

Calling on the classes of '89, '94, '99 and '04: We need your help!

KCAI is participating in a major online survey called the Strategic National Arts Alumni Project (SNAAP) that collects information about the lives and careers of artists. The survey is administered by Indiana University's Center for Postsecondary Research. **If you graduated in 1989, 1994, 1999 or 2004**, we need your current e-mail address, mailing address and phone number so that you can be contacted about the survey. With this information, we can also keep you posted on all alumni happenings and subscribe you to the e-newsletter.

If you e-mail this information to us at alumni@kcai.edu, we will send you a KCAI license plate cover as a small token of our appreciation. The results of this survey are provided only in summary form, and KCAI will not have any information about individual responses. For more information about SNAAP, go to www.snapp.indiana.edu.

ALUMNI NEWS

Kansas City Art Institute
An EOE Institution
4415 Warwick Boulevard
Kansas City, Missouri 64111
www.kcai.edu

Non-Profit
US Postage
PAID
Kansas City, MO
Permit No 1071

ALUMNI NEWS

KANSAS CITY ART INSTITUTE

SUMMER 2009

Recap of Alumni Weekend 2009

A photography and digital filmmaking symposium kicked off this year's weekend. KCAI alumni, students and members of the community, including the Nelson-Atkins Museum photography curatorial staff, took part in the symposium. Alumni guests *Cyan Meeks* ('95 photo/video), *Stuart Allen* ('94 photo/video) and *Thomas Barrow* ('63 design) gave individual morning presentations.

During *Cyan Meeks*' presentation, she screened some of her film work, including "Stay the Same Never Change," a collaboration that was shown at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival. Also, she exhibited "Dear Jeannie," a deeply personal short film that addresses her relocation to Los Angeles following her college graduation.

Stuart Allen exhibited his photography work, including the series "Dance Lines." Building on his previous investigations of time-based motion, "Night Lines" (1997-1998) and "Studio Lines" (2000-2001), "Dance Lines" documents the intricate movement of dancers as they perform before the camera. Examples of the work can be seen on his Web site, www.stuartallen.info.



From top left: Gary Sutton, Kathleen Collins; from middle left: Tal Wilson ('81 photography), Patrick Clancy, Thomas Barrow ('63 design) and Andrea Adams; from bottom left: Stuart Allen ('94 photo/video), Nicole Cawfield ('97 photography) and Maria Buszek



Stuart Allen ('94 photo/video) and Cyan Meeks ('95 photo/video) at the Alumni Weekend symposium



Thomas Barrow ('63 design) makes his morning presentation on May 1

Thomas Barrow discussed his Kansas City roots and also his long tenure at the University of New Mexico. He is a professor emeritus at UNM and co-authored "Photography, New Mexico," which was released in September 2008. Professor Patrick Clancy, chair of the photography and digital filmmaking departments, and April Watson, assistant curator at the Nelson-Atkins Museum and Alumni Weekend symposium attendee, also studied in the prestigious photography program at UNM.

In the afternoon, Patrick Clancy led the symposium discussion with the theme, "Rethinking Photography: Image, Technology and Practice." The morning's presenters, Professor Gary Sutton and the audience took part in a spirited discussion.



Thomas Barrow ('63 design), Laurie Barrow and Keith Davis, photography curator at The Nelson-Atkins Museum



Nicole Cawfield ('97 photography) with her parents, Joseph and Gloria Cawfield

On Saturday, May 2, an alumni awards luncheon was held in Epperson Auditorium. Barrow received the Outstanding Nationally Recognized Alumnus in Photography Award. Also recognized with awards at the alumni event were Talbott L. Wilson ('81), of Talbott L. Wilson Photography in Kansas City, Mo., who received the Outstanding Community Service Award, and Nicole Cawfield ('97), a photographer whose work is exhibited at Kansas City's Blue Gallery, among other area venues, who was named the Outstanding Photography Alumna in Kansas City. Professors Patrick Clancy and Gary Sutton presented the awards to Barrow and Wilson, respectively. Assistant Professor Maria Buszek presented Cawfield her award.

