

**The Cooper Union  
for the Advancement  
of Science and Art**



# atCooper



# Union

## At Cooper Union Summer 2009

### Message from the President 2

### News Briefs 3

Commencement 2009

Cooper Union Eagle Takes Flight

Major Great Hall Renovations

Rose Auditorium Seat Naming

41 Cooper Square Sneak Peek Event

New Lifetime Giving Society

Family Visits: 41 Cooper Square

End of Year Exhibition 2009

### Features 8

The Cooper Union at 150

Through the Eyes of Ashley Bryan (A'46), Storyteller

Nancy Yieh (ME'79): Making Her Mark

### Alumni News 17

Alumni Association President's Column

Carmi Bee (AR'67)

Founder's Day Dinner Dance

2009 Ballot Results

*Mechanic to Millionaire*: a Film by Janet Gardner (A'65)

Class of 1959 Celebrates its Golden Legion

Alumni Welcome Class of 2009

Spring Events

Regional Alumni Events

Pioneer Profile: David Gersten (AR'91) 24

Phonathon Exceeds Goal

Published Pioneers

### Class Notes 28

### Special Project 30

Stephen Doyle (A'78) on the New Cooper Union Logo



## Message from President George Campbell Jr.

On May 27 we celebrated the outstanding Class of 2009 at Commencement ceremonies marking the 150th anniversary of Peter Cooper's founding of The Cooper Union, as an institution with a unique academic and philanthropic mission in higher education, an attribute that continues to this day. As always, this year's graduating class represented a cross section of exceptional talent and extraordinary accomplishments.

A small sample of the prestigious national and international awards won by members of the Class of 2009 included two Fulbright Scholarships, whose recipients will study in Belgium and South Africa. Since 2001, an astonishing 31 Fulbrights have been awarded to Cooper Union graduates, approximately seven percent of all of those awarded in architecture, art and engineering. Our engineering school—a top producer of National Science Foundation Fellowships, with 13 since 2004—added a new one from the Class of 2009. Prizes in engineering, art, architecture and athletics abounded—ranging from the American Architectural Foundation's 2009 RTKL Traveling Fellowship to the Concrete Industry Foundation's Board Scholarship to the Harriet Hale Wooley Scholarship in Art and the Hudson Valley Conference Men's Tennis and Cross Country Championships.

The 220 members of this diverse class came from 33 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Forty were born outside of the United States. Sixteen were first introduced to the serious study of art, architecture or engineering through our high school programs. Six have siblings that are either graduates or current students. One was the grandson of a 1932 engineering graduate; another, the great grandson of a Cooper Union alumnus. The familial relationships are special at The Cooper Union because, unlike many colleges, our admissions policy does not permit legacy considerations.

This 150th anniversary year marks an important confluence of events for the college, as we celebrate both the 19th century founding and unprecedented philanthropic act of one man—Peter Cooper—at the same time as we structure the institution to meet the challenges facing us in the 21st century. From 1859 until today, the college has produced many of the world's greatest designers, artists, architects, scientists, builders and innovators. As we move forward, the need for such talent will only increase. Technology is evolving at an accelerating rate, art and architecture continue to break barriers, and the arts and sciences intersect more and more. Our new building at 41 Cooper Square will welcome its first freshman class this fall, as well as the current students who have watched it rise at our urban campus. The new state-of-the-art learning environment will offer faculty an unprecedented opportunity for pedagogical innovation, research and scholarship, and in turn offer students the chance to better develop the skills to create, build, invent and improve the world in which they will live and work. This first green academic laboratory building in New York City, built to LEED Platinum standards, was designed to be adaptable to the educational and scholarly demands

#### Cover photo:

Graphic design works installed on the 6th floor of the Foundation Building for the End of Year Show. Banners by Reed Burgoyne (A'09), David Maron (A'09), Rachel Matts (A'09) and Erik Winkowski (A'09). Wall works by Rachel Matts (A'09), Amit Werber (A'11), Bailey Scieszka (A'11), Wai-Jee Ho (A'11), Dina Raavvin (A'11) and Erik Winkowski (A'09).

Top to bottom:

Michael Cerro (ChE'09)

His Eminence Edward Cardinal Egan  
with Chairman of the Board of  
Trustees Ronald W. Drucker (CE'62)

The class of 2009 process by  
41 Cooper Square

Commencement Mace Bearer  
Paul Bailyn (ME'59)



Student address speaker  
Jacob Mautner (AR'09)



Presidential citation honoree  
Evan Dougjis (AR'83) with Trustee  
Cynthia C. Weiler



Presidential citation honoree  
Carin Goldberg (A'75) with Trustee  
Audrey Flack (A'51)



Trustee Mark Epstein (A'76) with  
Presidential citation honoree  
Kamran Mahbobi (EE'89/MEE'91)



Commencement address  
speaker Amy Goodman



Kalle Lindgren (AR'09)  
with his spouse Sika  
and daughter Audrey



Photos: Leo Sorel

# News Briefs

*President's Message continued from page 2*

of the 21st Century and beyond. In addition to satisfying our functional and programmatic needs, the charge to the architects was also to create a space that would stimulate, inspire and nurture the creative spirit of students and faculty while creating opportunities for interdisciplinary interactions. We believe that the architects lived up to the challenge. The Ribbon Cutting for the building is scheduled for September 15.

Since 2001 The Cooper Union's most comprehensive and intense "building" process has been construction and reconstruction of a financial support system to see the college well into its next 150 years. The Trustees and administration of this institution remain unalterably committed to maintaining Peter Cooper's legacy of an education as "free as air and water," committed to providing a full tuition scholarship to every admitted student in perpetuity.

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This year has seen a devastating shake-up in our nation's—and, indeed, the world's economy. As a result, we have experienced a decline in our endowment. The fact that our endowment performance is in the top five percent among university and college endowments, nationwide, however, is a real tribute to the exceptional skill of our Investment Committee, led by Trustee John Michaelson through 2008 and now by Trustee and alumnus Philip Trahanas.

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This has also been a challenging year for fund raising throughout the cultural and educational communities, and we are extremely grateful for the loyalty and generosity of our alumni, donors, government, foundations and other supporters who continue to contribute. While contributions declined this year, The Campaign for Cooper Union has now reached \$182 million toward our goal of \$250 million by 2012.

Raising \$68 million in three years will not be easy in this climate, but it is essential to our success and we'd like to especially encourage our alumni and friends to be as generous as they can. The Cooper Union depends on you and we thank you.



Above: Cooper Union Eagle being hoisted onto 41 Cooper Square's Green Roof



Left: The Eagle in its new home faces its original home at Pennsylvania Station

## Cooper Union Eagle Takes Flight!

The three-ton historic marble Eagle, a longtime resident and namesake of Cooper Union's Eagle Garden, moved this summer to a new roost on the Green Roof of 41 Cooper Square. The Eagle, one of twenty-two original eagles sculpted by 1891 alumnus Adolph Weinman, guarded the McKim, Mead and White Pennsylvania Station from 1910 to 1963, and was acquired by The Cooper Union in 1965. A group of students from The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture, led by Joe Zelvin (AR'65) and then Dean of Students Dr. Richard S. Ball, petitioned the Pennsylvania Railroad to receive and rescue this piece of New York City history. The 2009 class gift is helping to fund the Eagle's flight from the engineering building to the south-east corner of 41 Cooper Square's 8th floor.



## Major Great Hall Renovations

Following months of analysis, planning and design, The Great Hall was closed on December 6, 2008 for a twelve week renovation. Thirty years had passed since any major improvements: chairs were noisy and uncomfortable, the audiovisual (AV) system often proved inadequate and acoustics were poor. Funded by a generous grant from The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation, the project brought together many people—including many Cooper alumni—to address these issues while maintaining the Hall's significant architectural integrity. Involved in leading the renovations were Cooper Union Vice Presidents Ronni Denes and Robert Hawks; associate dean of The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture Elizabeth O'Donnell (AR'83); director of Continuing Education and Public Programs David Greenstein; director of The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture Archive Steven Hillyer (AR'90) and planning director of the Business Office Clark Wieman.

Sam Anderson (AR'82), Edward Gormley (AR'90) and Sean Khorsandi (AR'04) of Sam Anderson Architects served as architects for the overall project. They coordinated all design issues, including a new AV booth, improved wheelchair accessibility, acoustic treatments for walls and ceilings, locations of AV equipment and new carpet and finishes throughout.

The Irwin Seating Company of Grand Rapids, Michigan designed a new chair that would replicate the signature double curvature of the 1906 version. Jesse Douglas of Source One, Inc. coordinated all the consultants, fabricators and trades. The firm ArupAcoustics was contracted to perform a full acoustic analysis and schematic design report. Gruzen Samton was also involved in the early stages of the renovation. Paul Tummolo, Supervisor of The Cooper Union Audio-Visual Resource Access Center oversaw the upgrading of the AV systems, digital projectors, microphones, video cameras and a system for assisted listening devices for the hearing impaired.

The Great Hall was formally reopened by President Campbell on March 3 on the occasion of the inaugural lecture of the Institute for Sustainable Design at The Cooper Union. Beautifully refurbished, but visually familiar, The Great Hall is now well equipped to continue its tradition as a site for lectures and performances of historic importance.

## Rose Auditorium Seat Naming

The Cooper Union's Frederick P. Rose Auditorium will provide a superb new space for public programs that serve New York City, including conferences, lectures and seminars for the academic community. Multimedia enabled and perfectly situated adjacent to the Gallery and the Menschel Board Room, the Rose Auditorium will be the focal point for a full program of internal and external events.

It is now possible to make your mark on this lively and innovative space by "naming" one of the 198 seats. The possibilities—and benefits—of naming a chair are many: honor a friend or relative, memorialize a family member or classmate, give an unusual and original birthday or graduation gift, and demonstrate your support for The Cooper Union in a tangible and recognized way.

For more information, please contact Claire Michie at 212.353.4171 or michie@cooper.edu.

## 41 Cooper Square Sneak Peek Event

On Wednesday, February 11, The Cooper Union hosted a "Sneak Peek" event for members of the Board of Trustees and President's Council along with major building fund donors and friends to preview our new academic building before it opens to the public later this year. Taking advantage of a great opportunity to talk with project principles including architect Thom Mayne, and see the amazing construction progress first hand, approximately 200 guests enjoyed refreshments in our new gallery and tours throughout the building led by members of the construction management team. The first official event of The Cooper Union's 150th Anniversary Celebration, the Sneak Peek also served as an opportunity to unveil the college's new institutional identity.

Cooper building leadership team, from left: Robert Hawks, Peter Samton, Frank Sciame, Jordan Gruzen, Thom Mayne, George Campbell Jr., Jonathan Rose, Ronni Denes and Ronald W. Drucker (CE'62)



Above: Sciame's Ryan Murphy leading a tour of 41 Cooper Square



Above, right: Architect Thom Mayne talks with Sneak Peek guests. Looking on are trustees William Sandholm (CE'63), Chair of the college's Master Planning Committee and Marc Appleton.



Right: Pavel Getov, Jean Oei, Silvia Kuhle and Natalia Traverso Carvana of Morphosis offer a toast

## New Lifetime Giving Society Named for Sarah Amelia Hewitt

On Wednesday, November 19, 2008, President George Campbell Jr. and members of The Cooper Union's Board of Trustees hosted the founding members of a newly established lifetime giving society—The Sarah Amelia Hewitt Society.

Sarah Amelia Hewitt (1830-1912) was the daughter of Peter Cooper. She married Abram S. Hewitt in 1855, and together they were influential in the world of public service. Sarah Amelia shared her husband's dedication, as an economic and civic leader, to uncompromising excellence and access to education. The Society that bears her name celebrates the many individuals and families whose lifetime support of The Cooper Union has reached \$100,000 or more. The College is deeply indebted to the many members of its lifetime giving societies and The Cooper Union was pleased that many of the 85 inaugural members of The Sarah Amelia Hewitt Society attended this very special event held in their honor.



From left: Samantha Karpinski, Sara Nerken, Simon Ben-Avi, Robert Karpinski



## Family Visits: 41 Cooper Square

### Daughter of Engineering School Benefactor Visits New Building

On Friday, March 27, together with husband Robert Karpinski and high-school-student daughter Samantha, Sara Nerken toured 41 Cooper Square, accompanied by Associate Dean of Engineering Simon Ben-Avi. The new academic building will house The Albert Nerken School of Engineering named for Sara's father, once it moves from the old Engineering Building in Astor Place.

Albert Nerken (ChE'33), who expressed his deep gratitude to The Cooper Union by making an extraordinary gift to name the School of Engineering in the late 1980s, was co-founder in 1945 of Veeco Instruments Inc. (Vacuum Electronic Engineering Corporation), now a leading global provider of metrology and process equipment solutions. But as Sara told us, her father was virtually penniless when he attended the college. In fact, she said, on schooldays, his parents allotted him just 10 cents for roundtrip subway fare and another nickel for coffee.

All three members of the Nerken-Karpinski family were fascinated with the building—and they were particularly interested in the eighth-floor Green Roof, because it turns out that Albert, besides being an outstanding engineer and amazing entrepreneur, was an amateur horticulturalist, and someone who, way ahead of his time, experimented in his home's basement and backyard with organic chemical compounds and gardening techniques. It is therefore fitting that the Green Roof adjoins the Alumni Roof Terrace, where Albert will be recognized on a paver.

### Cooper Alumnus and Trustee Stanley Lapidus Tours 41 Cooper Square

Stanley Lapidus (EE'70) with his wife Ruth, his two sons and daughters-in-law, visited from New Hampshire to see 41 Cooper Square on Friday, April 17. Stan, an alumnus and member of The Cooper Union's Board of Trustees since 2002, was an early proponent of, and one of the lead donors to, the new academic building.

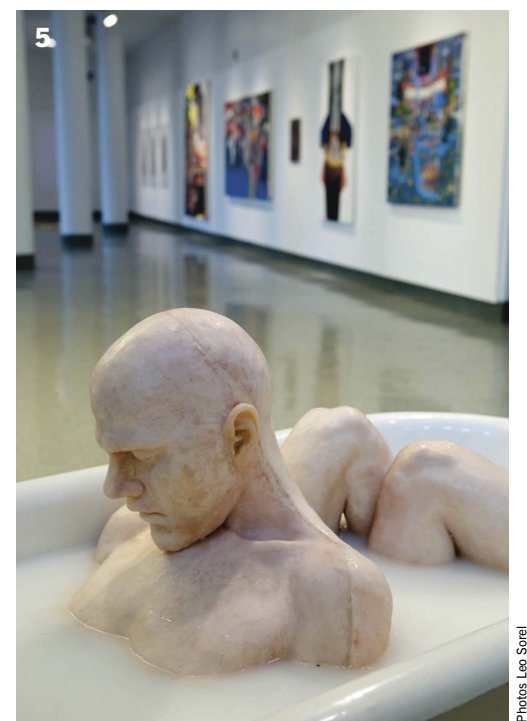
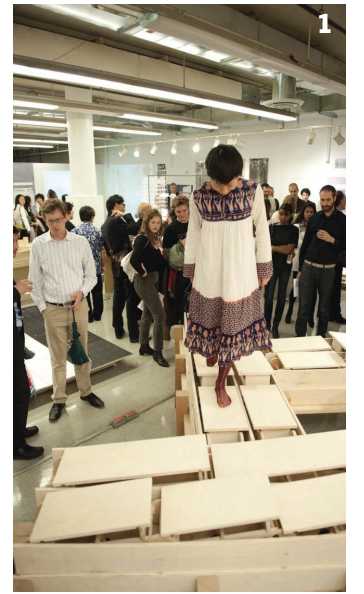
Stan's extraordinary generosity is being recognized in the Ruth and Stanley N. Lapidus EE'70 Laboratory, a state-of-the-art lab on the east side of the seventh floor, as well as on the Alumni Roof Terrace. Two large faculty offices on the northwest corners of the third and fourth floors will be named in honor of his sons David and Joel.

Stan is founder and chairman of Helicos BioSciences Corporation, a Cambridge, Massachusetts-based life science company focused on innovative genetic analysis technologies for research, drug discovery and diagnostic markets. Earlier in his career at Cytoc Corporation, a company he also founded, he invented the breakthrough ThinPrep Pap Test, the most widely used procedure in the United States today to detect cervical cancer.

Stan notes, "Four decades ago, when I attended The Cooper Union, the study of life sciences was in its infancy and not part of the engineering curriculum. Nonetheless, the rigor and flexibility of my education enabled me to move in that direction and have the good fortune to be able to contribute to healthcare and cancer prevention."

