What’s on the cover?
On the cover of this issue of CONTXT we feature illustrations by Game Art students Sarah Lundberg ’15 and Ty Harmon ’15. These images are a product of the client-based collaboration with American Zoetrope to create a trailer for the game adaption of the film Apocalypse Now.
Read more about this story on page 22.
Five recent alumni launch their creative career within 60 days of graduating.

New members of the Ringling College family: Dr. Amy Kedron, Barbara Martini, Anne-Marie Russell.

Ringling College partners with the Lifelong Learning Academy to build unprecedented adult learning model.

Students take on exciting professional work through our Collaboratory Commitment.

Our amazing alumni successes: Karen Hallion and Ray Dillman.

Meet our thirteen extraordinary 2015-16 Trustee Scholars.

Our friends, patrons, and supporters who help make it all happen.

Recently published book by Ryan Sias ’95 (Illustration)
RINGLING WINS

STUDENTS

The American Advertising Federation awarded four 2015 National Student ADDY AWARDS to our Motion Design students.

Computer Animation senior thesis film Jinxxy Jenkins and Lucky Lou wins Best Computer Animated Short Award at SIGGRAPH 2015

Interior Design students win FIRST PLACE and Special Citation Awards at 2015 National Robert Bruce Thomson Annual Student Light Fixture Design Competition

Student film None of That wins BEST SHORT FILM at Animago Awards

Fourteen students and recent graduates work on SUNDANCE PREMIERED FILM, Dark Night

Ringling College ART Network wins THREE 2015 TELLY AWARDS for Student Videos

Advertising Design students win First Place in the national COLLEGIATE EFFIES

Graphic Design student Flavio Vincenti ‘16 named among GDUSA’s 2016 STUDENTS TO WATCH

ALUMNI

Fourteen alumni work on 2016 OSCAR, ANNE, AND GOLDEN GLOBE WINNER, Inside Out

Seventeen alumni work on various 2016 OSCAR NOMINATED films

Graphic Design alum Jeremy Cox ‘06 wins 2015 Main Title Design EMMY for Manhattan

Computer Animation alumn Patrick Osborne ’03 wins Best Animated Short ACADEMY AWARD for Feast

Alum Brandon Oldenburg ‘95 at Moonbot Studio wins Daytime EMMY AWARDS for Animated Short, Silent

Alum Jason Figliozzi ’08 heads animation team for OSCAR WINNER Big Hero 6

Kevin Leman II ’00 wins Daytime EMMY for Ellen Degeneres Show

COMPUTER ANIMATION

#1 in the south, #2 nationwide by Animation Career Review

Fourteen students and recent graduates work on SUNDANCE PREMIERED FILM, Dark Night

Computer Animation senior thesis film Jinxxy Jenkins and Lucky Lou wins Best Computer Animated Short Award at SIGGRAPH 2015

Interior Design students win FIRST PLACE and Special Citation Awards at 2015 National Robert Bruce Thomson Annual Student Light Fixture Design Competition

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Alum Jason Figliozzi ’08 heads animation team for OSCAR WINNER Big Hero 6

Kevin Leman II ’00 wins Daytime EMMY for Ellen Degeneres Show

GRAPHIC DESIGN

#1 in the south, #9 nationwide by Animation Career Review

Named a 2016 top design school by Graphic Design USA

Alum Jeremy Cox ‘06 wins 2015 Main Title Design EMMY for Manhattan

Computer Animation alumn Patrick Osborne ’03 wins Best Animated Short ACADEMY AWARD for Feast

Alum Brandon Oldenburg ‘95 at Moonbot Studio wins Daytime EMMY AWARDS for Animated Short, Silent

Alum Jason Figliozzi ’08 heads animation team for OSCAR WINNER Big Hero 6

Kevin Leman II ’00 wins Daytime EMMY for Ellen Degeneres Show

FILM

Named a top film school nationwide by The Hollywood Reporter

Fourteen students and recent graduates work on SUNDANCE PREMIERED FILM, Dark Night

Ringling College ART Network wins THREE 2015 TELLY AWARDS for Student Videos

Advertising Design students win First Place in the national COLLEGIATE EFFIES

Graphic Design student Flavio Vincenti ‘16 named among GDUSA’s 2016 STUDENTS TO WATCH
Milestone years, by nature, prompt us to stop and take a deeper look at our history. They also allow us to reflect on our accomplishments. But, more important than where we have been is where we are going. Milestone years give us a reason to pause and reaffirm our commitment to our future vision.