Saturday afternoon workshops followed the luncheon. Julie Nelson Meers, vice president of Missouri Bank, led a workshop that helped demystify the process of securing loans for art and design projects. The KCAI chief information officer, Larry Dickerson, and Bronwyn McClain ('97 video), campus technology staff member, led a workshop on online social networking.

Red Star Studios in the Crossroads Arts District of Kansas City, Mo., hosted a tour and a gallery talk by Laura DeAngelis ('95 sculpture), former director of Red Star. DeAngelis discussed "Celestial Flyways," her recent Art in the Loop public commission, and other ceramic projects. She told attendees that she once collaborated with a NASA astronomer on a ceramic figure that also functioned as an accurate astronomical tool.

Professor Emeritus Wilbur Niewald, who received an M.F.A. in painting from KCAI in 1953, hosted alumni in his studio in the Livestock Exchange Building in Kansas City. Niewald told fascinating stories about his painting career. For example, actor Gene Hackman and his wife are fans of Niewald's work, and Mrs. Hackman used to watch the artist paint. Niewald currently paints in Loose Park and Quality Hill, both in Kansas City, Mo., and he does not mind spectators.

Also, films were shown throughout the afternoon, including work from KCAI animation students, MK12, a Kansas City-based studio run mostly by KCAI alumni, and Don Bernier ('92 photo/video).

Dear Alumni,

I had coffee with a 2005 graduate last week, and she remarked that, although she'd only been away for four years, the KCAI campus and Kansas City in general seemed to have changed dramatically. She remarked on the striking appearance of the new Dodge painting building and the beautiful landscaping improvements to the green located on campus. I shared with her other changes at KCAI: the reinstatement of the illustration major; the addition of the digital media department within the newly formed School of Design and Electronic Arts and the planned relocation of the alumni relations office from beautiful Vandenslice Hall to the equally lovely Mineral Hall. The graduate also seemed impressed by the development of the Crossroads Arts District and the Power and Light District north of the campus.

They say that the only thing that stays the same is change, and to some extent, I believe that is true. Cities, buildings and even perspectives change. Nearly everything seems impermanent, but maybe the most important things in life are constant. I witnessed an example of this phenomenon at Alumni Weekend in May. This year's event featured a photography and digital filmmaking symposium, and a group of 1970s photography graduates converged on campus to take part in the proceedings. Although they

had graduated more than 30 years ago, and some had not seen each other for quite a while, the unchanged spark of friendship among them was palpable. As I observed their laughing and joking, I could envision them behaving the same way as students.

As alumni, many of your life experiences after college have changed, and shaped you. Perhaps you aren't the same person you were as a student. Although your role in the KCAI community has been transformed, I hope that the same enthusiasm that led you to apply to KCAI, complete challenging coursework and forge lifelong friendships will be renewed as you continue your relationship with the school by reading alumni publications, taking part in alumni events and returning to campus for special events such as Alumni Weekend.

Alumni, thank you for staying in touch!

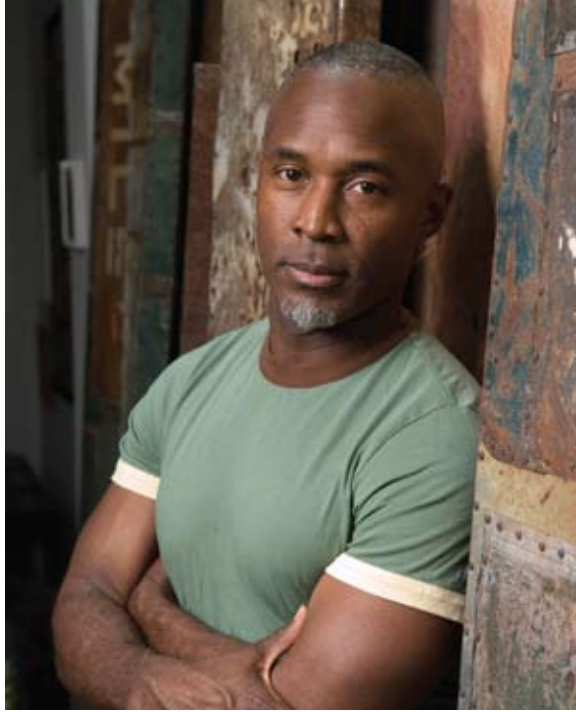
Sincerely,
Andrea Adams, Director of Alumni Relations