From left: Stanley Lapidus with his spouse Ruth, daughter-in-law Michelle, sons David and Joel, and daughter-in-law Tiffany

# Art, Architecture and Engineering Students Mount End of Year Exhibition '09



1) A performance view of Jun Hayatsu's (AR'09) project *Kantan*, a reinterpretation of the *noh* theater. Pictured, Hayatsu is performing on a sound-making stage she designed and built.

2) Design II Studio Class Project "Terra-Tectonics; small scale architectural proposals for an imaginary site"

3) Abigail Nedelka (A'09)

4) Dmitri Hertz (A'09) and Alex DeCarli (A'09)

5) Andrew Francis (A'09)

6) The Cooper Motorsports Team's Formula SAE racer. The team's graduating members this year include Adam Vaughan (MME'09), Dennis Robertson, James Cole-Henry, Mark Baldissarroto, Burak Kanber, Anina Stanton (all ME'09) and Kwame Wright (EE'09).

# The Cooper Union at 150

## 41 COOPER SQUARE



Iwan Baan



### New Building to Open Doors in September

The construction of 41 Cooper Square, The Cooper Union's first new academic building in half a century, is virtually complete, just a little more than two years after the official groundbreaking on May 7, 2007—a brilliantly sunny day that was most auspicious for the enterprise. It is truly remarkable that this architecturally extraordinary, technologically innovative and environmentally advanced nine-story building, with two additional floors below grade, will be filled with students and faculty on the first day of fall semester classes—September 8.

41 Cooper Square was designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Thom Mayne and his Santa Monica, California-headquartered firm, Morphosis Architects, supported by New York City-based Gruzen Samton Architects and built under the guidance of F.J. Sciamé Construction Company. The unique stainless-steel-mesh exterior, pierced by windows on the front façade opening onto the dramatic, full-height atrium within, is complete. The elevators are running; the sensor-triggered lights turn on when people walk into rooms; the laboratories have been fitted out; furniture has been built in and the interior has been painted a special Cooper Union white. Signage identifying the myriad spaces and recognizing the many very generous donors who have made the building possible is being fabricated and installed. The moving company is transferring laboratory equipment out of the old Engineering Building and into the its new home.

The completion of 41 Cooper Square was timed to mark the 150th anniversary of The Cooper Union's existence—and it has given us a running start on our next century and a half as one the nation's most esteemed institutes of higher education.

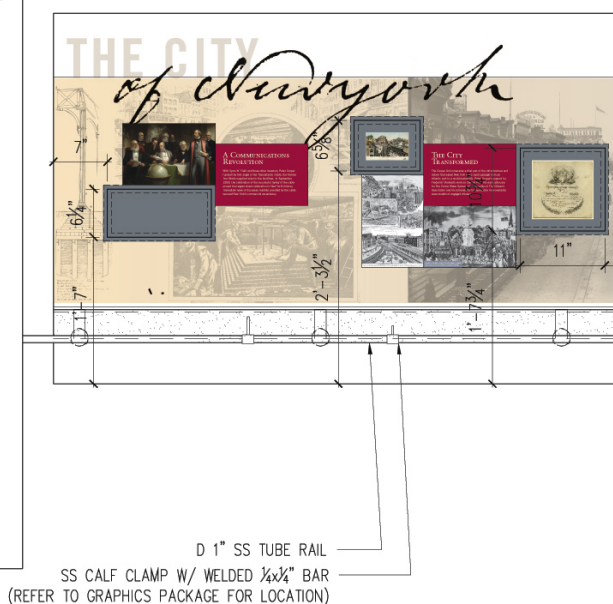
# GREAT



Mario Morgado



Juliana Thomas





# HALL



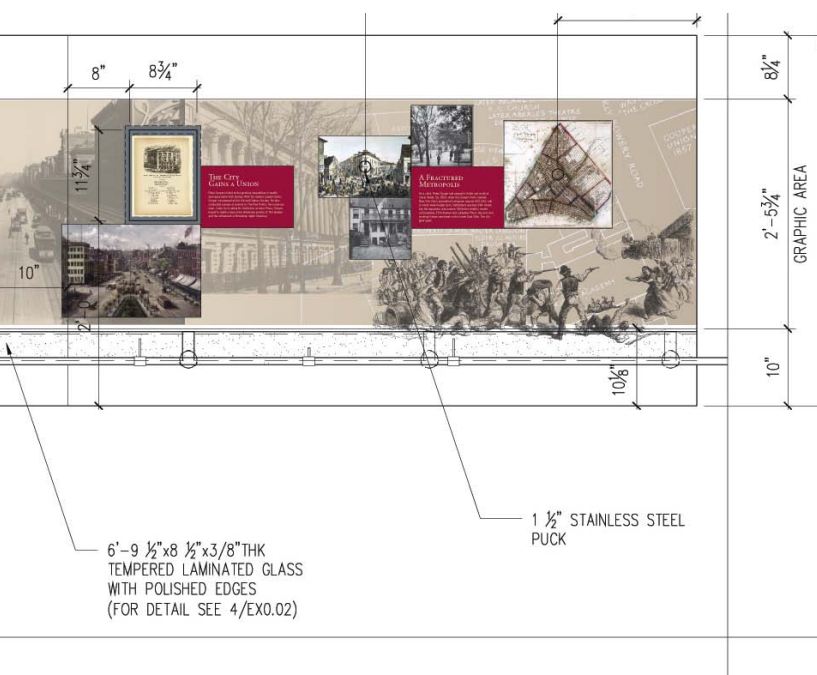
Edward Reed

It was 100 years ago that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, or NAACP, the bellwether civil rights organization, held its first public meeting in The Great Hall of The Cooper Union. The organization returned to The Great Hall on Tuesday, June 9, to be honored by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Cooper Union President George Campbell Jr., who presented a commemorative plaque to NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous, Vice-Chair Roslyn Brock and New York State Conference of Branches President Hazel N. Dukes (not pictured). The NAACP used the occasion to announce its 100th anniversary to be celebrated at its annual conference in June.

Above left: President Barack Obama at The Great Hall delivering an address on the economy on March 27, 2008.

Left: Actor David Strathairn in "Abolition & Civil Rights: An Evening Commemorating the Role of The Cooper Union's Great Hall in Advancing Social Justice in America," the first in an eight-part series of Great Evenings in The Great Hall.

Below: A rendering of The Great Hall Exhibition, that presents the story of The Cooper Union, its origins in the values adamantly held by Peter Cooper, and its historical promotion of the democratic ideals of free education, social justice, philanthropy and civic virtue. The Great Hall's hallmark role in advancing The Cooper Union's ideals is emphasized, as are the adaptations the institution has embraced in continuing its leadership in public service. The exhibition was designed by the Lee H. Skolnick Architecture + Design Partnership, under the direction of Lee Skolnick (AR'79), and will be fabricated by the Foundations Group, under the guidance of Saif Sumaida (AR'92). The project is also receiving support from Trustee Mark Epstein (A'76). Other parties involved in the exhibition making include Peter Buckley, David Greenstein, Steven Hillyer (AR'90), Claire McCarthy, Ronni Denes, Carol Salomon and Jolene Travis. The exhibit is scheduled to open on September 15.



## 150TH CELEBRATION SCHEDULE 2009–2010

### February 2009 Opening Events

- 2/11 Sneak Peek: Hard Hat Tour and Reception for Major Donors  
41 Cooper Square
- 2/12 150th Anniversary Launch, Peter Cooper's 218th Birthday Wreath Laying Ceremony  
Introduction of the New Institutional Identity

### March

- 3/16 150th Anniversary Phonathon Begins  
Annual Fund Challenge

### April

- 4/17 150th Anniversary Founder's Day Dinner Dance  
Alumni Hall of Fame Dedication
- 4/21 Great Evening in The Great Hall: Abolition and Civil Rights  
(first in a series of eight)

### May

- 5/19 Great Evening in The Great Hall: Electoral Politics
- 5/26 150th Anniversary  
Annual Student Exhibition Opens
- 5/27 150th Anniversary Commencement

### September

- 9/12 Alumni Roof Terrace Dedication  
41 Cooper Square
- 9/15 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony  
41 Cooper Square
- 9/15 Opening of The Great Hall Exhibition
- 9/17 Great Evening in The Great Hall: Workers Rights

### October

- 10/15 Great Evening in The Great Hall: Science and Technology
- 10/24 All Cooper ReUnion

### November

- 11/2 150th Anniversary Urban Visionaries  
Award Dinner & Silent Art Auction
- 11/19 Great Evening in The Great Hall: Women's Suffrage

### December

- 12/1 Great Evening in The Great Hall: Art and Literature

### January 2010

- 1/21 Great Evening in The Great Hall: Radical Politics

### February

- 2/25 150th Anniversary Closing Event  
Final Great Evening in The Great Hall: Abraham Lincoln's "Right Makes Might" on the 150th Anniversary of the Speech

### Events to watch for

- Sesquicentennial Distinguished Lectures:  
Benjamin Menschel | Rudin/Schaffner
- Dedication Ceremonies for Named Spaces in  
41 Cooper Square and The Foundation Building
- Albert Nerken School of Engineering Symposium
- School of Art Exhibition and Symposium
- The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture Exhibition and Symposium
- Humanities and Social Sciences Symposium
- A Day at Cooper Union—Classes for Alumni and Friends
- Alumni Film Screenings

For further information, see [www.cooper.edu](http://www.cooper.edu) or call 212.353.4100

**SAVE THE DATE : TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH**

## FOR THE OFFICIAL RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

TO COMMEMORATE THE OPENING OF THE COOPER UNION'S NEW ACADEMIC BUILDING  
41 COOPER SQUARE  
FESTIVITIES BEGIN AT NOON  
THIRD AVENUE & EAST 7TH STREET



# Seeing the World through the Eyes of Ashley Bryan, Storyteller

**A**shley Bryan (A'46), a dignified white-haired man with a matching white moustache, stands holding a book in his hand, in front of a group of children. He starts speaking, a gravelly voice emanating from his thin frame. "This is a story about a little boy with a very long name," he says quietly. This is when everything changes. Bryan moves forward, punctuating the next line physically, moving his arms almost as if he were conducting an orchestra. "Once," he says, the word spinning out, starting out quiet, and taking flight with the rest of the sentence, "the little boy, he had a very long name." Each word has a unique sound, sometimes echoing and emphasizing the word's meaning, as when he stretches out "long." Bryan barely looks at the book, *Turtle Knows Your Name*, though he holds it open as he speaks. "His name was," he continues, and then singsongs the next syllables: "Up-sili-ma-na." His free hand marks the rhythm, his bent knees click in time with it. "Can you say that?" he asks, a sudden serious tone emerging in his voice; The kids gleefully respond, copying his phrasing, "Up-sili-ma-na!" The story unfolds with a collection of sounds, sometimes percussive, sometimes gentle, that can't be read from the page—Bryan snaps his fingers and modulates his voice from high to low, soft to loud, while he encourages his audience to clap, putting his hand to his ear when he wants them to repeat after him. His story fills the space with sound and movement; Bryan doesn't just read a story, he creates a world through his performance of it.

Bryan, an acclaimed illustrator and author best known for his retelling of African tales, has just won the prestigious 2009 Laura Ingalls Wilder Award for his lifetime contribution to children's literature. He explains that, "we don't have a performance aspect to our poetry in Western culture." It is just this element that his work has sought to introduce.

In a way, it's hardly surprising that he has chosen this route, which heavily emphasizes the importance of community (a performance, of course, necessitates an audience): throughout his long life—he was born in 1923—Bryan has been sustained by the various communities of which he is a part. "I have such a reverence for others, for what they have to offer," he says, "I always feel that I am in the other's debt." He quotes a line from Senegalese poet Léopold Sédar Senghor: *Je ne sais en quel temps c'était, je confonds toujours l'enfance et l'Eden—Comme je mêle la Mort et la Vie—un pont de douceur les relie...* He translates this as "I didn't know when it was, I always confuse the past and future, the way I mix up death and life—they are connected only by a tender bridge." Bryan says that for him, storytelling is this tender bridge, not only connecting past and future, but connecting people. "This is why stories are at the heart of civilization."

As a child, he was nurtured by his parents' inclusive style, where the lines between 'family' and 'community' were blurred. He lived with five sisters and brothers, as well as three orphaned cousins, whom his parents had adopted; and Bryan's mother



Left: An illustration from *Beautiful Blackbird* (2003)

Below, top: Ashley Bryan as a student at The Cooper Union.

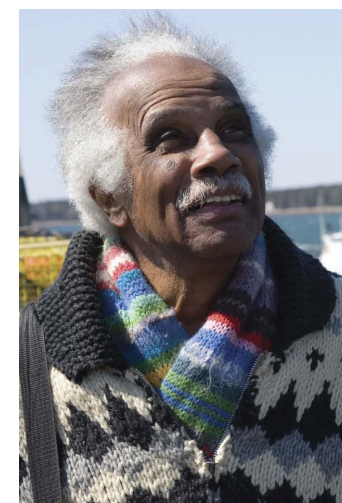
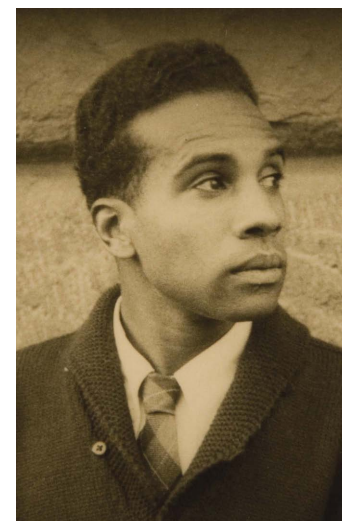
Below, bottom: Ashley Bryan in 2008

would consider any good friend of his as one of her own children. This inclusivity was echoed in his Bronx neighborhood and its many ethnic groups: as he puts it, “there were Germans, Italians, Irish, French and a great Jewish community in my neighborhood.” Growing up in this atmosphere, Bryan accepted diversity as the norm. Nothing strange then, when he and two of his siblings let his parents know that they wanted to attend the beautiful church next to his elementary school. “We told our parents that we wanted to go to the church where the bells ring on Sunday morning, with the beautiful stained glass windows, so that was where we went.” He laughs wholeheartedly at the memory. “It turned out to be a German Lutheran church, and it had services in German and English. We didn’t know it at the time, but it turned out that we were the first black family to enter that church. But the superintendent took us into the primary department.”

Bryan sees it as natural that he became an artist, partially thanks to his parents, but also because of the era in which he grew up. His parents, who had moved to New York City from Antigua, both had a love of beauty and education. But there was an equal insistence upon self-sufficiency, because there were so many kids in the household. “My parents simply said,” he pauses for a moment, and then, his voice deepening, booms, “learn to entertain yourselves!” As luck would have it, the upside of growing up during the Depression was that Roosevelt’s Works Program Administration (WPA) program was in full

swing, so many of Bryan’s teachers were artists and musicians. Entertaining himself meant drawing and painting; it also meant going over to the elderly people in his neighborhood, as they sat on their park benches, and asking to hear stories. “They’d seen so much,” he explains, “at the turn of the century and after the First World War, and I was fascinated.” In kindergarten, Bryan’s teacher underlined the importance of creativity when she had them make illustrated books of the alphabet. “You’ve now published your first limited edition,” she told the kids. Bryan sees this as a seminal moment; from here on in, he would continually make illustrated books, in addition to his paintings and drawings.

Bryan had continued to flourish during his time at Theodore Roosevelt High School, and decided to apply to art college. It was here that racism had its first major impact on him. He applied to one of the best-known art school’s at the time, but they would not give him a scholarship; he was told that “this is the best portfolio we have seen, but it would be a waste to give a scholarship to a colored person.” Bryan doesn’t mention the word ‘racism,’ but in an understated way, says, “So that was my introduction to *that*.” This isn’t to say that he didn’t think of himself as black; yet, he had managed largely to avoid the scourge of racism because of the strong groundwork put in place by his parents and his extended community. “I had grown up knowing I was black, and that I was part of the black community. But, all of my teachers were white, from elementary





A view of Ashley Bryan's studio

to high school, and all of them encouraged me and helped me build that strong portfolio.” That robust community was there for him and cultivated a resiliency in him, an ability to look at difficult situations and instead of running away, to question them. “When I went back to Theodore Roosevelt and told my teachers what had happened, they said, ‘look, Ashley, come back and take a postgraduate course with us, and develop your portfolio, work on the senior yearbook, take whatever classes you’d like, and in the summer, take the exam for The Cooper Union. They do not *see* you there.” He worked hard, and took the exam that summer. “I was fortunate,” Bryan says simply. “You just put your work on the tray with your name and address, and left The Great Hall.” However, he also notes that he was the only black person in his class.