In its 85th year, Ringling College of Art and Design has come a long way since its founding. Every year brings new opportunities to build on our historical foundation and advance in our meteoric rise to the top. This issue of CONTXT delivers a nod to our rich history, but also celebrates our future and the steps we are taking to achieve our vision of being THE preeminent art and design college.

We pride ourselves on being at the forefront of art and design, leading the way in creativity and education—a vision that takes time, effort, and commitment to realize. Over the last year, we have broken ground on three new campus projects, started the rehabilitation of the Sarasota Museum of Art, made a historic partnership to strengthen our commitment to continuing education, and expanded our curriculum to meet the demands of our future creatives.

Our campus has begun to transform. We began construction on a new library, visual arts center, and professional sound-stage and post-production complex. They are all slated to open within the next year and a half. Extending our reach into the community, we have announced designs for a public South Campus, to be located in the historic Sarasota High School and neighboring buildings. This South Campus will be for the community, housing both the Sarasota Museum of Art (a modern and contemporary art museum) and our Continuing Studies and Special Programs (CSSP).

In another demonstration of commitment to our life-long learners, we have made a number of enhancements to our CSSP department, including the hiring of Dr. Jerry Bladdick, Assistant Vice President and Director of Continuing Studies and Special Programs. We have executed an agreement to merge with the Lifelong Learning Academy of Sarasota to create the Ringling College Lifelong Learning Academy, a new unit of our Academic Affairs department. We are dedicated to becoming the region’s leader in adult and community education.

We are proud to announce two new majors starting in fall 2016, Creative Writing and Visual Studies. Our Creative Writing majors will learn how to write for every genre—horror, sci-fi, comedy—and every medium—literature, transmedia, screenplay, and copywriting, to name a few. Meanwhile, our Visual Studies majors will explore their own self-directed curriculum, taking ownership of their education and building an art and design program that works specifically for them.

Yes, we are pleased to recognize our extraordinary 85-year journey, but we are more excited to work towards our future of preeminence. And that’s exactly what we are doing right now. Making changes. Making improvements. Making history. Creating a new future.

Dr. Larry Thompson
President, Ringling College of Art and Design
1931
The School of Fine and Applied Art of the John and Mable Ringling Art Museum opens, offering courses in Fine and Applied Art, Drawing, Painting, Design, and Commercial Arts. The institution’s inaugural class was comprised of 75 students paying $783 in tuition. As a part of Southern College, Ringling School came under the direction of Dr. Ludd M. Spivey, then-President of Southern College.

1933
The School becomes an independent nonprofit institution, changing its name to Ringling School of Art.

That same year, Verman Kimbrough becomes President of Ringling School.

1937
Although not fully accredited, Ringling School awards its first fine arts degree.

1942
The first full Faculty Exhibition is held on campus, attracting “the largest crowd ever to see an art exhibition in the history of Sarasota,” according to the Herald Tribune.

1947
Ringling School becomes the first college in Florida to be certified for the G.I. Bill following World War II.

1964
Ringling School’s first Board of Trustees emerges to manage the institutional direction, engage in policy making, and establish a faculty retirement program.

1971
Dr. Robert E. Perkins becomes President of Ringling School.

1971
Ringling School officially establishes its Alumni Association to locate and connect with its alumni. That same year, the institution changes its name to Ringling School of Art and Design.

1975
The Ringling School Library Association is established, dedicated to the development of the Ringling School library and to its role in the educational growth of the students, faculty, and community.

1979
Ringling School receives full accreditation as a degree-granting institution, as authorized by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
1984
Ringling School receives accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Art (now NASAD).
That same year, Dr. Arland F. Christ-Janer is inaugurated as President of Ringling School.

1985
Ringling School’s Selby Gallery opens its doors.

1989
A fire on campus destroys 11,000 square foot cafeteria and classroom building, prompting the School to build new facilities on campus, including a 250-seat dining facility and multi-use space and a 4,000 square foot classroom studio complex.

1993
Ringling College launches its Computer Animation Program.

1999
Dr. Larry R. Thompson becomes President of Ringling School.

2006
Ulla Searing Student Center opens, offering a new home to the Computer Animation program, student housing, and Student Life.

