For decades, students in CIA’s design majors have been serving internships with manufacturers and design consultancies, and, in the process, making financial contacts and gaining valuable professional experience before graduation.

With notable exceptions, students pursuing visual arts generally have not had access to comparable internship experiences. Until now.

Thanks to a grant from the Fenn Educational Fund of the Cleveland Foundation, and some smart thinking by faculty and staff members, CIA this year facilitated Creativity Works, a program of self-initiated internship experiences for students looking forward to careers as visual artists.

The result: five juniors lined up community organizations as internship hosts, wrote proposals and budgets that were reviewed and accepted by faculty and staff coordinators, and pursued a variety of public art projects.

• Deborah Weidrick and Abigail Clark, both Printmaking majors, created a mixed media, fabric and printed installation that is on view at the Great Lakes Science Center this summer
• Elmi Ventura Matta, a Painting and Drawing major, created a series of portraits of residents of a homeless shelter that were exhibited at the shelter and a local hospital
• Samantha Konet, a double major in Drawing and Printmaking, curated three exhibitions of her peers’ work that were on view in late spring at local galleries: FORUM Art Space, Native Annex, and Juma
• Evan Fusco, a Sculpture + Expanded Media major, developed a solo exhibition including an installation and performance art event at Native Annex.

The Fenn grant provided funding for materials, technology, and marketing.

NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS
CIA Career Center Director Amy Goldman is quick to point out that CIA’s fine arts students have other kinds of professional experiences, through arts-administration internships at galleries and art centers, or by working as studio assistants for professional artists, or by assisting in glass or ceramics studios at prestigious craft centers. What sets Creativity Works apart is that this program offered financial support for projects that enabled students to directly experience the life of a professional artist and think like entrepreneurs,” Goldman said.

The grant was open to students in all majors, with a preference for students who have studio practice at the forefront of their career aspirations.

VALUE AND VALUABLE
“There’s so much value in the students seeing their work and their efforts embraced and realized in the community,” said Associate Professor and Printmaking Department Chair Maggie Denk-Leigh. As academic project leader of Creativity Works, Denk-Leigh met with students individually and helped them navigate the process of developing a convincing proposal, identifying and approaching an organization, and pitching their idea.

For 10 years, Denk-Leigh taught a section of CIA’s mandatory Business and Professional Practices course to students from every major. “I spent a lot of time helping prep students who were applying for known jobs. But for the visual artist, you’re not applying for just one job; you’re going to be several different things. You’re the creative energy, you’re the maker; you’re the collaborator; you’re the installer; you’re the marketeer; you’re the web builder; you’re everything for yourself.”

Those tasks may now seem a little less daunting to the five Creativity Works interns.

Denk-Leigh notes that the funding was important for more than just financial reasons.

“They’re getting compensated for their materials so they are doing extra things that they might not have done, like putting together a catalog, or conducting photo documentation. Beyond that, we want our students to recognize financially for what they do and we want them mentally and emotionally reminded that their contributions are valued and valuable. This internship rewarded them for what we knew they could do in the first place, given the opportunity.”

Kristi Andrasik, program officer for the Cleveland Foundation, said Creativity Works was a good fit for the Fenn Educational Fund, which has promoted cooperative learning and internships for over 40 years.

“Research shows that many students learn better and are more prepared to enter the workforce if their course of study demonstrates how classroom learning applies in the real world.”

“Their research shows that many students learn better and are more prepared to enter the workforce if their course of study demonstrates how classroom learning applies in the real world,” said Goldman. “That means that they really understand what it takes to be a practicing visual artist; that means they want to support these students and enable them to make connections and have this professional development before they graduate.”

• Deborah Weidrick, left, and Abigail Clark, right, work on the fiber and print installation they created for the Great Lakes Science Center.

CIA Career Center Director Amy Goldman is quick to point out that CIA’s fine arts students have other kinds of professional experiences, through arts-administration internships at galleries and art centers, or by working as studio assistants for professional artists, or by assisting in glass or ceramics studios at prestigious craft centers. What sets Creativity Works apart is that this program offered financial support for projects that enabled students to directly experience the life of a professional artist and think like entrepreneurs,” Goldman said.
From CIA to Hollywood: Grad tapped to head Warner Bros. design studios

Vember Stuart-Lilley '04 said CIA helped her “jump right into” her career

By Kylie M. Eyre

It’s a very long trip from Cleveland to Hollywood, and the mileage is the least of it. Most people with that destination in mind never actually get there.