Bryan began attending The Cooper Union in 1940. And, at Cooper, Bryan found a similar sense of community to that of his childhood. At 86, he has seen the passing away of many of his classmates. But, it’s clear that he’s delighted in the friendships he made there. “I made friends for life at Cooper—we’ve followed each other and supported each other’s work. Of course, of my generation, there are few who are still alive and I’m still close to them: Al and Lotte Blaustein, John Ross and his wife Clare Romano. I hold to them.”

Before he could complete his studies at Cooper, Bryan was drafted into the US Army. World War II was being waged in Europe, and he was sent to fight in France in 1942. When he returned to New York in 1946, he was left terribly unsettled by the experience: “I came back and finished the degree at Cooper, but like most veterans, I was so spun around. I found that I couldn’t go straight on with painting.” Like his earlier experience with racism, though, he couldn’t just accept the horrors of war. He felt he needed to understand what had happened in Germany during the war. “I wanted to understand why we select war, even though we know the tragedies and destruction that come with it. So I thought philosophy would give me some answers.” He attended Columbia University, where he earned a degree in philosophy, but found that it couldn’t give him all the answers he needed, so he returned to Europe, at first spending a year in Aix-en-Provence, in southern France, under the GI Bill. From there he moved on to Freiburg, Germany, with a Fulbright. “Remember,” he says, “my closest friends whom I’d grown up with and who I was still really close to were German, from the German Lutheran Church. I asked myself why they were different from the people in Germany. And what I came to understand is that when people are under dictatorial force, when they

know that their jobs, their families and their lives are in danger if they go by their conscience, they often feed into what the demand is.”

“We are all human,” Bryan sums up quietly. “I’ve seen this as a pattern throughout the world, one group against the other, one religion against another, one ethnicity against another; so it’s universal. But there’s also equally a universal desire to express a relationship to what is human in each of us. The desire is so strong.” He pauses momentarily. “The arts are our weapon,” he continues, “because just as we are all human, so we are all responsive aesthetically to *being* human. It’s what the arts open up; this investing of one’s life into trying to understand what it is to *be*.”

This is the philosophy that wends through Bryan’s life and work, linking them inextricably together.

Back in the United States, Bryan was teaching at various times at Queen’s College-CUNY and Lafayette College in Pennsylvania, and finally at Dartmouth College (where he remained until 1986). He also had a studio on Tremont Avenue in the Bronx. His interest in stories and cultures led him to reading African folktales, and preparing illustrations for them, in addition to his painting and teaching work. In the early 1960s, Jean Karl, who was an editor at Atheneum (a Simon & Schuster imprint) heard about Bryan and came to his studio. He thought she was there to see his paintings, but she was also intrigued by the African folktale prints he had been making. She didn’t say much, but the next day, a contract arrived. “And that,” he says, understated once again, “is how I moved from my early limited editions to publishing on a wider scale.”

And so, in 1965, when an article by Nancy Larrick came out in the *Saturday Review of Books* entitled “The All White World of Children’s Books,” Bryan was ideally positioned to use his art as a way to overcome this inequity. It took a while to develop the work, as he wasn’t pleased with the stilted way in which the folktales had been translated—often just word for word in an attempt by linguists and anthropologists to record the hundreds of languages that they encountered. Karl encouraged him to rewrite them in his own style. He realized that the oral tradition, which is so lacking in the poetry of Western culture, was what he was after. “I went to the black American poets, because that was the voice I was after for these stories,” he explains. He also drew on the other oral traditions he had encountered in his travels, from French and Indian folktales, to black American spirituals, as well as his own experiences as a child in the 1930s, listening to the stories of his family and neighbors in the Bronx. He used the cadences of the spoken word to bring the stories alive, bouncing off the bright colors of his illustrations. Not only did Bryan’s oral storytelling act as a ‘tender bridge’ between his young listeners and an African history of which they were all too often unaware, but it also linked reading with enjoyment, and equally importantly, with a sense of belonging. Book and performance are of equal importance, he says: “I always hold the book, so that no matter what my voice does, the children can see the link to the book.”

He published the first of the African folktales, *The Ox of the Wonderful Horns and Other African Folktales*, in 1971, and many more followed, including several illustrated books of black American spirituals, as well as the ever-popular *Beautiful Blackbird* in 2004.

Bryan’s sense of community continues to inform his life, and he has added community after community to his family. He has been living on Little Cranberry Isle off the coast of Maine for decades; he has an open door policy and happily welcomes visitors whether he knows them personally or not. He had originally started spending summers there in 1946 when he was awarded a place at the newly opened Skowhegan School of Art in Maine. But, never one to stay in one place for very long, he also spends time in Antigua and is constantly travelling. For example, he recently returned from a trip to Kenya, where he has been going for the past ten years. There, he worked with Kemi Nix, of Atlanta’s Westminster School, who runs a reading program for disadvantaged children. Bryan was so impressed by the lengths the children would go to for their education in one poor rural town north of Nairobi, walking anywhere from one to six miles each way to attend school, that he decided to raise funds to open a library, in collaboration with Charity Mwangi, one of the women who had invited Nix to her school, Mount Kenya Academy Primary, to run the reading program.

Despite the many obstacles he has overcome and the hardship that he has known, Bryan is remarkably upbeat, though always realistic. “We only have *now*,” he says. “So we have to make the most of the present.” It’s only in this moment—this moment, which is the tender bridge—Bryan feels, that we have the opportunity to seek meaningful interactions with each other. “Man has reached a point where there is huge potential for devastation and destruction,” he says. “So we must then try to tap what is meaningful in us, to find some spirit of what it is to be peaceful as human beings and to live and to create within that.” By telling his stories in a way that not only emphasizes the idea of community, but indeed relies upon it, Bryan has ensured that these tender bridges we build are a great deal stronger.

*Ashley Bryan’s autobiography, Words to My Life’s Song, was published in January of 2009 by Atheneum. He has been awarded the Coretta Scott King Award numerous times for his children’s literature, and in 2008, he was honored as a Library Lion by the New York Public Library, along with playwright Edward Albee, screenwriter and essayist Nora Ephorn and novelist Salman Rushdie. He has received two lifetime achievement awards, most recently the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award in 2009 for his substantial contribution to children’s literature, as well as the Arbuthnot Prize in 1990.*

**“The arts are our weapon, because just as we are all human, so we are all responsive aesthetically to being human. It’s what the arts open up; this investing of one’s life into trying to understand what it is to be.”**

# Nancy Yieh: Making Her Mark



**A**s vice president of gas operations at Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Nancy Yieh (ME'79) is responsible for the vast underground network that delivers gas to more than one million customers in Manhattan, Queens, the Bronx and Westchester County. In all, she oversees approximately 600 employees and 7,200 miles of gas mains and service pipes. Yet Yieh can't simply be summed up by impressive facts and figures. Her life and 30-year career at Con Edison have been distinguished by a litany of pioneering accomplishments: she studied engineering in an era when few women worked in the field; she was the first female gas distribution service section manager at Con Edison; she is one of a few female utility company executives in the U.S.; and she was the first female Asian-American engineer to be named vice president of a major utility.

In 1985, Yieh also became one of the first women in New York City to receive a stationary engineer's license, which means she is qualified by the city to operate a high-pressure boiler. "When I got my license," she says, "the clerk called everyone in the office over, shook my hand, and said I was the first woman he'd seen receive the stationary engineer's license." Modest to a fault, Yieh is quick to brush such accolades aside. "But these are just little things," she says with a laugh. "I'm also the first power generation maintenance supervisor to have gotten pregnant."


Yieh's is one of the myriad untold stories that make up the fabric of New York City. Like so many New Yorkers, she was deeply affected by the events of 9/11.

Unlike most New Yorkers, her profession gave her the opportunity to participate firsthand in the emergency response. In the aftermath of the attack on her lifelong hometown, the response of the company to which she has dedicated her professional life ranks as one of her proudest moments. "Con Edison did a lot during the emergency to try to make the area safe," she says. "If we hadn't gotten the gas and electric shut off, the disaster could have been even worse. After nine days of 12 hour shifts, we were getting ready to stand down, and on the last day I was supposed to be on duty, I got the call that we were needed to assist with the removal of debris from the site. The call came in, my partner downtown asked how many dump trucks I had, how many drivers I had and how quickly I could get down there. I called my people to the yard, and when I got there, I saw the American flag we had put up, my dump truck drivers and my dump trucks all lined up in convoy fashion and my two planners with checklists of what they needed to do. I remember seeing the planner give the sign to go, and they all took off. Not one of my people complained; I can't say enough about the people who work for me."

Yieh appreciates her employees because she understands what they do. Before being named vice president of gas operations in 2004, Yieh worked for 25 years in a variety of areas within Con Edison—power generation, construction, substation operations and gas. In power generation, she spent nine years in the operations and maintenance areas as a first-line supervisor and planner overseeing the maintenance and overhaul of boilers and turbines. In the construction area, Yieh oversaw major projects at generating stations when Con Edison switched to natural gas as the major fuel, which necessitated the installation of new pipes and controls. In substation operations, the electric transmission side of the business, Yieh was responsible for the operation and maintenance of four transmission substations in the Bronx. In the gas area, she initially oversaw the maintenance of Con Edison's gas lines in the Bronx and Westchester County; today she is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the entire system.

While Yieh represents a number of firsts for women at Con Edison, she says gender was never a determining factor in her career. "My philosophy is that I wouldn't ask anyone to do anything I wouldn't do myself," she says. "I think you have to prove yourself."

Before she proved herself in the field, Yieh had to prove herself in the classroom. When she entered The Cooper Union in the mid-1970s, engineering wasn't a field traditionally pursued by women. "I knew that few women went into engineering, but one of the things I was looking for



**"My philosophy is that I wouldn't ask anyone to do anything I wouldn't do myself. I think you have to prove yourself."**



Photos courtesy of Con Edison

was an unusual job,” she says. “I didn’t want to go to law school or medical school, and I wanted to do something that someone else hadn’t done. I didn’t want to be part of the masses—I wanted to make a mark.”

“My mother wanted me to go to secretarial school,” she says with a laugh, “but I was terrible in shorthand.”

As a child growing up in the Flushing section of Queens, Yieh was surrounded by a family of engineers. She describes herself as a practical child who enjoyed math and science—so it was natural, she says, that she would gravitate to the engineering field. At Flushing High School, she utilized the city’s executive internship program to work for a semester at the Department of Sanitation. She admits it wasn’t the most glamorous job, but the experience enabled her to see firsthand all aspects of the business—including some project management and engineering design.

After high school, engineering school was the next logical step. Yieh says she chose The Cooper Union because of its reputation as a top engineering school—and for the tuition-free education.

Of the 100 or so students in Yieh’s entering class, about 10 percent were women. Of the 16 that graduated with a concentration in mechanical engineering, about 25 percent were women. She says the curriculum was rigorous, and to survive, you had to have a real passion for the subject matter. “I remember Professor Stecker, who was the first professor we were exposed to,” says Yieh. “He told us that 10 percent of us were going to fail the first year, and another 10 percent were going to fail in the second year—it was very intimidating.” She also recalls Professor Chinitz, who was the chair of the mechanical engineering department. “Professor Chinitz was tough, but very fair,” she says. “I enjoyed his classes—even the ones where I got Cs.”

“Cooper Union gives you discipline, which helps you get through tough times once you get out of school. The engineering background I got there gave me the ability to develop technical proficiency in any of the areas at Con Edison.”

When she graduated in 1979, Yieh received a handful of job offers. She chose Con Edison because she was partial to the energy field; thermodynamics and gas dynamics—classes she took with Professor Chinitz—were areas that she particularly enjoyed. Con Edison also had jobs available in the field at the time, so Yieh knew she wouldn’t be trapped in an office, would be meeting a lot of people and would be doing a lot of major construction work.

In choosing to work for Con Edison, Yieh was also continuing the longstanding and extensive connection between The Cooper Union and the utility. Hudson Searing (Eng’16) and John Cleary (EE’25) were presidents of Con Edison, and Kevin Burke (EE’72), is the company’s current chairman and CEO. Cooper Union president Dr. George Campbell Jr. is a member of Con Edison’s board of directors. The school and the utility also collaborate on a number of education partnerships.

Like The Cooper Union, Con Edison has a storied history in New York City. Long before the Con Edison that New Yorkers know today, there was the New York Gas Light Company, which provided gas to street lights in Lower Manhattan beginning in 1823. In 1884, six gas providers in New York City

merged to form the Consolidated Gas Company of New York. In 1936, after taking over several gas, electric and steam companies in New York City and Westchester County, the Consolidated Gas Company became the Consolidated Edison Company of New York.

Today, Consolidated Edison Company of New York is the principal subsidiary of Consolidated Edison, Inc., which also operates Orange and Rockland Utilities, Con Edison Solutions, Con Edison Energy and Con Edison Development.

Overseeing Con Edison’s gas operations is an immense responsibility—mainly because the potential for an incident is always present. “Energy is a commodity that is dangerous,” says Yieh, “and you have to do your best to deliver it in a safe, reliable way. New Yorkers want their lights on all the time and they want to be able to turn their stoves on at any time. You can’t compromise safety for reliability, and you have to make sure that you are giving customers what they want.”

As with any company these days, environmental concerns are a priority. “We’ve always looked for better ways to deliver energy with respect to the environment, with respect to safety and with respect to reliability,” says Yieh. “For example, in terms of the environment, we’re looking at our fleet of cars—while it might be a little more expensive, we’re switching to hybrid vehicles. Cost is an issue, but sometimes just a little extra cost will do more for the environment and the good of the people.”

“Energy conservation is something that we have always preached—it’s just getting a lot of attention now. A big thing for us is trying not to release gas to the atmosphere. That means when we fix leaks, rather than blowing off gas to the atmosphere, we try to recapture it and put it back into the pipe.”

Outside of Con Edison, Yieh is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Society of Gas Lighters, and serves on the Northeast Gas Association’s Operations managing committee. She is also on the board of directors of Asian Women in Business, a non-profit organization that provide resources, such as education, to Asian women entrepreneurs. Along with providing workshops and networking sessions for people who want to start their own businesses, the organization offers a mentoring program for women in the corporate sector.

Yieh takes a lot of pride in her involvement with Asian Women in Business—an involvement that embodies her belief in the importance of continuing volunteer activities throughout one’s career. It is not surprising then that when looking back over her career, despite all of her accomplishments, Yieh takes the most satisfaction in the instances when she was able to help others. “Way back when I was a first-line supervisor in the power generation group, we had a lot of people working for us—and sometimes things can get a little impersonal,” she says. “Sometimes people needed recommendation letters to get promoted. I remember this one kid who had worked for me and was fabulous; I wrote him a letter for promotion, and he remembered it. A couple of years later, when he was leaving the company for another job, he came up to me and thanked me for it. That’s what is important—I think I made a difference in his life.”



## Alumni Association President's Column

**Carmi Bee  
(AR'67)**



Leo Sorel

# Alumni News

### Dear Cooper Colleagues,

It is hard to believe that the two years of my term as president of the Alumni Association have gone so quickly. Since this will be my last column, I would like to summarize some of the accomplishments of the Alumni Association during the past two years. The entire list of activities and changes that have occurred over this period are too numerous to include in their entirety, so I have selected a representation of the more significant ones.

**Alumni Hall of Fame:** In conjunction with the 150th Anniversary Celebration of The Cooper Union, the CUAA took a leadership role in developing an Alumni Hall of Fame of distinguished alumni. The Hall of Fame was dedicated at the 2009 Founder's Day Dinner Dance on April 17 with an initial list of 150 names. Others will be added over time. This effort was led by Director of Alumni Relations, Susan Moyle Lynch; with the active participation of Vice President for External Affairs Ronni Denes; Deans Eleanor Baum, Saskia Bos, and Anthony Vidler; Associate Dean Elizabeth O'Donnell; school archivist Carol Salomon; alumni Marilyn Hoffner (A'48) and Al Greenberg (A'48).

**Fundraising:** The phonathon surpassed its goal this year by reaching a record of nearly \$500,000 for the Annual Fund. This was achieved under the leadership of Co-chairs of the Annual Fund committee Kathryn McGraw Berry (AR'80) and Robert Tan (AR'81).

**Communications:** Utilizing the latest technologies was a goal instituted by my predecessor, Don Toman (EE'55) and has been a continuing focus of the Association. Upgrading the CUAA website is a continuing effort with the assistance of our consultant Harris Connect.

Through the efforts of Karina Tipton (CE'99) we also have a Wiki Discussion Group used by the Editorial committee.

**Goal Setting:** Under the leadership of John Leeper (AR'85) the Council instituted a process for setting goals for future activities. This process occurred over a number of meetings and brought members of the Council into active participation in setting its goals.