2007
Ringling School of Art and Design changes its name to Ringling College of Art and Design. That same year, the College merges with the Sarasota Museum of Art, incorporating the initiative as a division of the College. The College introduces three new majors Film, Advertising Design, and Game Art and Design.

2008
Ringling College launches its breakthrough Business of Art and Design major.

2009
Goldstein Hall opens its doors, providing additional student housing, Mail Services, and the student lounge, The Fishbowl. Ringling College opens the Academic Center with five floors of classrooms, the Richard and Barbara Basch Gallery, the Harold and Ronald Kendall Atrium, the Willis A. Smith Construction Inc. Galleries, the Brickman Café, the Design Center, and a 220-seat auditorium. Ringling College launches its cutting-edge Motion Design major.

2015
Ringling College breaks ground on the new Alfred R. Goldstein Library and a professional soundstage and production complex.

2016
Ringling College breaks ground on the new Richard and Barbara Basch Visual Arts Center.
The Alfred R. Goldstein Library  
Anticipated Opening: Fall 2016  

Surpassing its fundraising goal an entire year ahead of schedule, the new Alfred R. Goldstein Library is slated to open this fall. Named for Ringling Trustee and friend, Dr. Goldstein, the library will change the way Ringling students and the community work. Architecturally stunning, the facility is designed for customization, inviting students to reconfigure the furniture and move things around to create their ideal study areas. Nicknamed the “Creative Cauldron,” the new library will be a place for students to work together on group projects, be noisy, and bounce ideas off each other. At 46,000 square feet, there will be plenty of room for the College’s extensive collection, 30% of which is currently housed off campus due to space limitations.

This is not the first time Dr. Goldstein has demonstrated extraordinary support for Ringling College and its students. Over the last couple of decades, he has contributed significantly to expanding the curriculum, funding scholarships, and providing the most modern facilities for students. According to Dr. Goldstein, the library is a major step in providing the most up-to-date resources for education, serving as “the heart and brain of the whole institution.”

Film Soundstage Complex  
Anticipated Opening: Spring 2017  

The forthcoming Ringling College Soundstage and Post-Production Complex broke ground in November 2015, marking a key moment for the film industry of the region. The 30,000 square foot facility will include two stand alone soundstages and three smaller soundstages connected to a 5,000 square foot post-production studio with dubbing bays, editing suites, classrooms, a screening room, and a sound effects stage. The first of its kind in the area, the facility will empower Ringling students to work directly with professional filmmakers using the most up-to-date and professional equipment in the industry—while also expanding the film industry in this area.

The Soundstage Complex is the latest initiative to come from the Ringling College-Semkhor Networks partnership, the team that also established and developed the Ringling College Studio Lab program in 2010, inviting and supporting collaboration between today’s leading filmmakers and Ringling students. Since its founding, the Studio Lab program has not only hosted industry mavens Werner Herzog, Forest Whitaker, and Andie MacDowell, but it has overseen student collaborations with Dylan McDermott and Justin Long, among others, and placed Ringling students on the set of a Sundance-nominated film.
Richard and Barbara Basch Visual Arts Center
Anticipated Opening: December 2016

In January 2016, Ringling College broke ground on the highly anticipated Richard and Barbara Basch Visual Arts Center, made possible by a generous donation from the Basches, long-time friends and supporters of the College. Located in the center of campus, the Basch Visual Arts Center will house the most advanced tools and cutting-edge facilities for woodworking, glass, ceramics, printmaking, photography, and digital fabrication, in addition to an exhibition space and six classrooms.

The 38,660 square foot facility, designed by local firm Sweet Sparkman Architects, will offer state-of-the-art facilities for fabrication alongside a world-class gallery and viewing space for the community to watch artists at work in the glass shops and ceramics studios. According to Sweet Sparkman, the design was inspired equally by the industrial architecture of Sarasota and by the eclectic and locally renowned Basch glass collection.

Sarasota Museum of Art
Anticipated Opening: 2017

The Sarasota Museum of Art is a response to the long-standing and ever-increasing demand for high quality contemporary art exhibitions in the area. Under the guidance of its inaugural Executive Director, Anne-Marie Russell, the Museum will serve as a liaison between Ringling College, the people of Sarasota/Manatee, and the international art and design community through its rotating schedule of exhibitions, programs, and events.