Vember Stuart-Lilley is a notable exception. Just a decade after graduating from CIA with a degree in Interior Design (now called Interior Architecture), she recently began a new job as the driving force behind Warner Bros. prestigious Design Studio.

“She couldn’t be more excited about her new gig.”

One of Stuart-Lilley’s mentors was Michael A. Gollini, chair of the Interior Architecture Department. He’s not at all surprised by her success.

While attending CIA, Vember was a dedicated, talented student with a professional work ethic and a true passion for design,” Gollini said. “When a student like Vember has such a strong natural design sense and is so committed to their work, success is inevitable.”

After graduation, Stuart-Lilley continued developing her skills and talents in multiple challenging environments. For seven years, she led the Renovations and Capitol Initiative program at the clothing line Guess. “I was responsible for brand integrity within existing stores through renovations and refreshes of our concept standards, so making sure the overall brand strategy was being implemented through our design team was the goal.”

Her time at Guess, “bridging the expectations of management and concept implementation, prepared me for my current role, implementing clients’ needs within our studio framework,” Stuart-Lilley explained.

Indeed, Stuart-Lilley says her primary goal at Warner Bros. is “to make sure that clients fully understand our capabilities and also understand that we have a team devoted to their needs.” With my design background, our clients have that extra level of security knowing that someone with a designer’s eye is reviewing every possible detail and understands how important even the tiniest design detail can be for the overall project.”

For current CIA students, regardless of career goal, Stuart-Lilley’s advice is simple: “Be out there the first chance you get, figuring out what your real world opportunities are actually going to look like.”

Deutschman-Ruz is a freelance writer/ editor and instructor of journalism and mass communication. She lives on the West Side of Cleveland.

Snipes, Barkman, Harvans featured in new alumni videos

Videographer Jeff Manginetti ‘93 recently completed three new alumni video profiles. Ceramicist Kevin Snipes ‘94 (left) talks about his career and his artwork in a video shot in his Cleveland studio. Snipes, who has had residencies at numerous prestigious art centers, makes work for solo gallery exhibitions and regularly gives workshops at colleges and universities. Trisha Barkman ‘06 talks about her work in New York City producing documentary films and photo shoots for national magazines. Barkman has worked with publications including Rolling Stone, Newsweek and Fortune organizing wardrobe, location, props and more. She also produced Journey to Planet X, shown at the Tribeca Film Festival. Chris and Shelley (Slack) Harvan, both 1997 graduates, talk about their company, Memento Memorials, through which they make personalized urns, keepsakes and memorial boxes. They incorporate both sculpture and drawing into all of their products “to help people celebrate things that have happened or lives that have been lived.” To view all of CIA’s alumni videos, go to CIA.edu/alumminprofiles.

Michael Clay Zahratka ’64 was grateful for a creative life, a CIA education

Grad planned a gift in support of scholarships for future students

By Kyle M. Eyre

It was no surprise when an art teacher at Lorain High School identified Michael Clay Zahratka’s exceptional artistic talent and encouraged him to enroll at Cleveland Institute of Art. As one of ten siblings, and the only one to become an artist, Zahratka was constantly creating. “He was the one that ended up with the talent and the eye,” his younger brother, Robert, said. To make his dream of attending CIA a reality, he received scholarship support and his parents and siblings pinched every penny.

While at CIA, Zahratka flourished. He majored in Painting, learned from some of the best professors in the field, and became well-prepared to launch a career in art. Following graduation in 1964, he completed a fellowship from Syracuse University and was offered a full-time position teaching art history and painting at Eastern Michigan University. He loved to teach and loved his time at EMU, which included a one-year sabbatical to study art and cultures across Europe—an experience he greatly enjoyed. Nearly 40 years and countless inspired students later, he retired from teaching in 2003.

Described by his brother as “a creator and a collector,” Zahratka had an eye for finding uniqueness in art. As a creator, he meticulously crafted multimedia objects, including one seven-foot piece titled “The Witch” that he created using tree branches found on his 10-acre farm in Michigan. Over the course of his lifetime, Zahratka created more than 38 multimedia objects. Many of the components in these objects were hand-carved out of metal or wood, and the level of detail was extraordinary. As a collector, Zahratka searched antique shops and flea markets for tin toys he had over 600), majolica pottery, and Elleeware, among other items.

