

Summer 2008

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

# at Cooper



# Union

## At Cooper Union Summer 2008

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Cooper Union celebrated a milestone in the construction of its new academic building with a topping out ceremony in May. Photograph by Leo Sorel



Leo Sorel

## Message from President George Campbell Jr.

As the academic year draws to a close, The Cooper Union community can look back over 2007-08 with a profound sense of accomplishment. At commencement we celebrated four new Fulbright scholars who will pursue their studies in Peru, Tunisia, Japan and Kazakhstan. Since 2001, our graduates have won an astonishing 28 Fulbright scholarships—approximately seven percent of all Fulbright Awards in art, architecture and engineering. Another National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship was awarded to a Cooper Union graduate this year, bringing the total to 11 since 2004, making the college also one of the nation's top producers of NSF Fellowships. Cooper Union's electrical engineering seniors swept first, second and third prizes in the student research paper competition sponsored by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers; and our chemical engineering students won first prize in the national Chem-E-Car competition, sponsored by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and designed to stimulate research in alternative fuels. Civil engineering students won one of the concrete canoe competitions and took third place overall in the Steel Bridge competition.

**Since 2001, our graduates have won an astonishing 28 Fulbright scholarships—approximately seven percent of all Fulbright Awards in art, architecture and engineering.**

Ranked number one among Baccalaureate Colleges in the Northeastern quadrant of the nation, Cooper Union hosted a Middle States Commission on Higher Education Evaluation Team this spring in connection with the 10-year reaccreditation process. All academic and administrative departments, as well as external constituents, were engaged in the preparing for the comprehensive review of our programs.

The Cooper Union also honored distinguished alumni whose outstanding professional careers and commitment to public service serve as role models for graduating seniors. I had the great honor of presenting Presidential Citations to Jesse Reiser (AR'81) and Nanako Umemoto (AR'83) in architecture, Thomas Nozkowski (A'67) in art and Nancy H. Yieh (ME'79) in engineering. This year's commencement speaker, Dr. Ronald Drucker (CE'62), chairman of Cooper Union's Board of Trustees, shared with the graduates the impact of his Cooper Union education on his career as an engineer and railroad executive, which by all measures has been exemplary. In addition, Dr. Drucker has played a crucial leadership role on the Board as we put the finishing touches on the master plan to renew the institution's physical and financial infrastructures.

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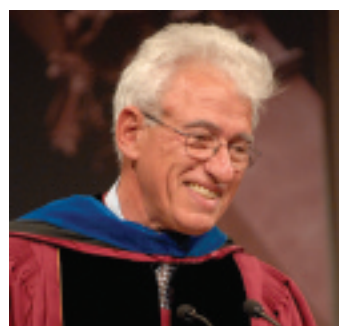


# 149th Commencement 2008



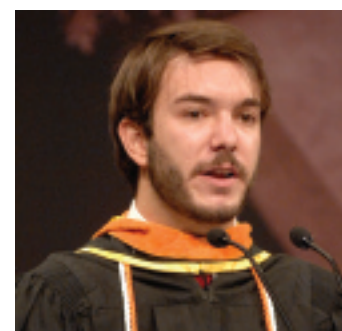
Tradition holds with bagpipers leading faculty and students around the Foundation Building before the ceremony.

Left: Soon-to-be graduates prepared for the ceremony in the Wollman Lounge.



Chairman of the Board of Trustees Ronald W. Drucker (CE'62) gave the commencement address.

Right: The class of 2008 listened to the proceedings.



Rodrigo Suárez Tamés (CE'08) was the student speaker.

Below: Dennis Stephen Kong (IDE'08) sang the national anthem.



Trustee Jason Wright and President George Campbell Jr. are pictured here with Jesse Reiser (AR'81) and Nanako Umemoto (AR'83), who received a Presidential Citation.



Thomas Nozkowski (A'67), who received a Presidential Citation, and Trustee Philip P. Trahanas (EE'92).



Trustee Douglas A.P. Hamilton and Presidential Citation recipient Nancy H. Yieh (ME'79).



photos: Leo Sorel

Norbert Markowicz (ME'08) channeled his inner Peter Cooper as he presented the senior class gift.

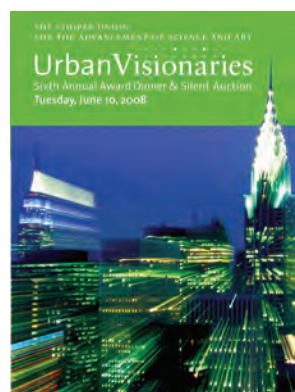
# News Briefs

**Generous new grants support the new academic building**

## Message from President George Campbell Jr.

*continued from page 2*

The end of the semester coincided with the completion of the superstructure for our new academic building, which we celebrated with a recent “topping out” ceremony. An even greater celebration will come with the completion of construction on February 12, 2009, the 218th anniversary of Peter Cooper’s birth. On the same day we will launch a series of events commemorating The Cooper Union’s 150th anniversary.



Our \$250 million capital campaign is approaching \$170 million, and is on schedule for a successful completion in 2012. Special events and new mini-campaigns contributed substantially to the progress we made. In June, Cooper Union held its sixth Annual Urban Visionaries Awards Dinner and Silent Auction, a benefit celebrating the

achievements of true visionaries and featuring the donated works of many renowned artists. The evening drew a record number of participants and raised \$800,000. This year’s Phonathon added more than \$400,000 and the Alumni Roof Terrace Campaign has produced more than \$1.6 million.

Through the Cooper Union Dialogue Series, in partnership with former Governor Mario Cuomo, we have once again provided an important forum for the exchange of ideas among candidates, potential candidates, political thinkers, journalists and the public. This year the Great Hall forum featured Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City, Tom Brokaw and Senator Barack Obama. Senator McCain has been invited to speak in the fall.

There were moments of sadness in the Great Hall this year as well. John Jay Iselin, president of The Cooper Union from 1988 to 2000, passed away earlier May. Members of the college community, along with family and friends, gathered here to celebrate his life and his notable contributions to the college as president.

The extraordinary progress we’ve made this year would not have been possible without the generosity and support of The Cooper Union’s alumni, students, faculty, donors and friends. I offer my thanks and congratulations to all of you for continuing the bold educational and philanthropic adventure that Peter Cooper began in 1859.

The Kresge Foundation has awarded Cooper Union a generous challenge grant toward construction of the new academic building. This prestigious grant is intended to help strengthen fundraising capacity, and is conditional upon the college’s raising more than \$11 million toward the building between July 2007 and June 2009. We’ve raised more than \$5 million since the start of the challenge period and now have about \$6 million to go. All gifts to the building fund will count toward this exciting challenge. Board of Trustees Chairman Ronald W. Drucker (CE’62), Vice Chairman Mark Epstein (A’76) and trustees Thomas R. Driscoll (ME’77) and Philip Trahanas (EE’92) together contributed more than \$1 million to be applied to this grant.

In addition, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, headed by president and CEO Kevin Burke (EE’72), has pledged \$1 million to the new building fund, which will be recognized in the Senior Electrical Engineering Laboratory. Con Ed also supports the Summer Engineering Internship Program and Cooper Union’s 2008 Urban Visionaries benefit, which Burke co-chaired.

On April 30, the Higher Education Capital Matching Grants (He Cap) Board (State of New York) approved \$52 million in He Cap funding for projects at 33 institutions. The Cooper Union was awarded \$411,414 towards construction costs for the new academic building.



## New Trustees Join our Board

Thomas R. Driscoll (ME'77), Vikas Kapoor, Philip Trahanas (EE'92) and Cynthia Weiler have joined Cooper Union's Board of Trustees.

Driscoll, nominated as an Alumni Trustee by the Cooper Union Alumni Association, is currently managing director and oil and gas equity analyst at Lehman Brothers. Previously, he was oil and gas equity analyst with Salomon Brothers (later Salomon Smith Barney), was promoted to director and then managing director. He was first recognized as an "All Star" analyst by *Institutional Investor Magazine* in 1990 and has been recognized each subsequent year. He has also been recognized by the *Wall Street Journal* as a top analyst. Driscoll has been a member of the Alumni Council of The Cooper Union Alumni Association, the Gano Dunn Award Committee, and a participant in Phonathon. He received an M.B.A. in Finance from Columbia Business School in 1986 and a CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) in 1989.

Kapoor is president and CEO of iQor, a premier provider of call center services. Kapoor took the helm of iQor in 2004, and has led a dramatic improvement in the company's operations and financial performance. Alongside this operational improvement, Kapoor has launched a series of highly innovative changes that are repositioning iQor as a breakout company in the call center industry, including establishing a global footprint with a revolutionary work allocation system, deploying the first end-to-end VOIP network in the call center industry, and developing the most innovative software applications in the call center industry. Prior to his arrival at iQor, Kapoor was president and CEO of Toronto-based Delano Technology. He is a member of Philippine President Gloria Arroyo's International Board of Advisors and the Young Presidents' Organization. Kapoor earned an M.B.A. from the Harvard Business School, where he was a Baker Scholar. He also holds an M.A. in philosophy from Harvard University and is a magna cum laude graduate of Princeton University.

Trahanas is a managing director at General Atlantic LLC, a global private equity firm. He is currently responsible for the firm's investment activities in the communications and electronics sector. He holds director positions at A-Max Technology and SYS Technologies and had prior Board affiliations with SRA International, Vindigo Studios, Ztango, PowerDsine and AiMetrix. Trahanas has a combination of experience in operating, investment banking and private equity roles. Previously, at Morgan Stanley, Trahanas worked on the high technology corporate finance team, was a merger and acquisition specialist and was a member of the division's operating management team. Trahanas received an M.B.A. from the Wharton School, where he graduated as a Palmer Scholar, and an M.S. in engineering from the Moore School of Engineering.

Weiler currently serves several organizations as a volunteer and fundraiser. She is a member of the Alumni Board at the College of Wooster and is a trustee at the Cancer Research Institute. She is also co-chair of The Central Park Conservancy Steering Committee. She recently completed her term as a trustee at The Bishop's School, where she co-chaired the Board Affairs Committee and was on the Executive Committee. Weiler has had an active role in leading endowment and other related advancement efforts over the past seven years at Bishops, with additional focus on board operations, best practices and governance. She has served as a member of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee at The Cooper Union since March 2007. Previously, she had a career in university research administration at Harvard University and at the University of San Diego and the SDSU Foundation. She served as president of the Mothers and Daughters Club Assisting Philanthropy, is a sustaining member of Children's Hospital La Playa Auxiliary and of MAKUA and is a supporting member of The San Diego Women's Foundation. Weiler graduated from the College of Wooster in 1980 and earned an M.B.A. from Xavier University, Cincinnati.



Thomas R. Driscoll (ME'77)



Vikas Kapoor



Philip Trahanas (EE'92)



Cynthia Weiler

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

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## Barack Obama speaks at The Cooper Union



Mayor Michael Bloomberg introduced Senator Barack Obama.

Right: Senator Obama delivered an economic policy address at Cooper Union.



Barack Obama, U.S. Senator from Illinois and, at the time, one of two candidates for the Democratic nomination in the 2008 U.S. presidential election, made a major economic policy announcement in the fourth program of The Cooper Union Dialogue Series on March 27. Mayor Michael Bloomberg, introduced by Dr. Ronald W. Drucker (CE'62), chairman of our Board of Trustees, introduced the senator. Obama spoke about confronting the current housing crisis and strengthening the regulatory system governing American financial markets. He described six principles to guide the legal reforms of the regulatory system. He said, "...we have to make government responsive once again to all of the American people.... I know that making these changes won't be easy. I will not pretend that this will come without costs, although I have presented ways we can achieve these changes in a fiscally responsible way. I believe in PAYGO. If I start a new program I will pay for it.... But if we unite this country around a common purpose, if we act on the responsibilities that we have to each other and to our country, then we can launch a new era of opportunity and prosperity." The event was reported in top tier outlets across the nation as well as local press, including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, CNN, NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams, *The New York Sun*, *Chicago Tribune*, CBS Marketwatch, NY1, *New York Post*, *New York Daily News*, WABC-Ch.7, WNBC-Ch.4 and WCBS-Ch.2.



Senator Obama greeted the audience after his talk.

## Cooper Union Benefactors Join Lifetime Giving Societies

On Tuesday, June 3, 2008, President George Campbell Jr., joined by members of The Cooper Union's Board of Trustees, hosted an event to honor several new members to The Peter Cooper Heritage Society, The Sarah Bedell Cooper Society and The Abram S. Hewitt Society. The lifetime giving societies were created to recognize our most generous benefactors and to celebrate the philanthropic spirit that perpetuates Cooper Union. Below are the names of the most recent inductees of each Society:

### The Peter Cooper Heritage Society

Lisa Ware and Ronald Drucker (CE'62)

### The Sarah Bedell Cooper Society

Susan Eisenberg (CE'62) and Benjamin Eisenberg (ChE'61)

Mark Epstein (A'76)

Ellen Lincer and Richard Lincer

Susan Rudin and Jack Rudin

Susan deMenil and François deMenil (AR'87)

Diane Driscoll and Thomas Driscoll (ME'77)

Roslyn Jaffe and Elliot Jaffe

### The Abram S. Hewitt Society

Claire Wesselmann (A'59)

Ann Levine



Benjamin (ChE'61) and  
Susan Eisenberg (CE'62)



Vice chairman of the Board of  
Trustees Mark Epstein (A'76)



Richard Lincer



Mark Bodden, May and Samuel Rudin  
Family Foundation Inc.



Elliot Jaffe, Roslyn Jaffe and President George Campbell Jr.



## In Memoriam: John Jay Iselin

John Jay Iselin, the 10th president of The Cooper Union died on March 5, 2008. Iselin served as president from 1988 until 2000. He brought with him the experience and wisdom he had gained during a distinguished career in academia, public broadcasting, magazine journalism and public affairs.

Named President Emeritus upon his retirement, Iselin's legacy to Cooper Union included a \$50 million capital campaign, extensive investments in facilities—including laboratories, studios, an engineering design lab and a residence hall. One notable achievement was the exterior renovation of the national landmark Foundation Building, built by founder Peter Cooper in 1859. He also created endowed professorships in Cooper Union's Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture, School of Art and Albert Nerken School of Engineering.

In addition to those accomplishments Iselin was a great advocate for and friend to The Cooper Union's students.

Upon leaving Cooper Union, Iselin became president of The Marconi International Fellowship Foundation at Columbia University, which promotes awareness of major innovations in telecommunications with particular attention to understanding how they change and enhance society.

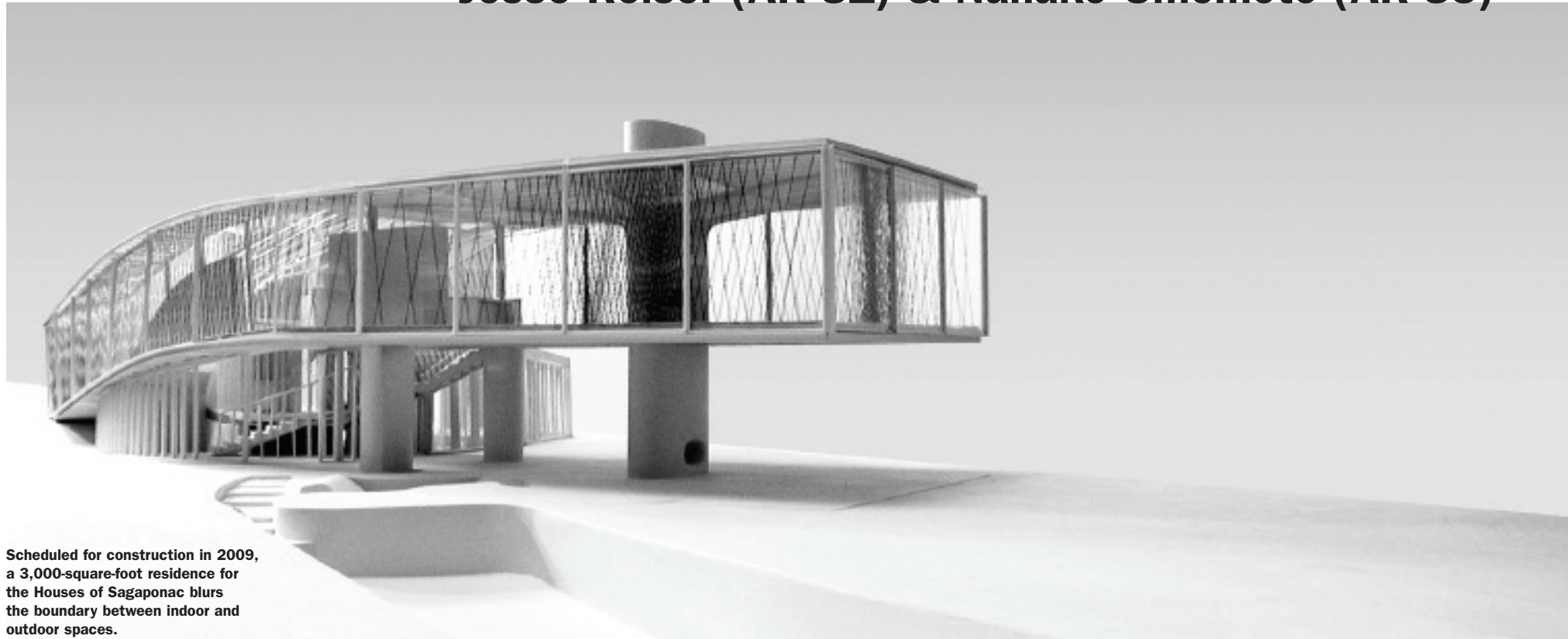
Iselin's distinguished career included the presidency of WNET (Channel 13 in New York) from 1973 to 1987. Prior to that he was a vice president of Harper & Row Publishers and *Newsweek's* senior national affairs editor from 1965 to 1969. He served as a correspondent in *Newsweek's* Washington Bureau and as correspondent for the *Congressional Quarterly* while on a research fellowship at the Brookings Institution in Washington in 1960–61.