**Events:** The CUAA hosted about 35 alumni events in each of the past two years. In addition to a regular schedule of annual events, we held regional meetings that took place in Albany, Los Angeles, Raleigh-Durham, Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Israel, Chicago and Houston.

Plans are in the works for a sesquicentennial year All Cooper ReUnion on October 24, during which alumni from all class years will be invited to a "blow out" celebration in the new academic building at 41 Cooper Square replete with music, food and renewed friendships.

**Participation:** An organization such as the CUAA is only as strong as its present and future leaders. With this in mind, over the last two years we have made a concerted effort to attract current students and younger alumni to assume active roles in the Association. This has been done through inviting student representatives to Council meetings, On The Rooftop, networking socials, Mock Interview Night and Engineering Career Evening among other events.

None of this would have been possible without numerous committed colleagues. These include members of the Alumni Council, the Executive Committee, Past Presidents, chairs of individual committees, staff of the Alumni Relations Office and the support of The Cooper Union administration.

I would also like to thank The Board of Trustees, which I have worked with for the last six years—four as an Alumni Trustee and the last two as President of the Alumni Association—for so graciously allowing me a voice in its activities. It was especially satisfying to be part of this group during a time of dramatic change and achievement.

Thank you all for according me the honor of serving as your leader over the last two years. I look forward to continuing my involvement under the leadership of MaryAnn Nichols (A'68), our new Association President.

## All Cooper ReUnion Set for October 24th

As part of The Cooper Union's 150th Anniversary celebration, The Cooper Union Alumni Association will host an All Cooper ReUnion for alumni of all classes on Saturday, October 24. Return to the school to see what has changed since you were a student or were last here! Tours of the new academic building at 41 Cooper Square, music and good food will welcome you. Join your class members for a reunion like no other. For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at [alumni@cooper.edu](mailto:alumni@cooper.edu).

## Founder's Day Dinner Dance

**M**ore than 270 alumni, students and other members of The Cooper Union community celebrated Peter Cooper's 218th birthday and the 150th Anniversary of the school at the Founder's Day Dinner Dance on April 17. The Ritz-Carlton New York, Battery Park, provided a festive ambience for this annual recognition event, at which five accomplished alumni were honored for their professional achievements and service to The Cooper Union Alumni Association (CUAA).

At a private reception before the dinner, 36 members of the Class of 1984 and their guests celebrated their 25th anniversary reunion. In addition, 40 members of the Class of 2009 joined the festivities for dessert and dancing.

CUAA President Carmi Bee (AR'67) thanked dinner co-chairs Judy Gerrard (AR'83) and Robert Tan (AR'81) for their leadership and acknowledged the extraordinary efforts of John Huddy (AR'85) in raising more than \$98,000 in corporate sponsorship for the event. In honor of the 150th Anniversary, Carmi dedicated the Alumni Hall of Fame and recognized the members who were present, encouraging everyone to view the first 150 members on a searchable database demonstrated by researcher and writer Elizabeth Hopkins (A'08) and database developers Robert Keeler (Eng'11) and Sikder Rahman (Eng'11).

President George Campbell Jr. offered his congratulations to the award recipients and noted significant milestones of the academic year. At the conclusion of the awards presentations, members of The Cooper Union Ballroom Dance Team performed a salsa choreographed by Sam Glauber (ME'10) and Eglind Myftiu (ME'11). Dancing continued until midnight to the music of the Cal James Orchestra.

From left: CUAA President Carmi Bee (AR'67), Dinner Co-chair Judy Gerrard (AR'83), President George Campbell Jr., and Dinner Co-chair Robert Tan (AR'81)

Below: Members of the Class of 1984 celebrate their 25th year reunion



## The 2009 Alumni Award Winners

### Alumnus of the Year

**John Huddy (AR'85)** was recognized for his outstanding service, dedication and commitment to the CUAA and to The Cooper Union. John serves on the Alumni Council, the Annual Fund Committee and has been a Phonathon nightly chair. He is a Class Representative for Architecture 1985. He and his wife Elizabeth co-chaired the 2008 Founder's Day Dinner Dance, for which both that year and this year, John has raised unprecedented corporate support. John is an adjunct professor of civil engineering at The Cooper Union where he teaches construction management. He is a founding member of The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture Dean's Circle. John's generosity to his alma mater has been recognized by his inclusion in the Sarah Amelia Hewitt Society and The Society of 1859. John and Elizabeth are benefactors of The Cooper Union's new academic building at 41 Cooper Square to which they contributed in memory of John's great uncle Theodore F. Arnim (CE'14).

John is Vice President at New York's Bovis Lend Lease LMB, an international construction management firm ranked the 2nd largest general building contractor in the United States. He has been employed in the New York construction industry for thirty years during which time he has built more than \$1.5 billion of commercial, residential, industrial, infrastructure, transportation, health care and hospitality projects.

### Young Alumnus of the Year

**Rocco Sabalones Cetera (CE'99)** received recognition for his outstanding service and dedication to the CUAA and to The Cooper Union. As a student, Rocco received the 1999 Service to the School Award for his work on the student newspaper, *The Pioneer*. He is an outstanding role model for young alumni and has initiated events such as a visit to the Noguchi Museum and Earth Day tours that introduced alumni to the college's new academic building at 41 Cooper Square. He co-organized the Class of 1998-1999 10th year reunion. Rocco is a member of the CUAA Council and is Chair of the CUAA Events Committee. His goal is to encourage alumni to spearhead events and develop broader class reunions.

Rocco is a Project Manager for the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, a licensed engineer in the State of New York, a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and a LEED Accredited Professional. In 2004, The American Society of Civil Engineers named Rocco one of its *New Faces of Engineering* for his work in the ACE Mentoring Program in Newark.

Steven Keith (AR'84), Dorit Aviv (AR'09) and Jacob Mautner (AR'09)



### Augustus Saint Gaudens Award for Art

**Abbott Miller (A'85)** was recognized for his professional achievement as a designer and writer. He established Design/Writing/Research, a multidisciplinary studio that built upon his background in sculpture, film and graphics. He and his team have evolved a uniquely hybrid design practice that crosses from page to screen to interior environments and objects. In 1999 Abbott became a partner in the international design consultancy Pentagram, where he focuses on publication, exhibition and identity projects for a wide range of clients. His first permanent museum exhibition is the new Harley-Davidson Museum in Milwaukee.

Abbott has written extensively about design in collaboration with his wife Ellen Lupton (A'85). He has collaborated with a number of other remarkable artists on exhibitions and books, including Nam June Paik, Hans Haacke, Matthew Barney, Yoko Ono, Diller & Scofidio and William Kentridge. Since 2003, Abbott has edited and art directed the award-winning visual and performing arts publication *twice*, which features his collaborations with leading choreographers and photographers.

Abbott's work has been acknowledged with numerous awards and is represented in the design collections of SFMoMA, The Art Institute of Chicago and the Cooper-Hewitt Museum. He is a member of the Alliance Graphique Internationale.

### John Q. Hejduk Award for Architecture

**Stan Allen (AR'81)** was recognized for his professional achievement as Principal of SAA/Stan Allen Architect and as Dean of the School of Architecture at Princeton University. Stan worked for renowned architects Richard Meier in New York and Rafael Moneo in Madrid. He pursued parallel careers as an educator, writer and architect. Stan taught at Harvard, Columbia and Princeton universities. His architecture firm has created award-winning buildings and urban projects in the United States, South America and Asia. He received the 2002 President's Citation from The Cooper Union.

Responding to the needs of the modern city in creative ways, Stan has developed an extensive catalogue of innovative design strategies that look at field theory, landscape architecture and ecology as models to revitalize the practices of urban design. In 2007, he received a *Progressive Architecture* award for the Taichung Gateway Park in China, and in 2008, he received a *Faith and Form Award* for the Chosen Children Village (CCV) Chapel built for the CCV Foundation that cares for physically and mentally challenged children in Tagatay, Philippines. Stan is the author of two volumes, one of which is his architectural work *Points + Lines: Diagrams and Projects for the City*, and his collected essays in *Practice: Architecture, Technique and Representation*.

### Gano Dunn Award for Engineering

**Dr. Peter S. Winokur (PHY'68)** was recognized for his professional achievement over forty years as a scientist and engineer in the field of radiation-effects science, technology and quality assurance. He began his career as a research physicist at the Harry Diamond Laboratories in Washington, DC, later joining Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he led efforts to develop radiation-hardened technology for use in military and space systems. He served as an Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Congressional Fellow in the office of Senator Harry Reid from 2001 to 2004 where he crafted legislation to promote renewable energy development. Peter was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as a member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board through October of this year.

Peter has been recognized by the IEEE and the American Physical Society as one of the most highly cited researchers in the world in given scientific fields. He received the 2000 IEEE Millennium Medal, an IEEE Nuclear & Plasma Sciences Merit Award, the R&D 100 Award and Industry Week's Top 25 Technologies of the Year, Discover Award. Peter is the author of 140 publications in science literature, including more than thirty invited papers, book chapters and short courses.

## The Cooper Union Alumni Association welcomes nominations for the 2010 awards.

Submit nominations to [alumni@cooper.edu](mailto:alumni@cooper.edu).

From left: Awardees Abbott Miller (A'85), Stan Allen (AR'81), Dr. Peter Winokur (PHY'68), John Huddy (AR'85) and Rocco Cetera (CE'99)

Below: Ina Saltz (A'72) (left) and Yvette Francis (A'93)

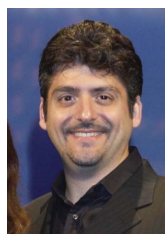


Photos Juliana Thomas



## 2009 Ballot Results Announced

The Cooper Union Alumni Association (CUAA) is pleased to announce the results of the 2009 Ballot, tabulated by the Tellers Committee, chaired by Alfred Brand (CE'67), for the 2009–10 year.



Left to right, top to bottom: Nichols, Huddy, Marano, Leeper, Ng, Blauweiss

If you wish to volunteer or recommend alumni to be considered for Alumni Council membership or another elected CUAA position, please forward your nominations to [alumni@cooper.edu](mailto:alumni@cooper.edu) for the Nominating Committee to consider.

### Executive Committee

The Executive Committee conducts the affairs of the CUAA in accordance with policies established by the Alumni Council, overseeing the planning and implementation of alumni events, communications, volunteer recruitment, fundraising and alumni outreach.

Officers' terms run from July 1 to June 30, and the president is limited to a two-year term.

**President: MaryAnn Nichols (A'68)** MaryAnn is Principal of Nichols Graphic Design, specializing in corporate graphics and web design. She has been a contributing author for books and publications on graphic design and typography. She has reviewed student portfolios for the Art Directors Club and for the Parsons School of Design at The New School University. An active member of the Alumni Council, MaryAnn served as Vice President Alumni Activities and Vice President Faculty Liaison. She has chaired the Annual Fund, Nominating, Founder's Day Dinner Dance and Alumni Day committees.

She has served on the CUAA Faculty Committee as a representative to the School of Art Admissions Committee, the Annual Fund Committee and is an enthusiastic participant in the annual Phonathon. MaryAnn organized four reunions for her class and is Class Rep Art'68.

**VP/Alumni Activities: John Huddy (AR'85)** John is a Vice President at Bovis Lend Lease LMB, Inc. He has been employed in the New York construction industry for thirty years and has built more than \$1.5 billion of commercial, residential, industrial, infrastructure, transportation, healthcare and hospitality projects. He is an adjunct professor of civil engineering at The Cooper Union, teaching construction management. He has served on the Alumni Council, on the Annual Fund committee, as a Phonathon nightly chair and is Class Rep AR'85. He was a founding member of The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture Dean's Circle and is a member of the Society of 1859. John co-chaired the 2008 Founder's Day Dinner Dance. He is the 2009 Alumnus of the Year.

**VP/Faculty & Student Liaison: Robert Marano (EE'93)** Rob is President and CEO of InDorse Technologies, Inc. He is an adjunct associate professor of Electrical Engineering at The Cooper Union. Rob has served on the Annual Fund, Nominating and Editorial committees and was co-chair of the 2007 Founder's Day Dinner Dance. He served as Vice President/Faculty & Student Liaison this year.

**Secretary/Treasurer: John Leeper (AR'85)** John is Project Executive/Senior Vice President for Bovis Lend Lease LMB, Inc, and is project director on the World Trade Center Memorial Project. He has served as Secretary/Treasurer of the CUAA for the past two years and as a member of the Annual Fund, Editorial and John Hejduk Award committees. He participates in Phonathon annually. John was co-chair of the 2006 Founder's Day Dinner Dance.

**Nominating Committee Chair: Lawrence Ng (EE'78)** Larry is Managing Director of Wall Street Systems, Inc., a financial services software company. He serves on several boards including the Wharton Business School Club of New York and the Association of Teachers of New York City. Larry served as an Alumni Trustee on The Cooper Union Board of Trustees. He served multiple terms on the Alumni Council and as Vice President, Membership. He chaired the Annual Fund committee, Mock Interview Night, Engineering Career Evening and the Wall Street Affinity Group. He has served on the Nominating and Phonathon committees. Larry is Class Rep Eng'78.

**Alumni Trustee: Don Blauweiss (A'61)** *To be nominated for trusteeship at The Cooper Union Board of Trustees' December 2009 annual meeting* Don is President of Don Blauweiss, Advertising, a marketing and creative boutique that assists companies in promoting their products or services through marketing communications. He left Saachi & Saachi in 1987 to found the company. Don taught design and advertising concepts at Parsons School of Design, Pratt Institute and The Cooper Union over a 25-year period. He served as President of the CUAA and as chair of the Augustus Saint Gaudens award committee. He has served on the Constitution, Nominating and CUAA Faculty committees, participates annually in Phonathon and is Class Rep Art'61. Don has received the President's Citation, and is filling an unexpired term as Alumni Trustee on The Cooper Union Board of Trustees.

**Alumni Council:** The objectives of the Alumni Council are to provide service to alumni, service to the college, financial support to the college and recognition of alumni. Each of the current 36 Alumni Council members serves a three-year term. The following newly elected members, whose terms run from July 1 through June 30, 2012, will join those continuing on the Council.

Peter Adler A'54	Scott Lyne ChE'92/MChE'95
Kathryn McGraw Berry AR'80	Juan Permuy EE'70
Alfred Brand CE'67	Ina Saltz A'72
Charles Cassella EE'68	Robert Tan AR'81
Pearl Greenberg A'48	Karina Tipton CE'99
Seth Greenwald ME'85	Mark Vasquez ME'88

**Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee identifies alumni who will steer the Alumni Association in years to come. Composed of the two most recent past presidents and 10 elected members, the committee will nominate the Executive Committee slate for 2010-2011.

Lawrence Ng EE'78, <i>Chair</i>	Mina Greenstein A'56
Jacob Alspector AR'72	Marilyn Hoffner A'48
Michael Borkowsky ME'61	Peter Lynch AR'84
Charles Cassella EE'68	Yash Risbud EE'92/MEE'94
Thomas Driscoll ME'77	Ronald Weinstein CE'76

### Recent Past Presidents

Carmi Bee AR'67  
Don Toman EE'55

### Results of Ballot Survey:

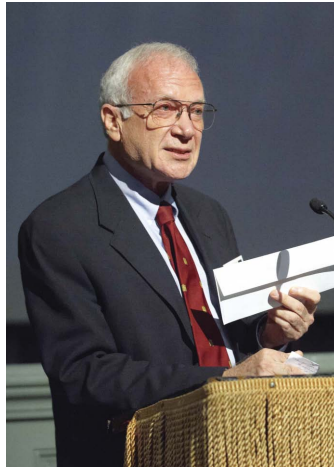
Prefer Paper Ballot Voting: 295  
Prefer E-Ballot Voting: 262  
Are you registered on the CUAA website: Yes 203  
No 77

## Mechanic to Millionaire: The Peter Cooper Story

Janet Gardner (A'65), producer, writer and director of The Gardner Documentary Group is co-producing *Mechanic to Millionaire: The Peter Cooper Story*, a documentary about one of the 19th century's greatest leaders during the Industrial Revolution.

Best remembered for his contributions to education, the documentary is divided into three main parts of Cooper's life: Getting a Start, Making a Fortune and Doing Good. Distinguished Cooper Union faculty, graduates, administrators and President George Campbell Jr. participated in the film's creation. The National Endowment for the Humanities recognized the film as a We The People Project for promoting knowledge and understanding of American history and culture. It is scheduled for national public broadcast and will preview in The Great Hall of The Cooper Union on September 25.

