Argonaut Project

Renovation of the Argonaut Building continues with 200-300 construction workers onsite each day. The core and shell renovation is nearing completion and the roof is 98-percent complete with final heating and cooling mechanical equipment being installed. The interior build out of the academic floors also is proceeding quickly. Resigned housing floors and rooms have been framed with mechanical and drywall under way. In addition, new concrete decking has begun for the two-story gymnasium. Street access to W. Baltimore, between Cass and Second Avenue, is closed so a large crane can install the pre-cast concrete for the new 500-space parking deck. New construction photos are posted monthly on the Web site, www.collegeforcreativestudies.edu/argonaut, so please check the site periodically to view construction progress.

Many questions have been posed about the new meal plan and dining facilities. The Argonaut will feature a 360-seat, full-service dining facility, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Plans also include a separate deli café located on the first floor that will operate with extended hours to provide snacks and basic food menu options. The Jazzman’s dining facility on the main campus also will be upgraded to provide a larger food service menu.

For the 155 students living in the Argonaut next year, meal plans will be required because the loft-style rooms do not have kitchens. Argonaut residents will have the option of choosing a 19-meal-per-week plan ($1,800 per semester or $3,600 per year), a 14-meal-per-week plan ($1,675 per semester or $3,350 per year) or a 65-meal-per-semester plan, about 5 meals per week ($625 per semester or $1,250 per year). Each plan comes with an additional 150 points (worth $150) to use for other food purchases. Students will use their identification cards as purchase cards and any CCS student may provide a larger food service menu.

For the 155 students living in the Argonaut next year, meal plans will be required because the loft-style rooms do not have kitchens. Argonaut residents will have the option of choosing a 19-meal-per-week plan ($1,800 per semester or $3,600 per year), a 14-meal-per-week plan ($1,675 per semester or $3,350 per year) or a 65-meal-per-semester plan, about 5 meals per week ($625 per semester or $1,250 per year). Each plan comes with an additional 150 points (worth $150) to use for other food purchases. Students will use their identification cards as purchase cards and any CCS student may purchase a meal plan.

Regarding the campus move to the Argonaut, CCS faculty and staff currently are planning the furniture layout and design. Before faculty leave in May after the semester ends, related design classroom, studio and office areas will be prepared for moving. The move is expected to occur in August if not sooner. Master planning for the reorganization of the main Cultural Center campus also will continue.

For more information on the Argonaut project, visit the Web site at www.collegeforcreativestudies.edu/argonaut or contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 313.664.7472.

Henry Ford Academy: School for Creative Studies

The Henry Ford Academy; School for Creative Studies (HFA: SCS) staff members currently are concentrating their efforts on student recruitment, curriculum development, and the search for a principal. Several information sessions have been held throughout the city, including four at CCS. As of March 19, the school has received 146 applications for 144 sixth grade seats, 112 applications for 144 seventh grade seats, and more than 300 applications for 120 ninth grade seats. The lottery process for ninth grade has already taken place and was announced on March 11. Those students who applied for ninth grade and did not receive a spot in the ninth grade class will be placed on a wait list.

Dan Graves, director of curriculum, is working with a CCS advisory committee and outside consultants to develop the art and design portion of the curriculum. The academic classes are based on the curriculum used at Henry Ford Academy in Dearborn. CCS committee members include Imre Molnar, dean of the College; Gil Ashby, chair, Illustration; Nancy Lausch, chair, Art Education; Julie Longo, chair, Liberal Arts; Robert Schefman, chair, Foundation; Zdzislaw Sikora, professor, Fine Arts; Tom Roney, associate professor, Transportation Design; Susan Laporte, associate professor, Graphic Design; Scott Bogoniewski, chair, Entertainment Arts; Mikel Bresee, director, Community Arts Partnerships; Vera Smith, assistant director, Community Arts Partnerships; Sabrina Nelson, associate director, Admissions; and Carla Gonzalez, director, Continuing Education.

HFA: SCS has received several applications for the principal position and have narrowed the list to two finalists. The school plans to have a principal hired and in place by the end of March.

Safety/Security Reminder

In light of a recent incident that took place near the CCS campus, the following is a reminder to all students, staff and faculty about safety on and around campus. The following is based on President Rogers’ emails to the campus community, dated January 23 and 28.