Heartfelt sympathy goes to his wife, the former Josephine Lea Barnes, their five children and their entire family.

A tribute to Iselin was held in the Great Hall at Cooper Union on May 29. The family has requested that contributions in John Jay Iselin's memory be made to: The Franklin Fund, The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, 30 Cooper Square, New York, NY 10003.

# Dynamic Forces

Jesse Reiser (AR'81) & Nanako Umemoto (AR'83)



Scheduled for construction in 2009, a 3,000-square-foot residence for the Houses of Sagaponac blurs the boundary between indoor and outdoor spaces.

In the introduction to their recently published *Atlas of Novel Tectonics*, the husband-and-wife team of Jesse Reiser (AR'81) and Nanako Umemoto (AR'83) write that “beneficial novelty is the preferred condition to stability and the driving agenda behind architectural practice.” Almost 7,000 miles from the New York City office of Reiser + Umemoto, RUR Architecture P.C., this long-held belief is being put into practice as the firm’s first major built work begins to take shape in the architectural hotbed of Dubai. The 22-story office tower, named O-14, is remarkable for inverting the typical arrangement of high-rise buildings; rather than a structural core with a curtain-wall façade, it will feature a concrete exoskeleton perforated with more than 1,000 custom-shaped openings. Scheduled for completion in spring 2009, O-14 demonstrates the kind of forward-thinking research that Reiser and Umemoto have been pursuing over the past two decades through dozens of design competitions and exhibitions as well as years of teaching experience.

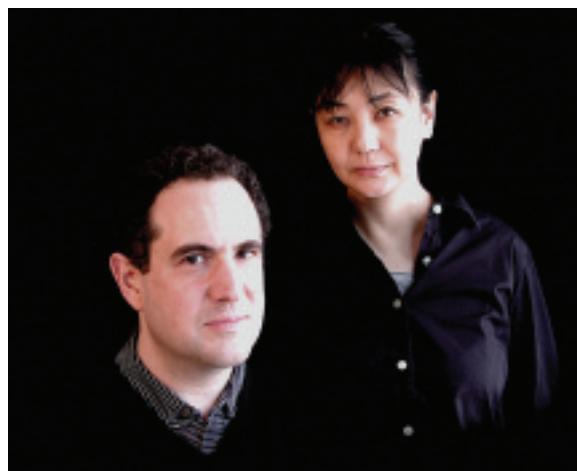
The story of Reiser + Umemoto begins both in the village of Dobbs Ferry, NY and the city of Kyoto, Japan. In Dobbs Ferry, Reiser’s early interests in art and science were influenced by his mother, the architect Debora Reiser; his father Samuel, whose true callings are philosophy and Eastern thought; and his maternal grandfather, an engineer. Meanwhile, as a child in Kyoto, Umemoto was surrounded by art, science and building: her mother was a kimono painter, her father a bio-physicist and her grandfather a developer.

In the late 1970s, having decided to pursue architecture, Reiser chose The Cooper Union because it was at the forefront of architectural thought. “Cooper Union was a convergence point for all of the innovative ideas that were brewing at the time,” he says. “Figures like John Hejduk, Raymond Abraham and Peter Eisenman were there. Cooper Union was always talked about at home—there was a lot of ferment and it just seemed to embody the intensity I craved more than other places.”

Umemoto initially earned a landscape architecture and urban design degree at the Osaka University of Art, but returned to school to study architecture at Cooper Union in 1980. She came upon the school a bit by chance. “I was looking into a few schools,” she says, “and I met somebody at a party who said, ‘Why don’t you go to Cooper Union?’ I liked the name, so I applied. “For people like me, who already had a degree, experience working in offices and doing working drawings, the college was great because we were encouraged to develop our own ideas.”

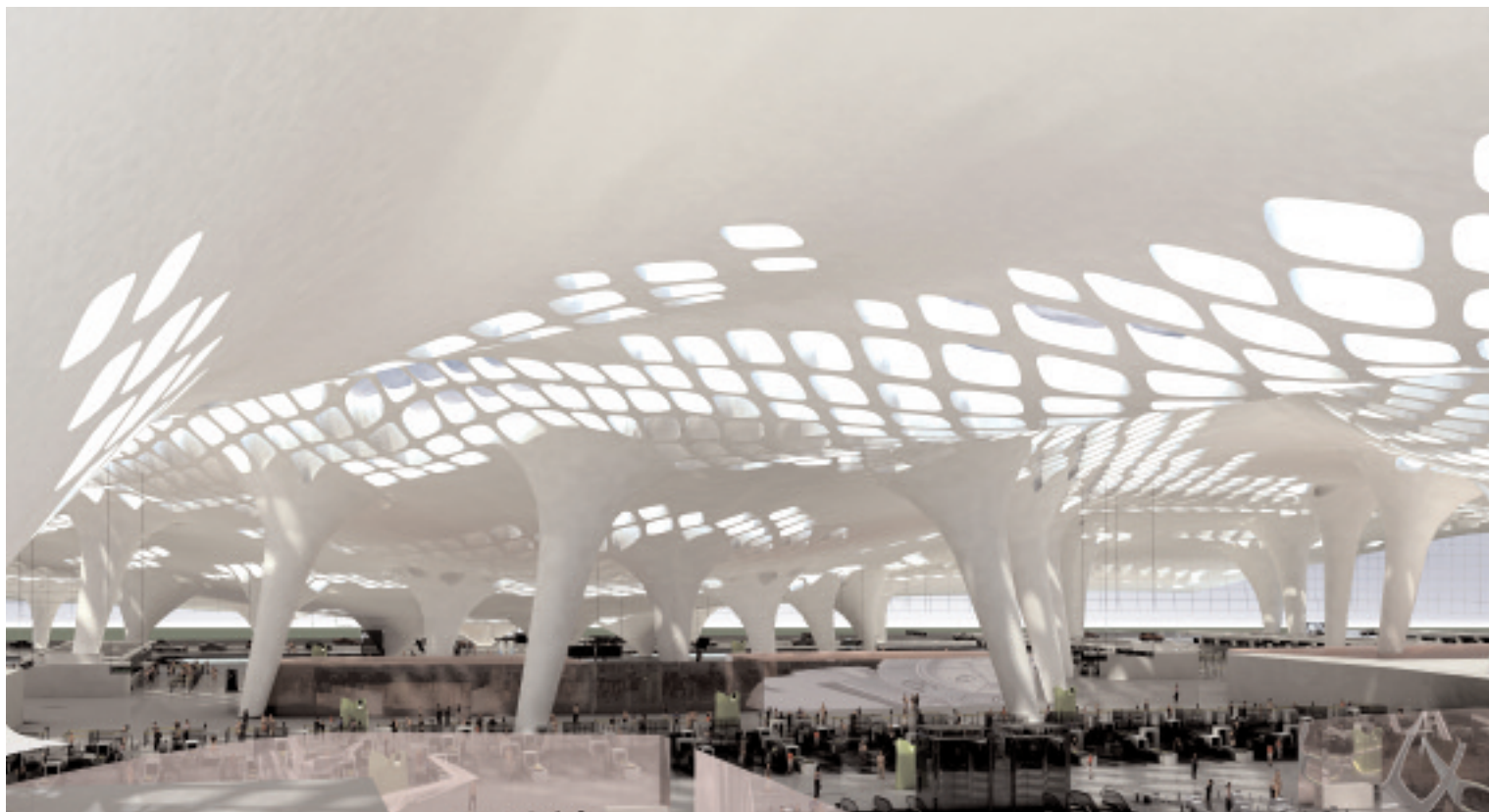


Below: The firm's long-span concrete-shell proposal placed second in an invited competition to design a new terminal at the Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport in China.



Jesse Reiser (AR'81)  
and Nanako Umemoto (AR'83)

Below: Aeon was designed as a competition entry for a mixed-use tower complex in the Dubai's Business Bay. Although the nearly 500,000-sq.ft. proposal wasn't chosen, it attracted the attention of the competition's organizer, who commissioned the firm to design O-14.



Images: Courtesy of Reiser + Umemoto

“Architecture was taught as an art there,” says Reiser. “Freehand drawing was and is a really important part of the education. It’s ironic, with all of the computerization now, freehand drawing is even more important—not rendering, but the ability to generate sketches and to think three-dimensionally. We will always be indebted to Susan Gussow (A’56/Art fac.), our professor of drawing, for transmitting that tradition of skill and sensibility.”

After graduating, Reiser went on to get his master’s from the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, MI, where Cooper Union alumnus Daniel Libeskind (AR’70) was the head. Reiser worked in the offices of both Hejduk and Aldo Rossi, the Italian architect who also taught at Cooper Union, as well as for his mother in Dobbs Ferry. Umemoto also worked for Debora Reiser after graduating, as well as for a short time in the office of Minoru Yamasaki, the architect of the World Trade Center.

Reiser and Umemoto began collaborating in 1984 at the American Academy in Rome, where Reiser was a Rome Prize Fellow that year. Their collaboration continued back in the United States, initially operating out of the Reiser family garage in Dobbs Ferry. After stops in the Bronx and another office in Manhattan, the firm settled on the Upper East Side in 1998, where it has been ever since. The size of the staff varies from eight to around 20, depending on the workload. Reiser says that the formation of the office was strongly influenced by Rossi. “We patterned the office on a European model—which was crazy—and that got us into doing competitions for 15 to 20 years,” he says. “That is sort of the norm in Europe but unusual for the United States.

“All of those competitions have helped to focus our work. We treat architecture as an overall project—instead of moving from one design to the next, we’re motivated to develop a direction of work across a series of projects. It’s an ongoing process of experimentation through design.”

While they were trained by teachers enmeshed in Modernism, it was in the 1990s, according to Reiser, with advances in materials and technology, that it became possible to radically advance that heritage. “The computer is seen as the instigator of it, but there was a long-standing material and philosophical basis to it as well—the Modernist models wouldn’t have to be thrown out, but had suddenly acquired a new set of potentials,” he says. “What were formerly very static models of architecture became dynamic and more flexible, almost as if a new spatial medium had been found.”

With O-14, the notable innovation is its perforated concrete exoskeleton. The commission came about through an invited competition for another project in Dubai that called for a mixed-use tower complex in the city's Business Bay. Reiser + Umemoto's design may not have won—Zaha Hadid's "Dancing Towers" scheme was chosen—but it attracted the attention of the competition's organizer, who commissioned the firm to design O-14. In addition to creating a striking appearance, the concrete shell both addresses the question of how to build in the desert and produces sustainable benefits. "The typical corporate architect's response in that climate is to do curtain-wall buildings with very dark glass to offset the sun," says Reiser. "By pulling the structure to the outside, we use it to shade the building and free up the interior space—there is no longer any need for interior columns. The design also creates a [three-foot] void space between the façade and the window wall, which produces a chimney-effect; air is pulled up between the concrete and the glass, resulting in a 30 percent reduction in cooling costs.

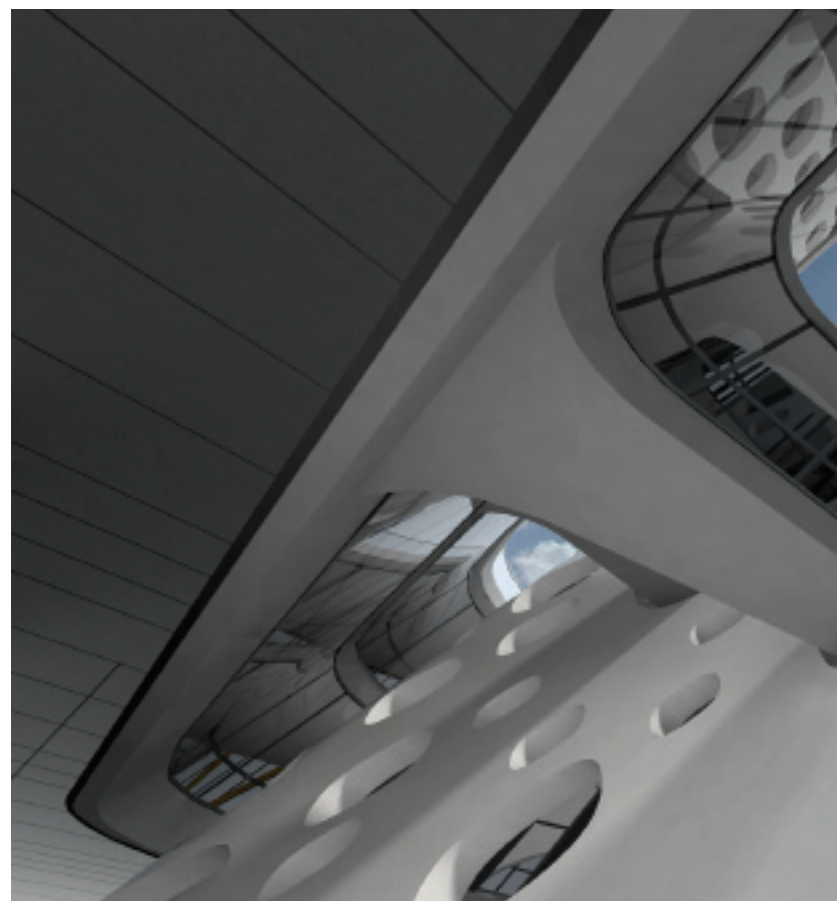
"It was a happy coming together of design attitude and sustainability. Because we are responsive to a whole series of influences, factors like sustainability come in quite naturally."

O-14 also gave Reiser and Umemoto the opportunity to realize a project with long-time collaborator and Cooper Union professor Ysrael Seinuk. "Seinuk is legendary both within the culture of Cooper Union and the New York scene for his creative pragmatism and wit," says Reiser. "But as former students, we were also aware of his creative abilities, which he could exercise in full measure in the context of Dubai."

In 2002, Reiser + Umemoto led the international group of firms, collectively known as United Architects, that was one of the seven finalists in the competition to design a master plan for the former World Trade Center site in lower Manhattan. United Architects' plan called for five self-supporting towers that would meet high at the 55th floor, thus increasing their structural strength. In 2003, Reiser + Umemoto won a competition to develop a master plan for Taiwan's Alishan Forest Railway, a timber line that was originally built by the Japanese at the turn of the 20th century. The plan will rejuvenate the rail route as an agricultural strip lined with a series of "slow food" restaurants and develop two stations and infrastructure to support increased tourism.

More recently, the firm's long-span concrete-shell design placed second in an invited competition to design a new terminal at the Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport in China. Reiser and Umemoto also recently learned that their design of a 3,000-square-foot residence for the Houses of Sagaponac development on Long Island is scheduled for construction in 2009. The plan for the Houses of Sagaponac was the brainchild of the late Hollywood producer Coco Brown and the architect Richard Meier. To date, a handful of the planned 30 residences have been constructed. "This is a not-unusual story in the world of architecture," says Reiser. "We started designing it almost eight years ago, it has been widely published, is in museum collections and is even being taught, but it is only now that they are getting around to building it."

Urban design has been as integral to Reiser and Umemoto's practice as architecture—they regard the two disciplines as inherently connected. In 1997, they were the recipients of the first Van Alen Institute fellowship for researching and designing 12 miles of Manhattan's East River waterfront from the Battery to the Triborough Bridge. Their East River proposal led them to be selected to compete for the conceptual design of the West Side Railyard site in an international competition sponsored by the Canadian Center for Architecture.



Currently in construction, O-14 will rise 22 stories along the waterfront in Dubai's Business Bay. Inverting the normal structural arrangement of towers, it is supported by a perforated concrete exoskeleton that shades the sun and produces sustainable benefits.



In all of their projects, Reiser and Umemoto collaborate on every aspect of the design process. Umemoto notes that while they don't always agree, the work always ends up improving as they iron out their differences. "Whenever we show a project, everyone asks, 'What did Jesse do and what did you do?' But we don't work that way. Both of us are so involved—he may be strong at one moment and I may strong at another moment, but in the end it's all mixed."

Reiser and Umemoto also both teach as much as they practice. Since 2000, Reiser has taught at Princeton University, where he is currently an associate professor. He was an assistant professor at Yale from 1990 to 1992 and at Columbia from 1992 to 2000. Umemoto was an assistant professor at Columbia from 1992 to 2000. She has also taught at Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania, Cooper Union and, most recently, at Hong Kong University. Both note that being at Columbia in the 1990s was a crucially formative experience. "We had a lot of contemporaries who we exchanged ideas with," says Reiser, "including fellow Cooper Union graduate Stan Allen (AR'81)—now the dean of the Princeton School of Architecture—Greg Lynn and Ben Van Berkel, as well as the theorists Jeffrey Kipnis and Sanford Kwinter. It was both education and self-development."

Their awards over the years include a 1998 PA Award, which was given by *Progressive Architecture* magazine in recognition of cutting-edge design work; a 1999 Chrysler Award for excellence in design; a 2000 Academy Award in Architecture from the American Academy of Arts and Letters; and a 2002 AIA Award for a competition design for the BMW plant in Leipzig, Germany. This year, they received Cooper Union's Presidential Citation.

The firm's designs have appeared in countless exhibits around the world. Recently, the model for the Sagaponac house was included in the permanent collection at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City; forthcoming exhibitions include a showing at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art in Israel and the Home Delivery show at the Museum of Modern Art. *The Atlas of Novel Tectonics* was published in 2006 by Princeton Architectural Press. Underscoring its popularity, Japanese and Russian language versions are scheduled for publication later this year. A monograph of the firm's work, *Projects and Their Consequences*, is also forthcoming from the Spanish publisher Actar.

Today, Reiser and Umemoto live in the New York City with their teenage son ("he's a Cooper baby!" exclaims Umemoto)—and continue their ongoing research and design work. In the near future, that research and design will result in another project in Dubai—the firm is currently working on a scheme for a new 30-story building there.