Founded and supported by members of our Sarasota community, the Sarasota Museum of Art will serve as a key component of the burgeoning Ringling College South Campus, located at the historic Sarasota High School. Designed specifically for the community, the South Campus will house the Sarasota Museum of Art, the Ringling College Continuing Studies and Special Programs, and the newest partner to the College, the Lifelong Learning Academy.
CREATING THE FUTURE:
NEW PROGRAMS, NEW PARTNERSHIPS

By Nicole Caron | Illustrations by Kyle Beckett ’16

Ringling College is constantly moving forward, developing exciting new majors and creating unique partnerships to give our students ever more creative career opportunities. Beginning in fall 2016, we’ll kick off two new majors—Creative Writing and Visual Studies—and a partnership with Vermont College of Fine Arts (VCFA) offering our students a low-residency Master of Arts in Teaching.

Creative Writing

At Ringling College, we are all about storytelling, and Creative Writing is at the heart of crafting, developing, and sharing any narrative, no matter what medium one chooses to reach an audience. Well-told stories can speak truths and communicate ideas in a way that nothing else can.

Initiated by Ryan Van Cleave, Creative Writing Coordinator, the new BFA is housed in Liberal Arts. Student interest spurred the development of the Creative Writing major, which promises an exciting slate of offerings, from the unique Visiting Writers Forum each semester to the Collaboration Workgroup. Picture a Film or Motion Design student and a Creative Writing student creating a short stop motion film. Or a Creative Writing student collaborating with an Illustration student to produce a picture book from start to finish.

How is Ringling’s Creative Writing major unique? It’s a direct reflection of what kind of writers are needed in today’s world, and allows students to focus on areas they love—science fiction, fantasy, comics, satire, video games, or any genre they can imagine.

“The world needs more people who can think clearly, speak eloquently, read intently, and write powerfully,” says Ryan Van Cleave. “That’s the student we hope to graduate.”

Visual Studies

Designed for the curious, entrepreneurial student, the BA in Visual Studies program is founded on exploration. The curriculum crosses boundaries and disciplines and allows students flexibility, independent selection and choice. In this major, students select a series of minors as their course of study to create a major that reflects their personal interests and individual skills.

Housed in the Fine Arts program and drawing faculty from across all disciplines, Visual Studies is positioned as a BA within an art and design college. Typically, BA degrees in studio arts offered at liberal arts colleges are strong in the liberal arts but weak in studio practice. Ringling College matches the liberal arts quality with a superior studio experience.

“Many students who want to attend Ringling may not be so focused on one program but love the idea of attending a premier art and design college,” notes Jeff Schwartz, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Undergraduate Studies. “They can craft an education that aligns with their interests and passions.”

Visual Studies is a major of the future, allowing students to craft their skill set to match the changing needs of the creative sector.
Ringling College has partnered with the Vermont College of Fine Arts (VCFA) to provide our students with the unique opportunity to participate in a two year, low-residency Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program. Students start the program in the summer between their junior and senior years studying on the gorgeous Montpelier, Vermont campus to fast-track their MAT ambitions. Upon graduating from Ringling, students return to VCFA to complete the MAT program. Tailored specifically for artists and designers who want to teach PK-12, this program is flexible in nature, combining summer terms with fall and spring semesters.

“Ringling currently offers neither graduate programs nor art education programs, so this partnership gives our students an opportunity they might not otherwise have,” says Jeff Bellantoni, Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Perhaps one of the most significant advantages of the partnership is its contribution to arts education. Leikin says, “A student getting a degree from Ringling College comes to VCFA with hefty skills, and that’s the strong foundation of an MAT student. These graduates will go into the world with an incredible pedagogy, teach elementary and high school students, and keep the arts education continuum flowing.”

The 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act signaled good news for future art teachers: K-12 arts education became United States federal law and is now mandatory in public schools. Ringling College is poised to help fulfill upcoming demand for highly qualified teachers with its new partnership with the Vermont College of Fine Arts.
COLE CLARK
COMPUTER ANIMATION | GRADUATED: MAY 2015 | HIRED: MARCH 2015

Working at The Mill, Cole spends his days breathing life into thousands of characters. As a Junior Crowd Artist, he is charged with designing crowds of characters that interact with each other and react to their surroundings using software that was originally developed for The Lord of the Rings. His favorite project so far? Building an entire battlefield of stormtroopers and rebels for The Mill’s spot for Star Wars Battlefront. He has also worked on the VES-nominated “Rule Yourself” ad for Under Armour that featured tens of thousands of digital athletes.