Whether he was teaching, creating, collecting, or motoring through the Michigan countryside in his Triumph T3 (another passion of his), Zahratka lived life to its fullest. And he never forgot his time at CIA and the support he received. He felt fortunate for the education and opportunities CIA provided him, and he wanted to help the next generation of artists share these experiences as well.

Before his death in July 2014, Zahratka showed his appreciation by planning a gift to support undergraduate scholarships at CIA. “It was always important for Michael to give back for what he had. His mind worked in the generous category,” his brother reminisced. By establishing a scholarship fund, his support helps make the dream of attending CIA a reality for many students—just as it was made available for him.

For more information on how to invest in CIA’s future, contact Sarah Ott-Hansen, director of leadership and planned giving, at 216.421.8016 or sothansen@cia.edu. Eyre is CIA’s assistant director of annual giving + alumni relations.
CIA’S UNIFIED CAMPUS IS WORTH CELEBRATING
Alumni and friends invited to a spectrum of celebrations
College’s new mailing address is 11610 Euclid Avenue

The CIA community enjoyed some preview moments of the new unified campus throughout the spring—from the BFA Exhibition to a campaign donor preview event. Now it’s time to make it official.

On August 28, the community will celebrate the unified campus with a little pomp and ceremony. In an event titled Prism, students, alumni, and friends are invited to assemble one last time for a convocation ceremony at 4:30pm in the original Gund Building, at 11141 East Boulevard, and then form a colorful procession to the new campus at 11610 Euclid Avenue for the 6pm opening of the 2015 Faculty Exhibition, the first show in CIA’s new Reinberger Gallery.

By August, all CIA operations—the gallery, Cinematheque, Continuing Education, library, and all undergraduate majors and services—will exist on the unified campus, which was created when CIA constructed an 80,000-square-foot new building. The new building is named for George Gund II and adjoined to the Joseph McCullough Center for the Visual Arts.

“CIA has created one of the nation’s finest campuses for learning about, making, and exhibiting art and design,” said President Grafton Nunes. “This campus holds tremendous promise for our future.”

CIA has planned a full spectrum of celebratory events for alumni and friends detailed at cia.edu/spectrum:

VISITING ARTISTS BROUGHT NEW INSIGHTS TO CIA STUDENTS
CIA STUDENTS HAD THE BENEFIT OF DOZENS OF VISITING ARTISTS, DESIGNERS, AUTHORS, ACADEMICS—and all the insights they brought with them—DURING THE SPRING SEMESTER.

THE BICKFORD VISITING ARTIST FUND SUPPORTED VISITS BY ARTIST, RESEARCHER AND CURATOR ORON CATTS, WHO USES LIVE TISSUE AS A RAW MATERIAL AND A SUBJECT OF MANIPULATION; UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CAT MAZZA, WHOSE ART PRACTICE COMBINES DIGITAL MEDIA WITH TRADITIONAL NEEDLECRAFT TO EXPLORE THE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG TEXTILES, TECHNOLOGY, AND LABOR; AND PERFORMANCE ARTIST NAO BUSTAMANTE, WHO COMBINED FILM, LIVE PERFORMANCE, AND ORIGINAL COSTUMES IN AN EVENT AT MOCA CLEVELAND. OTHER VISITING ARTISTS INCLUDED PHOTOGRAPHER JESSICA EATON, PAINTER AND FORMER CIA FACULTY MEMBER SARIEN MCKENZIE, BLIZZARD ENTERTAINMENT ANIMATOR HUNTER GRANT, RIOT GAMES ANIMATOR TOMAS JECI, AND STOP-MOTION ANIMATOR AUSTIN KOHN.