## Class of 1959 Celebrates its Golden Legion



Arthur Gerber (ME'59) presents the class gift

Below: Class of 1959 with President Campbell at their Golden Legion induction ceremony



The Class of 1959 is well positioned in history to celebrate anniversaries. They graduated as The Cooper Union was celebrating its 100th anniversary, and nearly 100 members of the class and guests returned for their Golden Legion festivities on May 8 as The Cooper Union celebrates its 150th anniversary. Class members greeted each other with excitement, many for the first time in 50 years.

President George Campbell Jr. opened the Golden Legion ceremony by welcoming everyone to The Great Hall. He spoke about the many highlights and accomplishments of the past academic year and showed a new video featuring current students from each of the schools. Class gift chair Arthur Gerber (ME'59) presented Dr. Campbell with a class gift totaling \$206,000 (still growing!) that represented 100% participation by those in attendance. He expressed his appreciation to the class for their generous support of The Cooper Union, and thanked class leaders George Barletta (CE'59), Jack Kurzweil (EE'59), Norman Siegel (A'59) and Claire Selley Wesselmann (A'59) for their efforts. Alumni gathered on stage for a class photo and photos of members of athletic teams, fraternities and other affinity groups.

The celebration continued during a luncheon in honor of the class, attended by deans, faculty members and administrators, where Vice President for External Affairs, Ronni Denes, provided a nostalgic view of the context in which the class attended The Cooper Union, and a reminder of how different life is 50 years later. President of The Cooper Union Alumni Association, Carmi Bee (AR'67) offered his congratulations and encouraged everyone to return in the fall to celebrate the 150th anniversary at the All Cooper ReUnion in the new academic building at 41 Cooper Square.

Following the luncheon, alumni and their guests took guided tours of the respective schools and hardhat tours of 41 Cooper Square led by the Sciamie Construction team. At the end of a busy day, Claire Wesselmann welcomed class members and their guests to the Wesselmann Studio for a reception and view of the works of Tom Wesselmann (A'59).



Class members and their guests enjoy the Golden Legion Luncheon

Class leaders, from left:  
George Barletta (CE'59),  
Arthur Gerber (ME'59),  
Claire Selley Wesselmann (A'59),  
Norman Siegel (A'59)  
and Jack Kurzweil (EE'59)

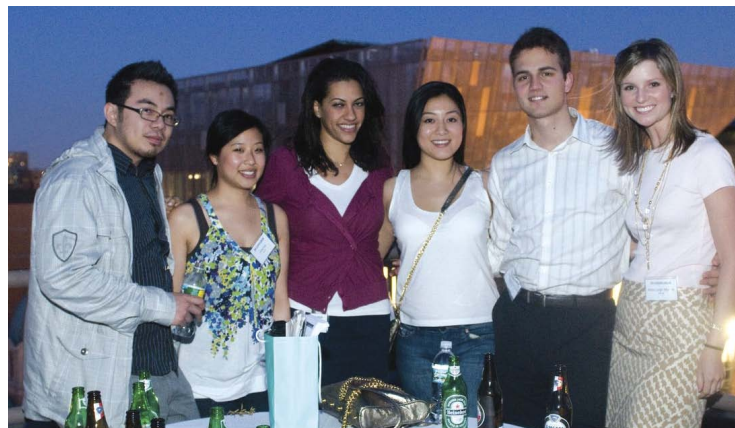


## Alumni Welcome Class of 2009



Above: Dennis Kong (IDE'08),  
Julianne Rhoads (IDE'08),  
Grace Baird (CE'08)

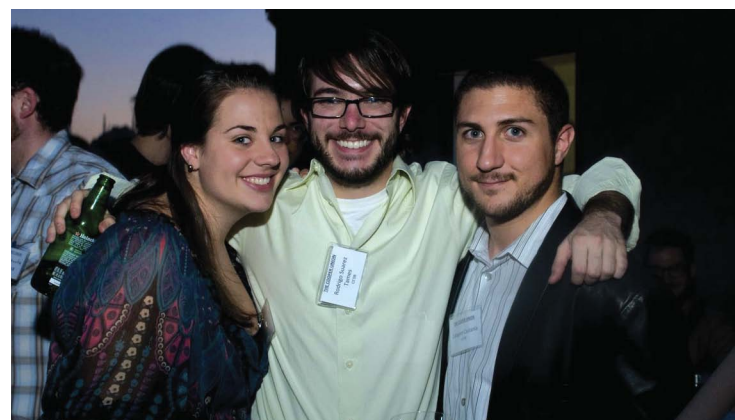
Above right, from left: JP Marcelino  
(EE'07), Vicky Lay (EE'07), Laura  
Bichara (IDE'07), Michelle Chu  
(ChE'09), Paul Majcherczyk (EE'07),  
Mary Leigh Mackie (IDE'08)



Alumni who graduated over the past 20 years welcomed members of the Class of 2009 into the ranks of The Cooper Union Alumni Association (CUAA) at the annual On the Rooftop party in the Peter Cooper Suite on May 21. President Campbell offered his congratulations to the class, acknowledging their exceptional accomplishments. Event co-chair Grace Baird (CE'08) greeted the class members and expressed congratulations on behalf of herself and co-chair Julianne Rhoads (IDE'08). She encouraged the soon-to-be alumni to stay connected to The Cooper Union and each other, describing the advantages of being part of the Alumni Association such as networking opportunities, affinity groups and alumni recognition events like the annual Founder's Day Dinner Dance. President of the CUAA Carmi Bee (AR'67) congratulated the class members and offered his best wishes on behalf of the CUAA.



From left: Yong Zheng (ChE'06)/MChE'08), Konstantinos Belesis (EE'07),  
Ashwin Kirpalani (EE'07/MEE'09), Adam Charles (EE'09/MEE'09)



From left: Erin Conlan (CE'08) with friends Rodrigo Suarez Tames (CE'08)  
and Calogero Castania (CE'06)

## Recent Events

### 150th Anniversary Celebration Begins

The Cooper Union kicked off its 150th Anniversary and unveiled a new identity during the annual Wreath Laying ceremony on February 12. More than 400 members of The Cooper Union community gathered in Peter Cooper Park on a brisk late winter afternoon to celebrate Peter Cooper's 218th birthday. President George Campbell Jr. acknowledged the pro bono efforts of Stephen Doyle (A'78), Creative Director of Doyle Partners, in developing the new identity, as an over-sized banner bearing the logo was unfurled. Chairman of The Board of Trustees Ronald W. Drucker (CE'62) read a proclamation from Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and President of The Cooper Union Alumni Association Carmi Bee (AR'67) led the traditional placing of the wreath on Peter Cooper's statue to the accompaniment of the school song, "Maroon and Gold." Members of The Cooper Union Step Team, led by Nicole Salazar (BSE'09), performed before everyone moved into the Foundation Building for hot cider and birthday cake.

### Wall Street Alumni Panel Discusses Current Climate

Cooper Union Alumni on Wall Street hosted a panel discussion entitled "The State of the Financial Services Industry in These Challenging Times" on April 2 which drew over 50 alumni, students, faculty and staff. Moderated by co-chairs Ray Falci (ME'86), Managing Director, Cain Brothers & Company LLC, and Larry Ng (EE'78), Managing Director, Wall Street Systems, Inc., who have spearheaded the Alumni on Wall Street over the past several years, the panelists described their career paths into financial services, the key skill sets that are most valued by the industry, the advantages of networking in finding their positions, how their Cooper Union experiences prepared them for their respective roles and specific approaches that alumni and students might use to gain access to job opportunities in the industry. Ray and Larry thanked Dean Baum for her continued interest in stewarding this group. Joining Ray and Larry on the panel were:

John Chirico (ME'86)

Co-head, Capital Markets Origination, Americas, Citigroup  
Eric Hirschhorn (ME'89)

Managing Director, Global Head of FX Technology, Citigroup  
Suet Yee Huang (CE'94/MCE'95)

Director, Equity Derivatives, Credit Suisse

Malcolm Marcus King (EE'97), Senior Vice President,  
Area Manager, Citigroup

Frank Napolitano (ME'88/MME'88)

Managing Director, Viking Capital Advisors LLC

Philip Zev Weisberg (EE'89)

Chief Executive Officer, FXalliance, LLC

Alumni interested in participating in CU Alumni on Wall Street may contact [alumni@cooper.edu](mailto:alumni@cooper.edu).

## Regional Alumni Events

### Chicago Area Alumni Connect

Alumni and guests from the Chicago area gathered at the Renaissance Downtown Chicago Hotel on December 3, 2008 to hear from President George Campbell Jr. about The Cooper Union's exciting milestones and progress on the new academic building at 41 Cooper Square. Vice President for External Affairs Ronni Denes described plans for the 150th Anniversary. Director of Alumni Relations Susan Moyle Lynch acknowledged Zev Salomon (AR'01) for his willingness to keep local alumni connected. Zev organized a "kick-off" event, with the assistance of Paul Korniczky (ME'82), on May 14 to view the installation of a sculpture in Millennium Park by Trevor and Ryan Oakes (both A'04), part of a body of work they exhibited at The Field Museum and The Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies in Chicago.

### Art Basel Miami Beach Attracts Alumni

The Florida Chapter of The Cooper Union Alumni Association hosted a tour of The Margulies Collection at the Warehouse in the Wynwood Arts District of Miami Beach on December 6, 2008. Collection curator Katherine Hinds led the tour. CUAA President Carmi Bee (AR'67) extended greetings on behalf of the Alumni Association. Thirty-one alumni and guests were joined by Sara Reisman, then Associate Dean of the School of Art, and Annual Fund Manager Lauren Sampson for this annual event that was followed by a luncheon at Charcuterie Restaurant.

### Florida Founder's Day Luncheon

Alumni and guests gathered at the Lauderdale Yacht Club on February 8 to celebrate Peter Cooper's 218th birthday and to hear from guest speaker Bill Sandholm Jr. (CE'63) about The Cooper Union's Master Plan and progress of the new academic building at 41 Cooper Square. Chapter President and Chair of The Cooper Union Board of Trustees Ronald W. Drucker (CE'62) lauded Bill in his role as Chair of the college's Master Planning Committee for his leadership. Director of Alumni Relations Susan Moyle Lynch brought news of the Alumni Association and discussed plans for the 150th Anniversary celebration.

### Houston Area Alumni Reception

Twenty-six Houston area alumni, guests and parents gathered for a reception at Hotel ZaZa in the Museum District on March 25. They were greeted by President George Campbell Jr. who spoke about The Cooper Union's exciting changes and the progress on the new academic building at 41 Cooper Square. He also showed a video showcasing current students. Vice President for External Affairs Ronni Denes discussed The Cooper Union's 150th Anniversary activities. Director of Alumni Relations Susan Moyle Lynch thanked Susie and John Sobchak (ChE'82) for spearheading the event.

### California Bay Area Alumni Meet at the Symphony

Event chair Hsu-Wei Shueh (EE'90) organized a brunch and pre-concert talk and backstage tour of the San Francisco Youth Orchestra at Davies Symphony Hall on May 17. Alumni and guests enjoyed a performance of Berlioz's "Symphonie Fantastique" with 100 of the Bay Area's most talented young instrumentalists under the leadership of Youth Orchestra Music Director Benjamin Shwartz. For more information about the Cooper Union Bay Area Alumni Chapter, contact Hsu-Wei at hwshueh@gmail.com.



From left: Felicia Zusman (BSE'98), Zev Salomon (AR'01), Michal Raz-Russo (AR'01), Homa Shojaie (AR'91)

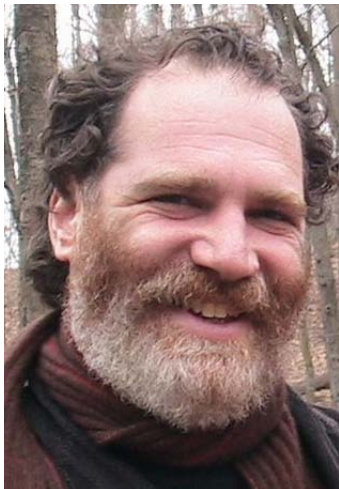


George Osodi, *Delta Conflict 2004*, color photograph; courtesy of the Margulies Collection at The Warehouse



From left: Keith Lorinos (ME'05), Jason Rivera (ENG'03), Marilyn and Barry Topcik (ChE'52) toast Peter Cooper's 218th birthday at the Florida Founder's Day Luncheon

# Pioneer Profile **David Gersten (AR'91)**



**L**ater this year, the Paris-based publisher Editions Firmin-Didot will release *Hunting Life: A Forever House*, a collection of drawings and writings by Cooper Union professor David Gersten. *Hunting Life* explores the idea of community through architecture and literature, presenting its structures in detailed drawings and depicting its inhabitants in over 100 short stories. The large-format (17 x 24-in.), four-volume set is the product of over two decades of inquiry and development, beginning when Gersten was a student at The Cooper Union.

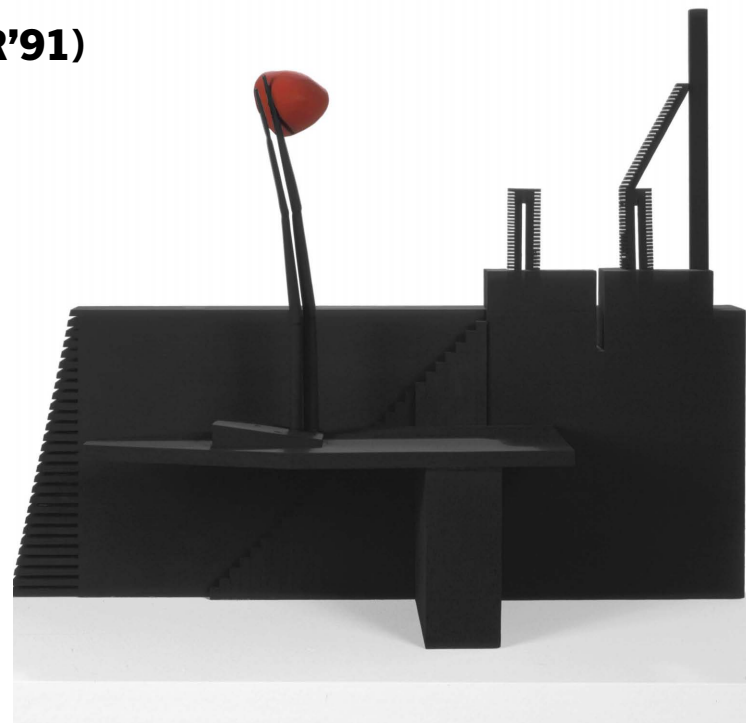
Under Dean John Hejduk, Gersten began his thesis in architecture in 1990. Starting with a foundry worker and eventually expanding his inquiry to include 22 unique disciplines, Gersten developed the program of his community, creating what he calls “a constellation of architectural and literary spaces manifesting an internal logic of structure, program and persona.”

The protean nature of such an undertaking is unsurprising, given the breadth of Gersten’s experiences and academic pursuits. Growing up in Albany, NY, Gersten spent 10 years working in the family business—a custom truck and tractor-trailer fabrication shop. (Founded in 1896 by Gersten’s great-grandfather, J. Becker and Sons originally built wagons and sleighs.) When he first came to New York City at the age of 18, Gersten studied at the New York Institute of Technology. He would later study aesthetics and phenomenology at the New School for Social Research and take courses in Islamic studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Today, at the age of 43, Gersten has been a part of The Cooper Union community for more than half his life. Since joining the faculty at The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture in 1991, he has taught at every level of the program. From 1998 to 2001, he was the associate dean of the School of Architecture, also serving as acting dean after the passing of Dean Hejduk in 2000. Gersten currently directs the first-year Design Studio, teaching Architectonics, in which students examine machines and tools as a link between material, task and human physiognomy. In the past, his students have explored a diverse set of topics: for a few years, they worked with water tanks and invented an “architecture of buoyancy;” another year they studied Hamlet and his relationship to the Globe Theatre.

Gersten also teaches an advanced concepts seminar entitled “A Material Imagination of the Social Contract,” in which students examine global capital, financial instruments, technology, social issues, language, poetry, ethics and space. Grounded in the belief that each of the creative disciplines affords distinct modes of thinking and acting, the seminar discussion is in many ways an extension of Gersten’s studio practice. “For many years my work has focused on how disciplines transform, and are transformed, by the world—and more specifically, on the role of the creative imagination as a cultural and intellectual force in these transformations.”

Teaching and working in his studio at The Cooper Union, Gersten benefitted from a continuous exchange with Dean Hejduk, calling the inspiration and guidance that Hejduk provided immeasurable. “We would exchange the latest ideas, works, drawings and stories on a weekly basis,” he says. “It was magnificent.”



The “Film School” is one structure from *Hunting Life: A Forever House*. It includes a stage, edit suites, a cyclorama and “Two Trees: one that cinema attaches itself to and one that is moved by that attachment.”

