

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the School of the Art Institute

AS THE NEW Chairman of the Board of Governors, my first major undertaking was to lead the search for the new president of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. It was fascinating to learn about the intricacies of SAIC through the search process and a pleasure to welcome Wellington Reiter as the School's fourth president in August. An architect and urban planner, he was previously Dean of the College of Design at Arizona State University, and he has held teaching appointments at Harvard, MIT, and Rhode Island School of Design. I would like to recognize the governors and trustees for their dedication to this search, especially Barry MacLean, David Vitale, Steve Crown, Les Coney, Stephanie Sick, Karen Frank, Andy Rosenfield, and Chairman Tom Pritzker. Felice Dublon, Joan Livingstone, Raja Halwani, and Andrea Reynders also provided invaluable insight as members of the search committee.

With a new president and a new chairman, SAIC has entered an exciting period of transition and reinvigoration, one that I am confident will continue the tradition of excellence at SAIC and create new possibilities for art and design in the twenty-first century.

SAIC's 2009 commencement ceremony at Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park was one of the most memorable experiences of the year. Immediately following the public opening of the Modern Wing, architect Renzo Piano delivered a stirring address to the graduates and their families. We were also honored to present honorary doctorates to Renzo Piano, 1954 alumnus Charles Harrison (inventor of the Viewfinder), and artist Eleanor Antin.

The true honorees at the commencement were the students. We welcomed over 800 graduates into our alumni community and celebrated their achievements, including over 60 impressive career-building fellowships and awards. Angel Otero (BFA '07, MFA '09) received the prestigious Leonore Annenberg Fellowship in the Visual Arts, which will enable him to further his painting career in New York. Carolina Gonzalez (BFA '09) received the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Travel Fellowship to create a new video piece in Uruguay, and Katrina Chamberlin (MFA '09) received the Toby Fund. Continuing our history as one of the nation's top producers of Fulbright recipients, seven alumni will embark on such fellowships this year.

It would not be possible for these students to learn and excel at such a high level without significant support from a network of donors, foundations, partners, and friends. The future success of SAIC lies in the relationships that it builds and fosters. As chairman, I look forward to deepening those relationships and further advancing the SAIC vision.

CARY D. MCMILLAN
CHAIRMAN