Everyone is aware that crime exists in urban neighborhoods, not just in Detroit but in all cities around the country. The Art Center neighborhood (as the area to the east of CCS is called) has experienced property crimes, like auto break-ins and thefts, with some frequency. A crime involving an assault rarely happens. However, with the economy worsening, crime, including assaults, is increasing in many parts of the city; though, fortunately, the number of assaults in CCS’s neighborhood still has been very few. Nonetheless, everyone needs to be even more cautious and vigilant than in the past. While the guidelines of walking in groups and watching your surroundings may seem ineffective, they are important and should be observed. When it is possible to take the CCS shuttle, please do. Most of the incidents reported recently have happened to single individuals walking late at night.

The CCS campus itself has been very safe, with only one assault in the last 15 years. The College is fortunate to have an effective security team led by Garrett Ochalek, a former senior executive with the Detroit Police Department. Security procedures include two security vans patrolling campus and the local neighborhood and foot patrols on the campus and its outskirts. Neighborhood residents have expressed gratitude to CCS for the security patrols and believe they are helping to deter crime. In
addition, there are multiple security cameras on campus and pointing to the streets adjacent to campus. Emergency call boxes also are around campus. The security staff is conscientious and professional. Ochalek maintains a close working relationship with Wayne State University Police and Detroit Police. He also is a member of the security task force of the University Cultural Center Association (UCCA), the organization that promotes economic development, maintenance and security in Midtown Detroit, of which the Cultural Center and CCS are a part.

Although security on campus is working well, it is extremely important that the College considers how it can be made even better, not just on campus but on nearby streets as well. One question that arises is why CCS does not employ armed security personnel and have them patrol the neighborhood near campus. State law prevents a private college from doing this. The city streets are the responsibility of the police, and CCS cannot usurp their authority by putting its own armed security on public property. Wayne State has an actual police department because it is considered a public body under a state statute granting it such power. CCS does not have that option. The College needs to take other measures to enhance the safety of its neighborhood.

The best approach to increasing security is through a coordinated effort among organizations in the area. In response to an appeal from CCS, Wayne State Police have agreed to extend their patrol area to include the streets around Peck Park. Ochalek has met with the Detroit Police chief to make a similar appeal. With the help of UCCA, CCS is looking into whether an area-wide security service could be initiated or whether the College can partner with other organizations in the Cultural Center to increase security. The crime problems are not CCS’s concern alone; the more organizations involved, the stronger the response will be.

CCS also has begun providing rides in the security shuttle to students living in the immediate neighborhood, from their apartments to campus. Previously, the shuttle only took students from campus back to their apartments or to the stores on Warren Avenue. The College will evaluate whether the demand for rides can be met by the two current vehicles or if an additional vehicle needs to be added.

Campus Safety continues to monitor crime, as reported to the Detroit Police Department, within a quarter mile radius of campus. These reports reflect several crimes involving property, such as breaking into cars to steal contents; however, there have been no crimes against people in the area. We urge you to protect yourself against crime by not leaving valuables in your cars and using the shuttle service when appropriate. If you witness a crime or see someone suspicious, please report it to Campus Safety. Even with the security procedures and mobile safety patrols, random acts of violence still may occur. To minimize the possibility of further incidents of this kind, students, staff and faculty are strongly urged to walk in pairs at night, carry limited personal items, and remain alert to your surroundings. If you are approached by a person unknown to you, keep a safe distance and surrender valuables if threatened.

Security is a paramount concern at CCS, and the administration will do all in its power to make the campus and surrounding neighborhood safe. However, safety is everyone’s business; and it is tremendously important that everyone take responsibility for his or her own safety by not taking unnecessary risks and by keeping an eye out for the safety of others.

Additionally, CCS has implemented a College-wide policy that everyone wear a College-issued ID badge when you are on campus in an effort to make faculty, staff and students recognizable to each other. Staff and faculty should receive badges on their first day of work with the College and students should receive them during orientation or the first week of classes. If you need a new ID badge, you can request one at the Security Office on the first floor of the Kresge-Ford Building, across from the cafeteria. A replacement badge costs $20.

**Graduate Programs**

Attention students! In fall of 2009, CCS is launching a new Master of Fine Arts degree program in Design and Transportation Design.

Since the College announced the program last summer, representatives in the Graduate Programs Office have heard from applicants representing all disciplines across Asia, Europe and the United States. Creativity alone has not set them apart from the crowd, they say. Technical skill isn’t getting them ahead in such a competitive industry. They realize they also need to understand the business of design. These talented professionals have shared their aspirations with CCS in their statements of purpose: One product/transportation designer from India wants to champion more women auto designers in her country, a businessman from Greece wants to be a design “change agent” and an architect from the Midwest wants to broaden his creative perspective beyond U.S. borders.