“This community has been my creative home for more than two decades. I am deeply grateful for the honor of participating in such a wonderful and unique place.”

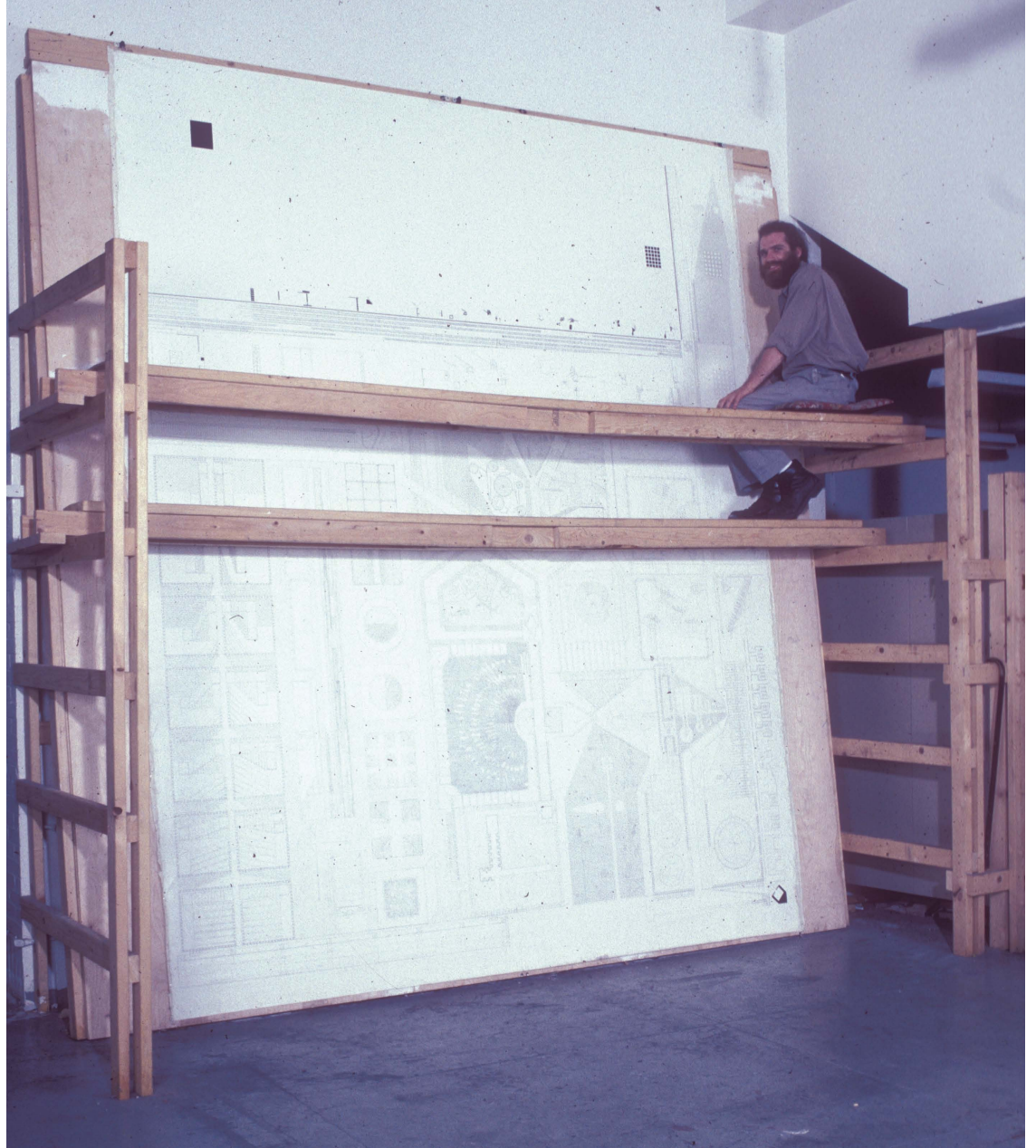
Outside of The Cooper Union, Gersten has been a visiting professor at universities in the U.S. and abroad, including City University of New York; Rhode Island School of Design (RISD); Universidad Politecnica de Valencia in Spain; Universidad Andina Simon Bolivar and Universidad Privada de Santa Cruz in Bolivia; and Universidad Catolica de Cordoba in Argentina. He has also lectured at Harvard, Yale, RISD, Parsons School of Design, McGill University, the Canadian Center for Architecture and the Cranbrook Academy of Art. His work has been the subject of exhibitions at The Cooper Union, RISD, the University of Virginia and the Whitney Museum, as well as in Romania, Bolivia and Chile, and is held in the collection of the Canadian Center for Architecture.

In 1992, Gersten founded Tree-Time Workshop, Inc., serving as the New York City-based design/build company’s president and CEO until 1998. Working with fellow alum Charles Matz (AR’91), Gersten and his team provided production design and management, art direction, lighting design and wood, metal, plaster, paint and print work to the film, television and theater industries. The company worked on projects for dozens of artists, including Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan, Pink Floyd, the Fugees and Michael Jackson. Clients included Sony International, Columbia Records, Epic Records, VH1, the Intrepid Air and Space Museum, PBS Television and the New York Stock Exchange.

Currently, Gersten is the managing director and creative director of Maimar, LLC, a Texas-based land development, management and programming company he founded along with Cooper Union alumnus Arman Biglari (AR’91) in 2003. With a focus on sustainable growth and the relationship between communities and their environment, each of Maimar’s projects are developed and reviewed in terms of design, programming, community integration, environmental and regional impact, financial structure and risk management. “The company brings together finance industry workers and architects, landscape architects, land planners and water and energy managers—people



**Right: Upon graduation Gersten joined the faculty and built the “Draftsman’s House” in the Hewitt building. For most of the decade of the 90s, he continued to draw and write in this space. “The draftsmen’s house is an inversion. Rather than drawn in anticipation of building it, it was built in anticipation of drawing.”**



who all share the belief that land development and use is a form of stewardship of both the land and the community that lives there,” says Gersten. “After examining how financial instruments function in my seminars, it has been fascinating to be involved in the implementation of projects at this scale.”

The company is currently working on multiple projects just west of Austin, TX, including Crossroads, a 120-acre regional medical campus, and Skywater, a 1,600-acre environmentally focused residential community. At Skywater, in addition to being on the development team, Gersten co-designed the Stone House, the project’s community center, in collaboration with Biglari and Tim Blonkvist of San Antonio-based Overland Partners.

Gersten has been recognized over the years with the American Institute of Architects Scholastic Award and the Matthew W. Del Gaudio Memorial Award from the New York Society of Architects. An exhibition in Sibiu, Romania, entitled “House for Andrey Tarkovsky” won the Maria Prophetissa Award. In 2000, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts awarded Gersten a grant which fostered the further development of *Hunting Life*.

Maybe best described as a drawn novel, telling the story of a community in words and spaces, *Hunting Life* is also an exhibition. Volume one contains small versions of the drawings augmented by keys in seven languages, maps of the entire community’s program, introductions and all of the project’s short stories. Volumes two, three and four contain full-scale reproductions of the eight drawings—divided into multiple pages, the drawings can be unfolded and combined to reproduce the originals (the largest is 120 x 168 in.). Gersten’s hope—and the hope of publisher Charles Firmin-Didot—is that the full-scale drawings will be unfolded, assembled and exhibited on a wall while the stories are read.

“In some ways,” says Gersten, “this work started with a relatively simple question: ‘What if the spatial programs of architecture were considered as a literary condition—how could the nuance and texture of the stories of our lives manifest into our shared spaces?’ As this question grew in many directions, it introduced all the enigmas of language, space and life.”

**Professor Gersten served as co-designer for the “Stone House,” the first of Skywater’s Community Centers. Incorporating water catchment, organic gardens and an education and resource center, the Stone House was constructed for LEED Gold Certification.**



## Phonathon Beats All Records

Phonathon 2009 was a record breaker! 133 volunteers including alumni, parents, students, faculty and staff made this year's Phonathon a huge success by raising \$464,223 in cash and pledges, the largest amount raised in Phonathon history.

This year's Phonathon nightly chairs showed tremendous dedication and enthusiasm. Annual Fund Committee chairs, Kathryn McGraw Berry (AR' 80) and Robert Tan (AR' 81), kicked off the early half of the first night with zeal. John Huddy (AR'85) reached out to west coast parents and alumni while providing experience and knowledge of the Phonathon's importance in the later half of the evening. Saavy long-time volunteer, Charlie Cassella (EE' 68), motivated callers on the second night. Parents Night was hosted by Chair of the Parents Council, Guy Mascioli, who continued the momentum by raising \$88,875. Following on the heels of this success, Yash Risbud (EE' 92/MEE'94), led volunteer callers with levity and expertise as former Annual Fund chair. The final night ended with a bang! The early half of the evening was led by Melanie Chung (CE'07) whose callers pushed us over the \$400,000 goal with spirit and tenacity. Phonathon ended on a high thanks to Carl Selinger (CE'67) and student co-chair Rohan Chauhan (ENG'09) whose callers reached an unprecedented high.

The Cooper Union is very fortunate to have a group of exceptional leaders and dynamic volunteers who are devoted to keeping Peter Cooper's vision alive. A whole-hearted thanks goes out to all of our volunteers for their commitment and support!

Name	Affiliation
Professor Jim Abbott	Faculty
Lauren Acampora	Staff
Peter Adler	A'54
Nicholas Agneta	AR'80
Jorge Aguerrevere	ENG'12
Bridget Atkinson	Parent
Joel Azerrad	A'53
Pamela Baldisserotto	Parent
Stuart Barth	EE'68
Carmi Bee	AR'67
Kathryn McGraw Berry	AR'80
Laura Bichara	IDE'07
Don Blauweiss	A'61, Alumni Trustee
Michael Borkowsky	ME'61, Trustee
Bosko Blagojevic	Staff
Alain Bourdeau de Fontenay	Parent
Celeste Bourdeau de Fontenay	Parent
Tristan Bourdeau de Fontenay	ENG'13
Alexander Bronfman	IDE'08
Antonietta Carey	Parent
Charles Cassella	EE'68
Gianna Cecchini	CE'07
Rocco Cetera	CE'99
Rohan Chauhan	IDE'09
Bobby Chen	AR'01
David Chenkin	Staff
Melanie Chung	CE'07
Lindsey Cole	Staff
Charles Creamer	EE'08
Michael D'Ambrose	ENG'12
Janis DeGaspari	Parent
John DeGaspari	Parent
Xenia Diente	A'99
Gerard Durney	Parent
Joanne Durney	Parent
Zen Eidel	A'50
Rhonda Erb	Parent
Donald Feder	Parent
Lucille Sapienza-Feder	Parent
Laurent Fisher	Staff
John Francescon	CE'90/MCE'91



**Top: John Leeper (AR'85)**  
**Bottom: Assoc. Dean of The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture Prof. Elizabeth O'Donnell (AR'83)**

Name	Affiliation
Erica Mapp	A'74
Rob Marano	EE'93
Guy Mascioli	Parent
Patricia Mascioli	Parent
Charles Massimino	Parent
Phoebe Massimino	Parent
Margaret Matz	AR'83
Natalie Mayslich	ENG'09
Robert Mentken	A'54
Jackie Meyer	A'77
Claire Michie	Staff
Lillian Minton	Staff
Cathy Minuse	Parent
Maria Mitchell	Parent
Ed Mokuvos	EE'78
Peter Mullaney	A'92
Bethany Nagy	A'96
Geraldine Nathan	Parent
MaryAnn Nichols	A'68
Steve Noll	ENG'10
Aaron Nutter	ENG'12
Elizabeth O'Donnell	AR'83, Faculty
Kevin Oldfield	CHE'09
David Orbach	Faculty
Maria Pereira	Parent
Alena Petersen	Parent
David Phelan	ENG'12
Jocelyne Pierre	Parent
Xavier Pires	Staff
Eleftherios Pittas	ENG'12
Jacob Presky	ENG'11
Yash Risbud	EE'92/MEE'94, Staff
Christine Romero	Staff
Lauren Sampson	Staff
Carl Selinger	CE'67
Rajeev Sharma	CHE'81
Kelly Smolar	ME'07
Barry Stein	AR'80
Michael Steiniger	Parent
Robert Tan	AR'81
Alanna Taubman	ENG'11
Robert Thill	Staff
Karina Tipton	CE'99
Jolene Travis	Staff
Gloria Tso	A'75
Brian Turner	AR'06
Nicholas Vargas	CE'06
Victoria Vaughan Carra	Parent
Ron Weinstein	CE'67
Farshid Jack Zar	EE'90/MEE'94
Catherine Zimmerman	Parent

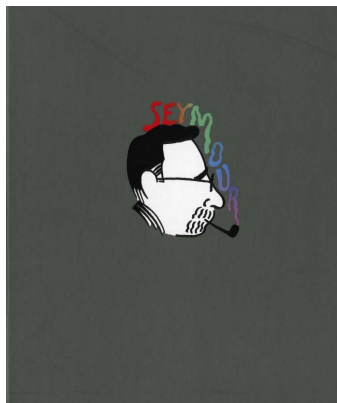
Name	Affiliation
Paul Friscia	Parent
Constance Ftera	A'53
Judith Gerrard	AR'83
Anita Giraldo	A'82
Ann Marie Gong	Staff
Michael Governor	Staff
Michael Granat	ME'06
Mina Greenstein	A'56
Peter Hamilton	Parent
Jolie Harris	Staff
Ian Hochstead	BSE'94, Staff
John Huddy	AR'85
Diana Hutchinson	Staff
Maxim Ivanov	ENG'12
Sabah Jammal	Parent
Antonio Jha	ENG'10
Susanna Johnson	Staff
Matt Jones	Staff
Gary Kazin	CHE'69
Joel Kazin	PHY'67
Michael Ketigian	ENG'12
Madeline Kilroe	Staff
Sergey Kolchinskiy	ENG'12
Nicholas Kosky	Staff
Arthur Kramer	ME'61
Thomas Kreuzer	Parent
Barkha Kumar	ENG'11
Howard Lampert	ME'66
Lois Lazarus	A'52
John Leeper	AR'85
Michael LeGuen	Staff
Joseph Lim	EE'05
Deborah Lipton	Staff
Rebecca Long	ENG'12
Darrell Low	EE'89
Osi Lukman	CE'10
Susan Moyle Lynch	Staff
Scott Lyne	CHE'92/MCHE'95
Maria Makrinos	Parent
Rene Makrinos	ENG'09



**Ed Mokuvos (EE'78)**



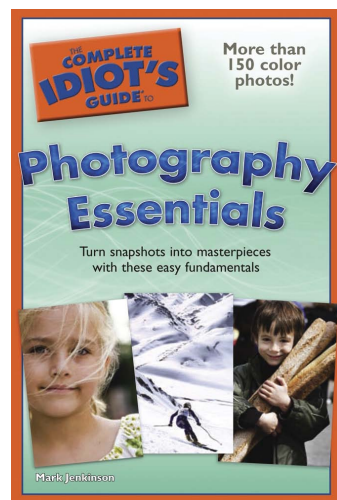
## Published Pioneers



### **Seymour: The Obsessive Images of Seymour Chwast**

Seymour Chwast (A'51)  
Chronicle Books, 2009  
272 Pages

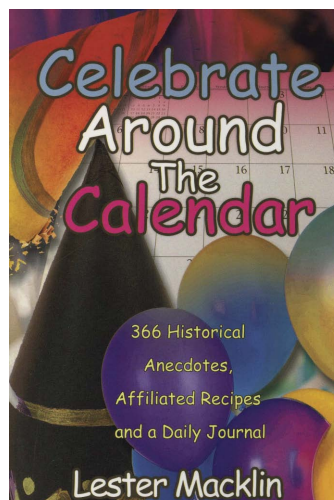
This latest collection of the artist's work compiles a career-spanning overview of one of the most influential American illustrators of the last half-century. Beautiful reproductions of Chwast's work across media are framed with an introduction by Steven Heller and an essay by Paula Scher.



### **The Complete Idiot's Guide to Photography Essentials**

Mark Jenkinson (A'78)  
Penguin Group, 2008

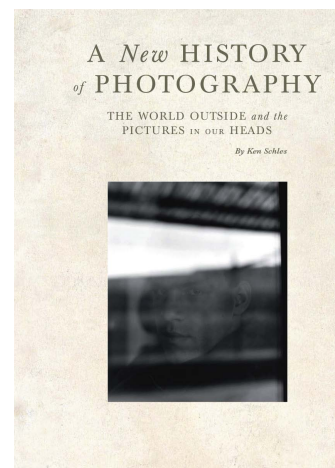
Mark Jenkinson is a professional photographer. In this latest addition to the Idiot's series, Mark shares inside tips and instructional photos with amateur photographers so they can create excellent pictures.