Andrea Adams



Akio Takamori ('76 ceramics), "School Girls"



Nick Cave ('82 fiber), portrait by James Prinz



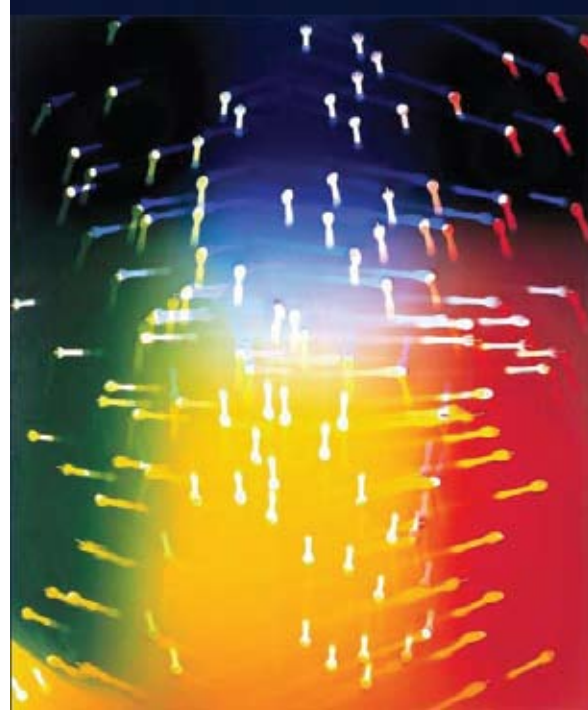
Dan Christensen, "Untitled 0260-99"



Top: Philip Hale ('75 painting), "Copey from Open Lot b4"



Painting graduates. From left: Michael Neary ('75), Bob Brock ('79) and Timothy King ('81); Bottom: Philip Hale ('75)



Ellen Carey ('75 pinmaking/photography), "Pushpins"



Nick James (BFA '50, MFA '51)

Thank you, auction donors!

KCAI is deeply grateful to those alumni who contributed to the 2009 KCAI Art and Design Auction, the biennial fundraiser for student scholarships. The college received more than 200 pieces from alumni, who showed uncommon generosity during the economic downturn.

The event took place Saturday, June 6, and donors will be notified shortly regarding the sale of their work and the success of the fundraiser. As incentive to participate, two competitions took place during the auction season. The results are below.

Spaces magazine competition

Spaces, a premier home design magazine in Kansas City with a circulation of 40,000 people, featured a full-page, full-color advertisement for the auction in its May issue. All alumni artwork donated by April 3 was considered to be included in the ad's design. Pieces by John Buck ('68 sculpture), Akio Takamori ('76 ceramics) and Josh DeWeese ('85 ceramics) were chosen.