If you are interested in learning the business of design, contact the Graduate Programs Office at 313.664.7402 to schedule an appointment or receive more information. Online applications are available at www.collegeforcreativedesigns.edu/apply_now/mfa.

**Student Exhibition Volunteers Needed**

The Special Events Office is seeking volunteers to assist with artwork sales during the Student Exhibition Opening on May 15 from 3:30 to 10 p.m. Responsibilities include assisting patrons with sales, collecting payments and labeling artwork as “sold.” Volunteers will receive a limited edition T-shirt and dinner prior to the event. The show opens to the public on Saturday, May 16.

The CCS Student Exhibition is the culmination of the school year when the entire campus is transformed into a gallery. The opening reception and sale features live entertainment, refreshments and hors d’oeuvres and gives guests a chance to preview the exhibition, which features work by up-and-coming artists who craft furniture, sculpture, ceramics, hand-blown glass, jewelry, paintings, photography and other extraordinary works of art. Ticket sales for the Student Exhibition support CCS student scholarships and all proceeds from the sale of art go directly to the student artists.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Maureen McEvoy, assistant director, Special Events, at mmcevoy@collegeforcreativedesigns.edu or call 313.664.7983.

**2009/10 Budget**

As discussed in President Rogers’ memo dated January 15, due to the economic crisis, the decline in the value of CCS’s endowment, anticipated declines in fund raising, and the possibility of lesser enrollment, the College will make every effort to keep expenditures as low as possible for the upcoming fiscal year. For that reason, CCS is taking a new approach to the budget process: zero-based budgeting, a technique of planning and decision making that reverses the working process of traditional budgeting. In the past, budget managers were asked to submit their budget and to justify any increases over the previous year. By contrast, in zero-based budgeting every account is reviewed comprehensively and all expenditures must be approved, rather than only increases. This year, all items in the budget request must be justified in complete detail and will be reviewed by the budget committee.

Each budget manager should have received a budget packet with a worksheet listing all account numbers currently used by their department and directions on how to fill out the detailed budget requests. Budget reductions made by departments in January will carry forward into the 2009/10 fiscal year.

A budget meeting to explain the new process was held on February 16. Proposed budgets needed to be reviewed by your reporting officer and submitted to Kathi Pindexter, director, Business Services, by February 27.
Employee Paycheck Distribution Update

Every department at the College is researching ways to improve efficiency and processes while reducing costs. The Human Resources Office is actively cooperating with this initiative.

The process of distributing employee paychecks/statements is time consuming and costly. Effective with the February 15 pay period, HR no longer mails paychecks/statements. Each department has a designated employee responsible for picking up paychecks/statements after 2 p.m. from the Business Services Office on the day prior to payday (the 15th and last business day of the month). If a payday falls on a weekend or holiday, payday is always the business day prior and paychecks/statements will be available one day prior to that day.

The designated employee will hand deliver paychecks/statements to department employees or place them in the employees’ department mailboxes on payday. Paychecks/statements may not be distributed prior to payday. Work study student and model paychecks/statements are available at the Business Services Office.

Direct deposit of your paycheck is available with your financial institution(s). This is a timely and safe option to ensure your pay is deposited into your account(s) and available on payday. If you do not participate in this option, you may want to consider signing up. An easy-to-complete form is available in HR. Contact Cindy Hall-Furman, assistant director, at extension 7652 or Greg Knoff, director, at extension 7650 with any questions or concerns.

Foundation

Daniel Marchwinski, adjunct faculty, is participating in a traveling art exhibit, An Artist’s Reaction to War, that began on February 9 in Salem, North Carolina, and will travel to Washington, D.C. More information can be found at www.cisrossey.com/artwar.swf.

Lois Teicher, adjunct faculty, is a finalist for two public art projects. One commission is a site-specific piece for the curved wall at the newly built Henry Ford Hospital in West Bloomfield and the other is in Kansas City, Missouri, requiring a large-scale, site-specific outdoor sculpture.

Rick Vian, adjunct faculty, is showing his paintings as part of a one-person exhibition of recent paintings at the Robert Kidd Gallery from March 28 through May 7. An artists’ reception is Saturday, April 4, from 5 to 8 p.m. The gallery is located at 107 Townsend in Birmingham.