### **Celebrate Around the Calendar**

Lester Macklin (ME'68)  
Adobe Books (ebook Adobe Digital Editions)

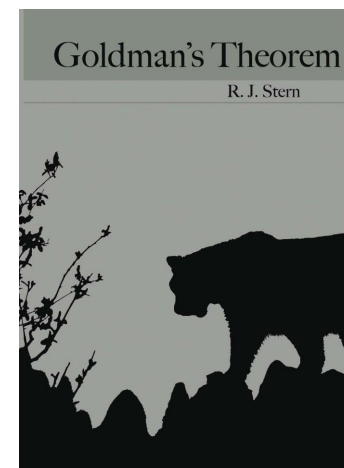
This family keepsake brings together family stories, recipes, holidays celebrated in 26 countries and family traditions celebrated every day of the calendar year.



### **A New History of Photography: The World Outside and the Pictures in Our Heads**

Ken Schles (A'82)  
White Press, 2008, Limited Edition, 173 pages, 107 plates

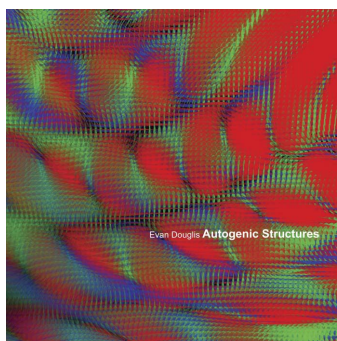
Master photographer Ken Schles looks back at 25 years of photographs created simultaneously in the context of his internal artistic vision and the external world of living history.



### **Goldman's Theorem**

Dr. Ronald Stern (ME'67)  
Saga Books, 2009, 220 pages

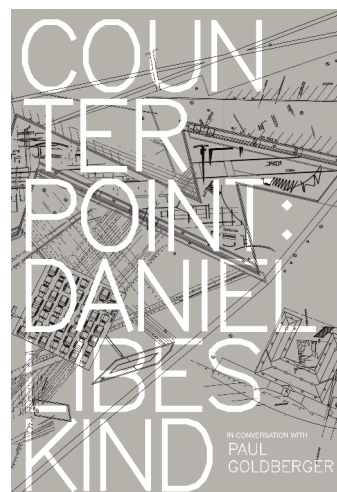
The tale of the mysterious and brilliant Professor Goldman, who after five years, has yet to publish anything. Under pressure, he comes up with an amazing mathematical theory but none of the characters involved know if it's valid or a hoax.



### **Autogenic Structures**

Evan Douglis (AR'83)  
Taylor & Francis, 2008  
256 pages

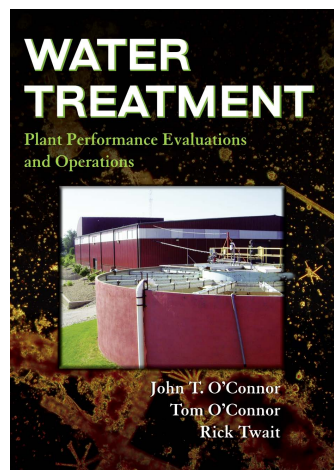
Principle, Evan Douglis Studio, Douglis taught architecture at Pratt Institute and Columbia University and has just been named dean at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. These critical essays discuss an alternative vision for the future of architecture.



### **Counterpoint: Daniel Libeskind in Conversation with Paul Goldberger**

Daniel Libeskind (AR'70) and Paul Goldberger  
The Moncelli Press, 2008  
400 pages

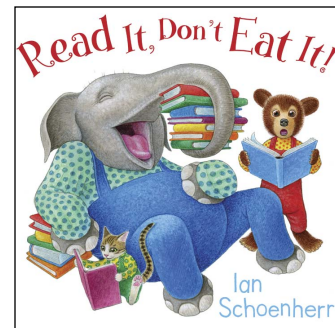
Architecture critic Goldberger discusses with Libeskind his built and cancelled commissions.



### **Water Treatment Plant Performance Evaluations and Operations**

John T. O'Connor (CE'55)  
Wiley & Sons, 2009, 256 pages

Dr. O'Connor provides case studies and his renowned expertise in discussing the growth of water treatment plants in the United States.



### **Read It, Don't Eat It!**

Ian Schoenherr (A'89)  
HarperCollins, 2009  
Pre-school–elementary  
32 pages Color

Writer and illustrator Ian Schoenherr's very funny new book teaches youngsters what a book is and isn't for.

### **Special Note:**

**Ashley Bryan** (A'46) received the 2009 American Library Association's Laura Ingalls Wilder Award for 40 years of writing and illustrating children's literature.



## Births

**Conamore Alexander** (nee Wibel, AR'04) and **Basil Alexander** (former name Papavassiliou, CE'03) are proud to announce the birth of their son, Xavier Milo Alexander, born on October 1, 2008. Xavier Milo weighed in at 7lbs and 2oz. Conamore was, until recently, working with Blackburn Architects, an equestrian architecture firm located in Washington, D.C. Basil runs the D.C. Office of O'Connor Construction Management, Inc., a construction consultancy that specializes in cost estimating and owner's representation. **Emily Oberman** (A'85) gave birth to twin boys on May 22. Emily is the co-creator of renowned design studio Number Seventeen and the 2004 recipient of the Augustus Saint Gaudens Award for Art. The proud grandparents are Cooper Couple **Arline Simon Oberman** (A'48) and **Marvin Oberman** (A'49). **James Vignone** (EE'99) and Amy Vignone announce the birth of a baby girl, Alessandra Devin. She was born August 13, 2008 at NYU Medical Center in New York City. **Robert T. Carter** (AR'87) and his wife Natalia are "immensely excited and overjoyed" expecting their first baby in August.

## Engagements and Marriages

**Kate Geisner** (nee Hofer CE'05) and **Christopher Geisner** (ChE'03) belatedly announce their marriage took place on June 30, 2007 in Cranford, New Jersey. They are residing in Sugar Land, Texas. **Joshua Garth Feinstein M.D.** (ME'93) and Ms. Minou Jafarnia were engaged on February 14, 2008 and married during the fall of 2009 in Houston, Texas after meeting each other at Texas Children's Hospital.

## 30s

**Harold Bernstein** (A'33) was profiled as a calligraphy legend by the *Palm Beach Post*, November 29, 2008. Now age 96, he continues teaching calligraphy in the adult continuing education program at the Palm Beach County Schools.

## 40s

**Philip Messina** (ChE'44) recalls his first assignment designing and building a pilot plant for the clostridium botulinum toxin in the 1950s. It was a dangerous and fascinating job that required intensive cleansing of all personnel who entered and left the plant. **Carl Fischer** (A'48) had five of his photographs included in The Museum of Modern Art's iconic series of 1960s *Esquire* magazine covers. **Lois Dodd** (A'48) exhibited recent paintings at Alexandre Gallery in New York City, March 26 through April 25. Lois was profiled in the November 2008 issue of *Art in America*. **Mary Rankin** (A'48) mounted *New Work 2006-2008* at Upstream Gallery in Dobbs Ferry, New York, October 23 through November 16, 2008. **Arline Simon** (A'48) had an exhibition at Upstream Gallery in Dobbs Ferry, New York, November 12 through December 6, 2008. **Barnett Berliner** (AR'49) and his wife Marilyn Klein, a former employee in Cooper Union's Admissions Office, married in 1950 and settled in Brookline, Massachusetts. They send regards to classmates and friends. Barnett and Marilyn created the Brookline Arts Center that is now an integral part of the Town of Brookline. They have 2,000 students attending art classes annually and many more attend their exhibitions and special events. **Stan Kaplan** (A'49) was honored in 2008 by The Society of American Graphic Artists for a lifetime of outstanding commitment and contribution to the world of fine art printmaking. **Alex Katz** (A'49) is being featured in 2009 J. Crew apparel advertisements.

## 50s

**Belle Manes** (A'50) was selected for a solo show by the Silver Mine Guild Arts Center. For information visit [www.silvermineart.org](http://www.silvermineart.org). **Audrey Flack's** (A'51) art was made a part of the Smithsonian Archives of American Art in 2009. Audrey joined The Cooper Union Board of Trustees in December, 2008. **John V. Sheoris** (AR'51) FAIA received the AIA Detroit Gold Medal on November 21, 2008 at the Detroit Institute of Arts. John was the 2002 recipient of the AIA Michigan chapter

President's Award. The award honors architects who work in corporate or educational settings. **Marilyn Henrion's** (A'52) *Noise* was an exhibition of her recent quilt artworks. The exhibition took place at Noho Gallery, September 30 through October 25, 2008. Marilyn's work may be seen at [www.marilyn-henrion.com](http://www.marilyn-henrion.com). **Norman Narotzky** (A'52) had a painting included in a traveling show in Catalunya, Spain together with work by artists Andy Warhol, Richard Hamilton and Jasper Johns. **Ricardo Scofidio** (AR'55) and partner **Elizabeth Diller** (AR'79) made *Time* magazine's annual 100 list of the World's Most Influential People. They appeared together on the March 31 airing of the PBS television program *The Charlie Rose Show*. The architects received The Urban Edge Award in 2009, presented biannually by The University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee School of Architecture & Urban Planning. **Richard Lytle** (A'55) has an exhibition of paintings and drawings at The Gallery at the Whitney at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, from February 11 through June 15. **Mel Leipzig** (A'56) has two simultaneous exhibitions at the New Jersey State Museum: *Mel Leipzig: Selected Works* and *Artist as Curator: Mel Leipzig*. He has curated an exhibition from the State Museum's 19th and 20th century figurative drawings. **Roslyn Fassett** (A'56) exhibited paintings based on her travels in Mali and Nigeria in *Beyond the Fabric* held at the Prince Street gallery in New York City during 2008. **Rolf Ohlhausen FAIA** (AR'58) received a 2008 AIA Founders Award at the 141 AIA New York Chapter meeting.

## 60s

**Norma Jean Squires** (A'61) along with 14 other artists from 10 countries participated in a traveling exhibition that began in Ensenada, Mexico in October, 2008 and ran until January 15 at the CEARTE Cultural Center in Mexico. The exhibition was sponsored by the General Consulate of Mexico in Los Angeles. **John Clarke's** (AR'66) firm Clarke Caton Hintz relocated to the heart of Trenton, New Jersey's Capitol District. The new offices for the architectural firm will be in the area's landmark Masonic Temple. **Peter Persoff** (ChE'66)

accepted a position as a scientist, at the firm ISSI in Las Vegas. He formerly worked at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory as staff scientist and says "more interesting is the month I spent tutoring high school math in Uganda." **Bernard Rothzeit** (AR'49) and **Carmi Bee** (AR'67) of Rothzeit Kaiserman Thomson & Bee Architecture and Urban Design have completed Salem House, the firm's latest effort to build affordable housing in New York. **Thomas Nozkowski's** (A'67) 2008 painting exhibit at Pace Wildenstein gallery in New York City was reviewed in the November 2008 issue of *Art in America*. Alumni Trustee **Edward Feiner FAIA** (AR'69) joined the interdisciplinary design practice of Perkins + Will as a Principal and will be working in Washington D.C. **Carl Stein** (AR'68) See Ellison (AR'83). **Edward Hauben** (AR'69) is now the Executive Director of Newton Community Education in Newton, Massachusetts. He and his wife Jan have two grandchildren.

## 70s

**Sue Allen** (AR'70) was featured on Oregon Art Beat on Oregon PBS on March 26. Alumni Trustee **Stanley Lapidus** (EE'70) recently joined the board of directors at T2 Biosystems Inc. The firm develops portable medical diagnostic products that incorporate both MRI technology and nanotechnology. **Daniel Libeskind** (AR'70) was noted online at archiCentral for the progress of his L Tower and Memory Foundations, in Toronto, Canada. Information is available at [www.archicentral.com](http://www.archicentral.com). The architect's firm received the AIA New York Chapter and the Center for Architecture Foundation 2008 President's Award at the October 30 Heritage Ball 2008. The architect submitted a proposal for a high-rise project for the Figueroa Corridor in downtown Los Angeles. Project details mentioned in the online April 11 issue of *Los Angeles Times*. He was profiled in *thestar.com* on April 18 about the future of 'starchitecture.' The March issue of [www.powerthemagazine.com](http://www.powerthemagazine.com) profiled Libeskind's range of activities outside the field of architecture. *Der Spiegel* online notes in its November 2008 issue that Libeskind is designing a new synagogue for

Munich, replacing the first synagogue destroyed during Crystallnacht, also known as The Night of Broken Glass. **Alan Singer** (A'72) exhibited new prints and paintings at the Arts ad Cultural Council Gallery in Rochester, New York, November 12 through December 24, 2008. **James Bernard** (A'75) was a participant in the Black History Month celebration exhibition at Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center's Lincoln Hospital Exhibition Space, Bronx, New York. The show ran February 5 through February 28. **Dale Emmert** (A'75) exhibited paintings at the John David Gallery in Hudson, New York January 8 through February 1. **Carin Goldberg** (A'75) received the 2009 AIGA Gold Medal and a 2009 Cooper Union President's Citation. **Toshiko Mori FAIA** (AR'76) created a pavilion titled the Eleanor and Wilson Greatbatch Pavillion in Buffalo, New York. The building is part of an ongoing 17 year project at Frank Lloyd Wright's Darwin D. Martin House complex. Project completion is expected in 2011. **Andre Luboff** (CE'75) is a member of the Chatham Community Band, Chatham, New Jersey. The all volunteer band is comprised of area residents ranging from age 17 through 72. **Kevin Clarke** (A'76) is living in France. He recently exhibited at the Stadel Museum, Frankfurt, Germany and at The Jewish Museum, Berlin, Germany. **Donald Baechler** (A'77) exhibited recent paintings and collages at the McClain Gallery in Richmond, Texas in March. **Alexander Gorlin** (AR'78) attended the La Salle Estrerel de Palais to join a panel discussion on current architecture with architects Zaha Hadid, Thom Mayne and Wolf Prix. **Philip Taaffe** (A'77) discussed new work and current influences in a feature profile in the October 2008 issue of *Art in America*. **Elizabeth Diller** (AR'79) of Diller Scofidio + Renfro was noted in *The Washington Post* April 7th article on her firm's proposal for a design for the Smithsonian's new National Museum of African American History. The firm's Alice Tully Hall renovation and ongoing work at Lincoln Center in New York City can be followed at [www.lincolncenter.org](http://www.lincolncenter.org). Elizabeth made a March 13 guest appearance on the PBS Television program *The Charlie Rose Show*. The firm was shortlisted for the design of the Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta, GA. It received a 2009

AIA Honor Award for the School of American Ballet design. The architects received The Urban Edge Award 2009, see Scofidio (AR'55) for details. Elizabeth will run an undergraduate studio class focusing on temporary installations and make visits to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's School of Architecture & Urban Planning.