ALUMNI NICCI WINROC’02 AND NEAL BARMAN ‘03 PRESENTED ON THEIR ROCHESTER, NY, BUSINESS. N2 GLASS STUDIO; RIICH ‘08 AND AUSTIN ‘07 (BATES) ZAROBEL Spoke ABOUT THEIR CAREERS IN JEWELRY DESIGN; AND SCOTT STROPPA ‘85 GAVE A PRESENTATION AND REVIEWED INDUSTRIAL DESIGN STUDENT WORK. A CO-FOUNDER OF BOSTON-BASED ESSENTIAL DESIGN, STROPPA (RIGHT) SAID, “WE INTERVIEW STUDENTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD AND EACH COLLEGE HAS ITS OWN PHILOSOPHY AND PRIORITIES. I THINK CIA IS DIFFERENT IN THEIR DEDICATION TO HELPING STUDENTS BECOME SUCCESSFUL PRACTICING ARTISTS AND DESIGNERS. CIA DESIGNERS ARE GOOD CRITICAL THINKERS AND PROBLEM SOLVERS. THEY WORK AT A HIGH LEVEL BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND IN TEAMS. YOU CAN TELL THEY ARE SERIOUS ABOUT THEIR CREATIVE FUTURES.” FOR MORE ON RECENT VISITING ARTISTS, INCLUDING LINKS TO INTERVIEWS WITH SEVERAL, GO TO CIA.EDU/VISITINGARTISTS.

THREE FACULTY, SEVEN ALUMNI RECOGNIZED WITH OHIO EXCELLENCE AWARDS
Three CIA faculty members and at least seven alumni have been recognized with Individual Excellence Awards from the Ohio Arts Council (OAC).

Receiving awards are alumni Ann Kmiecik ’83, Judith Brandon ’87, Kristen Ciflet ’90, Timothy Callaghan ’99, Timothy Gawlevsky ’01, Jason Milburn ’03, and Scott Goss ’06; and faculty members Sarah Kabot, assistant professor and chair of the Drawing Department; Amy Sinbondit, technical specialist and adjunct faculty member in the Ceramics Department; and Sai Sinbondit, adjunct faculty member in the Foundation Department.

“These Ohio Arts Council awards represent important validation of the excellent work our alumni and faculty are producing,” said Chris Whitley, CIA vice president of faculty affairs and chief academic officer. “As publicly funded grants, they also represent recognition that these artists and designers are important contributors to Ohio’s culture and economy.”

The OAC provides Individual Excellence Awards in recognition of “the exceptional merit of a completed body of work.” The awards, of $5,000 each, “give the artists who receive them the time and resources to experiment, explore and reflect as they develop their skills and advance their art form,” according to the arts council.

**"ELSEWHERE." 2015 SCOTT GOSS ’06 26” X 23” GLASS, ENAMEL, COPPER**
BIOMEDICAL ART MAJOR RECEIVES AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN VISUAL ARTS

BIOMEDICAL ART MAJOR CATHERINE STANLEY ‘15 WON AN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN VISUAL ARTS FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES OF OHIO (AICUO) FOR A PORTFOLIO OF HER WORK. NOMINATED BY ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF BIOMEDICAL ART THOMAS NOWACKI, STANLEY SUBMITTED ILLUSTRATIONS OF MEDICAL PROCEDURES, AND HUMAN AND ANIMAL ANATOMY. READ MORE ABOUT STANLEY, INCLUDING HER INTERNSHIP AT THE CLEVELAND CLINIC, AT CIA.EDU/STANLEY.

FIRST YEAR STUDENT’S SELF PORTRAIT MAKES COVER OF PENCIL BOX

GENERAL PENCIL COMPANY HAS CHOSEN TO FEATURE A SELF-PORTRAIT OF JULIA MADDALINA ‘18 ON THE COVER OF AN ART-PENCIL BOX. READ THE STORY OF HOW THIS ENTERPRISING STUDENT CAME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE 130-YEAR-OLD ART SUPPLY COMPANY AT CIA.EDU/MADDALINA.

SENIOR NAMED ONE OF TOP FIVE INDUSTRIAL DESIGN STUDENTS IN US

Industrial Design major Geemay Chia ‘15 won the Student Merit Award for the Central District of the Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA) and placed second in the Student Design Competition sponsored by the International Housewares Association (IHA). Chia is the fifth CIA student in the last decade to win the coveted IDSA award, competing against students from some of the nation’s largest and strongest design colleges. The housewares association recognized her for “Clean Mate,” her design for a combination walker/folding seat/caddy for cleaning products that would enable a person with limited physical abilities to perform house cleaning. The IHA competition attracted 246 entries by students from 34 colleges. Chia traveled to Chicago in March to present her design at the 2015 International Home + Housewares Show. Upon her return, she appeared on Cleveland’s NBC affiliate station, WKYC. Read more about Chia and find a link to her television interview at cia.edu/cha.