## In the Nooks of History: Absence and Remembering

in the Art of

# Whitfield Lovell (A'81)



John Stuart

Whitfield Lovell's (A'81) loft feels like a sanctuary from the hectic pace of life in New York City. The smell of freshly sawn wood pervades the space, and light seeps in through the windows. His various collections—everything from statues, globes and paintings to glass bottles and antique tintypes—adorn walls and the tops of furniture. In this environment, time itself seems to slow its stride.

His studio, which sits in the middle of the loft, is lined with both finished works and works in progress. All of them center on extraordinary portraits of people from bygone eras. Some of these life-size portraits are charcoal on paper, while others have been meticulously drawn onto wooden wall-boards. One woman, a slight smile on her lips, looks directly at the viewer. Spread across two planks of wood, a handsome soldier from the 1940s directs his gaze toward something in the distance. His

legs sprawl lazily beyond his chair, his eyes and mouth are serious; his thin mustache emphasizes his youth, though he might have grown it to seem older. On the floor of the studio, several old wooden foundry molds stand on their sides, so their circular faces are upright. The marks left on the molds through years of use seem an integral part of the portraits that have been drawn on them. The beauty of the drawings pulls you in for a closer look and, up close, the people portrayed silently invite you to wonder who they were and what their stories might have been. The observer cannot just look at the work; the viewer is drawn into active participation.

Lovell himself also gives off a feeling of calm, of gentleness. He moves slowly and thinks carefully before he speaks. He has a spontaneous and jovial laugh. It hardly comes as a surprise that this man is the creator of this world and of these portraits. Both are the result of the confluence of Lovell's particular family history within American history.

Born in 1959 and raised in the Bronx, Lovell realized early on that he wanted to be an artist. When he was a boy, one of his teachers recognized his great talent for drawing and tutored him at lunchtime. After school, he would spend hours drawing. His father, an amateur photographer, brought Lovell, starting from the age of five, into the darkroom to help him. This mix of experience—family portraits with his father, and the hours spent drawing—led him as an adult to focus upon images of his family and then later to create portraits that are drawn from either formal photographs for which people sat or, alternately, mug shots and informal pictures from photo booths. The images are of African Americans whose names have been forgotten or lost, dating from between the time of the Emancipation Proclamation in the late 1800s and the Civil Rights era: history, an absence of knowledge and a desire, almost an obligation, to remember form the crux of much of his work.

These aren't just notional interests. Lovell's family and his own personal experiences have time and time again brought him to these themes. Lovell's mother was originally from South Carolina. His father was born in the Bronx, and his parents came from Barbados. Lovell was very close to his maternal grandparents, and traveled with them every summer to South Carolina to see family. His great-great aunt lived in a wood cabin there, with no electricity because she didn't like its excessive brightness. "Most of my work comes from my closeness with my grandparents. They were my conduits to another generation," he explains, and that time and place figure heavily in his art. He based the cabin in his installation piece *Whispers from the Walls* (1999) on his great-great aunt's cabin. When visitors first entered, they could hear an old scratchy blues tune played on a phonograph. In order to enter the cabin, which was placed in the center of the University of North Texas Art Gallery, people had to first walk over clothes strewn thickly on the floor. Then they had to walk on mulch, before finally arriving at the front door. There, they would enter a shadowy bedroom filled with the odors given off by an old-fashioned whiskey-filled decanter and an oil lamp. There were little bedside tables with ordinary clutter—eye glasses, mirrors, hairbrushes and a few coins, for example. Whispered conversations—not loud enough to be understood—could be heard. On the walls, in the shadows, were a few charcoal portraits. By contrasting the solidity of the experiential with haunting images, Lovell makes absence palpable. By asking us to witness it, to interact with it, he gives those who are absent or unremembered a clear voice.

A 79 year old retired Bronx man who had just cashed his social security check was robbed and fatally shot yesterday while trying to fight off a mugging at the door of his apartment building in the East Tremont section, police said.

Eugene Glover of Crotona Park North, died in St. Barnabas Hospital after surgery for removal of a bullet from his left side. Police said Glover had left his wife, Mary, apartment at 10:30

in their first floor a.m. and walked to a bank, where social security check other checks for a the money in his pocket building and was in second door when he was muggers according to cops. put up a struggle and police said. One or fled with the money. some neighbors went hospital, where he

Byron Hartley, 19, a resident of Glover's

nice quiet man who liked to take long walks in the park. We used to talk alot. Gladys Lovell, the victim's daughter and his three grand children said, "Pop" as he was affectionately called, "was a strong and decent man. He was always willing to help people - he saw good in everyone. He was the patriarch of the family."



about five blocks he cashed his and one or more total of \$569. With Glover walked back to his the forger entering a grabbed by one or two Glover apparently was shot once possibly two muggers Glover's wife and with him to the died at 2:55 p.m.

high school student and a building said he "was a



**Far left: *Hand III*, 1996**  
Oil stick & charcoal on paper  
54 x 40½ inches  
Courtesy DC Moore Gallery



**Left: *Hand XIII*, 1996**  
Oil stick & charcoal on paper  
54 x 40½ inches  
Courtesy DC Moore Gallery

Kevin Ryan

His family’s history, of course, is set within the wider context of American history. While race and politics are not and should not be seen as the main thrust of Lovell’s work, these topics affect his art because of their impact upon his life. In the spring of 1968, when Lovell was eight years old, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, and it was at this point that his parents sat him and his siblings down and talked to them seriously about race in America. This greatly affected his development as a person, as did subsequent experiences. For example, remembering took an intensely personal turn for Lovell when he was a young man: within a five-year period, he lost his older sister, his maternal grandfather and his paternal grandmother. Remembering African Americans forgotten or ignored by American history, for Lovell, is a natural progression for him in his exploration of memory, history and loss. “I never started out with an agenda,” he points out, “I never set out saying ‘what can I do for African American history?’” Politics affect the images at a remove and as a by-product of their existence within the thorny framework of race in America.

While attending Cooper Union, Lovell first felt the impact of racial politics on his work, with one instructor in particular and with several students. “I believe it was the result of the lack of diversity in the school at that time,” he says. While other students were presenting portraits of family and friends, when he showed his drawings of his family, they were seen as social realism because they were images of black people. This was hard for Lovell, because to him, they were no more social realism than the portraits by his peers of white people. The fact that people imposed social issues on his images meant that they weren’t truly seeing his work: “By doing this,” he explains, “we were no longer looking at a painting, we were looking at an issue.” Lovell recalls his years at Cooper Union as challenging, but not without many good experiences and influential teachers. He had professors, like Harvey Quaytman, Charlie Seid, Larry Fink and Bill Alpert, whose

***Whispers from the Walls*, 1999**  
Installation view  
Courtesy DC Moore Gallery



Steve Denme

knowledge and respect for his work remain strong memories. Having taught at Cooper Union recently, Lovell has noticed a very positive change. In fact, he is quick to call attention to this: “If any valuable lesson can be had from knowing that I had a hard time at Cooper Union, it is the fact that such problems are remedied now by the presence of a diversified student body and faculty. The situation at Cooper Union has changed for the better and I feel good about that.”

Politics once again made an appearance during an artist’s residency outside Milan. The owner of the villa he was staying in conversationally mentioned that the villa had once belonged to an Italian slave trader. His coat-of-arms, in fact, included an image of an African face, replete with a bone through his nose. This was when Lovell started to draw on walls. “I felt like making a statement about being in this place. I wanted to leave a dignified image of a black person who had been there,” he says and so he put his self-portrait on the wall.

This convergence of personal experience and a wider history also led Lovell to another motif in his work. One series of his juxtaposes portraits with playing cards that he had found, while another depicts hands, palm facing us, where he has positioned a person, sometimes known to him, some unknown. Both the hands and the cards are strong visual images, though they are on a more intimate scale than the life-size portraits. They suggest that fate or destiny can’t be avoided. The hands have even more symbolism for Lovell. “I went to Morocco in the mid-1980s and I bought my first Hand of Fatimah; that led to me collecting them and drawing them,” he explains. “The hands are a symbol of protection in many cultures, as well as symbols of power. By putting people in the hands, I was thinking of protecting their memories, and getting a sense of power from the past.” The protection and power derived from remembering echo through his art, in the depictions of family members he has lost, and through his life, in terms of understanding his past.

Understanding the past is something Lovell feels we all need to do. While American history might provide the backdrop for his work, Lovell means for his images to transcend: “My work has to say something about the human experience,” Lovell says. “You look at a photograph of somebody, and you realize that this person was alive, and they were making changes, and influencing each other, nurturing each other. Their lives were just as meaningful to them as ours are to us now.” He pauses. “And they’ve all passed on. And one day, it’ll be us. Somebody will be looking at photographs of us. And, I think that understanding today and in the future is possible only if we know where we came from, and what it took to be here.”

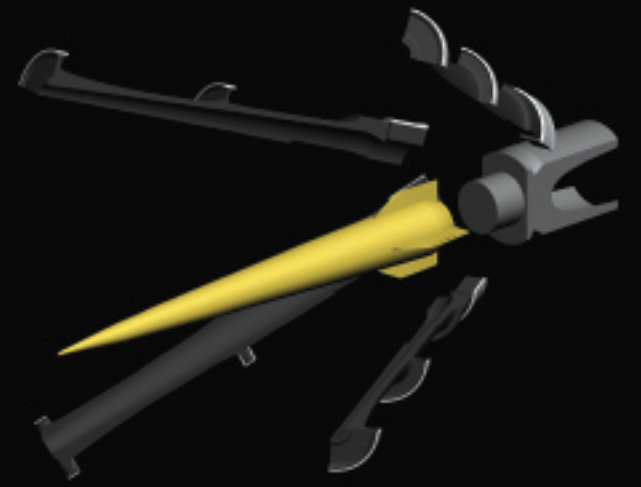
Since graduating from Cooper Union in 1981, Lovell has exhibited extensively both in the United States and internationally, and in 2007 he received a MacArthur Foundation fellowship award. His work is in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Studio Museum in Harlem and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, among many others. In New York, he is represented by DC Moore Gallery. In recognition of his many accomplishments, the Cooper Union Alumni Association honored him this year with the 2008 Augustus Saint Gaudens Award in Art.

**“I never started out with an agenda. I never set out saying ‘what can I do for African American history?’” Politics affect the images at a remove and as a by-product of their existence within the thorny framework of race in America.**

Train and installation view, 2006  
Courtesy DC Moore Gallery



# A Magnetic



## John Dalessandro (ME'67)

John Dalessandro, who graduated from Cooper Union in 1967, would be the first to tell you he does not have a magnetic personality. You might believe him too, because he is quiet, direct and low-key. His specialty is engineering analysis, and he comes across like someone who measures his words before he speaks.

Yet Dalessandro is drawn to magnets. Not just any magnets. Dalessandro has spent much of his adult life analyzing magnets so powerful he has to take special care that their forces do not melt or rip the magnets apart.

These are not the type of magnets found in ordinary power generators, electric motors or even advanced medical imaging equipment. Instead, they are the magnets used to squeeze plasma together in fusion reactors, guide the path of fast-moving particles in physics experiments and hurl projectiles fast enough to cover the distance from New York City to Boston in two minutes.

It has not been a dull career for a man who entered Cooper Union thinking that if he couldn't make it as an engineer, he could always get a job as a skilled tradesman.

As a boy growing up in Queens, Dalessandro found he was good at building things. "My father was a fireman, and his schedule allowed him to spend time with me during the day and show me how to use tools to make things," he

recalls. "My older brother built transistor radios. We both built and repaired things. When I realized that's what engineers do, I decided that's what I wanted to be."

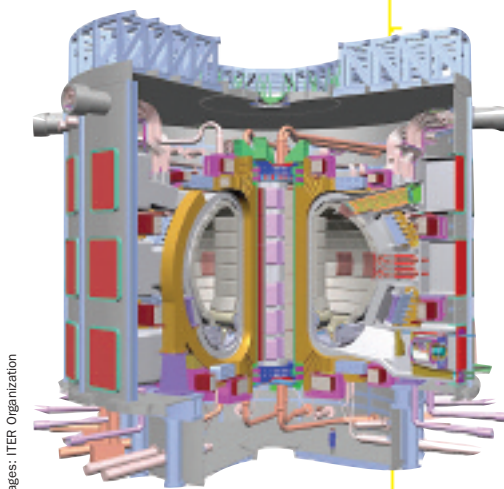
Dalessandro did what any technology-obsessed boy growing up in New York would have done. He applied to Brooklyn Technical High School. In addition to studying mechanical engineering, math and machine design, he took many hands-on classes, including machine shop, pattern making and metallurgy. "I ate that stuff up," he says. Although he always ranked near the top of his class academically, his most treasured high school achievement was a senior project award for machining and tempering a tool tap to cut screw threads in a hole.

Then came Cooper Union. It was very different than it is today. Of the 125 freshmen in his class, only two were women. That was actually more progressive than Brooklyn Tech, which was then an all-boys school.

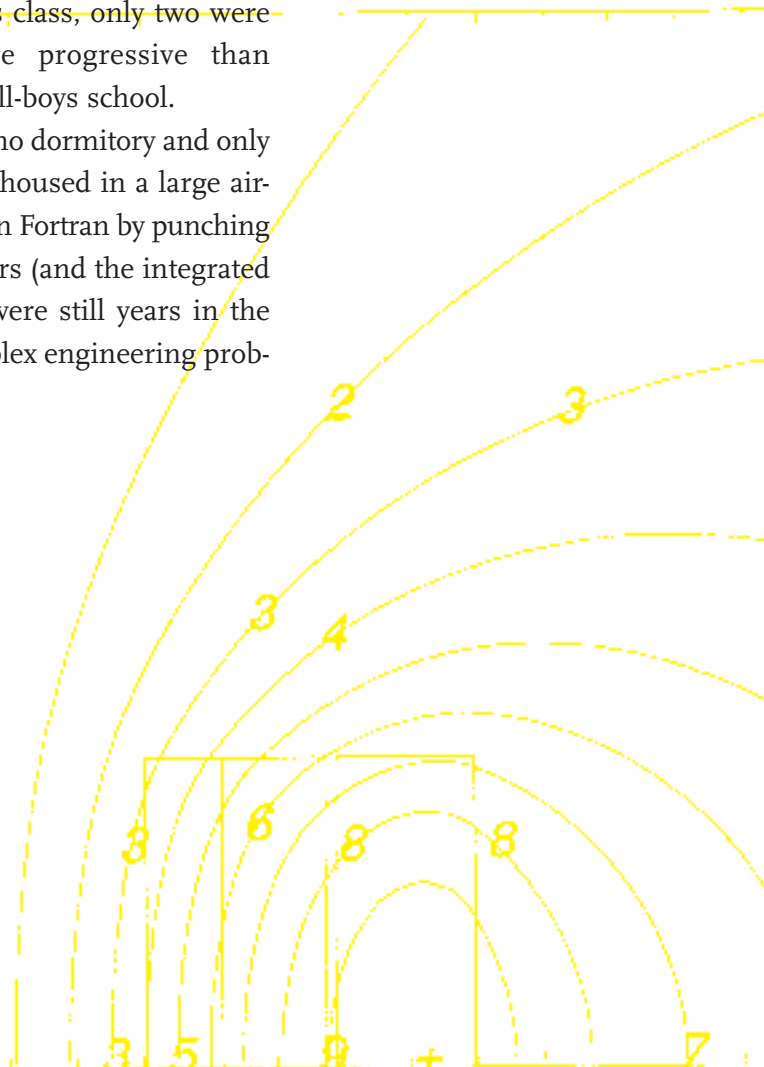
Dalessandro's Cooper Union had no dormitory and only one computer. It was an IBM 1620 housed in a large air-conditioned room and programmed in Fortran by punching holes in thick paper cards. Calculators (and the integrated circuits that made them possible) were still years in the future, so students worked out complex engineering problems using slide rules.



John Dalessandro



Images: ITER Organization



The central solenoid model coil (left), the most powerful pulsed superconducting magnet ever built, plays an essential role in the ITER tokamak fusion reactor (right) now under construction in Cadarache, France.



# Disposition

“I guess you could have called me a nerd, though the word didn’t exist then,” Dalessandro muses. “I was just quiet and studious.” But he drew the line at wearing pens in a pocket protector or carrying his slide rule on his belt. “That just wasn’t cool,” he chuckles.

He ended up mastering the classic mechanical engineering curriculum as well as physics. “Working with other bright kids spurred me on,” Dalessandro recalls. Some of the lessons were more about attitude than engineering. “In particular, Cooper Union taught me to be creative and to strive to apply creativity in everything I do,” he says. “Creativity is not something you are born with. It is a state of mind, and an approach to solving all types of problems. It can be taught and developed.

“By my senior year, many of my friends were itching to get out into the real world,” he remembers. “But I was not yet saturated. I was ready to go back on to graduate school to learn more.” Dalessandro chose Cornell University. Aside from an excellent graduate engineering program, it was as different from Cooper Union as possible. Cornell is located in Ithaca, a rural town in upstate New York. It had a traditional campus and dormitories, something Dalessandro had missed while commuting to Cooper Union by subway. Cornell also had women.

Dalessandro met his future wife during the first week of classes. “I took the last cafeteria tray, and a female student asked to share my tray with her roommate—my future wife,” he recalls. “As we like to say, Joyce and I have been sharing ever since.” They have been happily married for more than 38 years, have two married daughters and celebrated the arrival of their first grandchildren—twin girls—this past May.

Although Dalessandro entered Cornell’s Ph.D. program, he left for IBM after earning his M.S. “I thought I would be recognized as a hot-shot mechanical engineer, but I got thrown into the ditches along with the rest of the peons,” he says. After vibration-testing computer memories and keypunch machines, he decided to return to Cornell and finish his Ph.D. so he could work on more interesting projects.

At Cornell, Dalessandro began an affair—he fell in love with finite element analysis (FEA). FEA systems are the engineering equivalent of financial spreadsheets on steroids. Instead of doing

complex financial computations, FEA systems calculate the interaction of structures and the forces acting on them. FEA is a powerful way to assess the structural integrity of a design, the durability of a part or the performance of a new concept.

