



Summer 2004
The Art Institute of Atlanta

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



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Dear Alumni,

Summer is here. This season, in particular, offers plenty of reasons to celebrate — graduations, weddings, and vacation with family and friends, to name a few. Whatever the occasion, I hope each of you make a special point to end the summer with a bang by attending your alumni reunion here at The Art Institute on Friday, August 20! Invitations (designed by an Art Institute alumnus) will be coming to you soon.

The reunion will also kick off the “Alumni Showcase” exhibit in the Gallery, on display from August 17 through September 10. If you have a special piece or two you’d like to include in the show, please contact me or Diana Graves–Sharple, director of career services, for consideration. Hurry, the deadline for entries is Friday, August 6.

Many thanks to those of you who offered feedback on our spring 2004 eNewsletter. Comments, suggestions, and critiques are always welcome. For those of you who did not receive an electronic copy of the newsletter, you may update your email address at www.alumniconnections.com/ArtInstitutes or contact me directly to receive future mailings.

Last, but not least, I’d like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the following alumni who provided an invaluable service by participating in a very important campus event. This past April, our admissions department sponsored Meet the Pro’s. This event gave high school students an opportunity to hear firsthand, from both recent and seasoned grads, what it takes to be a successful student here at The Art Institute of Atlanta. Furthermore, alumni gave students an insider’s view of what it takes to survive in today’s job market. Hats off to those who participated — Debbie Pewitt (culinary arts), Caroline Bachkes, Keith Lawton, Raymond Werner, and Preston Davis (graphic design); Kevin Johnson (media arts & animation); Ami Chan, Eric Shoemaker, and Jennifer Campbell (multimedia & Web design); Danielle Hall, Michael Czach, and April Smith (photographic imaging); and Alphonso Dormun and Colt Logan (video production).

Have a great summer! All of us here in career services look forward to seeing you at the reunion on August 20.

Sincerely,

Monica Brown

Monica Brown
Alumni Coordinator
770.689.4871
mobrown@aii.edu



from the editor LETTER

The Art Institute of Atlanta Third Annual Alumni Reunion

WHAT: Alumni Reunion with DJ, music, food, door prizes, gifts

WHEN: Friday, August 20

TIME: 6 pm–8 pm.

WHERE: The Art Institute of Atlanta Gallery

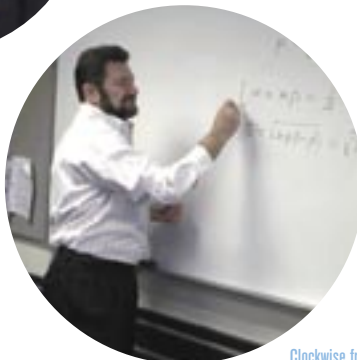
TO RSVP: email mobrown@aii.edu or dgraves@aii.edu

Please be sure career services has your correct contact information so we can mail you an invitation to this event! Call 770.689.4871 or 770.689.4807.



Outstanding Faculty of the Year

Remember your favorite instructor from your college days? Someone who nurtured your creativity and encouraged you to succeed? To recognize exceptional performances by full-time faculty members, each year The Art Institute of Atlanta names an Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year. This instructor represents the highest ideals of quality teaching, scholarship and creativity, commitment to education, and initiative. Any member of the college community can nominate a faculty member who has demonstrated excellence in teaching, been active in their creative or research field, and who has made significant contributions to the local community and the college. A panel of students, faculty, staff, and administrators makes the final selection. Take a look at some of our past winners and let us know which faculty made an impact on your educational experience! Send an email to Monica Brown, alumni coordinator, at mobrown@aii.edu.



FACULTY of the year

Clockwise from top center: Charles Leonard (2003), Ann Critchfield (2000), Kayanna Pace (1997), Michael Strizhevsky (2001), Taian Wang (2002), Bill Livesay (1999).

Charles Whitehead 1998 Computer Animation



Changing careers can be a rewarding experience – just ask alumnus Charles Whitehead. After earning a bachelor’s degree from Georgia Tech in international affairs, Charles began to rethink his career goals. He realized his career path was counter-productive to the creative work he enjoyed. Determined to turn his drawing hobby into a career, he enrolled in The Art Institute’s animation program.

Charles says he met great people and made valuable industry contacts by way of his instructors. “My education at The Art Institute laid the foundation,” he explains. “It helped me get into the animation industry.” Through a contact at Portfolio Show, Charles landed his first animation job with Creative Event Marketing immediately after graduation. There, the animator created 3-D computer illustrations for clients using 3D Studio Max. His knowledge of diverse software programs, coupled with strong drawing and illustration abilities, led to a coveted position with High Voltage Software in Chicago.