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS CREATE HIGH FASHION

Four CIA Interior Architecture students transformed countertops into couture for their entry into the charity fashion show, Product Runway, held at Cleveland Museum of Art in May. Shane Carey ’16, Dylan Nance ’16, Mike Roth ’16, and Laura Back ’16 (below) used laminate material to create a chainmail-style dress that Back modeled in the International Interior Design Association’s 19th annual event. This year’s show was hosted by Mariel Hemingway and raised funds for Providence House of Cleveland, the nation’s oldest crisis nursery. Read more at cia.edu/productrunway.
DRAWING, PRINTMAKING STUDENT BOUND FOR YALE SUMMER PROGRAM

SAMANTHA KONET '16 HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO RECEIVE AN ELLEN BATELL STOECKEL FELLOWSHIP COVERING TUITION, ROOM, AND BOARD FOR SIX WEEKS IN THE ART DIVISION OF THE 2015 YALE SUMMER SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND ART IN NORFOLK, CONNECTICUT. EVERY YEAR, SELECTED COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND PROFESSIONAL ART SCHOOLS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND ABROAD ARE INVITED TO NOMINATE STUDENTS FOR THESE HIGHLY COMPETITIVE FELLOWSHIPS. STUDENTS FOLLOW A REQUIRED PROGRAM OF PAINTING/SCULPTURE/MIXED-MEDIA, DRAWING/PRINTMAKING, PHOTOGRAPHY, AND CRITICAL THEORY TAUGHT BY DISTINGUISHED ARTISTS. KONET HAS A DOUBLE MAJOR IN DRAWING AND PRINTMAKING.

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS DESIGN APPEALING WORK SPACE

A local economic development organization turned to CIA when it needed fresh ideas for converting a gutted office floor into a vibrant co-working space. CIA’s Interior Architecture students came through—producing designs that would thoroughly transform the space.

The project came about because a Pittsburgh company, The Beauty Shoppe, plans to open a co-working space in the historic Victory Center in the MidTown portion of the Cleveland Health-Tech Corridor. The Cleveland Foundation funded CIA’s participation in what became a semester-long project.

“The Victory building project has been a wonderful opportunity for our students to work with a real client on a terrific space, challenging their creative skills and gaining a professional work experience,” said Mike Gollini ’86, associate professor and Interior Architecture Department chair.

Above: In the future home of a co-working space in Cleveland’s Victory Center are, from left, Rabih Helou and Matthew Ciccone from The Beauty Shoppe; Lillian Kuri from the Cleveland Foundation; Jeff Epstein from Health-Tech Corridor; students Samantha Piercy, Dylan Nance, Olivia Williams, Shane Carey, Shriya Garg, Huina Wu, Michael Roth, Laura Back, Xiaowo Tang, and Robert Williams; adjunct faculty member Patrick Finegan ’05; and Gollini.

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN STUDENTS DESIGN FURNITURE FOR MOCA CLEVELAND

LOOKING FOR FURNITURE AS CONTEMPORARY AND COMPELLING AS ITS ARCHITECTURALLY STUNNING NEW BUILDING, THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART CLEVELAND TURNED TO CIA’S INDUSTRIAL DESIGN DEPARTMENT FOR IDEAS. AS A RESULT, CIA AND MOCA NOW CO-SPONSOR AN ANNUAL FURNITURE DESIGN COMPETITION THAT HAS ALREADY NETTED TWO MUSEUM-WORTHY PIECES NOW IN USE AND ANOTHER ON THE WAY FOR NEXT YEAR. KATELYN PETRONICK ’15 (ABOVE) SAW HER WINNING SUBMISSION, “IGNITE,” UNVEILED IN JANUARY. IN APRIL, THE MUSEUM ANNOUNCED IT HAS CHosen A DESIGN BY JUSTIN HENRY ’16 TO BE PRODUCED IN THE COMING MONTHS AND UNVEILED NEXT YEAR. READ MORE AT CIA.EDU/PETRONICK AND CIA.EDU/HENRy.