Engineers used to do those calculations by hand. Because the process was so slow, they almost always simplified their description of structures and forces. Computer-driven FEA sliced through the numbers. Not only could engineers portray problems more realistically, but they could quickly examine how design and engineering changes altered the results.

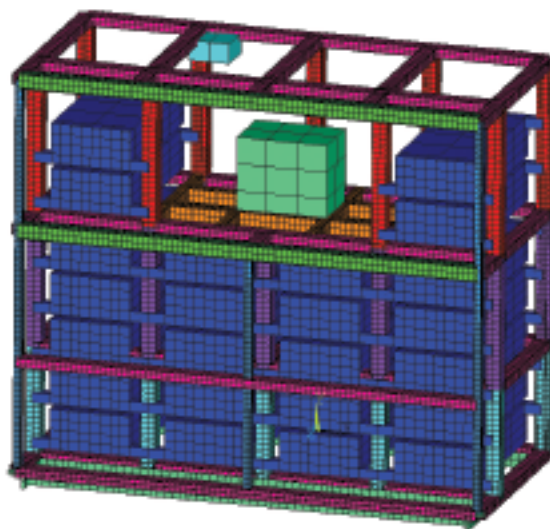
At Cornell, Dalessandro built his own customized FEA software and used it to determine how to minimize distortions in the large mirror used to image stars aboard what was to become the Hubble Space Telescope.

After graduation, Dalessandro tried his hand at writing analysis software in Boston, but soon left for San Diego to join General Atomics’ fusion energy program. “The research sounded really attractive, and at the time many of us saw fusion as the solution to the 1970s oil crisis. We thought we’d have fusion conquered in 20 years time,” he says.

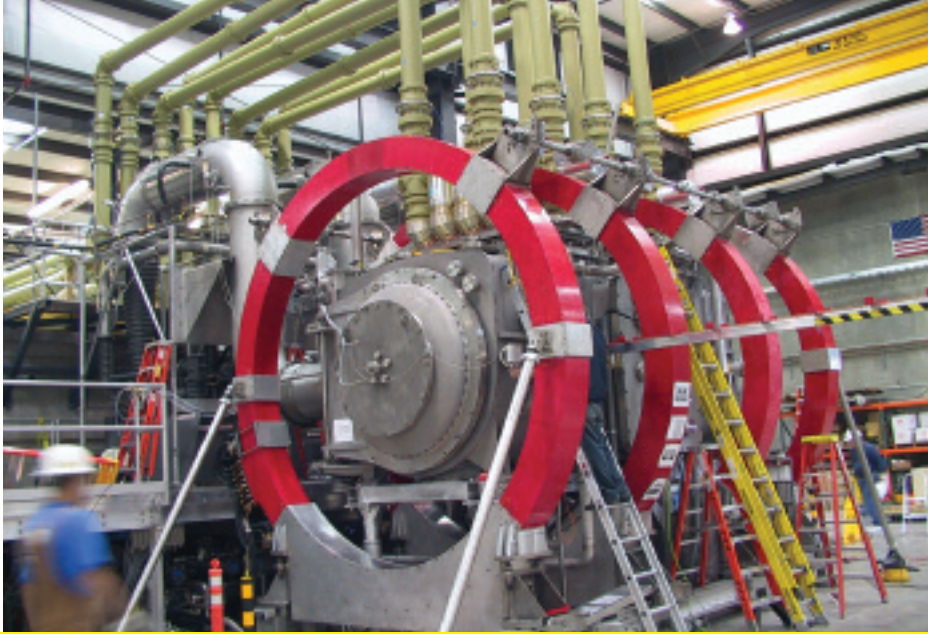
The key challenge in fusion is figuring out how to squeeze together plasma so that its hydrogen nuclei will merge to form helium and release energy. Unfortunately, at 100 million degrees, the high-energy subatomic particles want to do nothing more than fly apart. It takes a donut, more formally known as a tokamak, to keep that from happening. In the center of the donut sits a vacuum vessel with the plasma. The body of the donut consists of D-shaped coils. They generate the magnetic field that helps squeeze the plasma together.

General Atomics’ donut stood 20 feet high. Dalessandro’s job was to make sure the vacuum vessel did not melt or collapse. The problem was not just the high-temperature plasma, but also the tokamak’s magnets. It was his introduction to powerful magnetic fields.

Tokamaks presented another challenge as well. Fusion produces high-energy neutrons, which irradiate the reactor and make it brittle. Eventually, it becomes unusable. In 1980, Dalessandro joined INESCO, a company that hoped to solve the problem. Its founder was Robert Bussard, a leader in fusion and a visionary



Dalessandro’s finite element model of capacitors used to electromagnetically stop jets landing on an aircraft carrier.



John Dalessandro

**As part of Archimedes Technology, Dalessandro helped develop a magnetic system to separate the most dangerous isotopes in nuclear waste.**

whose description of fusion-based interstellar travel was memorialized as the “Bussard Ramscoop” in *Star Trek*. The company was funded by Bob Guccione, the publisher of *Penthouse Magazine*.

Bussard’s solution was to design a fusion reactor cheap enough to throw away after it turned radioactive. To do this, Bussard needed more powerful magnets. Superconducting magnets failed when their fields became too strong. That meant water-cooled copper electromagnets.

To get his arms around the problem, Dalessandro retooled his Cornell FEA code. It now included the electric currents running through the coils, the heat and magnetic forces they generated, and the stresses created in the coils. “We needed to build cooling channels into the coils to remove heat, but we didn’t want to make them so weak that the magnetic forces would pull them apart,” Dalessandro explains. Despite enormous progress, INESCO’s initial public offering failed. Two days later, the company closed its doors. Dalessandro may have been out of a job, but he left with the first truly sophisticated FEA program designed to analyze high-field toroidal magnetic coils.

After several years of FEA consulting for fusion projects, Dalessandro joined General Dynamics in the late 1980s to work on superconducting magnets for the proposed Superconducting Super Collider. The Collider was going to be a 64-mile-long, ring-shaped tunnel. Researchers planned to accelerate two counter-rotating beams of subatomic particles at one another and unravel the mystery of matter by looking at what happened when they collided. A vertical magnetic field along the length of the tunnel would deflect those beams just enough to keep them running in a circle. It would take thousands of 60-foot-long superconducting coils to create that field. Researchers at Brookhaven National Laboratory had designed a prototype magnet; Dalessandro’s job was to make the design suitable for mass production. Unfortunately, Congress eventually canceled the Super Collider program. Yet some of Dalessandro’s work at General Dynamics lives on. While there, he worked on the most powerful pulsed superconducting magnet ever built. It became the central solenoid for the ITER program, the international fusion energy reactor now under construction in Europe.

Dalessandro eventually joined Archimedes, a startup that planned to use electric and magnetic fields to separate the most dangerous components from nuclear waste stored at Hanford Site in Washington State. Although the technology proved promising, the government eventually decided to move in a different direction.

Dalessandro and many of his colleagues joined General Atomics, which hoped to use their experience with electromagnetics to build a rail gun for the U.S. Navy. A rail gun is a kinetic weapon. Such devices do not carry explosives in their warheads. Instead, projectiles move at such high speeds that their impacts act like sledgehammers. A projectile weighing only a few pounds is enough to reduce a bunker to dust or melt a tank’s armor. By switching to kinetic weapons, the Navy hopes to eliminate carrying ammunition that could explode aboard its ships.

Rail guns work by applying a current to two parallel copper rails. When the projectile bridges the gap between the rails, it creates a large magnetic field that propels the projectile from the gun at hypersonic speeds. Rail guns sound high-tech and modern, but that is not how they look when they suck up two million amperes of current to fire a projectile. When they fire, the current arcs, ionizing the air and producing a maelstrom of yellow and red superheated air.

The technical challenge is as tough as any Dalessandro has ever encountered. “It turns the air into plasma, like lightning, except the rail gun’s current is 100 times more powerful than a bolt of lightning,” he explains. “In only a few milliseconds, it produces forces and temperatures that are almost unfathomable.

“Forces of such magnitude are not very well understood,” he continues. “The magnetic fields want to rip the rails apart, and they also create enormous thermal stresses. The acceleration—from zero to Mach 7 in milliseconds—produces enormous pressures. No one completely understands what happens at the two ends of the barrel. Many rail guns have blown up during testing.”

It is the type of challenge that has attracted Dalessandro all his life. “We’re looking at materials, shapes, sizes and configurations that have never been explored before in great detail. We are building FEA models that run on supercomputers for weeks to try to make sense of it all,” he says.

It may be another fresh challenge, but it is still analysis. Dalessandro’s education at Cooper Union and then Cornell gave him the skills and mindset to work on some of the most challenging engineering projects of his generation. It has left him even more curious and ready for a challenge than when he started.



Source: U.S. Navy

**As powerful as 100 bolts of lightning, the U.S. Navy’s electromagnetic railgun hurls a projectile at 2,520 meters per second.**

**Laurie Hawkinson  
(AR'83)**



## **Sagaponac Residence Smith-Miller+Hawkinson Architects**

The design rethinks the typical Long Island suburban house with a plan that appropriates and internalizes the majority of the site. No longer modeled on the American “House of the Prairie,” front and rear yards are joined to create a court that slips under the house. The fusion of back to front morphs the public and private landscapes of the “single family house” creating a new model for the “Subdivision.” The garage space becomes (formal) entry, internalizing and showcasing the automobile, the Weber Grille and usual leisure equipment, all in the context of an extended and private court.



### **Design Team:**

Laurie Hawkinson, Partner  
Henry Smith-Miller, Partner  
Luben Dimcheff, Project Architect  
Starling Keene  
Sara Lundgren  
Jason Carlow  
Rodrigo Piwonka

### **Consultants:**

Robert Silman, Structural  
Claude Engle, Lighting  
Reinhardt O'Brien Contracting,  
Builders  
Harry J. Brown, Houses at  
Sagaponac Developer/Founder



All photographs: © Michael Moran

**Alumni  
Association  
President's  
Column**

**Carmi Bee  
(AR'67)**



Leo Sorel

# Alumni News

Dear fellow alumni,

It has been a year since I assumed the presidency of The Cooper Union Alumni Association, and I am glad to report that this has been a banner year for our school. This is due, in large measure, to your generosity and participation in many events. I would like to share with you some of the highlights of our past year's proud achievements.

First, on the real estate front, Cooper Union's new academic building was "topped off" this May, and is due for completion in time for our opening sesquicentennial celebrations in February 2009.

Many alumni have contributed to the construction of this LEED Gold facility—the city's first green academic laboratory. As is often the case, alumni have made their own special mark—and a very enduring one. The Alumni Roof Terrace Campaign recently passed the \$1.6 million mark. More than 300 alumni will see pavers engraved with their names—or the names of alumni they have chosen to honor—on the terrace. Spaces are still available if you'd like to see your time at Cooper Union remembered.

This year's Phonathon raised the bar, with alumni gifts and pledges taking us to a record of \$425,032, surpassing the goal by more than \$25,000. As always, The Cooper Union's alumni volunteered in force, motivating those called to unprecedented generosity.

On page 22, you will find in-depth coverage of this year's Founder's Day Dinner Dance, attended by 270 alumni, guests and members of the Cooper Union community. More than 100 members and guests of the class of 1958 reunited for Golden Legion, a 50th anniversary of commencement, and festivities, including the luncheon and hardhat tours of the new academic building construction site. The class of 1958 made a most generous gift to the college of more than \$160,000.

In addition to the growing success of our traditional Art Auction and Casino Night and Founder's Day Dinner Dance, some new events were initiated, including the first reunion of physics alumni. Two new events—although less formal—were well attended: Earth Day tours of the new academic building site and docent-guided tours of the Rubin Museum of Art in Manhattan. Ninety-four alumni and guests visited the collection of Tibetan and Himalayan art and artifacts. As we go to press, the Annual Fund campaign will be nearing completion for this fiscal year, with a goal of \$2.8 million. This is a goal that can be achieved only through your continued generosity to the school.

A significant new campaign has recently been initiated to name the studios in the Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture in honor of its former dean, John Hejduk. This campaign will get into full swing in the fall, and will ultimately be joined by similar naming opportunities for the engineering and art schools.

The number of applicants to all three schools is at an all-time high, as is the college's selectivity rate. Finally, but not least in importance, I cannot fail to mention that Cooper Union students continue to be the best and the brightest, achieving distinction through their scholarship and creativity.

This year I had the honor of addressing the graduating class at the 2008 commencement ceremony, and would like to share my remarks with you.

As president of the Cooper Union Alumni Association I bring you greetings and congratulations on behalf of your soon-to-be fellow alumni.

In 1961 I sat (over there), in this room taking the entrance exam. Not in my wildest dreams could I ever have imagined at that time that I would someday be standing up here addressing a graduating class. But then, what is Cooper Union built upon if not dreams? It was Peter Cooper's great dream to build a school for the working classes of New York City that would offer the best education imaginable at no cost.

You are the inheritors of that dream! Now, it is my dream that someday a number of you will also be standing in my position.

The Alumni Association's gift to you is a dues-free lifetime membership with full rights and benefits.

With this gift and the gift of a Cooper Union education come the ultimate responsibility of supporting this institution so that future generations can also benefit from Peter Cooper's dream.

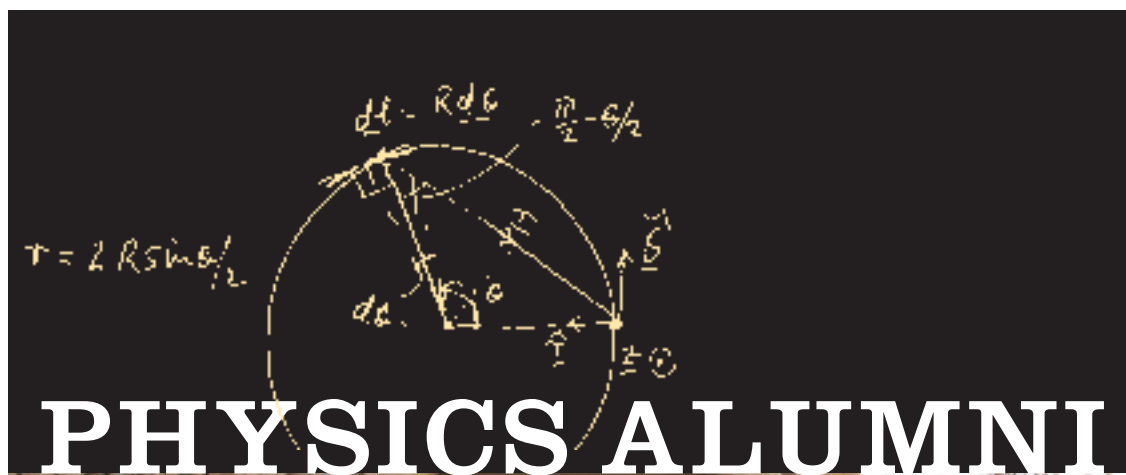
We wish you the greatest success in your future endeavors and hope that you will share the fruits of your success with the place that helped make it happen. And most of all, never ever give up dreaming!

I wish you all a wonderful summer.

Carmi Bee, FAIA

## **New Gift Calculator on Cooper Union Web Site**

Want to learn how a gift to Cooper Union can give you income for life and tax deductions also? Find the specifics about how a life income gift to The Cooper Union would work for you. Use our online gift calculator to view the benefits of Charitable Gift Annuities and Charitable Remainder Trusts available at the college. Simply go to [www.cooper.edu](http://www.cooper.edu) and click on Give to Cooper Union then click Planned Giving. You can also receive more information on these and other gifts by calling Michael Governor at **212.353.4172** or send e-mail to [govern@cooper.edu](mailto:govern@cooper.edu).



**Top: Physics alumni from the classes of 1967 through 1977 in hardhats in front of the statue of Peter Cooper**

**Center: Dr. George Campbell Jr. addressed the physics alumni and their guests after lunch.**

**Bottom: Touring the new academic building site (l to r) are George Saviano (Phy'71), Erik Solberg (Phy'72), Gary Berkowitz (Phy'74), Paul Wiita (Phy'72), Joel Koplik (Phy'69) and Howard Amols (Phy'70).**

# PHYSICS ALUMNI REUNION

Within the circle of 12,000 living Cooper Union alumni worldwide—the vast majority in architecture, art or engineering—there exists a group of only 225, just two percent, who earned their undergraduate degrees in physics. Offered from 1963 (with the first graduates in 1967) through 1977, under the leadership of eminent Swiss physicist Dr. Richard Extermann (1911-2002), the program was indeed extraordinary, with courses taught by such beloved faculty members as the late Drs. Walton Ellison, Milton Stecher and Aaron Yalow.

While the degree has been gone for some 30 years, the current physics program, headed by Professor Alan Wolf, remains strong. It plays a foundational role in the education of all undergraduate students at the Albert Nerken School of Engineering, whether they pursue a degree in chemical, civil, electrical or mechanical engineering, or an interdisciplinary degree.

Last fall we reached out to our physics alumni, to learn what they're up to now and bring them up to date on plans for physics in the college's future. Professor Wolf wrote to this unique group and received an amazing—and overwhelmingly positive—response, which led to the first-ever Physics Alumni Reunion.

Taking place in the Engineering Building on April 12th, this event brought more than 50 physics alumni, some with spouses and representing each of the 11 graduating classes, to mingle over breakfast with old friends, many of whom hadn't seen one another for more than 30 years. Guests flew, took the train or drove in from far-flung states, while many who sent heartfelt regrets asked to be kept “in the loop.”

The guests were welcomed by Eleanor Baum, dean of the Nerken School, Professor Wolf and members of the External Affairs staff. This was followed by a nostalgic visit to the physics lab—the consensus was that it hadn't changed a bit—and a hard-hat tour of the dramatic interior of the new academic building under construction.

It was at the buffet lunch concluding the day's activities that several speakers talked substantively about physics at The Cooper Union past, present and future. President George Campbell Jr., who holds a doctorate in physics from Syracuse University, spoke of his own history and particularly of how his physics training informed all his professional decisions and stood him in excellent stead throughout his career.