Graphic Design

Kelli Miller, freelance motion and graphic designer, gave a public presentation in the Wendell W. Anderson Jr. Auditorium in the Walter B. Ford II Building on March 16. She also hosted a ThinkShop with students in the three days that followed. Miller graduated from the Graphic Design department in 2000 and went on to receive her MFA at the Cranbrook Academy of Art, specializing in graphic and motion design. She now is based out of New York and works with clients such as Gretel, Digital Kitchen, Studio Red and Pratt Institute. Examples of her work can be found at www.goodgrrrdesign.com.

On March 24, Doug Kisor, chair, hosted a brand strategy workshop for SmartStart, a two-year incubator program for entrepreneurs launched by Tech Town. Kisor also will travel to Denver, Colorado, April 3 - 8 to serve as an evaluator for the NASAD re-accreditation of Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design.

Judges for the AIGA Detroit RE:VIEW completed their selections for this year’s competition. The internationally recognized panel of judges, Michael Hendrix, IDEO; Cheryl Towler Weese, Studio Blue; and Eric Cruz, W+K Lab Tokyo, selected a range of CCS Graphic Design student and faculty work for the exhibition. The exhibit will be exhibited by AIGA in April.

Illustration

Gil Asby, chair, attended the formal opening of a group show, Black Cowboys and Untold Stories, at the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, Georgia, in January. Two pieces of his work were selected to hang in the exhibition, which ran through March 22. The artists featured included a mix of painters, award-winning illustrators and sculptors from around the country. Asby also attended a Nike presentation with Imre Molnar, dean, at the Bole Family YMCA. This was an opportunity for CCS to connect with Nike representatives and explore opportunities for inclusion of the Illustration department in future projects.

Don Kilpatrick, assistant professor, Erik Olson, associate professor, and Stephen Schudlich, adjunct faculty, were included in the Fear exhibition at Work:Detroit Gallery through February 13.

Don Kilpatrick, assistant professor, was commissioned to do

Winter 2009 Tuition/Housing Payment Schedule

April 13: $75 delinquency fee assessed if winter 2009 account is not paid in full

Advertising Design

In February, Mark Zapico, chair, attended the Measuring Unique Studies Effectively (MUSE) conference hosted by the Savannah College of Art and Design. The event is aimed at building a community of art and design professionals who share a curiosity about student learning and are committed to facilitating continuous improvement at the program, classroom and institutional levels. MUSE brought together higher education administrators and faculty from art and design institutions to share their experiences with and perceptions of the definition, measurement and development of creativity, program and classroom level assessment and the scholarship of teaching and learning in their unique fields of study. As chair of the Faculty Assembly’s Assessment Committee, Zapico and his team are researching best practices for assessment and evaluation of both students and instructors.

Art Education

The Art Education department had three graduates in winter 2008. Michael Brzozowski was hired full-time by Abrakadoodle and Diana Skylacos by Doner Advertising.

Crafts

Alumna Karen Leyland ’98 was the sculpture manager on the Chevy Equinox featured at the 2009 North American International Auto Show.

The Crafts department created a glass award trophy for a contest with Marketing Associates and their client, Standox. The winner of the design contest and a $1,500 scholarship was student Ryan Newson. He is making a total of 31 awards.

Illustration

Gil Asby, chair, attended the formal opening of a group show, Black Cowboys and Untold Stories, at the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, Georgia, in January. Two pieces of his work were selected to hang in the exhibition, which ran through March 22. The artists featured included a mix of painters, award-winning illustrators and sculptors from around the country. Asby also attended a Nike presentation with Imre Molnar, dean, at the Bole Family YMCA. This was an opportunity for CCS to connect with Nike representatives and explore opportunities for inclusion of the Illustration department in future projects.

Don Kilpatrick, assistant professor, Erik Olson, associate professor, and Stephen Schudlich, adjunct faculty, were included in the Fear exhibition at Work:Detroit Gallery through February 13.

Don Kilpatrick, assistant professor, was commissioned to do

Foundation

Daniel Marchwinski, adjunct faculty, is participating in a traveling art exhibit, An Artist’s Reaction to War, that began on February 9 in Salem, North Carolina, and will travel to Washington, D.C. More information can be found at www.cisrossey.com/artwar.swf.

Lois Teicher, adjunct faculty, is a finalist for two public art projects. One commission is a site-specific piece for the curved wall at the newly built Henry Ford Hospital in West Bloomfield and the other is in Kansas City, Missouri, requiring a large-scale, site-specific outdoor sculpture.