STUDENT SHOW DRAWS APPRECIATIVE CROWD

Hilary Gent, center, director of HEDGE Gallery in Cleveland’s 78th Street Studios, was all smiles at the opening of a juried exhibition of CIA student work she hosted in April and May. Mike Meier ’10, lecturer in the Painting and Foundation departments, helped organize the show, titled Wired and Ready to Hang. They are joined by CIA’s Reinberger Gallery Project Coordinator Nikki Woods ’12. Featured in the show were Painting majors Angela Ko ’15, Celena Grossman ’16, Kim Menapace ’16, Chen Peng ’16, Brian Mouhlas ’16, Riley Kemerling ’17, and Xyl Lasersohn ’17; Drawing majors Xi Chen Fan ’15, Benjamin Grossi ’17, and Abigail Richard ’17; Printmaking majors Michael Lombardy ’15, and Debbie Weidrick ’17; and Illustration major Christine Meder ’16. Also featured were Samantha McCarthy ’16, a double major in Painting and Printmaking; Samantha Konet ’16, a double major in Drawing and Printmaking; and Elmi Ventura Mata ’16, a double major in Drawing and Painting. Cleveland State University student Dunya Abrahim also had work in the show.
Nicole Viscomi Mawzy ’74 is taking fine jewelry classes at the Orange Art Center and is still competing as an amateur ballroom dancer. She also enjoys spending time with her family.

Leisy Arian ’76 had a solo show, Meets Mountains, at Junia Gallery in Shaker Heights in March–April.

April Gornik ’76 is featured in a Frontline Reimagined at the Museum Di Palazzo Grimani in Venice. The exhibition runs through November.

Richard Heipp ’76 has been awarded the City of Gainesville (FL) Public Art Award for his contributions to the field of public art. The mayor subsequently proclaimed March 5, 2015 as “Richard Heipp Day.” Heipp’s work was on view in the exhibition Germaine’s Gauze Suites 1987–1994 at the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg from January–April.

Celeste DeSapio ’79 recently completed two enameled commissions. DeSapio also had one photograph from a 2014 trip to India on display in the 2014 Sargent Show at the Gates Mills JOH Community House in April–May.

Julian Seyerour ’79 is doing a series of colorful, abstract watercolor acrylic combinations in his studio gallery in Bath, OH. Seyerour is an occasional radio talk show guest on 1950 AM WAKR, giving tips on art for the home and garden.

Mary Urbas ’80 is curating From Woman VIII: Created by women, of women and about women, an exhibition at Lakeland Community College in March, that featured work by Paula Blackman ’86, Judith Brandon ’87, Pati Fields ’83, Charmaine Spencer ’97 and Jaymi Zentz ’87.

Michael Jacq ’85 has made a career selling homemade syrups with his company, Simple Gourmet Syrups (simplegumsyrup.com)

Scott Stropaik ’85 returned to CIA in March to speak with design students and review their work. Stropaik is co-founder of Boston-based Essential Design. (essential-design.com)

Paula Blackman ’86 — see Urbas ’80.

Judith Brandon ’87 — see Urbas ’80.

Derek Hoss ’88 is the subject of a documentary, Forced Perspectives, directed by former Cleveland Nick kayak. The first film was shown at the Cleveland International Film Festival in March.

Ben Parsons ’88 — see Scott Goss ’06 — had a solo exhibition, Café: The Art of the American Table at Heights Arts gallery in Cleveland Heights during January–February.


Pati Fields ’90 — see Urbas ’80.

Michael Bendis ’91 and his wife Erika are the force behind Sony PlayStation Network’s first streaming TV show, “FLOWERS,” and was a guest on NBC’s “Late Night with Seth Myers” in January. Bendis is CIA’s 2015 commencement speaker.

Lucy Schulte ’91 — currently lives in Indiana and is an author of children’s books. She also designs mechanisms for pop-up books.

Kevin Snipes ’94 — was awarded a Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant for his ceramic artwork.

Zack Petroz ’95 is America’s newest Disney movie, Big Hero 6, was awarded an Oscar for best animated film. Petroz also received an award for Outstanding Performance of an Animated Character in an Animated Feature Motion Picture by the Visual Effects Society.

Jaymi Zentz ’97 — see Urbas ’80.

Raymond Nelson ’99 — has owned Nelson kilns since 6th grade. Since 2011, he has a wife and three kids, little soccer playing boys.

Nicolaus Vardis ’99 — was the keynote speaker at CIA’s annual Automotive Design Symposium at The 2015 Cleveland International Auto Show at the IX Center in March. Vardis is currently the manager of SRT/Mopar Design Studios for FCA US LLC, formerly the Chrysler Group LLC.

Charles Anthony ’10 — was featured in the Estate of Hughie Lee-Smith, an exhibition which includes work by Hughie Lee-Smith*, ‘38 – April 2015.

Bienvenido ‘06 — was awarded a Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant for his ceramic artwork.