Howard Amols (Phy'70), now chief of the Clinical Physics Service of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, then took the floor to tell everyone about the profound impact of his Cooper Union education on his studies and career—and therefore on the entire trajectory of his life. He strongly urged all the physics alumni to give back to their alma mater in recognition of what Cooper Union had given them—and particularly in memory of Dr. Extermann and his distinguished faculty—and to support the physics laboratory in the new academic building.

While the reunion ended officially at 2 pm, the physics alumni were loath to leave, and many continued to reminisce in the hallway well into the afternoon or took their conversations to other locales.

# Founder's Day Dinner Dance



Founder's Day Dinner Dance co-chairs John (AR'85) and Elizabeth Huddy



Members of the class of 1983 celebrate their 25th anniversary.

The Cooper Union Alumni Association (CUAA) marked Peter Cooper's 217th birthday in style at the Founder's Day Dinner Dance on April 11, 2008 with nearly 270 alumni, guests and members of the Cooper Union community that gathered at The Lighthouse at Chelsea Piers to recognize four outstanding alumni for their professional achievements and service.

As part of the event, 36 members of the class of 1983 and their guests celebrated their 25th anniversary reunion at a special reception prior to the dinner dance. Class member Eric Kohler (A'83) designed the event invitation and program materials. In addition, 16 members of the class of 1978 gathered at the Dinner Dance for a mini-reunion.

Carmi Bee (AR'67), president of the CUAA, thanked dinner chairs Elizabeth and John Huddy (AR'85) for their leadership and for breaking new ground in attracting corporate sponsorship for this event that totaled nearly \$60,000. President George Campbell Jr. expressed his congratulations to the award recipients and noted highlights of the academic year. Following the awards presentations, members of The Cooper Union Ballroom Dance Team, led by Eline Boghaert (Eng'08), performed for the enthusiastic audience many of whom joined them on the dance floor until midnight to the music of the Cal James Orchestra.

**The Cooper Union Alumni Association encourages nominations for the 2009 awards to be submitted to [alumni@cooper.edu](mailto:alumni@cooper.edu).**

## The 2008 Alumni Award Winners

### Alumnus of the Year

**Ronald Weinstein (CE'67)** was recognized for his dedication and commitment to the CUAA and Cooper Union. Ron has been a staunch supporter of Cooper Union, serving on the Alumni Council for more than 20 years. He is a member of the Annual Fund Committee and has been a long time chair of Phonathon, continuing to lead as "Chair of the Night." He currently serves on the Events Committee, has chaired numerous Alumni Picnics and was a member of the Nominating Committee. As a certified flight instructor, Ron generously donates a sight-seeing flight tour for the silent auction at the CUAA's Art Auction and Casino Night. Most recently, he co-chaired the CUAA's Ad Hoc Committee on Alumni and Student Interaction.

Ron's experience in the sciences and arts developed into a unique background that led him to become an educator. After a brief stint as a construction engineer, he received a B.F.A. from Metropolitan State College in Denver while supporting himself as a potter, photographer and printmaker. Subsequently, he received a master's in education museum leadership from Bank Street College of Education. He was a founding teacher at the School for the Physical City, a "New Visions" school that partnered with Cooper Union and Outward Bound. Ron has taught physics for the past eight years at White Plains High School.

**Below: (l to r) Awardees Dr. Ira L. Whitman (CE'61), Ronald Weinstein (CE'67), Whitfield Lovell (A'81) and Alexander Gorlin (AR'78) with Cooper Union Alumni Association President (center) Carmi Bee (AR'67)**

**Right: Class of 1983 leaders Gerard Ryan (EE'83), Anne Dudek Ronan (CE'83/MCE'84), Holly Haughney (ChE'83), President George Campbell Jr., Peter Caffero (CE'83), Barry Drogin (EE'83), Carmi Bee (AR'67) and Judith Gerrard (AR'83)**



**Below: Members of the class of 1978 celebrate their 30th anniversary.**



Photos: Juliana Thomas

#### **Augustus Saint Gaudens Award for Art**

**Whitfield Lovell (A'81)** was recognized for his professional achievement as an artist whose installations and tableaux incorporate charcoal drawings on vintage wood and found objects. Focusing primarily on images of anonymous African Americans from the period between the Emancipation Proclamation and the Civil Rights movement, Whitfield illuminates the humanity and richness of ordinary people. Please see page 12 for the feature story.

#### **John Q. Hejduk Award for Architecture**

**Alexander Gorlin, FAIA (AR'78)** was recognized for his professional achievement as principal of Alexander Gorlin Architects, which he opened in 1986 after returning from a Rome Prize Fellowship at the American Academy in Rome. His internationally recognized firm is distinguished by its commitment to applying Modernist design principles to projects across the social spectrum. Alexander Gorlin Architects currently works with private clients, developers, community organizations, religious congregations and schools throughout the country. The firm has received numerous accolades, including two American Design Awards from the Chicago Athenaeum and four Design Excellence Awards from the American Institute of Architects. *Architectural Digest* named the firm in its AD100 list of leading designers for each of the past four years.

Alex is a respected architectural critic and scholar. He is the author of two books on contemporary architecture, *The New American Town House* and *Creating the New American Town House*. He became a fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 2005.

#### **Gano Dunn Award for Engineering**

**Dr. Ira L. Whitman (CE'61)** was recognized for his professional achievement as principal of The Whitman Companies, Inc., consultants in environmental engineering and management, which he founded with his wife Audrey in 1985. The company forte is the cleanup of contaminated industrial brownfield properties and restoring them to their highest use and economic viability. Ira has been involved in pioneering efforts in brownfield redevelopment that included positions on the boards of the Northeast Midwest Institute and the Partnership for Sustainable Brownfield Redevelopment, and he has given national and international presentations on brownfield issues. Ira is a registered professional engineer in seven states and a board-certified environmental engineer by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers. He received his Ph.D. in environmental engineering from The Johns Hopkins University.

From 1972 to 1975, Ira served in the Governor's Cabinet of the State of Ohio and was the inaugural director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. In this role, he was responsible for establishing and implementing Ohio's environmental regulatory programs and for representing the state to numerous interstate and international/Great Lakes organizations.

#### **Annual Florida Founder's Day Luncheon**

Florida Alumni and guests celebrated Founder's Day at the Lauderdale Yacht Club on February 10, 2008. Hosted by the Florida Chapter of The Cooper Union Alumni Association (CUAA) and Ronald W. Drucker (CE'62), chairman of the Board of Trustees, alumni were joined by Carmi Bee (AR'67), president of the CUAA. Guest speaker President George Campbell Jr. brought news of the exciting progress on the new academic building and highlights of the academic year.

**Elle McDonald and Samuel Musora (ME'95), with Louise and Joel Alper (CE'58).**



Tom Weber/Smile Photography

# Class of 1958 Celebrates its Golden Legion



Robert Puttre (EE'58) sporting his letter sweater



Class of 1958 members with Dr. Campbell following induction into the Golden Legion

Nearly 120 members of the class of 1958 and their guests celebrated the 50th anniversary of their graduation from The Cooper Union on May 9, 2008. Spirits were high as class members gathered in the Great Hall lobby, some seeing each other for the first time in 50 years, others meeting for the first time.

President George Campbell Jr. gave a presentation on the state of Cooper Union to the Golden Legion attendees in which he highlighted the college's major accomplishments and milestones during the academic year, before inducting the class of 1958 into the Golden Legion. Class gift chair Joel Alper (CE'58) presented Dr. Campbell with the class gift in the amount of \$153,518 (and still growing). Joel expressed his delight and appreciation to class members for their support. Alumni gathered on stage for a class photograph, and Cooper Union professor Irv Brazinsky (ChE'58) organized the recreation of a photograph of the 1958 varsity basketball team with Dr. Campbell standing in for former coach Dave Tobey.

The celebration continued with a luncheon attended by deans, faculty members and administrators during which vice president for external affairs, Ronni Denes, took the class down memory lane with a nostalgic look at the context in which they attended Cooper Union. President of the Cooper Union Alumni Association Carmi Bee (AR'67) offered his greetings and congratulations, describing the accomplishments of these talented alumni. Class leaders Joel Alper, Frank Bader (ME'58), Jack Kahrs (ME'58), Stefano Longinotti (EE'58) and Stuart Plattner (A'58) offered their thoughts on the reunion and thanked their class members for attending.

Following the luncheon, alumni and their guests were given guided tours of the Albert Nerken School of Engineering by director of the computer center, Professor Robert Hopkins; the School of Art, led by painting technical assistant Alexis Thompson (A'01); and the Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture led by associate dean and adjunct professor Elizabeth O'Donnell (AR'83). Hardhat tours of the new academic building construction site were led by Sciame Construction's project manager Ryan Murphy.

To cap the day-long event, all Golden Legion alumni and guests joined the class of 1958 for a reception to welcome them into the Golden Legion ranks.

Below left: Members of the 1957-58 Varsity basketball team with Coach Dave Tobey (l to r) Irving Brazinsky, William Deasy, Richard Holzwarth, Coach Tobey, Robert Osolin, Stefano Longinotti and Jack Kahrs

Below right: Former members of the 1957-58 JV and Varsity basketball teams, with cheerleaders and Dr. Campbell standing in for the coach: (l to r) Frank Bader (ME'58), Eileen Pendergast Richardson (A'58), Irving Brazinsky (ChE'58), William Deasy (CE'58), Richard Holzwarth (ChE'58), Dr. Campbell, Robert Osolin (ME'58), Stefano Longinotti (EE'58), Philip Mullan (ME'57), Norma Chigrinsky Minkowitz (A'58) and Jack Kahrs (ME'58)





## Cooper Union Alumni Association Announces 2008-09 Ballot Results

The Tellers Committee, chaired by Alfred Brand (CE'67), reported the results of the Cooper Union Alumni Association (CUAA) Ballot for the 2008-09 year announcing newly elected officers, an Alumni Trustee, members of the Alumni Council and Nominating Committee. Congratulations to all!

### Executive Committee

The Executive Committee conducts the affairs of the Alumni Association in accordance with policies established by the Alumni Council. Working in conjunction with the office of alumni relations, the Executive Committee oversees the planning and implementation of alumni events, communications, volunteer recruitment, fundraising and general alumni outreach. Elections to the Executive Committee occur annually, and the term runs from July 1 to June 30. The president is limited to a two-year term.

**President: Carmi Bee (AR'67)** Carmi Bee is a partner at RKT&B Architects and Urban Designers and is professor emeritus at the City College of New York, School of Architecture, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture, where he taught for 37 years. He completed a four-year term as Alumni Trustee on the Cooper Union Board of Trustees in 2006 and has served on the CUAA Executive Committee as secretary/treasurer and vice president/membership, as a member of the Augustus Saint Gaudens and John Hejduk Award committees, the Nominating Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee on Housing. Bee is the recipient of the 1998 President's Citation and the 2007 John Hejduk Award. This is his second term as president of the CUAA.

**VP/Alumni Activities: Yvette Francis (A'93)** Yvette Francis is principal of P.Point Design, specializing in brand development and design for clients such as InDorse Technologies, TMG., Inc., Bridge Coaching Institute and Dream Nightclub. Previously she was a managing art director of *Life & Style Weekly* for Bauer Publishing Co. Yvette has served on the Alumni Council, participated in young alumni events including On the Rooftop, and co-chaired the 2007 Art Auction and Casino Night. She participates in Phonathon annually.

**VP/Faculty & Student Liaison: Robert Marano (EE'93)** Rob Marano is President and CEO of InDorse Technologies, Inc. He is an adjunct associate professor of electrical engineering at Cooper Union. He serves on the Alumni Council, the Annual Fund and the Nominating and Editorial Committees. He was co-chair of the 2007 Founder's Day Dinner Dance.

**Secretary/Treasurer: John Leeper (AR'85)** John Leeper is project executive, vice president for Bovis Lend Lease LMP, Inc. He is the project director on the World Trade Center Memorial Project at the World Trade Center site. He serves on the CUAA Executive Committee as secretary/treasurer and is a member of the Annual Fund, Editorial and John Hejduk Award Committees. He participates in Phonathon annually. John co-chaired the 2006 Founder's Day Dinner Dance.

**Nominating Committee Chair: Marilyn Hoffner (A'48)** The retired director of development and alumni relations at Cooper Union, Marilyn Hoffner was an award-winning art director of Latin American magazines and a guest art director of *Print* and *Graphis* magazines. Hoffner served as president of the CUAA and as vice president/membership. She is currently chair of the Nominating Committee and serves as a member of the Constitution and Augustus Saint Gaudens Award Committees. She is the recipient of the Alumnus of the Year Award and the Outstanding Service Award.

**Alumni Trustee: Audrey Flack (A'51)** *To be nominated for trusteeship at The Cooper Union Board of Trustees' December 2008 annual meeting* Audrey Flack is a founding artist of the school known as "Photorealism." She was a professor of art at Pratt and New York University and an honorary professor of art at George Washington University. She has been recognized with the Artist of the Year Award from the NYC Teachers Association and a National Design Transportation Award. Audrey received the Augustus Saint Gaudens Award in 1981.

**Alumni Council:** The Alumni Council supports and implements the goals of the CUAA. The objectives of the Council are to provide service to alumni, service to the college, financial support of the college and recognition of alumni. Each of the current 36 Alumni Council members serves a three-year term, helping to broaden the CUAA's outreach, developing special events and programming and increasing alumni volunteerism and support of the college. The following newly elected members, whose terms will run through June 30, 2011, will join those continuing on the Council.

Nicholas Agneta (AR'80)  
Joel Azzerrad (A'53)  
Rocco Cetera (CE'99)  
Melanie Chung (CE'07)  
Athena Caramichael DeNivo (CE'94/MCE'97)  
Janet Gardner (A'65)  
Steven Hillyer (AR'90)  
John Huddy (AR'85)

Andre Luboff (CE'75)  
Yash Risbud (EE'92/MEE'94)  
Gerard Ryan (EE'83)  
Paul Seletsky (AR'82)

#### Alternates

Zen Eidel (A'50)  
Darrell Low (EE'89)

**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 nominates the Executive Committee slate for 2009-10.

#### Chair

Marilyn Hoffner (A'48)  
Don Blauweiss (A'61)  
Michael Borkowsky (ME'61)  
Charles Cassella (EE'68)  
Melanie Chung (CE'07)  
Thomas Driscoll (ME'77)  
Peter Lynch (AR'84)

Lawrence Ng (EE'78)  
John Roswell (ME'69)  
Ron Weinstein (CE'67)

#### Recent Past Presidents

Don Toman EE'55  
Carl Selinger CE'67

#### Alternates

Steven Hillyer (AR'90)  
Rachel Whitlow (A'94)

**Results of survey:  
Would you vote  
online?  
Yes: 369  
No: 189**



Carmi Bee (AR'67)



Yvette Francis (A'93)



Robert Marano (EE'93)



John Leeper (AR'85)



Marilyn Hoffner (A'48)



Audrey Flack (A'51)

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

## Spring Events

### Earth Day Attracts Alumni to New Academic Building Site

Motivated by curiosity and an interest in promoting the green qualities of Cooper Union's new academic building, Rocco Cetera (CE'99) spearheaded and organized a tour on Earth Day, April 22, 2008, that had to expand to three days in order to accommodate the demand of nearly 65 enthusiastic alumni. Led by Sciame Construction's project manager, Ryan Murphy, the tours focused on the superstructure of the nine-story building, designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Thom Mayne of Morphosis with associate architects Gruzen Samton LLP, which will be the first green academic laboratory building in New York City built to the LEED Gold standard, with the possibility of Platinum.

### Alumni Gather at Rubin Museum of Art

Nearly 80 alumni and guests enjoyed docent-guided tours of the Rubin Museum of Art in New York City on May 16, 2008, initiated and organized by Paul Heller (ME'53) with support from Rebecca Uss (AR'90). Paul suggested the event because of his admiration for the collection of Tibetan and Himalayan sculpture, painting, weavings and photography amassed by founders Donald and Shelly Rubin. Little did he know how popular the event would be! He consulted with Milton Glaser (A'51) who participated in the design of the former Barney's department store and welcomed Stanley Wong (AR'88), project architect with Beyer, Blinder, Belle LLP during the four years of design and construction, to talk with alumni following a film, *Transformation: Building of the Rubin Museum of Art*. Martin Zubatkin (CE'77), president of Zubatkin Owner Representation, was owner's representative for the project. Thanks to Paul and Rebecca, many more alumni and friends now have an appreciation for this amazing collection and the building that houses it.



## Huge Alumni Turnout in Israel

More than 70 Cooper Union alumni and parents turned out for a dinner reception in Jerusalem with President George Campbell Jr. and Vice President for External Affairs Ronni Denes on March 25th. The two were in Israel as participants in the University Presidents' Mission to Israel, sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of New York. During the five-day trip, the Mission visited 10 Israeli colleges and universities to identify potential opportunities for collaboration and exchange. Hosted by the JCRC at The Pavilion in the Talpiot neighborhood of Jerusalem, the reception drew a terrific and enthusiastic response from the Israel-based Cooper Union community, who far outnumbered the guests of the other participating colleges.