Rick Vian, adjunct faculty, is showing his paintings as part of a one-person exhibition of recent paintings at the Robert Kidd Gallery from March 28 through May 7. An artists’ reception is Saturday, April 4, from 5 to 8 p.m. The gallery is located at 107 Townsend in Birmingham.

Graphic Design

Kelli Miller, freelance motion and graphic designer, gave a public presentation in the Wendell W. Anderson Jr. Auditorium in the Walter B. Ford II Building on March 16. She also hosted a ThinkShop with students in the three days that followed. Miller graduated from the Graphic Design department in 2000 and went on to receive her MFA at the Cranbrook Academy of Art, specializing in graphic and motion design. She now is based out of New York and works with clients such as Gretel, Digital Kitchen, Studio Red and Pratt Institute. Examples of her work can be found at www.goodgrrrdesign.com.

On March 24, Doug Kisor, chair, hosted a brand strategy workshop for SmartStart, a two-year incubator program for entrepreneurs launched by Tech Town. Kisor also will travel to Denver, Colorado, April 3 - 8 to serve as an evaluator for the NASAD re-accreditation of Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design.

Judges for the AIGA Detroit RE:VIEW completed their selections for this year’s competition. The internationally recognized panel of judges, Michael Hendrix, IDEO; Cheryl Towler Weese, Studio Blue; and Eric Cruz, W+K Lab Tokyo, selected a range of CCS Graphic Design student and faculty work for the exhibition. The exhibit will be exhibited by AIGA in April.

Illustration

Gil Asby, chair, attended the formal opening of a group show, Black Cowboys and Untold Stories, at the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, Georgia, in January. Two pieces of his work were selected to hang in the exhibition, which ran through March 22. The artists featured included a mix of painters, award-winning illustrators and sculptors from around the country. Asby also attended a Nike presentation with Imre Molnar, dean, at the Bole Family YMCA. This was an opportunity for CCS to connect with Nike representatives and explore opportunities for inclusion of the Illustration department in future projects.

Don Kilpatrick, assistant professor, Erik Olson, associate professor, and Stephen Schudlich, adjunct faculty, were included in the Fear exhibition at Work:Detroit Gallery through February 13.

Don Kilpatrick, assistant professor, was commissioned to do
Photography

John Ganis, professor, was selected as a portfolio reviewer at the national conference of the Society for Photographic Education in Dallas, Texas, March 26 – 29. Ganis was invited to lecture on his photographic work at the DeVos Art Museum at Northern Michigan University on March 9 and met with NMU students as a visiting artist the following day.

Kyohei Abe, adjunct faculty, will exhibit work at Art Channel Gallery in Beijing, China, this month. Visit www.detroitmona.com/Exhibits/pure_detroit.htm for more information.

Students Ashleigh Altemann, Megan Boltz, Matthew Chung, Kenneth Cole, Patrick Daly, Brooke Houghton, Nathan Lomas, Alma Pacheco-Marin, Myett Risker, Micaela Ruiz, Noah Waldeck and Layna Williams will exhibit their work at the Museum of New Art (MONA) in Pontiac this month.

Transportation Design

Eleven students were featured in the November/December issue of Auto&Design magazine for their interpretations of the Model T in an article called “Dressed for the Future.” This junior studio class, taught by Mark West, professor, was asked to interpret the pin Lizzie in a modern proposal while still maintaining the spirit of the original car. The article includes a description of the project as well as images from each student’s work.

Students Milton Ruiz, Dave Owsen, Nic Stone, Jesse Boyer, Filip Bosevski and Dong Tran attended and represented CCS during the Press Preview and Industry Days at the 2009 North American International Auto Show (NAIAS). The students met important industry and media reps and talked about their models and experiences at CCS.

The Transportation Design Department supported the CCS NAIAS exhibit booth with GM, Ford, Hyundai and ACC project models and motorcycle models from studio classes. The Light Rail project in 2-D and digital formats also was available for viewing. Students were available in the booth to answer questions and promote CCS.

The Transportation Design Department was present during the 2009 Auto News World Congress meetings and faculty and staff were available at the CCS booth throughout the three-day event. Eight students and Larry Erickson, chair, attended the closing ceremony and supported the event with scale models and a slide show of CCS images that ran during dinner.