Nicolina Ferraro ’07 returned to CIA in March to speak with design students and review their work. Ferraro is a partner at Octavio-Fiat and the Lobeghini Annex Gallery this past October.

Roberta Schwartz — was recently inducted into the Euclid (OH) Central Alumni Hall of Fame for his contribution in saving the community through industrial design.

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Laurelle Hutson ’01 — had two pieces of her enamel work in the Shippo Cassiopeia exhibition at the Ueno Ronin Museum in Tokyo. This spring, she also conducted a one-day workshop at Pux Metals Art, a studio featured by Kim Baxter ’96, in Monter, OH.

Nicci Winrock ’02 — and her husband Neal Barnum ’03 visited CIA in March to discuss their work in Rochester, NY, as owners of 62 West Studio. (62weststudio.com)

Thaddeus Wolfs ’02 — works as a glass artist in Brooklyn and was recently featured on blocran.com.

Neal Barnum ’03 — see Winrock ’02.

Anna Lorich ’03 — started her own jewelry line, LORAK Jewelry in 2009. The line has grown to include one of a kind pieces and a line of watches, and is also available in retail stores.

Nicci Winrock ’02 — had her Vietnamese-inspired ceramic featured in the April exhibition, Flux, at Nguyen Art Gallery in Vietnam.

Dairo Medrano ’10 — had his work on display at the Farmart Center for the Arts in Novi, OH, for the exhibition, Dimensions of Humanity: “The Mind in Bloom.”

Kaitlyn Gutshall ’12 — taught a eight-week beginning clay class for students in Grades 1–8 at Maialon (OH) Museum this past spring.

Ann Wallace ’13 — discussed what inspires her art (which includes Alice in Wonderland) in a recent article on artamins.com.

Nancy Donlan ’14 — was one of four artists featured at Harris Stanton Gallery in Akron as part of the Top Picks exhibition in January–February.

Mark Rogelmin ’06 — installed “Hidolpida,” a chair made with 10,000 pieces of plywood and 48,000 nails in Monterey, Mexico, this past winter. Rogelmin was also commissioned to design the Blueprint Project, which included molding 35 bird forms out of tough resin, in Cleveland’s Edgewater Hill Neighborhood.

Brian Michael Bendis ’91 is the creator behind Sony PlayStation Network’s first streaming TV show, “FLOWERS,” and was a guest on NBC’s “Late Night with Seth Myers” in January. Bendis is CIA’s 2015 commencement speaker.
Mary Asaad (Adjunct Faculty, Liberal Arts) – gave a presentation, “Health, Risk, and Psychosocial Self-Exploration: Exploring Personal Narratives within Public Discourse,” at the Conference for College Composition and Communication, one of the largest national conferences devoted to composition studies in the US.

Jenny Birchfield ’09 (Adjunct Faculty, Photography + Video) – participated in the group exhibition, It’s All Been Done Before, at FOCUS Art Space in Cleveland from January–February, FOCUS Art Space ion by Michael Abaouz ’09 and Karl Anderson ’09. Birchfield also had a solo exhibition, Mr. In-Between, at William Busta Gallery this spring.

Pita Brooks (Assistant Director of Admissions) – and adjunct faculty member Kristin Rogers were a collaborative group alongside the Roger Williams Innogranaries, at the Maria Hail Art Project on Woonsocket Road during March and April.

Lane Cooper (Department Chair and Associate Professor, Painting) – and Rich Sarian (Art Director) organized P.R.I.S.T., a conference for people who bring others to art. It featured a morning session offering course content for art teachers; an afternoon panel discussion with Northeast Ohio art organization leaders; and a keynote presentation by Mary Campbell-Zopf, executive director of the Dayton-based arts organization Music Machine.

Liz Huff (Director of Annual Giving – Alumni Relations) – did a reading of “Rheinman” for playwrite Cleveland Staged Ensemble Theatre in Cleveland Heights.

Sarah Kabot (Department Chair and Assistant Professor, Ceramic) – had a solo exhibition, Salvage, at The Art Lab Gallery at Kent State University through March. She and Barry Underwood had a two-person exhibition at The Suburban in Oak Park, IL, through April. He had exhibitions at Habatat Galleries in West Palm Beach, FL, and Morgan Contemporary Gallery in Pittsburgh. In April he left CIA to become the Glass Studio Coordinator at Pankard School of Crafts. Lacy monitored the students in the Glass department and maintained the facilities there for nearly ten years.