High Voltage develops some of the best interactive games on the market. One of Charles’s biggest accomplishments was his work on Microsoft’s “Inside Drive 2002” for the X-Box. Using 3D Studio Max, he helped build a “unique arena environments” for each of the 30 NBA teams featured in the in the video game. At High Voltage, Charles racked up numerous game credits and assisted on countless projects for Playstation 2 and X-Box.

Always on the lookout for a creative challenge, Charles moved on to Luma Studios, a company that develops animation spots for major league sport franchises. There he was given the task of making 3-D animated shorts to be played on the matrix board at the United Center for Chicago Bulls games. At Luma, Charles continued to grow as an artist. He gained hands-on experience in motion graphics and video post production, which enabled him to experiment with creative effects software like Discreet combustion.

Although his animation career was thriving in the Windy City, Charles chose to relocate back to the South. The Chicago cold proved to be a bit much for this Georgia native. The job market for animation in Atlanta is tight and quite competitive. But, as testimony to Charles’s talent and abilities, he secured employment as an animator/digital artist almost immediately. In his current role with Cinema Screen Media, Charles uses Adobe After Effects, Macromedia Flash, and the latest compression

techniques to create movie theatre advertisements for local businesses. Charles says he has found job satisfaction and a rewarding career in computer animation, thus showing change can be a good thing.

Away from work, Charles enjoys spending time with his wife, Jin Hee, and their cat. His hobbies include playing guitar, bicycling, traveling, and cooking. He also volunteers with SEGA, a nonprofit that finds loving, permanent homes for former racing greyhounds.

To learn more about Charles, visit his Web site at www.charleswhitehead.com

Raymond Werner 2001 Graphic Design

Raymond Werner has always enjoyed drawing, so it was a natural decision for him to enroll in the graphic design program at The Art Institute. “The Art Institute of Atlanta provided a stepping stone,” he says. “My education laid the foundation. It was then up to me to take it to the next level.” With his ambition and creative talent, Raymond has built a successful freelance business and design career with a major Atlanta-area publisher.

After graduating from The Art Institute, his talent led to a design position at PurchasingPower.com, where he was able to put his newly acquired graphic skills to use, creating print and collateral pieces. Presently, Raymond is a graphic designer with SouthComm Publishing Company in Alpharetta. More than seventy chambers of commerce throughout Georgia rely on SouthComm for their marketing and promotional needs. In business for nearly twenty years, the publishing house employs a small but talented staff of fewer than twenty. From start to finish, the staff takes a team approach to complete assignments. As graphic designer, Raymond assists on a wide variety of projects—from quality of life magazines and directories to brochures and company profiles.

alumni **SUCCESS**

Charles Whitehead Raymond Werner Jason Abbott Timothy Tew

Building on his freelance projects, Raymond also opened W Design Studio, which creates corporate identity/branding, marketing communications, and advertising design for start-up, small or multi-level marketing businesses. Recent clients include Magnus Tools and EthnicArtist.com.

Raymond credits some of his career success to his campus involvement as a student. At The Art Institute, he was active in numerous professional organizations, such as the American Institute of Graphic Artists (AIGA) and clubs including 404 Collective, Creative Club, and Talkin' Design. He says these outlets provided invaluable networking opportunities and current news on industry trends. As an alumnus, Raymond still takes time to stay connected to the college. Most recently, he accepted an invitation from admissions to speak to prospective students at Meet the Pro's (see Editor's Letter, page 2). He was also among the attendees at last year's alumni reunion.

This Georgia native hails from Cobb County. In his spare time, Raymond enjoys drawing and tending to his pet cockatiel. To learn more about Raymond, visit his Web site at www.wdesignstudio.com.

Jason Abbott
1994

Visual Communications



Jason Abbott has come a long way in the graphics industry. As he recalls, "The Art Institute was my first exposure to computer design." More than ten years of hard work have certainly paid off for Jason. His work at Atlanta-based real estate advertising agency Full Circle Productions was recently recognized with a national award from the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). In "The Nationals" awards competition, conducted by the National Sales and Marketing Council of the NAHB, Jason garnered the "Best Website for an Associate" award in his region in 2004.

As a student, Jason held an internship in the marketing department at Fort McPherson and also worked for Haas Publishing. Utilizing the array of computer programs learned at college, he gained valuable work experience, which led to bigger and better opportunities. Impressed by his work, Haas offered Jason a full-time position after graduation. At Haas he designed and conceptualized multi-page color ads, produced publications, and trained part-time graphic artists. After four years of print publication with Haas, Jason moved on to Bennett Kuhn Varner (BKV), a direct marketing agency.

Jason began his career with BKV in a production artist position, which quickly grew into a junior art director position. When the company expanded by creating a new division, Jason was put in charge of not only developing Web sites from start to finish, but also supervising a small staff as well. In three short years with BKV, Jason was named art director.