Academic Advising and Registration

You now may search for summer 2009 classes on WebAdvisor found at www.bb.collegeforcreativestudies.edu. Go to “WebAdvisor for Students” and click on “Search for Classes.” Then enter “Summer 2009” to see what’s offered. This summer you’ll be able to take courses like Ways of Knowing (DFS 100), History of Animation & Digital Media (DAH 314) and Digital Fundamentals (DFN 119). Summer registration begins April 15.

Admissions

The 19th Annual Award of Excellence (AOE) Competition was held on February 25. CCS department chairs and faculty juried the AOE competition, which offered applied and accepted high school seniors and college transfer students a chance to compete for a $20,000 per year Award of Excellence Scholarship. Criteria used to determine nominees included completion of the ACT or SAT, exceptional artistic ability, an overall high school GPA of 3.2 or above or a full-time college GPA of 3.0 or above, and submission of 10 images of work.

The first Information Session of the new year took place on February 21. Approximately 100 prospective students and their
families had the opportunity to tour the campus and student housing; attend presentations on the admissions process, financial aid, career services and precollege programs; talk with faculty in each department; and have their portfolios reviewed by admissions counselors.

Sabrina Nelson, associate director, along with Scott Northrup, assistant professor, Entertainment Arts, and alumna Renee Dooley ’90, are included in the Sacred Visions exhibition at Madonna University. The opening reception for the show was February 20.

On January 27, Lori Watson, director, was elected to the treasurer position of the National Portfolio Day Association for the next two years. Additionally, she will be the keynote speaker at the Lenawee County Fine Arts Festival on April 17, reporting on the career outlook for artists and designers. Immediately following, Watson will travel to Minneapolis for the annual National Art Educator’s conference to man the AICAD consortium booth shared with Kansas City Art Institute, Ringling College of Art and Design, Memphis College of Art, and Maine College of Art.

Career Services

The first Career Week was a success with nearly 50 students visiting the U245 Gallery to learn about internships, study abroad, mobility and how to join student groups on campus. Because of the good turnout, the Career Services Office has decided to make this an ongoing tradition each fall.

Center Galleries

Friday, March 20 – Saturday, May 2
All the Splendors of the Earth
A project organized by CCS alumni living and working in New York City
Center Galleries

Community Arts Partnerships

Community + public arts: DETROIT (CPAD) is a joint venture between CCS and The Skillman, Chase and Kresge foundations. CPAD seeks to link Michigan artists and Detroit communities in creative partnerships to create public artworks that are artistically authentic while at the same time meaningful and engaging to community members. Projects are partnerships between artists, residents, stakeholders and CPAD.

Community-based public art is long lasting, highly visible, outdoor art that creatively addresses community goals. Community goals are determined through a series of open public meetings. The project development is supported by a group of residents, stakeholders and CPAD.

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

Information at a glance
Project Title: community+public arts:DETROIT (CPAD)
Location: Any one of six Detroit targeted neighborhoods
Scope: Inclusion in Public Art Roster
Eligibility: To create community-based public art with youth involvement
Budget: $0-$35,000
Deadline: 5 p.m., Monday, March 9, 2009 (this is not a postmark deadline)

Send RFQ or questions to:
community+public arts:DETROIT
Sioux Trujillo
201 E. Kirby
Detroit, MI 48202
313.664.7937
strujillo@collegeforcreativestudies.edu

More information and a downloadable RFQ can be found at www.cpadetroit.org.

Eligibility

This opportunity is open to Michigan artists who have experience with community-based public art, a documented connection to one of the targeted Detroit neighborhoods, and artists who feel their work could have applications in the realm of public art. All applicants must have experience working with youth (ages 13-18).

Artists are expected to be involved at every stage of the public art project’s development, including making themselves available for monthly artist workshops, community meetings and public dedications.

If you have participated in the past year’s project, you are not eligible for this year’s grant.

Timeline

March 2009: Advisory Council meets to select artists to be included in the Public Art Roster. Those artists will be notified by March 13. The Public Art Roster was made available to the metro Detroit community.

April 2009: Community committees will select prospective artists from the Public Art Roster and invite their participation in developing specific projects.

April – October 2009: Artists selected by the community committee will plan and develop projects.

Continuing Education

CCS is now offering group custom training—locally, nationally and internationally—to busy creative professionals who are at the peak of their career and committed to lifelong learning.

The training program, College for Creative Studies Custom Training|Training for Creatives by Creatives, is taught by CCS experts to meet the growing needs of creative professional teams to advance their skill set and exceed today’s client demands through innovation, software proficiency and solid business practices.