Black T-Shirt \$15



FlipFlops \$12



Infant Onesie \$15



Travel Thermos \$15



Boat Tote \$35

## 80s

**David Wallace** (AR'80) started his own architecture practice focusing on prefabricated buildings based on shipping container technologies. **Jon Agee** (A'81) wrote and illustrated the 2009 children's book, *The Retired Kid*. **Stan Allen** (AR'81) dean, Princeton University School of Architecture, received a 2009 Academy Award in Architecture from The American Academy of Arts and Letters in May. The Cooper Union awarded him the John Q. Hejduk Award for Architecture on April 17. **Whitfield Lovell** (A'81) exhibited in a solo show of new works at the Pascal Gallery in the Russ Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts from March 26 through April 24. **Jesse Reiser** (AR'81) of Reiser + Umemoto Architects received mention for the firm's design of Aeon II in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. **Karen Bausman** (AR'82) won a New York Foundation for the Arts Fiscal Sponsorship for her sculptural installation The Wall Project. **Mary K. Lynch** (ChE'82) worked on the 3rd Annual Energy & Resources Conference. The all day conference was held at Con Edison on December 4, 2008. Mary completed her 2nd year as a Senior Instructor for Con Edison, creating new curriculum materials and teaching a wide array of classes. **Ken Schless** (A'82) (see Published Pioneers) created Pacific Street Studios Photographic Workshops with a goal of promoting good practice of photography and developing critical capabilities of students. **Paul Seletsky** (AR'82) was a participant in the New Jersey Institute of Technology's 2009 spring lecture

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series. He lectured on March 9. **Jeanine Centuori** (AR'83) has a public art and architecture studio, UrbanRock Design, creating projects throughout the United States. She also teaches architecture at Woodbury University in Burbank, California. **Evan Douglis** (AR'83) see Published Pioneers. **David Ellison** (AR'83) helped organize a juried exhibition about Cleveland, Ohio's Breuer Building. David invited **Carl Stein** (AR'68) to Cleveland to speak about his father's pioneering work on energy and architecture. David was elected President, Board of Trustees of the Ohio and Erie Chapter of the Institute of Classical Architecture/Classical America. **Judith Gerrard** (AR'83) and partner **Robert Tan** (AR'81) of Gerrard and Tan Architects in New York were profiled in the

March issue of *Interior Design* magazine. **Drew Klotz** (A'83) was awarded a Connecticut commission for two large sculptures installed in Willimantic, Connecticut. His sculpture was recently displayed at the Katonah Museum and he had a solo show at the Silvermine Guild of Art in New Canaan, Connecticut. **Nanako Umemoto** (AR'83) and partner **Jesse Reiser** (AR'81) participated in a conference at Princeton University School of Architecture held on April 18. **Shigeru Ban** (AR'84) proposed a design for the new Aspen Art Museum in April, according to *The Aspen Times*. He also created a furniture system titled the 10 Unit System unveiled at the Milan Furniture Fair and designed for manufacturer Artek. **Seth Greenwald** (ME'85) started up a consulting business, Greenwald Group. He wrote an article about being a project manager for the October 2008 issue of *Projects@Work*. **Kyna Leski** (AR'85) of the Rhode Island School of Design recently participated in a roundtable discussion there hosted by RISD's Department of Architecture. **Christine Benedict** (AR'86) participated in the April 15 panel discussion about preservation and sustainability at the AIA Center for Architecture. **Steve Dodell** (EE'86) is teaching 7th grade math in the Bronx, New York. **Pearl Chin** (ChE'86) stepped down as President of Foresight Nanotech Institute and remains a Research Fellow. Pearl

continues teaching as an adjunct professor at The Cooper Union. **Robert T. Carter** (AR'87) See Births. **Andrew Fethes** (AR'88) Principal of Andrew Fethes Architects, PA, announced the firm's new location in Oradell, New Jersey. **Michael Morris** (AR'89) and **Yoshiko Sato** (AR'89) of architectural firm Morris Sato Studio designed the new DuPont Corian Design Studio in New York City. The studio was unveiled on Sunday, May 17.

## 90s

**Linn Meyers** (A'90) exhibited at the The Art Gallery at the University of Maryland College of Art College Park February 11 through March 13. **Christopher A. Warnock** (A'90) is living in Los Angeles and has worked in Entertainment design and fabrication. He is a certified interior decorator and portrait painter. **Urshula Barbour** (A'91) and **Paul Carlos** (A'91) of Pure+Applied created the exhibition design for *Paris/New York: Design Fashion Culture 1925–1940*, curated by Donald Albrecht and reviewed by the *New York Times* on October 2, 2008. **David Gersten** (AR'91) participated in a roundtable discussion held at the Rhode Island School of Design by the Department of Architecture, along with the School's Professor of Architecture **Kyna Leski** (AR'85.)

**Yvette Francis** (A'93) is the design director for *Men's Fitness*. Her first assignment was creating a cover shoot of actor/producer Jamie Foxx. Most memorable in this new assignment was designing the magazine's 2009 Inauguration Special Collector's Edition that featured President Barack Obama. **Michael Iskwitz** (A'95) was featured in *Esopus Arts Magazine's* April issue. Michael's work was purchased by Rockland County, New York for their art collection that includes Rockland, New York artists. **Amy Gartrell** (A'96) has artwork displayed on the sets of *Gossip Girl*, a current network television hit drama-comedy. **Lisa Hamilton** (A'96) exhibited paintings at her first solo show held at Jane Kim/Thrust Projects. **Kora Leah Manheimer** (A'96) had an exhibition at P.S. 122 in New York City on January 30. **Wangechi Mutu** (A'97) received a mention in an *ARTnews* article about bringing art into New Orleans communities, October 2008 issue. **Jason Clayton Lewis** (A'98) had an exhibition at 31 Grand, October 9 through November 9, 2008. **Gregory Dufner** (AR'99) attended an Academy Award party hosted in New York by editor-in-chief Cindy Allen at Country restaurant. Gregory won an original Rockwell sketch from the stage set of the 81st Academy Awards after predicting the most Oscar champs.



Elizabeth Diller (AR'79) and Ricardo M. Scofidio (AR'55), both center, at the February 22 reopening of Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, the renovation of which was headed by the two

## Stephen Doyle on the Cooper Union Logo

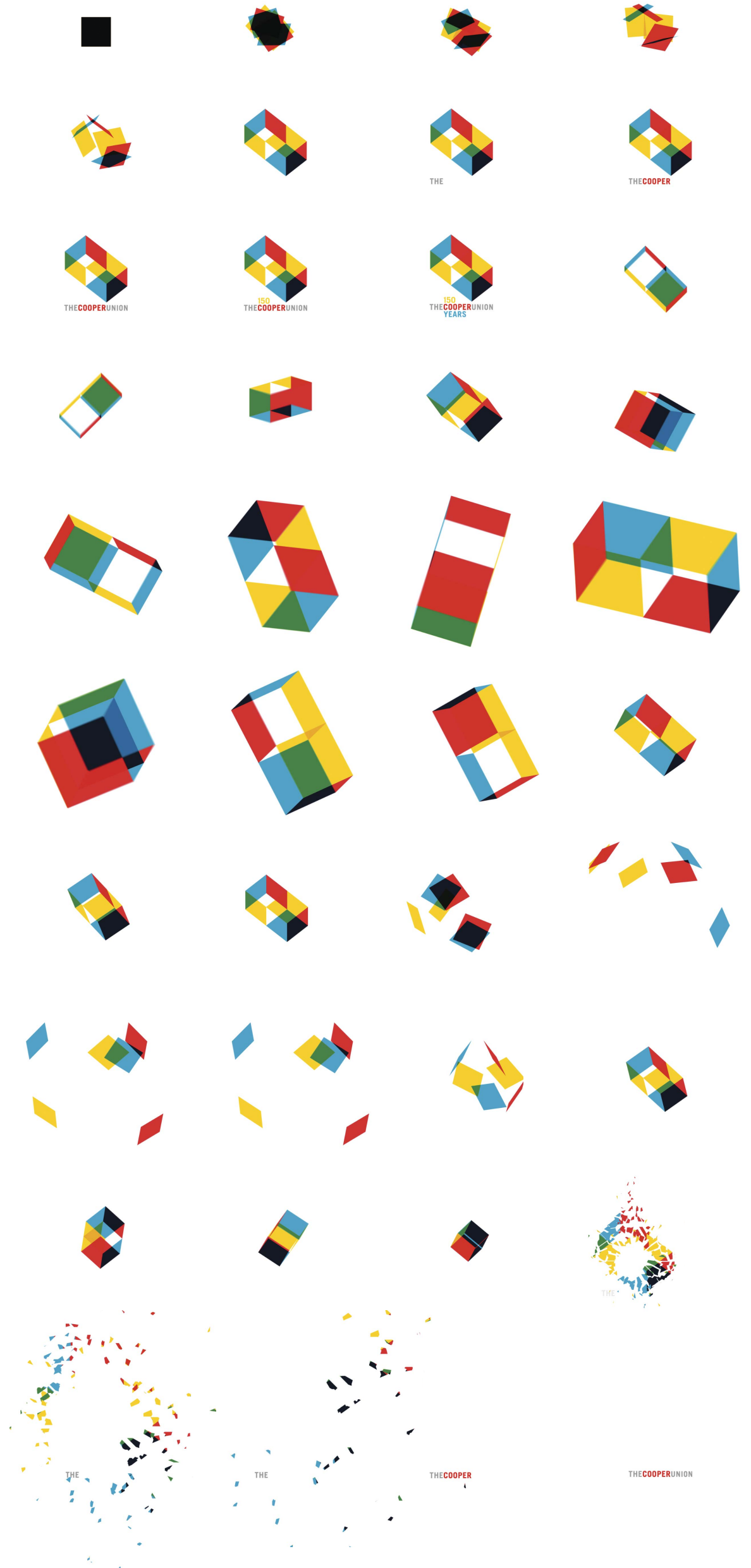
“Provocative” is the word that was the genesis of a new logo for The Cooper Union, and it was Milton Glaser’s. It summarized his ideas about how to represent such a pivotal hotbed of curiosity and accomplishment. Without describing a look, Milton nailed, with just one word, the way a logo appropriate for The Cooper Union must act. Any designer, even a pro bono one, would recognize the slap of glove across the face when asked to design something “provocative.” It is, in the realm of design, a challenge to a duel: a duel between the act of design and potential of imagination. Do not be mistaken. Duels are scary. There was a lot riding on this one, and there were a lot of onlookers.

But why a new logo, and why now? Cooper Union is literally in the midst of a transformation, one so robust you can see it on Google Earth! The new academic building rising on Cooper Square is dramatic proof of unconventional thought thriving at Cooper. Complementing this, and coinciding with a 150th anniversary, a new logo could graphically signal Cooper’s vitality, its complexity, its energy, and its unity. Dr. Campbell said a new logo should “transcend history, tradition and culture, and embrace the future.” Other members of the logo committee (there is always a “committee” associated with anything pro bono) wanted the logo to “push boundaries” or represent “light, motion and transparency.” Naturally, a designer does not merely build on other people’s ideas, but tempers them with a few of his own. I was able to draw on my unique history with Cooper, having been at different times a student, a teacher and trustee, I had a sense of the different constituents, and their different points of view about the college. Intrigued with the current hot-button issue of the dialog of science and art, and recalling the striking dedication mounted to the building’s north portal, at about the sixth floor, I wanted the new logo to somehow address the difference between science and art, as well as their union. For me, it seemed like the two sides of the brain... different thinking, but inextricably linked, mutually dependent—and just so much fun when you put them together.

Happily for me, I did not face this duel alone, but brought the challenge to tackle “provocative” back to my studio of ten. Several of us explored diverse directions of name treatments, emblems, initials and even optical illusions. (How “science and art” is that?) But ultimately, the winning design, conceived by Jason Mannix (unfortunately a graduate of James Madison University, despite the three Cooper alums here) was chosen because it most closely aspired toward that one inalienable Cooper Union attribute: the imagination.

The logo is rooted in logic. If you draw a C or a U as a square form, you would arrive at our basic module: three planes that intersect at right angles. If you twist the U one rotation, its three planes would complement the three planes of the C, creating a perfect square, an ideal geometric form, useful in engineering, art and architecture. We have allowed our planes to intersect just at their points, and we have encouraged them to be transparent. If each half were thought to represent art or science, notice that each is comprised of three elements. Those could represent each school. If that were true, which it probably isn’t, then each school would have a foot in both science and art. The three primary colors are the genesis of all colors, and this little baby looks really cool when it spins.

Much attention has been paid to this logo on design blogs. One of the “criticisms” noted is that it resembles a box kite. Made of wood, paper and color, a box kite is something that, with a little wind, lifts itself up proudly into the air, and can spend the day there, floating overhead, tethered to earth with just a piece of string. Like our Alma Mater, it simply defies gravity.



# 00s

**Alexandra Deaconescu** (ChE'01) presented her research on how actions of polymers are important to cell motility at the Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society. **Yael Erel** (AR'02) exhibited lightscares at the Gallery MC in New York February 5th through February 28. **Leslie Hewitt** (A'02) was featured in the 2008 Whitney Biennial and also exhibited at the Gagosian Gallery and the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York. **Alexis Rochas** (AR'02) created a rooftop farm in a Los Angeles building called The Flat. The farm grows fresh produce for the ground floor restaurant. **Sean Khorsandi** (AR'04) was a guest lecturer at Athens State University on their local architectural icon Paul Rudolph. The lecture was held January 27. **Kate Geisner** (nee Hofer CE'05) and **Christopher Geisner** (ChE'03), see Engagements & Marriages. **Glen Barfield** (AR'07) is a faculty member at the University of Washington, Seattle. His students are working with the Chandigarh College of Architecture, creating a temporary structure of bamboo in the Chandigarh College Plaza. **Julian Louie** (AR'07) was profiled as the New Prince of Fashion in the January 11 online edition of *New York Magazine*. **Peter Aronow** (ME'08) will be attending the Yale Ph.D. program in Political Science beginning fall 2009. **Lian Finck** (A'09) received a Fulbright grant and will be going to Belgium to work on the history of the graphic novel. **Anna Kostreva** (AR'09) received a Fulbright grant to go to South Africa to study children's relationships to urban architecture.

## In Memoriam

**Richard G. Costello** (EE'59) began his Cooper Union career in 1967 as Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering, after receiving a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin. In the following 32 years, Professor Costello worked as a dedicated faculty member, commencement director, chair of the Electrical Engineering department, chair of the Robotics Research Group of CURF, director of the EE laboratories, faculty adviser to clubs and professional chapters and mentor to many students. After retiring from The Cooper Union in 1996, Professor Costello consulted to the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division in both International Trade and Civil offices.

**Helmuth Knapp** (EE'50) Born in Germany, Mr. Knapp emigrated to the United States with his parents. He served in the United States Navy as an Electronic Technician's Mate First Class on the USS Scott, prior to admittance to

The Cooper Union. Mr. Knapp had a distinguished career with the Federal Aviation Administration in the VORTAC Program Branch, TACAN Program Section, retiring in 1980 after serving as Technical Assistant to the Chief, Navigational Aids/Communications Engineering Division. Mr. Knapp was an exceptional benefactor of The Cooper Union.

**Bernard Rothzeit FAIA** (AR'49) was an architect and founder of RKT&B Architects. His firm Bernard Rothzeit & Partners became Rothzeit Kaiserman Thomson & Bee in 1981, enhancing its reputation as historic preservation specialists with the successful adaptive reuse projects of the landmark Eagle Warehouse, The Sofia, The Towers at 455 Central Park West and Temple Beth Elohim in Brooklyn, as well as the City Center Theater in Manhattan. Mr. Rothzeit's firm became an innovator in new apartment house construction and in healthcare facility planning and design, both here and abroad. He was elected to the College of Fellows of the AIA and honored by The Cooper Union, where he taught and served on The Board of Trustees, with a President's Citation in 1981 and the Augustus Saint Gaudens Award in 1986.

Samuel Zuckerman SCE 1914  
Peter Lucchese A'17  
Joseph M. Mero BSE'20  
Richard M. Sasse A'23  
Frederick G. Buhrendorf Eng'25  
Charles Schwarzler EE'26  
Joseph E. Eddleton EE'28  
Sylvia Rosenwein A'29  
Gerald F. Dalton AR'30  
Sadie Mulholland A'30  
Kenneth Collins AR'31  
Dionysius E. D'Amico A'32  
Oscar Bessio ME'33  
Boris Chezar A'33  
David Kaufman A'33  
William Van Rosenbergh EE'33  
John Tesoriero EE'34  
James M. Constable Eng'34  
Milton Landau ChE'34  
Warren E. Larson CE'34  
Margaret Olsson A'34  
William J. Sachse ME'34  
Jules P. Channing AR'35  
Yetta Golub A'35  
Harold Hesselson AR'35  
Lawrence B. Coonan CE'36  
Dikran A. Dingilian A'36  
Robert J. Fletcher CE'36  
E. Noah Gould ME'36  
Leonard Luke EE'36  
Isadore Stillman ME'36  
Victor J. Gorlach AR'37  
Bernard Kassoy A'37  
Sigurd J. Ipsen EE'38  
George C. Pierce EE'38  
Henry William Franz Eng'38  
Florence Kunstler A'38  
Vincent F. Maturi ChE'39  
Shirley U. Miller A'39  
Freda Nelson A'39  
George E. McLaughlin ME'40  
Seymour Wasssyng A'40  
Hessel Bouma Jr. ChE'41

Anthony A. Loscalzo A'41  
Leslie Wizemann ChE'41  
Eleanore Ferholt A'42  
Gladys Morgenthaler A'42  
Benjamin Radzka ME'42  
A. John Simone A'42  
Berthold C. Meyer EE'43  
Kurt Minati Eng'43  
Leon Resnicow ME'43  
Robert D. Rice ChE'43  
Martin A. Rubinstein ME'43  
Edna Dollin A'44  
Evelyn J. Schiller A'44  
A. Walter Sildar ME'44  
Jeanne Ream A'45  
Thomas R. Van Wart CE'55  
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### Corrections

**Ron Ettinger** (ME'71) and **Joseph Barbieri** (PHY'70) are the parents of recently engaged couple Josephine Barbieri and Robert Ettinger.

**Marion Ettlinger** (A'70) Retraction: A name and interview was misattributed to Ms. Ettlinger in the Winter 2008–2009 issue. Please visit <http://www.marionettlinger.com>.

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