But to get to this point, Cole had to carve out his own path first. A Computer Animation major at Ringling College, he threw himself into mastering the feature film aesthetics of computer animation and connecting with industry professionals and recruiters who came to campus. Working with Career Services, Cole seized opportunities to meet with professionals to get valuable feedback on his portfolio and discuss upcoming career opportunities. It paid off, as Cole was hired months before his graduation.

But his story doesn’t end here. “Ringling College equipped me to start working and gave me the opportunity to break into this industry,” says Cole. “Now I need to keep exploring, taking on new projects, and developing my skills. I want to be the best at what I do.”

JESSICA KUYKENDALL
ADVERTISING DESIGN | GRADUATED: MAY 2015 | HIRED: JUNE 2015

An Advertising Design major at Ringling College, Jessica learned how to approach the arduous task of conceptualizing and designing an effective and stunning ad from start to finish. Working through this process at an art and design college gave her a unique perspective to copywriting and advertising—she learned how to consider the ad holistically and view the copy as an integral part of design.

She also discovered the important role that copy plays in an advertisement—and her own personal knack for creating it. In fact, her senior work was so compelling that the Creative Director at ChappellRoberts called her directly after seeing the Senior Show to encourage her to apply for an open position as a copywriter.

Inspired by the seasoned professional writers around her, Jessica writes ad copy for a number of nonprofit clients and causes as a Junior Copywriter at ChappellRoberts. Recently, she led a Veteran’s Day project for local brewery 3 Daughters Brewing, interviewing American veterans and honoring their stories through a Veteran’s Day featured promotion, My American Series.

“The My American Series project was so fulfilling because I realized I could use my writing and design skills to do something important and share good in the world,” says Jessica. This spurs her to continuing writing and creating, “I see show-stopping advertisements and I think, ‘I want to do that. I want to write like that.’ And I want my writing to inspire others the same way.”
ALEC ARMBRUSTER
FILM | GRADUATED: MAY 2015 | HIRED: MAY 2015

As a freelance producer, filmmaker, and editor, a musician, and an avid consumer of entertainment film and television, Alec is no stranger to long days and hard work. But it is precisely this demanding schedule that reaffirms him where he wants to be: working with talented people on an array of cinematography and production projects.

At Ringling College, Alec found himself knee deep in senior thesis projects that demanded 10 hour days and weeks without a day off. However, in the midst of the fray, he found himself smiling, happy, and exhilarated by the challenge. He knew he was where he was meant to be.

Before he graduated, Alec began reaching out to studios around the country to land internships and part-time work. He forged lasting relationships within the industry while interning for ABC Disney and NBC Universal. Now he splits his time between producing promos, ads, and commercials for ABC Sarasota and working on his own passion projects, such as concert videography. To aspiring filmmakers, he recommends being proactive and seizing as much hands-on experience as possible.

“Your path is up to you. If you take the time and effort to absorb your education, reach out and make your own chances, and be ready to work your way up, you’ll see it pay off. Don’t be afraid to start at the bottom and take every opportunity that comes your way.”

ANNE PASSCHIER
ILLUSTRATION | GRADUATED: MAY 2015 | HIRED: FEBRUARY 2015

Starting as a Computer Animation major, Anne never envisioned she’d one day be designing and creating new patterns for American Greetings. During her freshman year at Ringling College, she met illustration majors who told her about the field of Surface Design and invited her to a live demonstration on pattern design. She fell in love and switched majors to Illustration.

After pursuing American Greetings for an internship, Anne landed a summer position working on patterns for holiday wrapping paper and packages. She learned how to think about creating art that others would use, and she delighted in collaborating with a team of working artists and designers. Now a product designer with the company, Anne challenges herself daily to conjure up original and alluring patterns that the public would use for their special occasions.

“My job is amazing because I get to design and draw patterns, which I love, every day. Then, months later, I see MY designs on the store shelves, being bought and used by people! This Christmas, I even saw some of my intern wrapping paper designs being used. It’s so tangible and so fulfilling.”

AUDREY AQUINO
MOTION DESIGN | GRADUATED: MAY 2015 | HIRED: JUNE 2015

An adventurer by nature and inventor by trade, Audrey, a freelance motion graphics animator and designer, can attest to the fast-paced, dynamic environment of the industry—and she loves it. Working from her home studio in Los Angeles, Audrey delights in the flexibility and exposure that working as a freelancer affords her.