For more information, contact Christine Bournias, custom training manager, at cbournias@collegeforcreativestudies.edu or by calling 313.664.7634 or 313.580.9870 (cell).

Financial Aid

Are You Eligible for the Michigan Promise Scholarship?

The Michigan Promise Scholarship provides up to $4,000 to Michigan high school graduates for successfully completing two years of postsecondary education beginning with the high school graduating class of 2007. Many students believe the only way to qualify for the Michigan Promise is to achieve a qualifying score on the Michigan Merit Exam. However, the only thing the Merit Exam qualifies students for is to receive the first half of the scholarship in installment payments of $1,000 per year during their first two years of college. All Michigan high school students who graduated in 2007 or after and are attending an approved Michigan post-secondary institution (like CCS) are eligible to receive the full $4,000, provided they earn 60 credits toward their bachelor’s degree with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 within four years of their high school graduation.

To receive the $4,000 or the final payment of $2,000 for those who qualified for installment payments, students need to complete an Application for Final Payment and submit it to the state of Michigan Office of Scholarships and Grants. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid or type “Michigan Promise Scholarship Application” into Google. Copies of the application also will be available in the Financial Aid Office. Once your application is received by the state they will send a roster to CCS to verify your GPA and credits completed. Payments from the state will be received by CCS and applied to your tuition for the following academic year, provided you plan on attending that year. If not, we can work with you to make other arrangements.
2009-2010 Financial Aid

Anyone interested in receiving financial aid for 2009-2010 should file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible. Even if you are uncertain of your plans for next year, filing the FAFSA now will ensure you’re prepared for any possibility. Filing early is especially important for Michigan residents, as the state’s uncertain budget makes it impossible to know what the filing deadline for their aid may be. Though we recognize how busy your lives are around this time of year, this could make a significant difference to your finances for next year, so please make every effort to find the time. The quickest and easiest way to file is to visit www.fafsa.ed.gov. Keep in mind that you’re not required to complete your taxes before you file your FAFSA. It is possible to use estimated information and make updates once the final numbers are available.

As discussed in previous newsletters, many of you may have concerns about aid for next year. Aid packages for returning students with completed files are set to begin mailing June 1. You can assist us in making certain your package is available as early as possible by filing your FAFSA immediately and returning any documents we request as soon as possible. As always, your package will provide an estimate of your remaining balance after aid is deducted. In addition, it will provide information on applying for supplemental loans (like PLUS loans and alternative loans) if you utilized them in previous years. If you believe you will need a supplemental loan for the 2009-2010 academic year, we strongly encourage you to start talking to your potential co-signers now and to complete all necessary processing during the summer to ensure your funding is set before the school year starts in September.

If you apply for a supplemental loan and are denied, please do not despair. We recommend the following:

1. Call the lender to find out why you were denied. Though this can have varying degrees of success, it’s certainly worth it if you were denied over something small that can be resolved. If the problem is with your co-signer, they may need to call as well.

2. Check with other family members and friends to see if anyone else may be willing to co-sign. Though many people have understandable concerns about co-signing for loans, you may be pleasantly surprised.

3. Call our office to discuss the costs of part-time enrollment, at least for a few semesters. Part-time enrollment can be a reasonable option that allows you to stay in school (and out of debt) while you work on finding a new co-signer. Using part-time enrollment long term can be risky however, as students may run through their aggregate Stafford loan eligibility before they graduate.

Special Circumstance Adjustments

Many of our students and families are experiencing significant changes to their finances as a result of lost income from layoffs and fluctuations in the stock market. If you or your parents have experienced such a loss, please contact our office. If you can provide documentation of your circumstances, we may be able to recalculate your financial need and adjust your aid accordingly.

With everything happening in the economy, we realize you may be feeling a lot of anxiety over your finances. If we can answer any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact our office. We are open Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., and Wednesdays until 7 p.m. (during the academic year only). We can be reached at 313.664.7495, finaid@collegeforcreativestudies.edu or on a walk-in basis. Also check Director of Student Life Michael Coleman’s weekly emails and the Financial Aid section of Blackboard for information on potential scholarship opportunities and other important updates.

International Student Services

The international student community at CCS is thriving with 74 international students, representing 13 different countries, calling CCS home this semester. These students bring a global perspective to campus and provide American students with exposure to different cultures and new ways of approaching life. CCS students are on the move this semester as well. Currently there are students in France, Italy, Australia and the UK. If you’re interested in studying abroad, it’s important to plan early. Interested students should visit the International Student Services Office during their freshman year to map out a study abroad plan and determine where it best fits the curriculum for his or her major. Requirements for study abroad include a 3.0 GPA and junior status.