Yael Alkalay (A'08), *exchange student*,  
and Vadik Bakman  
Stephen F. Bellomo (ME'90) and Tina Bellomo  
Aliza E. Berger (BSE'88)  
and Dov Berger-Cooper  
Samuel B. Blumert (CE'61) and Ruth Blumert  
Micha Botknecht (A'57) and Ruth Botknecht  
Ira M. Braverman (CE'72)  
and Robin Braverman  
David Braverman (CE'69)  
and Ilene Braverman  
Abraham Brot (ENG'61) and Barbara Brot  
Harry Dym (EE'59) and  
Irene Lillian Rosner Dym  
Randolph Engelberg (EE'73)  
and Yehudit Engelberg  
Shlomo T. Engelberg (EE'88/MEE'90)  
Randy M. Epstein (AR'73)  
Zipporah Liyat Esakov (AR'99)  
Sharon Eshet (AR'97) and Adi Kestenbaum  
Jack M. Goldstein (EE'82/MEE'84)  
and Frances H. Goldstein  
Ira L. Jacobson (EE'61)

Jack Jaget (A'56) and Varda Jaget  
Rakefet Kenaan (A'90) and Eitan Busheri  
Wallace (Zev) Kesselman (ChE'65)  
and Lee Kesselman  
Albert I. Kudish (BSE'65) and Pnina Kudish  
Estee Shapiro Kuhr (CE'95) and Hillel Kuhr  
Phyllis R. Meyer (ChE'84) and Robert Meyer  
Eric Nemetski (CE'04) and Hadass Vekayam  
Allan Rappaport (EE'81) and Geila Rappaport  
Jonathan M. Ross (ME'99)  
Svetlana Tverskaya (AR'99) and David Ravia  
Barry Verstaendig (CE'03)  
Herbert J. Wagner (ChE'49)  
Orly Zimmerman (EE'87) and Lily Meyer  
Ari Zvi Zivotofsky (EE'86)  
and Naomi Zivotofsky  
Zvi Koren (Eng. fac., ret.)  
Isaac and Aviva Aviv, *Parents*  
Avie and Sally Esakov, *Parents*  
Donald and Judith Ganchrow, *Parents*  
Noni Maxwell, *Parent*  
David Meridor, *brother* and Udi Meridor, *Parent*  
Gideon and Aliza Oron, *Parents*

## Alumni Roof Terrace Campaign crosses the \$1.5 million mark

The gift that secured that milestone was special for more than one reason: Steve Levee (ME'65) reserved his space on the Alumni Roof Terrace last year, but this year he decided to surprise his father, Harris Levee (ME'43), by making a gift in his honor and reserving a space for his name on the terrace. When Steve Levee enrolled at Cooper Union, the Engineering Building was brand new, his father's professor was still around running the Alumni Association and the engineering school had an IBM 1620, which read punched card programs. A lot has changed since then, but Steve Levee felt it was important to support future Cooper Union students (and future multi-generation families) and to help provide them with a world-class learning laboratory.

Do you have a family member or friend who is an alumnus of The Cooper Union? You can surprise them with a gift of their name on the terrace (just like Steve surprised his father) by contacting Claire Michie, manager of the Alumni Roof Terrace Campaign at 212.353.4171 or michie@cooper.edu.



## Phonathon is a Record Breaker

**P**honathon 2008 broke the mold! One hundred twenty-seven volunteers including alumni, parents, students and staff made this year's Phonathon a record breaker by raising \$425,032 in cash and pledges, the largest amount raised in the 30 plus years of Phonathon.

Callers rallied together toward a common goal of \$400,000, spurred on by the nightly chairs. Ron Weinstein (CE'67) set the tone of Phonathon by providing experience, enthusiasm and knowledge to veteran and new callers. Following on the heels of a great start, Annual Fund co-chair Yash Risbud (EE'92/MEE'94) and students Rene Makrinos (Eng'09) and Natalie Mayslich (Eng'09) led the late-night callers, reaching out to West Coast parents and alumni. Savvy long-term caller Howard Lampert (ME'66) led the second night with stories of Phonathons past. Joel Kazin (Phy'67) motivated Wednesday night's volunteer callers with humor and anecdotes. Chair of the Parent's Council Guy Mascioli led Parent's Night and secured one of the highest pledges of the five nights. The \$400,000 dollar goal was surpassed when first-time nightly chair Joe Lim (EE'05) led a group of young alumni on the final night.

Cooper Union is fortunate to have these dedicated volunteers devoted to keeping Peter Copper's vision alive. Whole-hearted thanks go out to all of our volunteers and to all of the alumni, parents and friends who responded so generously.



photos: Dan Bretl

Above: Maria Makrinos, parent and Rene Makrinos (Eng'09);  
Bottom, from left: Parent Josephina Castania, Paul Heller (ME'53) and  
Julianne Rhoads (IDE'08)



Lauren Sampson

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Lauren Acampora	Staff	Catherine W. Lam	Parent
Adekemi Adeyeba	Eng'10	Howard L. Lampert	ME'66
Jonathan L. Andrews	A'74	John F. Leeper	AR'85
May Anuntarungsun	A'11	Janet M. Levy	A'64
Lenore Argen	Parent	Glenn Lieberman	Parent
Robert M. Argen	Parent	Joseph Salvador Lim, Jr.	EE'05
Bridget Atkinson	Parent	Deborah Lipton	Staff
Joel Azerrad	A'53	Jenny Liu	Parent
Flabia Baez-Torres	Parent	Rebecca S. Lynch	EE'04
Graceanna Baird	Eng'08	Susan Moyle Lynch	Staff
Pamela Baldisserotto	Parent	Maria N. Makrinos	Parent
Benjamin M. Balsam	BSE'07	Rene Makrinos	Eng'09
Carmi M. Bee	AR'67	Barry L. Maltz	EE'73
Don Blauweiss	A'61	Erica U. Mapp	A'74
Constance Bond	A'53	Angelo Maragos	BAE'07
Diane Brereton	Staff	Christopher M. Mascioli	Eng'09
Rebecca S. Buchanan	EE'04	Guy C. Mascioli	Parent
Antonietta Carey	Parent	Patricia Mascioli	Parent
Charles Cassella	EE'68	Charles K. Massimino	Parent
Josephine Castania	Parent	Phoebe M. Massimino	Parent
Rocco S. Cetera	CE'99	Natalie Mayslich	Eng'09
David S. Chen	EE'99	William Robert McAllister	Eng'10
Tayin Bobby Chen	AR'01	Claire McCarthy	Staff
David Chenkin	Staff	Robert Mentken	A'54
Nava Chitrik	Eng'08	Jackie Merri Meyer	A'77
Lindsey Cole	Staff	Claire Michie	Staff
Dionisio Cortes	Parent	Lillian Minton	Staff
Janis DeGaspari	Parent	Catherine J. Minuse	Parent
John DeGaspari	Parent	Milen Petrov Mirchev	Eng'09
Xenia Fay Diente	A'99	Geraldine Nathan	Parent
Mubaraka K. Diwan	Eng'08	MaryAnn Nichols	A'68
Barry J. Drogin	EE'83/MEE'86	Steven Eliezer Noll	Eng'10
Zeneth B. Eidel	A'50/A'76	Catherine O'Meara	Parent
Dale Emmart-Lieberman	A'75/Parent	Walter O'Meara	Parent
Donald Feder	Parent	Arline Simon Oberman	A'48
Aileen J. Fedullo	Parent	Priscilla A. Paul	Eng'08
Daniel Feldman		Yvette Perry	Staff
Laurent Fisher	Staff	Alena Petersen	Parent
Janet M. Foster	A'64	Jocelyne E. Pierre	Parent
Jessica Marie Friscia	Eng'11	Jolene Resnick	Staff
Paul J. Friscia	Parent	James Revoir	Parent
Constance Ftera	A'53	Julianne Lee Rhoads	Eng'08
Marieke Gartner	Staff	Yash C. Risbud	EE'92/MEE'94
Paul C. Golden	AR'82	Tyrone Rodriguez	EE'76
Ann Marie Gong	Staff	Christine Romero	Staff
Michael Governor	Staff	Robert Jason Rose	Eng'08
Murray Greenberg	ME'49	Rudolph M. Sabatino	AR'62
Pearl Greenberg	A'48/A'75	Lauren Sampson	Staff
Paul Heller	ME'53	Carl S. Selinger	CE'67
Ian Hochstead	BSE'94/Staff	Susan Shaw	A'72
Diana Hutchinson	Staff	Mr. Barry Silberstang	AR'67
Matt Jones	Staff	Arline Simon	A'48/BA'76
Pearl Katz	A'48/A'75	Barry A. Stein, AIA	AR'80
Gary R. Kazin	Che'69	Janet Steiniger	Parent
Joel S. Kazin	Phy'67	Michael J. Steiniger	Parent
Andrew W. Knapp	A'75	George Bello Sycip	CE'05
Drew W. Knapp	A'75	Robert Thill	Staff
Timur Kolchinskiy	Eng'09	Karina Jean Tipton, P.E.	CE'99
Dennis Kong	Eng'08	Sanjeevaneer Joshi Vidwans	CE'98
Nicholas Kosky	Staff	Lauren Wang	A'00
Marguerite Kreuzer	Parent	Ronald Weinstein	CE'67
Thomas J. Kreuzer	Parent	Robert Weissberg	A'57
Alison Jean Laichter	CE'02	Weizhen Yu	Parent
		Catherine Zimmerman	Parent

## Welcome Lauren Sampson New Annual Fund Manager

A graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology, Lauren comes to The Cooper Union most recently from Baruch College, where she began as Development Assistant and was almost immediately promoted to Stewardship Coordinator. Among her responsibilities and accomplishments, Lauren has implemented and maintained systematized processes and procedures for tracking donor solicitations and giving, and has planned and implemented events with alumni and for students. Lauren ran her first Cooper Union Phonathon in March, setting a new record.

Juliana Thomas

# Pioneer Profile

## Georgette Seabrook Powell (A'37)

Georgette Seabrook Powell (A'37) was born in Charleston, SC in 1916 and raised in New York City. After graduating from The Cooper Union School of Art, she became active in the Harlem Arts Workshop. Powell was inspired by Augusta Savage (A'25), a young sculptor and the newly appointed director of the Harlem Arts Workshop. Powell learned from the dedication Savage gave to teaching arts in the Harlem community, and teaching became a cornerstone in her life as well.

Powell was employed by the WPA, along with a team of artists, to create a series of murals for the Harlem Hospital Art Project.

Her murals, titled *Recreation in Harlem*, depicted the daily lives, struggles and joys of Harlem's residents. Once the murals had been completed, they were pronounced "too controversial" by the hospital's director, who insisted they be painted over. The matter became a life-defining battle for her. She insisted that she was free to create her vision of the Harlem community, and refused to alter the murals. Ensuing court battles finally found in favor of Powell. Half a century later, her murals are a silent tribute to her fortitude as both an artist and community activist. The murals express the quintessential flavor of the period. Over many years, they have begun to deteriorate, but Harlem Hospital has raised funds and full restoration of the murals is expected.

Powell continued painting after she became a busy homemaker, married a doctor in 1936, and focused on raising three children and caring for her aging mother. She continued her involvement with neighborhood beautification projects and cultural activities for children. By the early 1950s, New York's distinguished Turtle Bay Music School had developed a program using art as a means of therapy. Powell was accepted as a student and, after she completed studies there, became an art therapist. While studying she met a psychologist from Washington and together they began the first journal dedicated to their subject, the *American Journal of Art Therapy*.

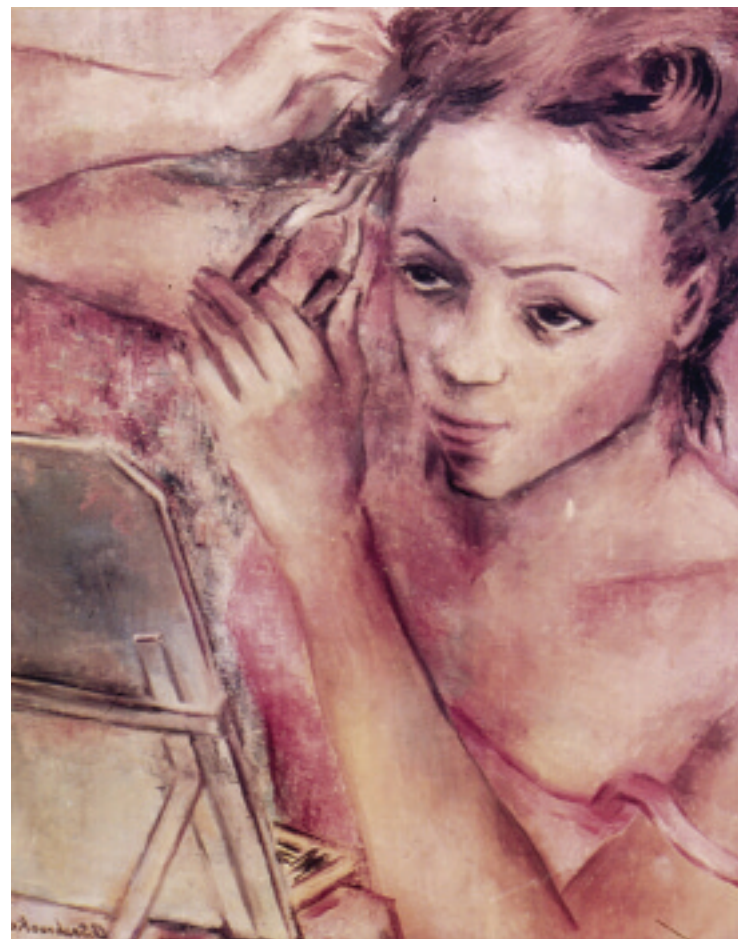
After 40 years living in New York, Powell and her husband relocated to Washington D.C. She volunteered at area hospitals until a former teacher, a supervisor of the occupational therapy department at D.C. General Hospital, hired her as her assistant in the acute psychiatry division.

She became a clinical supervisor of art therapists at George Washington University and established an annual community program, Art in the Park. Powell founded and taught at Tomorrow's World Art Center, a community program that offered art therapy and education services to the young and elderly of metropolitan area Washington D.C.

Powell also studied stage design and lighting at Fordham University and received a B.F.A. from Howard University's College without Walls. Her paintings have been exhibited throughout the United States for more than half a century. In 1995, the Smithsonian Institution's Anacostia Museum in Washington mounted a two-month retrospective of her paintings.

Powell is the recipient of many awards citing her lifetime of achievements in art, as a dedicated teacher, community leader and art activist. She was honored by the late President Ronald Reagan whose 1986 letter states, "You are the rare combination, a doer and a teacher." Powell received the 2003 Visionary Leadership Project, Legacy Keeper award presented at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the Library of Congress.

In April 2008, The Cooper Union presented Georgette Seabrook Powell with a Lifetime Achievement Award.



*Emily, 1936*  
48 x 36 inches  
Oil on canvas

*There But for the Grace of God*  
(date unknown)  
48 x 36 inches  
Mixed Media

# Cooper Products'08

To purchase these items or see all available Cooper Products, visit [www.cualumni.com](http://www.cualumni.com) and click on "shop"

## New Products

### Pullover Hoodie

\$35

Front pouch pocket, hood  
Burgundy, pale gold "Cooper Union"  
Sm-2XL



### Cooper Cap

\$25

By popular demand a new *adjustable* Cooper cap.  
Maroon w/gold, gold/maroon "Cooper Union"



### Green Recycled Tote Bag

\$12

8 x 10" lightweight natural color tote bag  
Tucks into purse for shopping  
Machine washable

### Folding Umbrella

\$25

Double metal frame cannot flip—it's wind proof  
Wood handle, push button to open



## Adult Apparel

### Champion Hooded CU Sweatshirt

\$45

Poly/cotton, full front zip, athletic grey  
Side pockets, gold/maroon collegiate-style imprint  
"Cooper Union" S-2XL

### Classic T-Shirt

\$15

100% cotton, grey with maroon "The Cooper Union"  
S-2XL

## Cooper Accessories

### Foundation Building Tote Bag

\$30

100% heavyweight natural cotton canvas tote bag  
black handles, front pocket



### Peter Cooper Jewelry

Peter Cooper Jewelry is produced by Marilyn Hoffner A'48, using the Peter Cooper seal. A portion of your purchase is donated to the Annual Fund. Rings are gift boxed, jewelry comes in velvet gift bag. All jewelry sales are final and non refundable.

A full line of Peter Cooper jewelry may be viewed online at [www.cualumni.com](http://www.cualumni.com)

## Published Pioneers



### Squaring the Circle

Paul A. Calter  
ME'62  
Key College



### Einstein's Greatest Mistake

Sid Deutsch  
EE'41  
Iuniverse Inc.



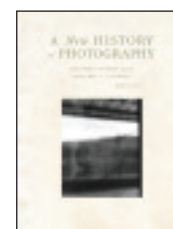
### Engineering Dynamics

Jerry Ginsberg  
CE'65  
Cambridge University Press



### The Wisdom of the Ten Commandments

Richard Graven  
ChE'52  
Pleasant Word



### A New History of Photography

Ken Schless  
A'82  
White Press



### Stormy's Hat

Andrea U'Ren  
A'91  
Farrar, Straus and Giroux



### The Leadership Triad

Dale E. Zand  
EE'45  
Oxford University Press

## Mindy Lang (A'82)/ Art faculty Professional Practice Fall '07

The School of Art's Professional Practice class was my favorite as a Cooper Union student and it has been my privilege to teach the class for the past 15 years. Conceived by former dean George Sadek, Professional Practice provides advanced graphic design students with an opportunity to transform the theoretical to the practical by working with real, non-profit clients. Projects have run the gamut from branding to publications to exhibition design. Noteworthy clients have included The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Cancer Care, Bellevue Hospital and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

This past semester, a group of three students made an enormous impact, developing a new institutional identity for the opening of the Museum at Eldridge Street, the culmination of a 25-year project to restore the Eldridge Street Synagogue in the Lower East Side. Yael

Alkalay on exchange from Israel, junior Dan Donohue (A'08)

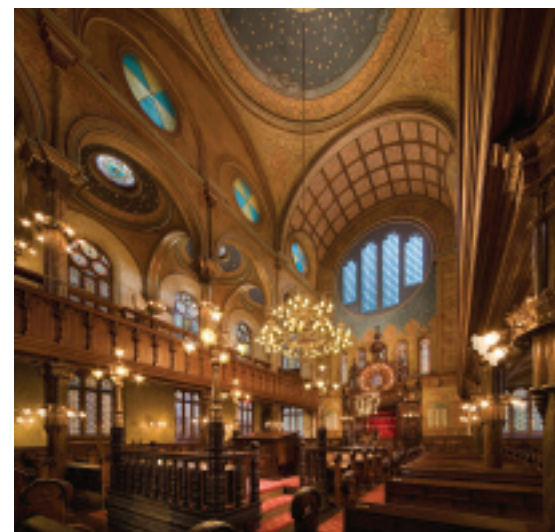
and senior Eli Halpern (A'08) each assumed responsibility for one aspect of the project and together, in one semester, they branded the museum with a new mark and logotype, designed prototypes for important publications and created a motion graphic piece for the museum's web site and multimedia presentations.