As a senior at Ringling College, Audrey met with LoyalKaspar recruiters on campus and was offered an internship on the spot. There, she cut her teeth in the industry for three months before deciding to go freelance. At LoyalKaspar, she worked on promos for The Lion King sequel, going beyond traditional advertising to include trailers, mockups of installations at Disney parks, and interactive experiences for the public. She attributes her initial success to solid preparation at Ringling College and the importance the faculty place on bringing professional industry talent right into the classroom.

“Ringling College prepared me to jump right into a handful of studios. I knew exactly what to expect—and what was expected of me. And the faculty, especially Ed Cheetham, went above and beyond to introduce me to real professionals and industry work. Now I love what I do every day because it’s different and pushes my brain to think in different directions. Sometimes I am working on a screen—but not always. Sometimes it’s an installation. Sometimes it’s something completely unexpected.”
The Faces and Forces of Change
Meet three new additions to Ringling College: Dr. Amy Kedron, Barbara Marini, and Anne-Marie Russell
By Stephanie Lederer | Photography by Matt Holler ’13
Barbara is an extraordinary asset to the Ringling College community. A seasoned professional interior designer, professor, and industry leader, Dr. Amy Kedron is building a program that will prepare emerging leaders of the art and design world to build and run successful ventures that positively shape the community around them.

A believer that these entrepreneurs and managers are resources for the creative community, Dr. Kedron is positioning her department as a program that teaches students about new ways to connect art and design work with the end user. This model will expose her students—along with the developing artists, designers, and writers in other majors—to the practices and processes of working collaboratively to realize a creative vision.

Her academic philosophy encourages students to take risks and embrace failure in order to experiment and learn. When asked about why she wanted to work with a college of art and design, Dr. Kedron says, “It’s liberating! The faculty and staff are open to new ideas and applying new models to the world of business. Creative thinkers, artists, and designers play a major part in enhancing and sustaining communities. They think about the community in a different way and invest themselves in it. And I want to give them the business skills and power to do good for society.”

“Amy comes to Ringling College with exciting and informed new ways to educate and develop the emerging leaders of the art and design world,” says Jeff Bellantoni, Vice President of Academic Affairs. “As an experienced leader and academic in the field of economic development, management, and entrepreneurship, she is a natural fit for the head of the Business of Art and Design program.”

After earning her JD in Community Economic Development, Dr. Kedron went on to receive her Ph.D with the dissertation Main Street Revisited: How Local Proprietorship Drives Sustainable Community Economic Development. She served as founder and CEO of Buffalo First, a social enterprise working to create a more sustainable and socially responsible economy, before becoming a Founding Board Member for The Partnership for the Public Good. She then taught at University of South Florida St. Petersburg in the College of Business and in the Bishop Center for Ethical Leadership and Civic Engagement.

Barbara Marini, FASID/IDEC
Department Head, Interior Design

A seasoned professional interior designer, professor, and industry leader, Barbara Marini, FASID/IDEC, understands the power of theoretical, creative thinking and the science behind creating spaces that people want to occupy. Her mantra? Interior Design is human-centric, and every element of a space shapes the user’s ability to interact with it and others.

As she has designed hundreds of interiors largely in the commercial sector, Marini has big plans for her department. Staying abreast of industry trends and changing priorities and technologies, she has charged herself with educating and developing the next generation of design leaders and risk-takers who will take the industry across disciplines and into the future.

And her ambitions extend beyond campus. Marini envisions Sarasota as becoming one vertex on the “golden triangle” of design between New York City and Los Angeles. Where creativity thrives, industry follows.

According to Jeff Bellantoni, Vice President of Academic Affairs, “Barbara is an extraordinary asset to the Ringling College community. Her vision, coupled with her incomparable industry knowledge and experience, inspire confidence in the growth and success of the Interior Design department. We look forward to great things to come.”

Marini brings to Ringling College unparalleled academic experience as department head at both the International Academy of Design and Technology in Troy, MI and College for Creative Studies in Detroit, MI, where she led academic and industry initiatives. In addition to serving on the American Society of Interior Designers Board of Directors, she most recently led it as National President guiding strategic direction for the 25,000 member association. This is where she feels she was most inspired and energized—among the creative leaders and powerhouses of the design community.