"Auction 2009 Sneak Preview" exhibition

Artists who completed their donations by April 3 were considered for inclusion in a special exhibit during the May 1 and 2 Alumni Week-end. The artists selected were as follows:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Barry T. Bartlett ('75 ceramics) | Ariel Greiman ('70 graphic design) |
| Charles Birbaum ('76 ceramics) | Laura G. Hurcomb ('98 fiber) |
| John Buck ('68 sculpture) | Jennifer Jennings ('00 fiber) |
| Allan Chow ('01 illustration) | Amy Kephart ('95 ceramics) |
| Dan Christensen ('64 painting) | David Mai ('78 ceramics) |
| Jim Connell ('82 ceramics) | Byron McKeown ('60 design) |
| William Counter ('99 painting) | Deanne McKeown ('60 painting) |
| Frank Daharsh ('86 design) | Ken Morrison ('58 design) |
| John Ferry ('92 illustration) | Phillip Roberts ('72 painting) |
| Luke Fille ('02 painting) | Bill Schendk ('69 painting) |
| Dana Fritz ('92 photo/video) | John Serrano ('94 ceramics) |
| Ed Gallucci ('67 graphic design) | Bobby Silverman ('79 ceramics) |
| Josh George ('97 illustration) | Dana Swedo Bernal ('89 design) |
| Wilbur Niewald ('53 painting, faculty) | Akio Takamori ('76 ceramics) |
| Sol Lewitt, donated by Landfall Press/Jack Leman ('63 painting) | |

Illustration major returning to KCAI

The college is pleased to announce that illustration is returning to KCAI as a major. The first new group of illustration majors is being recruited now to enter as freshmen in the foundation program in fall 2009. The actual illustration program beginning with sophomore classes will start in fall 2010. KCAI has worked with Professor Steve

Mayse as well as alumni to create an exciting curriculum that addresses the current realities of this dynamic and evolving field.

Professor Mayse currently teaches in the School of Design, and he will be the lead faculty member in the illustration program. He brings 30 years of practical experience as the owner of his own business and as a freelance illustrator and designer. His client list included Sports Illustrated, Arthur Andersen, Chevron, McDonald's, Boys' Town, Employers Reinsurance Corp., American Airlines, Cessna Corp., Sprint Corp., The Los Angeles Times, Cerner Corp., Cable in the Classroom, Physician, Ingram's, Vision, Emerge and many others.

Kansas City Art Institute to host third annual Art of the Car Concours on June 27



2008 Art of the Car Concours

The third annual Art of the Car Concours, featuring a vast array of vintage, classic and special interest vehicles belonging to Midwest area collectors, will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 27 on the campus of the Kansas City Art Institute, 45th and Oak streets. On view for the first time this year will be vintage bikes and a 1911 Stafford car, which was made in Kansas City.

The cost to attend the concours is \$10 per person; children under 10 years old and faculty, staff and students of the Kansas City Art Institute will be admitted free. Tickets are available for advance purchase online at www.kcai.edu/concours at a discounted price of \$8. Proceeds will benefit the college's scholarship fund. Attendees will be invited to vote for their favorite vehicles. "People's Choice" ballots will be distributed, and there will be trophies for the top five cars.

"We are very excited to have the 1911 Stafford car at our event this year," said Marshall V. Miller, a local attorney, car enthusiast and KCAI supporter who founded the event and serves as its chairman. "The Stafford Motor Car Company was founded by Terry Stafford, and the company began manufacturing automobiles in 1910 and ceased production in 1915. President Harry S. Truman purchased a used Stafford in 1913. The 1911 Stafford car that will be at our event is believed to be the only one that still exists." In addition, Miller said he anticipates that more than 180 cars, trucks, and vintage motorcycles will be on display, including several of his own.

First posthumous retrospective for Dan Christensen ('64 painting) takes place in Kansas City

The Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art presents "Dan Christensen: Forty Years of Painting," which features 35 of the artist's works of art from 1966 to 2006 in the first comprehensive museum retrospective of the artist's work since his death in 2007. The exhibition opened May 15 and will continue through Aug. 30. Often associated with the Color Field movement, his works were featured in the Whitney Museum of American Art's annual exhibitions in 1967, 1968, 1969 and in its first biennial in 1973. In 1968, he was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts grant, and he received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1969. His works of art are in public and private collections around the world, and paintings for this exhibition were culled from his estate; the Museum of Modern Art in New York; The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art; Saint Louis Art Museum; Sheldon Museum of Art in Lincoln, Neb.; and private collections. A fully illustrated catalog accompanies the exhibition. The book, selling for \$30, is available through the Kemper Museum Shop at www.kemperart.org. For more information on the artist, visit www.danchristensen.com.