Today he is part of the creative team at Full Circle Productions. Full Circle Productions, with a staff of twenty-five, offers a full range of marketing and advertising services to the housing industry, with clients including including One Buckhead Loop and Tuscany condominiums. The company's achievements are consistently lauded with regional awards from both the Atlanta Sales and Marketing Council (SMC) and the Printing Industry Association of Georgia. Incredibly, Full Circle is only five years old—and growing every day. As art director, Jason comes up with concepts for all new marketing projects. He's also involved in the interactive and implementation of client Web sites.

When asked about artistry, Jason is emphatic: he says it is important for any artist to develop his or her own unique approach. Moreover, he says, don't plagiarize—it's not flattering. Instead, create a product or body of work that bears one's signature style. To that end, Jason is always striving to improve his own skill set by learning more advanced software programs and is constantly challenging himself to design even better Web sites. Through it all, his dedication and work ethic remain strong.

Professionally, Jason is a member of Creativity Atlanta: The Advertising and Creative Club. His favorite pastimes include rock climbing, paint ball games, softball, and traveling.

Check out Jason's online portfolio at www.abbottdesigns.com.

alumni **SUCCESS**

Timothy Tew 1982 Interior Design

In 1987, just five years after graduating from The Art Institute of Atlanta, Timothy Tew opened Galerie Timothy Tew in Atlanta. Today, Galerie Timothy Tew is internationally known and renowned in art circles for its beauty and diverse body of work. As the gallery nears its 20-year anniversary, the business remains dedicated to representing its signature — classic contemporary art.

Timothy travels extensively, cultivating relationships with artists from around the world. After graduating from The Art Institute, he lived in Paris to immerse himself in the culture and study art and drawing. The relationships he formed with artists during that time became the foundation for his future as owner of Galerie Timothy Tew.

A staff of four, including Timothy, carries out the daily operations of the gallery. Timothy reviews numerous submission requests and procures the work. Highly selective, the gallery chooses only thirty applicants each year to exhibit their work. Timothy says he believes deciding when to exhibit the artist is crucial, so as not to overexpose the artist. Since timing is everything, schedules are fashioned with care. Rather showcasing just one individual's work, the gallery often features two or three artists simultaneously. A typical day for Timothy involves a review of marketing strategies, debating which pieces will (or will not) work, assessing cost, and negotiating with other dealers. If an artist needs assistance putting everything together or preparing work for show, the gallery staff is there to help.

Being approachable and personable is an asset in the gallery business, and Timothy is definitely a people person. "I look forward to meeting artists," he says. His warm and friendly nature won over classmates here at The Art Institute, and today he stays in touch with many of them. Timothy fondly recalls the group of peers he studied with in the interior design evening program. At The Art Institute, he says he found "a [constant flow] of dialogue between students and instructors," and art history was one of his favorite classes.



Timothy says procuring pieces and assembling gallery showcases at his gallery captures the aspects of interior decorating he enjoys most. Galerie Timothy Tew allows him the creative freedom to put together "one-of-a-kinds" and "rooms that have personality."

Professionally, Timothy is a member of the Atlanta Gallery Association (AGA), a nonprofit organization comprised of Atlanta's leading art galleries. He also supports the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center.

Beyond the art world, Timothy supports Chris's Kids, an organization that reaches out to runaway youth, and HumanKind, which lobbies for the human rights of gays and lesbians.

Timothy's love of gardening and antiques are an extension of his deep appreciation for both art and beauty. Outside of work, quality time with family is priority. He and partner Joseph Northington, along with their cat, reside in Atlanta.

Interested in visiting Galerie Timothy Tew? Log on to www.timothytew.com for gallery hours, upcoming events, and featured artists.

CLASS NOTES

Let us know where you are and what you're doing! Inquiring classmates want to know! Send an email to mobrown@aii.edu.

Where are they now?

Francisco Guarionex Ahorrio 2002 *Video Production*

Francisco recently accepted a position as a photojournalist at WFMZ-TV in Allentown, Pa. He was previously employed with the Weather Channel Latin America as line director.

ALUMNI in the news

Art Institute of
Atlanta alumni are making headlines! Take a
look at these news items from around the country:

An article about The Art Institute's most famous alumnus, "Trading Spaces" carpenter and "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" host **Ty Pennington (Commercial Art, 1985)**, was distributed by the Associated Press and appeared in newspapers all over the country this past winter. The article focused on Ty's new book, *Ty's Tricks—Home Repair Secrets*. In his book, he describes the design ideas he used when renovating his Grant Park home. The book also features his artwork and innovative furniture designs.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution ran a story on January 29, 2004 about custom artist **Elaina Clay-Garris (Photography, 1989)**. The article describes her Atlanta store, Pretty Paper, and the one-of-a-kind gifts she creates for clients. Her gifts include tinted photographs, bookmarks, coaster sets, jewelry and jewelry boxes, all designed according to her customers' requests.