“Interior Design is about more than the aesthetics of space,” Marini says. “This is simply a combination of the elements—they come together to elicit emotions and experiences from people. Connecting individuals uniquely with the built environment for a positive and impactful result is the goal.”

Anne-Marie Russell
Executive Director, Sarasota Museum of Art

No stranger to the dynamic world of museum management and contemporary art, Anne-Marie Russell stepped in as the inaugural Executive Director of the highly anticipated Ringling College Sarasota Museum of Art in May 2015. A vibrant and ambitious personality, Russell immediately immersed herself in the local and regional community where, as promised, she found a culturally rich and intellectually demanding community of artists, art patrons, and cultural enthusiasts—in short, a community with which she cannot wait to build a museum.

Beyond the Museum, however, Russell anticipates the development of the Ringling College South Campus, which will be housed in the historic Sarasota High School and the surrounding buildings. This space, designed for the community, will include the Museum and the Continuing Studies programs, creating a place for the public to interact with the College, the students, the community, and extraordinary art and design programs.

Closing a thirteen-year stretch as Executive Director of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tucson (MOCA), Russell looks forward to spearheading a museum affiliated with a teaching institution. Her appreciation of art extends beyond the finished work that will inhabit the galleries of the Museum; Russell delights in being involved with a world-class college that educates and fosters the next generation of contemporary artists. As an arm of Ringling College, the Sarasota Museum of Art will deliver a range of programming and exhibitions that reflect the curricular range of the college incorporating and integrating all forms of art and design.

According to Russell, “This is a great time to be at Ringling College. The capital projects we are undertaking represent an unprecedented investment in academic excellence, and I see the Sarasota Museum of Art playing a key role in bringing world-renowned artists and artwork to our students. The exposure, the education, and the internship possibilities will place our students on the global stage.”

Dr. Larry R. Thompson agrees, remarking that the Sarasota Museum of Art and its South Campus sibling, Continuing Studies, will be a major boon to the community and the Ringling College family engendering stronger ties with the global art industry. “We knew Anne-Marie was the right person for this position,” says Dr. Thompson, adding, “She is not only a seasoned veteran in the industry, but her global experience and perspective will elevate the programming of the Museum to that of the world-class institution we always envisioned.”
PINC breaks the mold. An acronym for People, Ideas, Nature, and Creativity, PINC upends the conventions to which the traditional day-long conference has long clung. A truly immersive event, PINC delights, inspires, and intrigues its participants from the moment they walk through the door until it is time to say goodbye to the 450 new friends and contacts made at the end of the day.

Like the original TED on which it was modeled, PINC is a different animal altogether. Running in Zeist, The Netherlands since 1999, PINC showcases 16 uncommon thinkers, storytellers, and visionaries from varied fields—a World Champion Whistler, a sound designer who engineers the BMW audio experience, a filmmaker who works and leads tours in North Korea, and a photographer/videographer/oceanographer who travels from North to South Poles to tell stories about science—in an intimate setting that emphasizes audience engagement. At PINC, you talk to the speakers. At PINC, you talk amongst yourselves. At PINC, you are treated to theatrical intermezzi and creatively-designed food.

Here, the takeaway is a transformation of your thinking, your vision, and your creativity. And for the past two years, this spirited conference has landed itself a U.S. home in Sarasota, thanks in large part to Ringling College, partnering sponsor.

Joining forces with the U.S. version of PINC was an easy decision for Dr. Larry R. Thompson. "I've been dreaming of branding this region as a creative epicenter," he says. "When they brought the idea of starting PINC here to me, I was immediately in. Creativity is critical to the future of our economy, and Sarasota has the resources to demonstrate that we are a hub of creativity."

It's the intentional design of the conference—where the idea of leaving people moved and pushing innovation in business is central—that reflected an obvious link to Ringling College for Dr. Thompson. "The day allows people to get out of their lives and to sit and listen and think and dream and envision. It sparks those creative neurons, where we disconnect from logical analysis and see interconnections," he says. "In many ways, PINC is an exercise in creativity serving a much bigger purpose."

That purpose? To inspire Sarasota's leaders, business owners, and entrepreneurs to think at a different pitch and from a creative point-of-view. Dr. Thompson sees this kind of thinking as "the new oil" on which companies and endeavors must run.