"Natural History on the Head" A Kansas City museum exhibit



Peregrine Honig ('98 printmaking), "Henry Willow"

"Natural History on the Head: Contemporary Artists, Historical Fashion," an exhibition in print, features the museum's extensive collection of late 19th and early 20th century hats and contemporary artwork inspired by the collection. Peregrine Honig, who studied at KCAI in the late 1990s, Russell Ferguson ('88 printmaking), associate professor and director of the School of the Foundation Year, Sherry Cromwell-Lacy ('72 painting) and former adjunct faculty members Mary Ann Strandell and Shane Evans explored the aesthetic and cultural significance of the 28 featured historic hats through 16 contemporary artworks. The publication includes an introduction by museum director Christopher Leith ('85 fiber). For more information and to order the publication, visit www.friendsofkansascitymuseum.org/news/events/historyhead.htm. The publication also is for sale in the visitor center at Union Station in Kansas City, Mo.

Accomplished alumnus donates catalogs to Jannes Library and Learning Center

Lawrence Stafford ('64 painting) recently donated several of his museum catalogs to KCAI's Jannes Library and Learning Center. Early in his career, Stafford belonged to an artistic circle that included Dan Christensen ('64 painting). Optical and spatial illusionism intrigued these artists, and they were sometimes referred to as the

"New Informalists" or "Young Lyrical Painters." Stafford's work is included in the collections of several major museums, including the Whitney Museum of Art in New York; the Museum Ludwig in Cologne, Germany; the Sudermont Museum in Aachen, Germany; the Joseph Hirshbom Museum in Washington, D.C.; the Michener Collection of Contemporary Art at the University of Texas—Austin; the Sheldon Museum of Art in Lincoln, Nebraska; the Art Museum of South Texas in Corpus Christi; the Neves Museum in Nurnberg, Germany and the Kunst Museum in Lichtenstein.

KCAI foundation student Emily Connell continues family legacy

Artistic talent is a multigenerational tradition for foundation student Emily Connell, whose parents both graduated in 1982 with B.F.A. degrees in ceramics from KCAI. Her mother, Paula Smith, a ceramic artist and sculptor, earned an M.F.A. degree from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, and has been an art instructor at Gaston College in Dallas, N.C., since 2000. Her father, Jim Connell, is professor of ceramics at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C., where he has been on the faculty since 1987. He also earned an M.F.A. degree from the University of Illinois. While attending classes at KCAI, Emily lives in Raytown, Mo., with her grandmother, Barbara Smith, who has a studio at her home, does craft work, builds furniture and was head of her art club in high school. Emily anticipates majoring in ceramics at KCAI. "I grew up with it at home," she said. "I always knew I wanted to be an artist."

KCAI promotes world citizenship through Japanese courses

During the 2007–2008 academic year, KCAI completed a strategic plan that identified four strategic priorities: academic excellence, community engagement, diversity and world citizenship. In regard to world citizenship, the college has taken important steps in instilling a global perspective. "The college recognizes the importance of creating students who are competent global citizens capable of working effectively across cultural and linguistic boundaries," said Kathleen Collins, president of KCAI.

This fall the Kansas City Art Institute will continue to offer Japanese language courses, which were added to the curriculum in the 2008-2009 academic year. The courses are designed to develop proficiency in speaking, listening, reading and writing in Japanese.

While the classes help to prepare students for world citizenship, another factor in the decision to introduce the courses was interest among KCAI students to learn Japanese in order to be able to participate in an exchange program with Osaka University of Art in Japan. Students from Osaka have come to study at KCAI, but the program's requirement of proficiency in spoken language has prevented KCAI students in recent years from going to Osaka to participate in the exchange.

The instructor of the courses is Tracie Whiting Kipper, a former economic analyst with the Consulate General of Japan, then located in Kansas City. She is also a former coordinator of the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme and has taught Japanese through the University of Missouri-Kansas City's Communiversity. An alumna of JET herself, she has lived in Japan and offers insight into Japanese customs and culture as well as instruction in Japanese language. The courses are offered through the college's School of Liberal Arts.