SHOOT magazine featured **Alex Bogusky (Visual Communications)** and his agency Crispin Porter + Bogusky (CP+B) in a December 2003 article naming CP+B the publication's 2003 agency of the year. The article describes the shop's innovative marketing strategies and strong growth. Recent clients/campaigns include the Mini Cooper, Ikea, the "Truth" anti-smoking ads, and Virgin Atlantic Airways. Alex is partner/executive creative director of CP+B.

A student columnist for the *Thomasville Times-Enterprise* wrote in the November 12, 2003 edition about illustrator **Michael White (Visual Communications, 1982)** visiting his school to demonstrate drawing techniques. Michael illustrated *The Secret of the Old Zeb*, *Harriet's Horrible Hair Day*, and *The Library Dragon*.

In an article in the October 23, 2003 issue of the *Anna Maria Island Sun* in Anna Maria, Fla., **Tricia Otto (Interior Design)** offered her opinion on zoning issues in her town of Bradenton Beach. Tricia is an interior designer and operates Interior Elements from her home.

Tracey Dickson (Music Entertainment Management, 1989) shared weight-loss tips in an October 12, 2003 article in the *Pensacola News-Journal*. The article, datelined in Newport News, Va., describes the exercise and diet routine Tracey has stuck to for more than seven years, earning her a feature story in the September 2003 issue of *Shape* magazine.

Make sure we know about your news! Send copies of clippings, information about broadcast TV or radio appearances, or links to online media to Monica Brown, alumni coordinator, by mail or email mobrown@aii.edu.

July 21 – Sept. 3

Lunch and Dinner at Creations

Come back to enjoy traditional French cuisine and white linen service in the culinary teaching dining room. Students work under the skilled direction of chef faculty to create tempting six-course dinners (\$30 prix fixe) or a special wine-paired dinner (\$45 prix fixe, includes wines) and, for lunch, lighter à la carte fare (\$9–\$18). All prices plus beverages, tax, and gratuity except as noted. Lunch Thursday and Friday at 12:30 pm. Dinner Wednesday and Friday at 7 pm. Reservations required — creationsdining@aol.com, 770.689.4851 or 1.800.275.4242 ext 4851.

*In the Gallery Tuesday, July 13 – Friday, Aug. 13
Artists' Reception Thursday, July 22*

"Faculty Show 2004"

Works on view include painting, drawing, sculpture, fiber and other crafts, traditional and digital photography, graphic design, media arts, and animation by Art Institute faculty. Artists' reception is Thursday, July 22, 4:30 – 7 pm. Stop by and say hello!

*In the Gallery Tuesday, Aug. 17 – Friday, Sept. 10
Third Annual Alumni Reunion Friday, Aug. 20*

"Alumni Showcase 2004"

A variety of work by alumni of The Art Institute of Atlanta, "Alumni Showcase 2004" features painting, traditional and digital photography, interior design, graphic design, and media arts. The Third Annual Alumni Reunion is Friday, Aug. 20, 6 – 8 pm. Bring friends and family to see what your fellow alumni are doing! Watch for your invitation in the mail.

Friday, Sept. 3, 7 p.m.

Wine Pairing Dinner at Creations

A faculty chef instructor and upper-level students prepare a four-course traditional French cuisine menu. Three specially chosen wines accompany the meal. Learn from a local wine expert the elements in the food and wine that make them great together. Cost is \$60 per person plus tax and gratuity. Reservations required. Call 770.689.4946 or email creationsdining@aol.com for more information or to reserve your place.

Friday, Sept. 17, 11 am – 2 pm

Portfolio Show

Interested in hiring new creative talent? View the portfolios of approximately one hundred graduation candidates of The Art Institute's design and media arts programs. To RSVP, contact Diana Graves-Sharple at 770.689.4807, toll free 1.800.275.4242 ext. 4807, or e-mail dgraves@aia.edu.

Community & Professional Education Classes

Half-Off for Alumni!

SmartFun offers non-credit, hands-on workshops led by Art Institute faculty and staff for students of all ages. Certificate programs in baking and pastry, residential interiors, photography, and video production are also offered. Alumni receive half off the cost of all SmartFun workshops! Pre-registration required. Contact June Fischer at 770.689.4764 or by e-mail to jfischer@aia.edu, for more information or to register.

CALENDAR of events

www.aiaatlnsttutes.edu

fax: 770.394.0008

770.394.8300 or 1.800.275.4242

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Atlanta, GA 30328

100 Embassy Row

6600 Peachtree Dunwoody Road

The Art Institute
of Atlanta

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