warhol Polaroids for KCET’s Artbound in conjunction with an exhibition he curated at Cal State LA’s Luckman Gallery through June 1.

Tofer Chin’s (’02) second solo show, Ar, is on view at Lu Magnus in NYC through June 29.

Michelle Chong (’06 MFA) curated Bussi Baba, a show at Elephant art space featuring five artists from Vienna.

Faculty member and alumnus Tucker Neel (’07 MFA) participated in the MAK Center’s recent exhibition, Plan your visit.

J.A.W. Cooper’s (’09) solo exhibition “Laid Bare” was featured at La Luz de Jesus Gallery, April 5-28.

Joong-Han Lee (’09) was selected to join the prestigious jewelry label Chi ha paura...?, founded by Gijs Bakker. His designs were exhibited in Milan and at the Stedelijk Museums’ Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands.

Christopher Fong (’13) has been named a 2013 Windgate Fellow in mixed media/product design by The Center for Craft, Creativity & Design. The $15,000 Award, among the largest and most prestigious offered nationally to graduating seniors, is given to ten recipients from a field of 115 nominees from 68 institutions. Faculty mentor for the competition was Joan Takayama-Ogawa. The award will support Chris to enroll in workshops at the Domaine de Boisbuchet in Southern France, researching graduate schools in Europe, and wood and blacksmithing courses at Penland School of Crafts, N.C.
Student News

The Center for International Education sponsored Connect LA: China on April 26, in which students discovered the rich history of Chinese culture, worked with local and alumni artists, and enjoyed traditional cuisine.

MFA Fine Arts Sandberg Residency exchange fellow Arnar Asgeirsson did a two-month residency, hosted by ESMoA (El Segundo Museum of Art).

Fashion design student Eun Young Lee won a 2013 TALA (Textile Assoc of L.A.) scholarship.

Graphic design students George Martinez and Eric Nishioka won awards for their campaign “Justice by Design” in the One Club Young Ones Competition, one of the most acclaimed advertising, interactive and design student competitions. This year’s competition offered two briefs aimed at creating solutions for social change.

Spring Fest 2013’s festivities included the opening reception of Freeway Studies #1 This side of the 405, Graduate Studios Open House, and the 2nd Annual Kite Festival. Tom Van Sant (’57), Melanie Walker, George Peters, Ron Gibian and Bobby Stanfield were among the kite designers who participated. Children from Urban Compass, St. Jude’s Hospital and Children’s Hospital and many others flew the 2,000 kites donated by Art 4 Moore.

Students, Faculty and Staff participated in College Night at the Getty Center April 15.

Otis in the News

The annual Kite Festival made it on the KTLA morning news, with updates all morning from Santa Monica beach. Other press on the event included LA Parent, Santa Monica Mirror, Argonaut.

Faculty member Sammy Flores appeared on MSNBC’s “The Cycle” on March 1 to speak about the Catholic church and evil.

Program Director of Photography Soo Kim was profiled in Art Ltd on March 13.

Alumna Heather Goldberg’s new fashion line, “Haber,” was featured in Paper Magazine on April 1. and in Elle on April 18. On April 6, El Ay Made ran a story on the launch.

Fashion designer Rick Owens, who attended Otis for two years, was profiled in Style Moda Fashion on April 2.

The fashion design jury exhibition received attention from Heather Fonseca’s (’89) blog, The Style Confessions.

Culver City Crossroads featured the “Life Stages” class taught by faculty member Sandra Coopersmith on April 16.

The Graduate Public Practice annual exhibition was the subject of a piece by Sue Bell Yank in ForYourArt on April 24.

Los Angeles Magazine’s April feature on L.A. artists “Art of the City” by Doug Harvey included profiles of two alumni, Juan Capistran (’99) and Jeffrey Vallance (’81 MFA).

Benefit related:
Joan Mangum’s column in the Beverly Hills Courier on March 8 featured the 2013 Benefit committee members.

The L.A. Times quoted fashion design mentor Mary Jo Bruno in a piece about lingerie published on March 29 and reprinted by the Chicago Tribune on March 31.

On April 29, Ellen Olivier’s Society News LA featured the May 4 Benefit. One week later, a recap on the event appeared.

Many outlets ran stories about the sustainability alliance: California Apparel News May 3, Environmental Leader May 6, Blue and Green Tomorrow May 8.

Major Benefit Press:
WWD May 9
Modern Luxury May 12
Huffington Post “Style” May 1 (by committee member Cynthia Occelli)
LA Times “All the Rage” May 6
California Apparel News May 10
Huffington Post “Weddings” May 9

All The Rage

Winners For The Culture Of Rising Up Appearances:

Otis gala honors Sally Perrin with inaugural Style Icon Award

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On April 29, Ellen Olivier’s Society News LA featured the May 4 Benefit. One week later, a recap on the event appeared.
Otis in the News Continued

Otis press releases:
Massive Online Open Course Reinterprets Contemporary Art
112 PICKUPS  6,705 NEWSFEED IMPRESSIONS.

Sustainability Alliance Promotes a Sea Change in the Fashion Industry
151 PICKUPS  20,373 NEWSFEED IMPRESSIONS

2nd Annual Kite Festival at Santa Monica Beach
97 PICKUPS  24,170 NEWSFEED IMPRESSIONS

Legendary Antwerp Designers to Speak at LACMA
126 PICKUPS  43,029 NEWSFEED IMPRESSIONS

L.A.’s Premier Runway Show Celebrates Progressive Fashion Design, Opens Doors for Emerging Talent
98 PICKUPS  35,091 NEWSFEED IMPRESSIONS

Internationally Acclaimed Designer, Author, and Educator Shashi Caan to Speak at MOCA
123 PICKUPS  139,013 NEWSFEED IMPRESSIONS


Social Media

On Twitter, Bob Mackie retweeted our release on the Benefit, and live tweets from the event came from Santa Monica Place, Cameron Silver, CA Apparel News, Disney Living, and Perrin Paris. Mentor and alumna Claire Pettibone blogged about the event.

On GQ.com, author Jonathan Franzen cited Graduate Writing Assistant Chair Sarah Shun-lien Bynum’s Ms. Hempel Chronicles as one of the “21 books from the 21st century every man should read.”

New on YouTube

Donghia Master Class Video

Creative Action: Integrated Learning Program Video

Benefit Runway Show Highlights