Thomas Nowacki (Department Chair and Associate Professor, Biomedical Art) – was a juror for the Bardwell Wallace University 2015 Student Exhibition. He presented to Northeast Ohio Medical University in April about the creation of medical illustration and the visual story telling involved in the creation of anatomical pieces.

Kevin Rinner (Adjunct Faculty, Liberal Arts) – gave a presentation, “Bringing Philosophy into the First-Year ESL Composition Classroom,” at the Conference for College Composition and Communication, one of the largest national conferences devoted to composition studies in the US.

Barry Underwood (Assistant Professor, Photography + Video) – has work in the exhibition, Affairs Landscapes, at Akron Art Museum through July 12. He had work in a group exhibition, Grand Format from the Collection, at Seoul Los Angeles Gallery, New York City, from January through April. Represented by Susan Lee Sladky Gallery, he had worked in two art fairs: Paris Los Angeles at Paramount Picture Studios, and Art Miami New York, Fair. In February, he was featured in an article by Katharina Kammers, “Volkst der Dunkelheit,” in Architectural Digest. Opera National de Paris included five of his images as cover shots for media and patron brochures. A film crew from Crash Lab Productions and Red Bull Media Field Underwooded—and about a dozen CIA assistants—working in the studio and on location last November for an artist profile episode of “Diplo Presents: 8Ballage – Creators at Work.” He has an artist residency at Tandon Art Lab in Jackson, WY during June. Also see Kabot feature.

Grace Wallace ’04 (Checkout Coordinator and Adjunct Faculty) – had work featured on the blog site 365 Artists 365 Days, which is a collaborative project by the Frank Lloyd Wright and Greymatter Galleries. She left CIA in February to become the Creative Director at U.S. Battery Manufacturing, Inc.

Josh Welling (Digital Output Center Coordinator) – was elected to the board of Heights Arts in Cleveland Heights.

Christian Wulffen (Adjunct Professor, Painting) – has been very active in several associations and galleries. In addition to his work, he is survived by his grandchildren, siblings, many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

JoAnn Brown ‘51 – died in April. A Ceramic major of CIA, Brown is survived by her husband, Robert, son, daughter, and grandchildren.

Peter L. Sheldon ‘61 – died in January at 77. Sheldon is survived by his wife, Phyllis, children, and brother. Sheldon worked as an industrial designer for GE for 30 years, and his work went on to be nationally recognized by Industry Design Magazine’s 15th Annual Design Review. He created two award-winning lamps exhibited at the Smithsonian, and had jewelry designs featured in the 1982 “May Show.”

Richard Shirley ‘69 – died in January in Los Angeles. He was preceded in death by his parents. After earning his degree in Graphic Design with a minor in Sculpture, he became a professional designer and producer of over 500 national commercials. A member of the Directors Guild of America, The Ojai Art Center, and the Old Photo Club, Shirley is survived by his loving partner, Robin.
Helping alumni and friends of Cleveland Institute of Art remain informed of campus, faculty and alumni news, CIA publishes Link three times a year.

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Cover: "Black Rhino" Grace Congaware ’16 Carbon DUST
"Unstilled" Alex Bitzel ’15 Aluminum, ball bearings, brass
"Working Tools" Reid E. Jacobs ’16 Glass
"Clarity: Set" Bryan Ferrall ’16 Copper and Pewter

HIGHLIGHTS OF SIE 69
LEFT TO RIGHT:
"Proto Sapiah" Kyle Baker ’15 Digital
"Exhibition X" Rose Harkrot ’15 Oil on Canvas
"Botanical Study #23" Brianna Kulkos ’15 Digital pigment print
"Sisters" (Detail) Lauren Lumbell ’16 Porcelain

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MAIA BURKE ’09 FELL IN LOVE WITH THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY HER FRESHMAN YEAR AND HAS BEEN WORKING THERE SINCE SHE GRADUATED WITH A DEGREE IN BIOMEDICAL ART. NOW THE MUSEUM’S EXHIBITS DESIGN MANAGER, SHE CO-CURATED AN EXHIBITION, ART AND SCIENCE: BIOMEDICAL ART IN UNIVERSITY CIRCLE, ON VIEW AT THE MUSEUM THROUGH THE SUMMER. READ MORE AT CIA.EDU/BURKE.