Class notes

The traveling exhibition of the Midwest Paint Group titled "Works from Perception" will take place from Sept. 12 to Nov. 8 at the Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art in Saint Joseph, Mo. The exhibit features close to 50 works in small to large dimensions done in oil, acrylic, pastel and mixed media. The Midwest Paint Group, includes six painting graduates: Bob Brock '79, Bill Foust '71, Philip Hale '75, Timothy King '81, Jeremy Long '89 and Michael Neary '75. Group members also featured are Glen Cebulash, Barbara Lea, Ron Weaver and Megan Williamson. With widely varied styles, these painters are brought together by a joint commitment to working from observation while at the same time adhering to strong emotive and expressive abstract principles. There will be an opening reception from 4 to 7 p.m. on

Friday, Sept. 11, at the Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art. For more information visit www.albrecht-kemper.org/exhibits-main.html and the Midwest Paint Group online at www.midwest-paint-group.org. From St. Joseph the exhibit will travel to The George A. Spiva Center for the Arts in Joplin, Mo., where it will be on display from Jan. 8 to Feb. 26. The Joplin venue is supported by a grant from the Missouri Arts Council. The exhibit began its tour at the Sheldon Swope Museum of Art in Terre Haute, Ind., in February 2009.

Kevin Mullins ('72 painting), Ryozo Morishita ('73 painting), Deborah Kahn ('75 painting) and Dana Fritz ('92 photography) participated in a group show, "The Third Art on Paper," March 17-22 at Toyota Municipal Museum of Art (Gallery) in Toyota City, Japan.

Ellen Carey ('75 printmaking and photography) is exhibiting work in a photogram retrospective entitled "Struck by Light" through June 21 at Saint Joseph College Art Gallery in West Hartford, Conn. It is the first exhibition devoted to Carey's black and white and color dark-room work using the photogram method. The exhibition includes more than 40 examples of photographic images with new large photographs and Polaroid work, and most of the work has never been seen. The artist is also showing work in a group exhibition, "The Undisclosed Image: The Rise of Abstraction in Photography," through July 21 at Aperture Foundation in New York. www.ellencarey.com.

Nick Cave ('82 fiber) was featured in The New York Times on April 5 in a story previewing his exhibition at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco. The story tells how Cave learned to sew at the Kansas City Art Institute and how he later developed his first Soundsuit. Today his Soundsuits, some of which are made for performance while others are destined for private collections and art museums, are sold through the Jack Shainman Gallery in New York. The exhibition in San Francisco continues through July 5.

Also, the May issue of ARTnews magazine includes a review of work by Cave which was on view Jan. 8 through Feb. 7 at the Jack Shainman Gallery in New York. "Sculptor Nick Cave has a soaring imagination, prodigious needle skills and a rare talent for making metaphors and unexpected juxtapositions," reviewer Elliott Green said, adding that Cave's Soundsuits are "wondrous, wearable sculptures, evoking rich and widespread associations ... complex hybrids linking the human and the mythical, the primitive and the contemporary." The artist will headline KCAI's 125th Anniversary Gala on Feb. 20 (see section on 125th events for more information).

In the same issue, another writer reviews the recent exhibition of work by Robert and Shana Parke-Harrison at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Robert Parke-Harrison graduated from KCAI in 1990 with a degree in photo/video. The reviewer said, "Working as a team, husband and wife Robert and Shana Parke-Harrison bridge the realms of photography and performance in works that are startling, fanciful and often laugh-out-loud funny." The exhibition, which opened in October, closed Feb. 8.

John Ferry ('92 illustration) had two pieces accepted into the early winter issue of Studio Visit magazine. Ferry was one of 300 artists accepted, and the magazine received approximately 1,000 submissions. Earlier this year, the artist showed new work in a one person show, "Roam," Jan. 1 through Feb. 28 at the Jan Weiner Gallery in Kansas City, Mo.