The semester began with an on-site meeting with deputy director, Amy Milford, who led us on an awe-inspiring tour through the construction site that would become the interior of the sanctuary. Perched 70 feet high on scaffolding—examining details of the trompe l'oeil finishes that no one can get close to now that the building has reopened—we were regaled with stories about the building's past and the Herculean effort it has taken to bring it back from the dead. We were all moved by the project's vision to turn this working-class synagogue into a multi-cultural institution serving future generations of immigrants in New York City.

"When you talk about design in the classroom," says Alkalay, "it relates to the experimental and conceptual. The Professional Practice class taught me to think about the design's function and the client's needs. It's a completely different experience and dialogue." The students began the design process and, as with all Professional Practice projects, there were several weeks of in-class critiques before a presentation was made to the client. Approximately eight weeks into the project, the class returned to the museum offices and presented their work to an overwhelmingly positive response.

"We were seeking a logo design that conveyed the idea that we are creating a major, new cultural institution within an iconic landmark building. This creative and talented team of young designers came up with a concept that is both beautiful and on-message. Working with them was a delight," says Bonnie Dimun, executive director at the museum. The second half of the semester was spent working on applications of the new design. On December 3, 2007, the Professional Practice class was invited to the grand re-opening of the building, where the new logo was on view everywhere—from the event program to pencils and t-shirts in the museum shop. We were all quite proud to see our semester's work displayed so prominently.

Top to bottom: Museum at Eldridge Street logo designed by Yael Alkalay; spread from presentation book; Museum merchandise; alternate logo used for Egg Cream/Egg Roll community event; restored synagogue





## Marriages

**Scott Springer (AR'91)** and Laura Gilman are happy to announce their marriage on December 15, 2007 at the Penthouse of the Surrey Hotel in New York City. The couple resides in New York City.

**Correction:** Patty Jenkins graduated in 1993 from the School of Art, not 1983.

## Births

**Jason Hofstein (ChE'93)** and his wife Hilary are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl. She was born April 6, 2008 in Niskayuna, NY and weighed 10 lbs. 1 oz.

**Zeborah Houides (A'92)** now known as Noir LeBlanc and her husband Nathan LeBlanc are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, born December 29, 2007. Baby LeBlanc was born in Pittsburgh, PA, weighed 7 lbs., 11 oz. and was named after Cooper Union professor emeritus Arthur Corwin.

## 20s & 30s

**Vincent Edwin Valentine (A'38)** writes that he has "officially" retired, and at age 90 he considers the "things I do more fun than work."

## 40s

**Marion Reh Gurfein (A'40)** is coping with age-related macular degeneration (see her poem, *Macular Mayhem*) with strength and wit as she continues playing piano and using her computer to keep in touch with everyone.

### *Macular Mayhem*

I feel my life is all a blur  
I cannot tell a him from her.  
I once approached a garbage pail  
And thought it an attractive male.  
And since I am a friendly soul  
I wave and smile at every pole.  
And this is just the normal state  
Of a macular degenerate.

**Gregory Bruno (A'47)** exhibited a large watercolor in the American Watercolor Show held in April 2008 at the Salmagundi Club in New York City. Bruno received the *Forbes* magazine award at the 65th New Jersey Watercolor Society exhibition held September 2007.

**Lois Dodd (A'48)** had a survey exhibition of paintings at Alexandre Gallery in New York from April 10-May 29, 2008.

**Jose Fumero (A'48)** was profiled in a feature story about his life and art in the August/September issue of North Carolina's *High Country Magazine*.

### **Seymour M. Sidel (A'49) died on November 12, 2007.**

Si was a wonderfully amiable, highly talented graphic artist who contributed to the outstanding art department at Deiner Hauser Bates, part of the third largest advertising agency in the world, during the 1970s and 80s.

## 50s

**Milton Glaser (A'51)** was profiled in *Art+Auction*. The April 16, 2008 article discussed his career and design concepts and revealed his early role as the Underground Gourmet food critic for *New York* magazine. Glaser is the subject of a recently released documentary, *To Inform and Delight: The Work of Milton Glaser*. The film's title comes from Glaser's principle regarding the purpose of art.

**Charles R. Heidengren (CE'52)** is a semi-retired civil engineer in Bangkok, Thailand, where he has lived for 24 years. He has been consulting internationally for almost six decades in construction and geotechnical engineering. In 2007, he completed an electronic version of his autobiography titled *The Autobiography and Professional Diary of Charles R. Heidengren*. The book shares his memories of student years at Cooper Union and his professional engineering insights from consulting around the world. He can be reached at heidencr@gmail.com. **Joan Semmel (A'52)** received a 2007 Anonymous Was a Woman Award. The artists' grants are awarded to female artists over age 35. Four Walls Gallery in San Diego, CA presented a solo exhibition of **Lenore Simon's (A'52)** artwork January 12-March 5, 2008 that spanned her 50-year career in printmaking and mixed media. The exhibition challenged the concept of mechanical reproduction. Simon's art can be seen at [www.lenoresimonstudio.blogspot.com](http://www.lenoresimonstudio.blogspot.com). **Dr. Donald Rapp (ChE'55)** discussed his two latest books, *Human Mission to Mars* and *Assessing Climate Change*, when he appeared on The Space Show, April 14, 2008. Rapp is a consultant on climatology and an expert in the requirements, architecture and transportation systems for space missions. Well known in the NASA community, Rapp is sought after for his writing and expertise in reviewing major proposals for space ventures. **Ricardo Scofidio (AR'55)** and partner Elizabeth Diller (AR'79) were awarded the Harleston Parker Medal from the Boston Society of Architects in December 2007. **Roslyn Fassett (A'56)** exhibited paintings at the

Orazio Salati Studio & Gallery in Binghamton, NY in May 2008.

**E. Maria Roth (AR'56)** serves on the Virginia Montgomery County Adjustment and Appeals Board. Roth received a master's of science degree in urban design, affairs and planning from Virginia Tech's landscape architecture department and in spring 2005 was a part-time instructor in German languages there. **Dorrit Title (A'56)**, **Leonard Meiselman (A'56)** and Aaron Morgan (A'66) are art members of [www.artcriesout.com](http://www.artcriesout.com). The web site is dedicated to protest art and all artists are invited to submit work. **Sylvia Plimack Mangold's (A'59)** recent paintings were exhibited at Alexander and Bonin gallery last fall and reviewed in the November 2007 issue of *ARTnews*. The Maxwell Davidson Gallery in New York held a retrospective of the paintings of the late **Tom Wesselmann (A'59)**, November 10, 2007-January 12, 2008.

## 60s

**Jeannetta van Raalte (A'60)** has stopped designing textiles to paint botanicals full time. She had shows in Houston, TX and her work was exhibited at the Albany State Museum in April 2008. In September, van Raalte will join 83 artists from 15 countries in the juried Focus on Nature X Show, held at The New York State Museum. For more information, visit [www.nysm.nysed.gov/exhibits/special/FocusonNatureX.cfm](http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/exhibits/special/FocusonNatureX.cfm).

**Mario Buatta (A'62)** was profiled at [www.ArchitecturalDigest.com](http://www.ArchitecturalDigest.com) on his restoration of Sister Parish's apartment on Fifth Avenue in New York. *Art in America* featured the 40-year painting career of **Jack Whitten (A'64)** in the April 2008 issue. **Sal Marino (ME'64)** founded American Soniram Corporation in 1977. American Soniram was mainly involved in the material handling industry and was awarded several United States patents, corporate and personal. Marino recently closed the corporation to take time to work on new projects. **Jerry Ginsberg (CE'65)** received the 2007 Bruel Gold Medal in Acoustics and Noise Control from the American

Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) at the annual ASME meeting in Seattle. Ginsberg authored a new graduate level textbook, *Engineering Dynamics*, published by Cambridge Press. The new textbook updates and improves information in his previous best seller, *Advanced Engineering Dynamics*. **Barbara Grossman (A'65)** exhibited paintings in a group show at the Gross McCleaf Gallery in January 2008. A retrospective of the works of late artist **Christopher Wilmarth (A'65)** was held at the Betty Cuninghame Gallery in New York, November 29, 2007-January 19, 2008. **James K. McCormick (EE'66)** is semi-retired and involved with non-profit work including raising money for the Rotary project, Pure Water for the World. The project provides low-cost water purification units to communities in developing countries. The small, inexpensive units have saved thousands of lives of women and children who were drinking poisoned waters in drains and polluted waterways. Visit [www.purewaterfortheworld.org](http://www.purewaterfortheworld.org) for more information. **Thomas Nozkowski (A'67)** had a show of recent work at Pace Wildenstein from April 3-May 3, 2008. *New York Magazine* featured the unique studio residence of Cooper Couple Nozkowski and his wife, sculptor **Joyce Robins (A'66)** in the April 21, 2008 issue. Nozkowski received the 2008 President's Citation for lifetime achievement in art from The Cooper Union. **Carl Stein, FAIA (AR'68)** spoke about "bauhaus at the brink" at Judson Manor, Cleveland, OH, voicing concern over the authorized razing of architect Marcel Breuer's Ameritrust Tower in Cleveland in his talk "Green Building and Modernism; Are They Anti-theoretical?" **Ed Feiner (AR'69/trustee)** became senior vice president and chief architect of the Las Vegas Sands Corporation in March 2008. Feiner lectured on green design and government buildings at the Green Building Design Overview held at Cooper Union, November 2007.

**Norman Woliner CE'66**

For almost two decades Norman Woliner CE'66 played an active role in Florida's regional alumni activities. He served as Treasurer of the chapter for six years. Norman encouraged regional alumni to remain connected to The Cooper Union and he played a crucial role in communicating with Florida alumni and assisting the Alumni Relations Office in preparing memorable Florida events.

**70s**

**Sue Allen** (AR'70) exhibited recent prints at The Dallas Art Center in Dallas, TX during May 2008 and will be showing at the Multnomah Arts Center in Portland, OR June 10–July 10, 2008. In November 2007, **Daniel Libeskind** (AR'70) received both the 2007 Medal of Honor for Architecture from The National Arts Club in New York and one of Germany's highest civilian honors, the Commanders Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. He was featured in "The Liberation of Daniel Libeskind" in *New York Magazine*, October 2007. Libeskind lectured on his projects and influences at the inaugural Soane Seminar sessions held at the Sir John Soane Museum Foundation, March 3, 2008. **Allan Rubin** (A'70) exhibited *Unseen Fetishes*, a solo show of recent sculpture at the Alliance Gallery, Narrowsburg, NY in July 2007. He has produced DVDs on his many travels and is planning one on Bali. **Aviva Rahmani** (A'70) is an ecological artist and activist. During 2007, she had exhibitions, gave performances and participated on panels, including the 52nd Venice Biennale. Her work can be seen at [www.ghost-nets.com](http://www.ghost-nets.com). **Sherry Lerit Greenberg** (A'74) exhibited 42 oil paintings in a solo show at the Alfred Lippman Gallery in Short Hills, NJ from February 18–March 31, 2008. **Neil Shaw** (EE'72) is a principal with Menlo Scientific Acoustics Inc. The firm recently completed design projects including the Genomics Building and the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Building at the University of California, Riverside. Shaw is a fellow of the Acoustical Society of America and of the Audio Engineering Society in New York, and a field application engineer. He recently joined the faculty of

the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California. **Alan Singer** (A'72) exhibited a digital collage in a group show held during May 2008 at the Oxford Gallery in New York. *ARTnews* reviewed the photorealist paintings of **Diane Greene** (A'73) in the February 2008 issue. **Lois Gruberger** (A'73) is a professor at Savannah College of Art and Design. **Richard Fragapane** (CE'73) is a real estate developer in Southern California involved with LEED certified green office building projects. **Lawrence Kutnicki** (AR'74) is the architect of a planned 21-story condominium on Third Avenue near Gramercy Park in New York. The unique building incorporates an existing four-story-brick tenement by wrapping around the smaller building. The *New York Times* described the project in the January 20, 2008 issue. **Gloria Simoneaux** (A'74), founder of Drawbridge, left the arts program, which she created 20 years ago. Expanding the concept of therapeutic art for a global audience, she began teaching at the University of Havana. She has made many trips to Africa and is currently in Kenya training others how to use art therapy with street children. Simoneaux's new venture can be found at [www.haram-beearts.org](http://www.haram-beearts.org). **Toshiko Mori**, FAIA (AR'76) designed the Eleanor and Wilson Greatbatch Pavilion that will break ground in 2009. The pavilion will be the capstone of a 15-year project to restore Frank Lloyd Wright's six-building complex originally created in 1906. Mori received a New York AIA 2008 Project Honor Merit Award in March. She participated in Women in Modernism held at the Museum of Modern Art in October 2007 and was a participant in the Dean's Lecture Series at Cornell University School of Architecture and in the Boston Institute of Contemporary Art Design Lecture Series held in December 2007. **Zeljko Tonic** (AR'76) joined Arrowsmith Architects in Boston. **Diane Lewis** (AR'76) was featured in "The Brains behind Billionaire Homes" published in *Fast Company*, October 2007. **Gerard P. Lundquist** (CE'77) was named Citizen of the Year by the Garden City Chamber of Commerce. The award recognizes volunteerism and outstanding service to the village of Garden City, NY. Lundquist is serving his fifth term as village trustee. **Philip Taaffe** (A'77) is having a survey exhibition at Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg in Germany, on view from March–June 2008. **Alexander Gorlin** (AR'78) discussed his redesign of New York City's Lincoln Square

Synagogue in [www.therealdeal.net](http://www.therealdeal.net) and in *Oculus*, winter 2007/2008 issue. The same issue included Gorlin's article on the effect of taste arbiters in architecture. **Elizabeth Diller** (AR'79) gave the Phyllis Wattis Distinguished Lecture at the San Francisco Museum of Art in November 2007. Recent awards include the 2008 Tau Sigma Delta Gold Medal from the Honor Society in Architecture and Allied Arts and a New York AIA 2008 Project Honor Merit Award in March 2008. **Lee H. Skolnick** (AR'79) is an honorary visiting fellow at the University of Leicester in England. He will continue as a visiting fellow through 2012, involved with lectures and programs in the University's museum studies program. Skolnick created 10 lofts and two penthouses from the former Paula Cooper Gallery, Soho's first art studio in New York.

**80s**

**Joan Ockman** (AR'80) wrote "Star Cities" for *Architecture*, March 2008. Ockman was a panel speaker at the USA: Modern Architectures in History forum held at Columbia University's College of Architecture, Planning and Preservation on February 18, 2008. **Stan Allen** (AR'81) received a 2008 Progressive Architecture Award for his design of the Taichung Gateway Park in Taichung, Taiwan. He participated in the Cut Action Micro Cut Debate at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. Allen was a contributing writer to *The New Architectural Pragmatism*, published by Harvard Design Magazine Reader Series. **Thomas Lindberg** (AR'81) is an architect with Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners. He was the project manager for the firm's restoration of Temple Emanu-El in New York. The project resulted in a 2007 Faith & Form Religious Architecture Honor Award. **Jesse Reiser** (AR'81) and **Nanako Umemoto** (AR'83) received Cooper Union's 2008 President's Citation for lifetime achievements in architecture. They participated in the Architectural League 2007 Student Program Pane and Studio tours in October 2007. Reiser was a participant in Tectonics-Making Meaning at Eindhoven University of Technology in The Netherlands, December 2007. **Frank Gerard Godlewski** (AR'82) painted a gigantic cookie mural for Gimme Jimmy's cookie emporium in Livingston, NJ and was featured as the Cookie Painter at [www.Baristanet.com](http://www.Baristanet.com), March

2008. **Maurice Cox** (AR'83) was recently appointed director of design for the National Endowment for the Arts. **Elizabeth O'Donnell** (AR'83/Arch. assoc. dean) attended the 2007 AIA Heritage Ball student awards ceremony. **Paul Villinski** (A'84) was in a group show at Project 4 gallery in Washington DC, February 2–March 1, 2008. Villinski's work can be seen at [www.paulvillinski.com](http://www.paulvillinski.com). *Art in America* profiled recent art installations by **Leonardo Drew** (A'85) in the January 2008 issue. **Shigeru Ban** (AR'84) and his firm were short listed for the UAE's Sheikh Zayed National Museum. Ban gave the Franzen lecture on architecture at Cooper Union in January 2008. He was a juror for the 2008 Pritzker Prize Competition. **Dean Maltz** (AR'84) collaborated with Ban on the Metal Shutter Houses, an 11-story condominium in West Chelsea, NY. **Bill Moore** (ChE'84) is interim executive vice president, biomedical services for the American Red Cross. Moore will lead the national blood banking operation that is responsible for nearly half of the nation's blood supply. **Yorgo Valyrakis** (A'84) had an exhibition of recent paintings at Jadite Galleries in New York in February 2008. **Pamela Belyea** (A'85) and Gary Faigin are co-founders of the Gage Academy, a not-for-profit art academy offering classical instruction in fine arts for artists of all ages and abilities. In February 2008, Belyea was honored for her outstanding work in arts education with the 2007 Governor's Arts Award presented for "significant contributions to the creativity and culture of Washington." **David Heymann** (AR'84) received the 2007 Distinguished Professor Award from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. **Christine Benedict** (AR'86) spoke at the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA) Building Energy Conference in Boston, MA in March 2008. She was a juror for the 2007 Building Enclosure Council Design Award in November 2007. **Ruth Pastine** (A'87) had her third solo exhibition at Brian Gross Fine Art from April 3–May 17, 2008 in San Francisco, CA. **Robert Cowherd** (AR'88) participated in the Boston Society of Architects college and career fair in October 2007. Cowherd was appointed to the editorial board of the Boston Society of Architects Chapter Letter. **Martin Finio** (AR'88) was featured in Studio Visits: Christoff: Finio Architecture at [www.archpaper.com](http://www.archpaper.com) in March 2008. **Michael Morris** (AR'89) and **Yoshiko Sato** (AR'89) participated in the IFI 2007 Busan XXII General

Assembly & Design Congress held in Seoul, Korea in October 2007. **Barry Negrin** (ME'89) was profiled in the February 21, 2008 issue of Crain's New York Business.com. Negrin is a patent lawyer and in February 2008 established a new firm of 130 lawyers. **Elliot Puckette** (A'89) exhibited paintings at the Paul Kasmin Gallery in New York during January 24–February 23, 2008.