The International Student Services Office is located on the second floor of the Admissions/Administration Building. Jennifer Dickey, director, can be reached at 313.664.7428.

Library

Nancy Steffes, senior librarian, and Beth Walker, director, presented “The Caldecott Award: Seventy Years of Outstanding Illustration for Children” and “The 2008 Caldecott Medal Award Winner: Brian Selznick, The Invention of Hugo Cabret” at the International Arts & Humanities conference in January. Steffes and Walker are planning to show these presentations to Illustration faculty and students.

Student Life

Counselors’ Corner

Jim Bauer, personal counselor, and Valerie Weiss, personal counselor, give some suggestions on balancing your life.

Free Yourself from “Balancing” Your Life

It is highly possible that throughout your life you have heard from numerous people that you need to “find some balance in your life.” We recognize that this advice has been handed down from generation to generation and for good reason. However, what happens to us when the concept of balancing is no longer possible or applicable? Often times this may be extremely difficult to manage as a CCS student. Chances are, when life happens and our schedules move and shift, we may begin to feel anxious and guilty. For what reason? Not creating enough balance in our lives!

We sometimes have a tendency to be our hardest critics and irrationally expect too much from ourselves. We are not suggesting completely caving in and giving up; what we would like to present is a cognitive shift. When you look at the concept of “balancing your life,” you may ascribe equal allotments of time, energy, attention and so forth to various given tasks or goals. While in theory this sounds like the simple, sensible and smart thing to do, for some people this approach may not work due to various factors. A suggested approach would be to remove the concept of “balance” and move in the direction of creating “harmony.”

Counseling has worked with many students regarding this subject and has had marvelous results. With harmony there is flexibility and freedom to pursue different goals with more fervor while placing less energy and emphasis on other goals for the time being. This is different from ignoring or shirking responsibility; it is simply a switch in attention.

If we examine some of the definitions of harmony, we can quickly see how it is truly different from the concept of balance. Two definitions found in Merriam Webster’s dictionary note that harmony is “pleasing or congruent arrangement of parts” and “an interweaving of different accounts into a single narrative.” Life as an art student (from what we are learning) appears to move from project to project with intense focus on fewer tasks, much like harmony. It is like a musical composition; just because the
percussion section consumes most of the musical score, we certainly do not forget or neglect the woodwind section. Again, as stated earlier, it is usually the inner dialogue of guilt that confuses us to feel shameful for not being balanced.

We challenge you to create a cognitive shift in your life where you begin to embrace harmony and move past feeling guilty for not having such a balanced life.

If you would like to talk about creating harmony in your life or have any questions, feel free to contact one of our personal counselors. All of our sessions and consultations are free and confidential. If you want to make an appointment, contact CCS Counseling (Ground floor Arts Centre Building) by emailing counseling@collegeforcreativestudies.edu or calling Student Life 313.664.7879. Jim can be reached at 313.664.7412 and Val at 313.664.7852.

Student Success Center

To capture the spirit and services of the Student Success Center, the Center sponsored a poster design contest. The winner was Illustration senior Jillian Pulford for her design featuring three students, one holding an “A” paper and the words, “Success is our middle name.” She received a gift certificate to the CCS bookstore. The Student Success Center appreciates the efforts of Pulford and all the peer tutors for their hard work to help make every student a success story. The winning poster is displayed at various locations around campus and in the Student Success Center.

The Saturday VisCom Clinics will continue throughout the winter semester (March 28 and April 4, 11, 18, 25) in Room 405B of the Kresge Ford Building from noon until 4 p.m. Drop in for an hour or for the entire time to participate in clinics led by peer tutors Kim Hewlett and Filip Bosevski.

The Student Success Center presented two peer tutor panel discussions this semester. The first program took place February 10 and was on “The Secrets Revealed: How to Make the Dean’s List.” A group of Dean’s List peer tutors shared tips on how to achieve this goal. The second program, “The Comeback Kid: Life after Mid-Term Grades,” was on March 18. Students discovered ways to pull a low grade into a passing one from peer tutors who have been in that position.

No time to stop in? Try emailing us at ssc@collegeforcreativestudies.edu. Students who find it difficult to make it up to the Student Success Center during regular hours may welcome a new feature where you can email your paper or renderings to us for review. Someone from the Success Center will respond with assistance within 24 hours during the week (weekends not included).