Christopher Willits ('00 video), a musician and multimedia artist, is currently touring in Europe. He has performed this summer in Belgium and Austria, and on June 19 he performed in Berlin. Visit www.christopherwillits.com for the details on this event and on future engagements.

In memoriam

Nicholas G. Jannes (BFA '50, MFA '51), who gave the lead gift for the construction of the Jannes Library and Learning Center, died April 24 in Chicago at age 84. Funeral services were held April 28 in River Grove, Ill. Born in Rock Island, Ill., in 1924, he studied art and design at KCAI, receiving both a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and a Master of Fine Arts degree from the college. He served on the KCAI board of trustees from 1984 to 2002. In addition to founding and owning design studios and working as an art director, Jannes patented many ingenious devices, including the basic mechanical designs for all rubber-band operated pop-ups, the six-pack cardboard carrier

with the self-interlocking bottom and the machines to make them for the beer industry, the tear strip for corrugated cartons and the flip-top ice cream carton. The patents to these inventions were sold to major corporations. Jannes is survived by his wife, Nadia, and his children, Marina, Nicholas Jr. and Violeta.

Beth Paula Finn ('03 fiber and art history) passed away May 3 in her Kansas City home. Funeral services were held May 6 at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church. Finn taught elementary school in the Kansas City Public School district for several years. Upon being diagnosed with breast cancer in 1996, she retired from full-time teaching and enrolled as a full-time student at the Kansas City Art Institute. As an artist, she continued to work part time as an educator. Finn is survived by her husband, William A. Finn, and five children.

Interested in receiving more alumni news? The majority of class notes now appear in the KCAI alumni e-newsletter. Subscribe to the e-newsletter simply by e-mailing alumni@kcai.edu. Please include your name and years of attendance.

If you would like to submit an update for the e-newsletter, fill out the on-line form at www.kcai.edu/alumni/sendusyounews.php by Feb. 15, June 15 or Oct. 15. The publication comes out three times a year in March, July and November.

Honoring the Past . . . Creating the Future: Happy birthday, KCAI!

Upcoming events

Alumni, mark your calendars to participate in two very special events that will take place during this milestone anniversary year.

The 125th Anniversary Alumni Symposium Oct. 8 and 9, 2010

This very special weekend will feature cutting-edge speakers. Join us on the KCAI campus to participate in a symposium centered on critical and emerging topics in art and design.

The 2010 Anniversary Gala Feb. 20, 2010

Prepare to be amazed as celebrated fiber artist Nick Cave ('82 fiber), also an Alvin Ailey-trained dancer, leads an unforgettable performance that also features the internationally-known Marching Cobras, a Kansas City-based drill team. Nick Cave, director of the graduate fashion program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, is renowned for his Soundsuits, colorful, extravagant sculptures that can be worn by dancers as vehicles for sound and movement.

Share your memories

The 125th anniversary can be a wonderful opportunity for alumni to reflect on their college days and share these memories with the KCAI community. We encourage you to mail us or e-mail us a response or responses to the following questions, or you can send a special memory of your own choosing. Stories will be shared online and in future alumni publications. Stay tuned for details on this just-for-fun 2010 project.

What professor or course most affected your work and why?

Which course was the most challenging and why?

Which classmates were your best friends and how have you kept in touch since college?

What was your favorite hang-out on campus?

Did you marry your college sweetheart? Who is he or she and how did you meet?

What was your funniest or most fun on-campus experience?

To participate, visit www.kcai.edu/myKCAImemory and fill in an online form, or mail responses to KCAI Alumni Relations Office, ATTN: My Memories, 4415 Warwick Blvd., Kansas City, Mo., 64111.

KANSAS CITY ART INSTITUTE

A four-year college of art and design



President Kathleen Collins (center) views auction artwork donated by Deanne McKeown ('60 painting), right: Al Herr's Tom Stern, vice president for advancement