**90s**

**Robert Murray Legge** (AR'90) participated in the Peace Crane Project 2008 held city-wide in Austin, TX. Legge's project can be viewed at [www.leggelewis-legge.com](http://www.leggelewis-legge.com). **Christian Nguyen** (A'90) exhibited paintings at the Michael Kohn Gallery in Los Angeles, CA, January 26–March 1, 2008. **Andrea U'Ren** (A'91) writes "I don't quite know how it happened, but I now write and illustrate children's picture books" (see Published Pioneers). **Suzan Wines** (AR'90) designed a pendant light fixture that was noted in the future furniture column of *Interior Design*, November 2007. **David Gersten** (AR'91) was a conference participant at Ineffable, held at the City College School of Architecture, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture in November 2007. **Scott Springer** (AR'91) joined Swanke Hayden Connell Architects in New York as a principal. Formerly a senior associate principal at Kohn Pedersen Fox, Springer managed projects in China and helped establish the firm's office in Shanghai. He is one of 50 international architects featured in Kohn Pedersen Fox's book *Persistence of Vision: Shanghai Architects in Dialogue* (see Marriages). **Jeffrey Brown** (AR'92) was named director of the Rhode Island School of Design. **James Ludwig** (AR'92) was included in a promotional film for Steelcase, the office furniture manufacturer, where he is head designer. **Julian LaVerdiere** (A'93) was awarded a NYC Permit for Art commission for the first redesigned fire station since 9/11 using new high-tech equipment (see opposite page). **Tom Moran** (A'93) was interviewed on the National Public Radio program Marketplace. The program aired December 27, 2007. **Rachel Vine** (A'93) had artwork in the Small Works exhibition held at the 80 Washington Square East Galleries, February 2–March 14, 2008. **Bradley Horn** (AR'94) was a conference moderator for Ineffable (see Gersten [AR'91]). **Matthew Monahan** (A'94) was in a group exhibition of sculptures shown during January 2008 at the New



### Julian LaVerdiere (A'93)

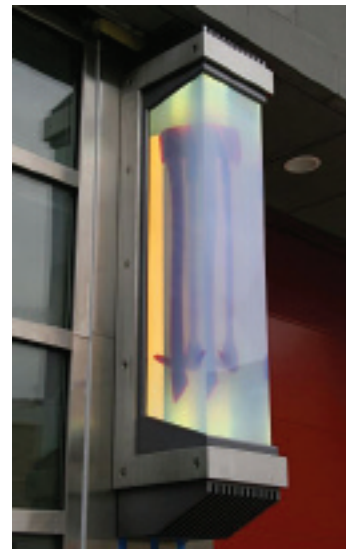
Julian LaVerdiere was awarded a NYC Percent for Art commission in 2005 to build new work for a fire station being designed in Bushwick, Brooklyn. It was the first redesigned fire station after 9/11. On November 15th, a formal ribbon cutting with Mayor Bloomberg took place.

"Sentinel Lanterns" serves as a coat of arms for the station, signifying the two departments that share the building for FDNY Engine Company 277 and Ladder Company 112.

"Each lantern is a symbolic arms cabinet, of a sort. One represents the Engine Company and holds a giant size water cannon, and the other holds a giant fire axe and halligan tool symbolizing the Ladder company," says LaVerdiere. "The goliath tool sets were sculpted and cast into translucent red acrylic and embedded in solid blocks of misty acrylic. The acrylic blocks have a light interference pigment that causes the light projected inside to appear flame like in color and dissipation."

Sam Kusack (A'01) collaborated on the project. Kusack is a sculptor who owns and runs a large machine shop in Brooklyn, specializing in precision architectural engineering and art fabrication.

The "Sentinel Lanterns" were designed to illuminate, sanctify and celebrate the heroic aspects of quintessential firefighting instruments.



Museum of Contemporary Art, NY. The show was profiled in the April 2008 issue of *Art in America*. The unique redesign of **Suchitra Van's** (AR'94) Greenwich Village apartment was featured in "A Global Sweep on a Tiny Budget" in the *New York Times*, March 20, 2008. **Catherine Seavitt** (AR'94) lectured at the University of Michigan in February 2008. **Jason Oliver Vollen** (AR'94) received a Bartlett School of Architecture research grant for emerging building technologies in ceramics at the University of Arizona/Tucson. **Kim Holleman** (A'95) had her first solo exhibition in March 2008 at the Black and White Gallery in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. **Stephanie Reyer** (A'95) was appointed director of exhibits at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, PA. Reyer was formerly the associate director of exhibition graphic design at the American Museum of Natural History, NY. **Martha Skinner's** (A'95) superABSORBER project was featured in the March issue of *BusinessWeek* and was included in *Transmaterial 2: A Catalog of*

*Materials That Redefine our Physical Environment*, published by Princeton Architectural Press. The project, a new highway wall barrier that absorbs sound, light and airborne pollution, won the Metropolis Magazine Next Generation competition in Spring 2007. **Daniel Bogorff** (BSE'97) is conducting research in Woods Hole, MA in the nanotechnology division of the Marine Biological Laboratory. Bogorff's abstract on self referencing selective micro-biosensors was presented at the 2005 International Oceans' Conference in France and was subsequently published. **Jennifer Lee** (AR'97) reports that OBRA's project BEATFUSE! won a 2008 AIA New York Honor Award and had an accompanying show on May 1. **Wangechi Mutu** (A'97) lectured about her art and the social concepts that shape her work at the University of California, Santa Barbara on April 23, 2008. She received the 2008 Urban Visionaries award as an Emerging Talent from The Cooper Union. **Linda Taalman** (AR'97) lectured at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design in October 2007.

**Anthony Titus** (AR'98) exhibited sculpture at Museum 52 in Brooklyn, NY in May 2008. **Carlos Little** (AR'98) of Little & Furgason gave a studio tour in conjunction with an exhibition of his work at Art in General on February 12, 2008. **Megan Sullivan** (A'98) was in a group exhibition at Freymond-Guth & Co Fine Arts in Zurich, Switzerland, April 12–May 10, 2008. **Jonus Ademovic** (AR'99), head architect of Archipelagos, won the open competition to design the Academy of Performing Arts in Sarajevo. The 60,000-foot facility is expected to be completed by spring 2010. **Jovan Villalba** (A'99) exhibited recent paintings at the Tria Gallery January 10–February 9, 2008.

## 00s

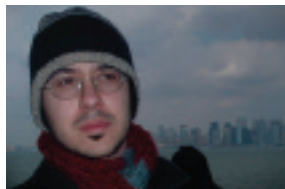
**Thomas Tsang** (AR'00) received an Honorable Mention for the NY AIA South Street Seaport competition in February 2008. **Heather Hauck** (EE'01) received the Women's Bond Club Rising Star Award for professional accom-

plishments. **Yael Erel** (AR'02) was a conference participant in Ineffable, (see Gersten [AR'91]). **Francisco Bello** (A'02) was nominated for a 2008 Academy Award for Best Documentary Short Subject. Visit [www.rv-films.com/people/](http://www.rv-films.com/people/) to read about Francisco's film career (see box). **Joseph Woolridge** (A'03) exhibited 10 paintings at a show held at the five myles gallery, NY. The paintings were accompanied by a sound installation of Tibetan prayer bowls by Charles Fambro. **Ekaterini Maria Konidaris** (AR'02) was on the winning team with Jonus Ademovic (AR'99) to design the Academy of Performing Arts in Sarajevo. **Noah Lyon** (A'02) exhibited his t-shirt and button art at the Armory Show March 27–30, 2008. Visit Lyon at [www.retardriot.com](http://www.retardriot.com). **Aiden Dillard** (A'03) screened his new film *Meat Weed America* in The Great Hall on November 26, 2008. **Nelson Figallo** (AR'03) was an exhibition participant in Colors: Red and Black at Luna Lounge in Brooklyn, NY in October 2007. **Anita Ragusa** (A'04) had a solo show opening in May 2008 at A.I.R. Gallery, NY.

**Rebecca Schiffman** (A'04) was profiled in the April 16, 2008 issue of *The New York Observer*. **Mia Tsiamis** (CE'04) represented engineering firm ARUP in the first round winning team selected in the U.S. Green Building Council's New York State Pavilion Revival competition. **Basar Girit** (AR'05) and **Bradley Samuels** (AR'05) of Situ Studio presented the lecture "Inter Operate: Experiments in Digital Fabrication" at the Center for Architecture, NY in October 2007. **Min-Hsuan Kuo** (ChE'05) writes, "After nearly three years working for Infineum USA LP, I am finally making it back to grad school, which is what I have always wanted to do. I'll be pursuing my Ph.D. degree in chemical engineering at Columbia University in fall 2008. I'd like to thank Professors Ahmed, Bové and Stock. **Carmelle Safdie** (A'05) had a solo show of paintings at Heist Gallery on Essex Street, NY, May 1–24, 2008. **Julian Louie** (AR'07) was named a design up-and-comer at [www.fashion-tribes.com](http://www.fashion-tribes.com).

**Dana Strasser** (AR'07) is a design team member of Ariaplanning noted in *Abitari*, December 2007.

**Caroline Woolard** (A'07) was awarded a residency at the MacDowell Colony.



### Francisco Bello (A'02)

In addition to being nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Short Subject, *Salim Baba*, shot and co-produced by Francisco Bello (A'02), was an official selection in the Sundance Film Festival 2008, among others, and won at the Woodstock Film Festival 2007, the Palm Springs International Festival of Short Films 2007 (2nd Prize Best Documentary) and the Sidewalk Film Festival, 2007 (Best Short Documentary).

Filmed on location in Kolkata, India, with director Tim Sternberg, the film portrays the life of Salim Muhammad, who screens discarded film scraps for children using a hand-cranked projector he inherited from his father.

Bello has worked for Kevin Smith, Michael Moore and George Butler, among others. He launched *Ropa Vieja* Films in 2007 with Salim Baba and *My Favorite Actor* is his first feature as a director. He has received fellowships from the PBS/WGBH Producer's Academy, the NALIP NY Documentary Mentorship Program and the NALIP Latino Producer's Academy. Most recently, Bello spent time in Sierra Leone for a documentary on transitional justice.



## In Memoriam

Michael Pruzan	BSE'24
Joseph Matthews	AR'33
Leah Rossin	A'33
Alfred Birnstein	A'34
George Gaber	A'34
Louis Izzo	A'34
Frederic Atherton	Eng'35
Norman Schepper	AR'35
Elinor Mikulka	A'37
Daniel Okun	CE'37
Leonard Trentin	AR'37
Samuel Gulko	A'38
Jesse Tegethoff	ChE'38
Dr. Roger Gilmont	ChE'39
Cropper Holland	EE'39
Benjamin Zapolski	AR'39
Harold Sosnow	A'40
Julian J. Fulleylove	ChE'42
Sanford Hershfield	EE'42/PDE'48
Anthony LaSala	A'42
Bernard Small	EE'42
Stephen Antosz	Eng'43
Murray Charmin	A'43
Evelyn Varecka	A'44
Jean Kintzer	A'45
Allen Speiser	A'45
Shirley Whitman	A'45
Melvin Piperno	A'46
Seymour Rutkin	AR'46
Sylvia Drucker Mavis	A'47
Harold Comerro	AR'48
Albert Cohen	ChE'49
John Flaizik	A'49
Seymour Saidel	A'49
Leon Chajson	ChE'50
Max Kerman	EE'50
Stanley Kugler	ME'50
Ernst M. Massey	ME'50
John Parmerton	A'50
Clifford Walcutt	AR'50
Vouletti Williams	A'51
Frederick Kirr	ME'52
Antoinette Cohen	A'55
Arvid Jorgensen	ME'56
Dr. Joel W. Hollenberg	ME'60
Robert G. Young	A'61
M. Richard Deckinger	EE'66
William McKeen	A'71
William Cooper Mack	AR'06

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of our friend and colleague

### Professor Zikri Ahmed.

Professor Ahmed was a respected member of the chemical engineering department for 20 years. Prior to his illness he served as the institute's safety officer. He was beloved by those students whom he mentored advised and taught. He was liked and respected by the entire Cooper Union community. In accordance with his religious beliefs, internment took place very shortly after his death. He is survived by his wife and two children, both in college.

### Corrections

In the Winter 2008 issue, Betty Logue Dombrowski was incorrectly listed as deceased. Dr. Henry Dombrowski graduated with a degree in chemical engineering in 1947.

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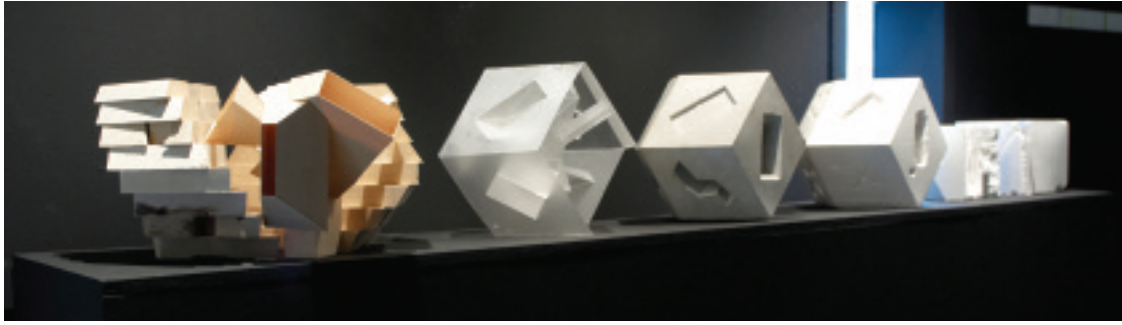
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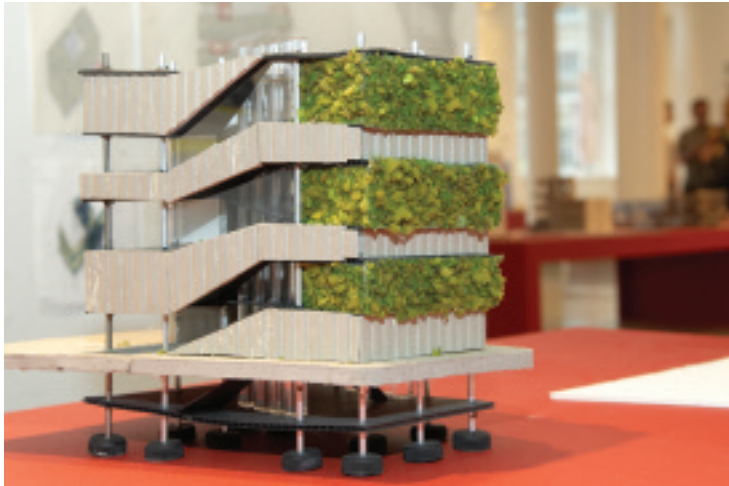
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Eric Mack (A'10)

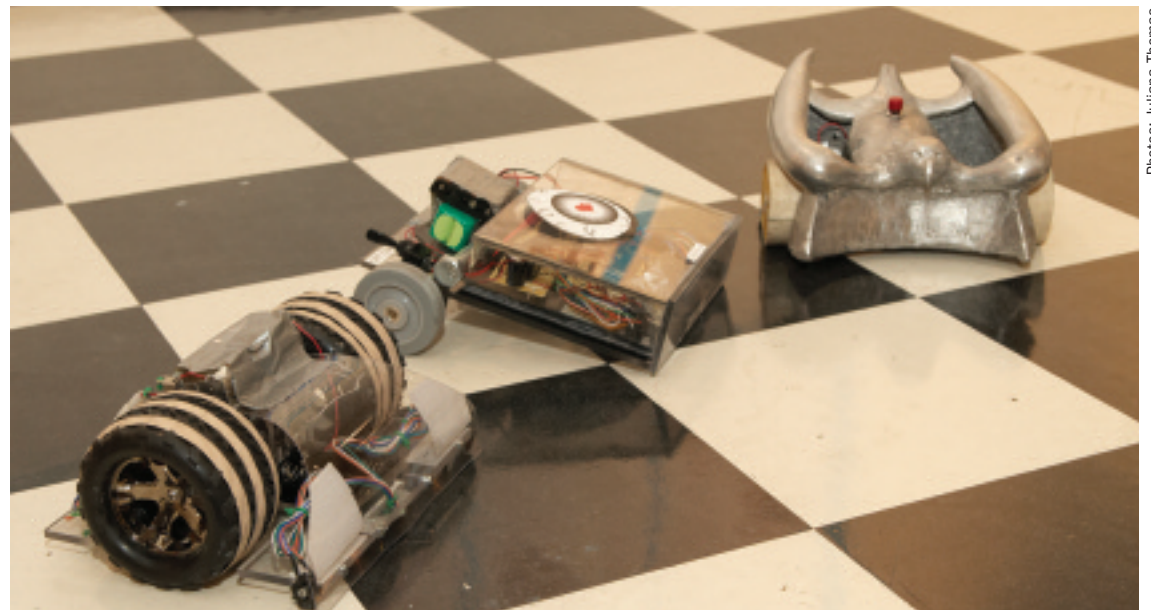


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# Annual Student Exhibition 2008

see inside back cover for full coverage



Eli Halpern (A'08)

Juliana Thomas

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