Anand Pallegar, co-founder of U.S. PINC and founder of atLarge, Inc., agrees. "We have to introduce to the world how powerful the creative application of tech can be in driving business ideas," he says of atLarge's mission. "PINC was like that for us. We have to look on the outside for ideas, so the opportunity to bring in sixteen international perspectives really fit our principles." Pallegar views Sarasota, like Dr. Thompson, as a wellspring of intellectual, creative, and entrepreneurial energy. "A lot of pioneering folks, entrepreneurs, and thought leaders have retired here, and it takes a community like that to drive things like PINC forward." Now going into its third year in Sarasota, PINC's unorthodox conference style plays to a sold-out audience (call it the "creative conference class"), and the PINC team is already curating a progressive group of speakers for next year.
THE QUIRK FACTOR
RINGLING STUDENTS ON DESIGNING THE PINC EXPERIENCE.

For Jonah Duvall, '16 Graphic Design and Siovean Lehner, '16 Motion Design, creating PINC's event graphics and the animation video through the Design Center was a master class in working with an open-minded client. "They wanted it to be quirky, and they wanted it to be green," says Duvall, who designed the booklets, lanyards, t-shirts and—of all things—an apron.

Using a combination of collage, photography, and typography, Duvall's graphics bring PINC's aesthetic and voice to life. "The team was especially open to any new design concept I came up with," he notes. "It was exciting and different to see my little collages in the hands of 500 people all wearing my lanyards around their necks."

Lehner was brought in by Duvall when atLarge's planning team wanted a motion design piece. "It was perfect for me because I work in 2D," she says. "I came up with the idea to open with how PINC migrated from The Netherlands to Sarasota by animating Jonah's collage designs with some of my own and putting speakers in a car." The result is a vibrant, humorous, and seriously quirky clip. Both Lehner and Duvall met regularly with atLarge's team, led by Pallegar and Megan Greenberg, who say they gave both students plenty of creative space.

"It would be difficult to measure how much room they had because they had the whole room and our rooms have no walls. PINC has a longstanding history of turning the concept over to a new designer each year and saying, 'run with it.'" Both Greenberg and Pallegar have high praise for what the Ringling College duo ran with. "They were rock stars," says Pallegar.
For Ringling College of Art and Design, education is a way of life. It is a notion that permeates the psyche and drives innovation, growth, and problem solving. It moves people and organizations forward. And it belongs to learners of every age.

Offering year-round creative courses and studio classes for students from ages 7 to 107, Ringling College Continuing Studies and Special Programs (CSSP) is no stranger to the concept of lifelong learning. Creatives, professionals, and the curious alike are seeking opportunities to broaden skillsets, sharpen existing talents, and open the door to new career possibilities.

Until recently, a student on the creative coast of Florida could choose to further their art and design education at Ringling College or pick from myriad continuing studies programs offered elsewhere to learn to play a new instrument, improve their French, or brush up on American history. However, now students can find it all in one place: the Ringling College Lifelong Learning Academy (RCLLA), a new unit of the College’s CSSP.

Starting in June 2016, the Lifelong Learning Academy of Sarasota (LLA) will merge with Ringling College, becoming an integral arm of the College’s commitment to community education.
Building a national model for continuing education is not a task for the faint of heart, but it is the declared vision for Ringling College’s new Assistant Vice President and Director for Continuing Studies and Special Programs, Dr. Jerry Bladdick. Undaunted, Dr. Bladdick believes that Ringling College already has the assets most critical to developing a top Continuing Studies program: the backing of a world-class educational institution, a specially designed facility for lifelong learning, a historically significant and highly trafficked location, and a partnership with local non-profit and educational phenom, the Lifelong Learning Academy of Sarasota (LLA).

Dr. Bladdick, who has over 15 years of experience working with continuing education, believes a successful program requires listening—to lifelong learners acquiring new skills and to institutions seeking candidates with particular education—and, in turn, providing access to opportunities to meet the demand. He saw this opportunity at Ringling College, where he was given the green light to build his department beyond the parameters of “art and design” to reach learners with all interests and goals. By partnering with LLA, Dr. Bladdick sees an expounded potential to help local and visiting communities reach their personal and professional goals while building a community of passionate, supportive adult learners.

When asked what makes him passionate about designing programs for lifelong learners, Dr. Bladdick states simply, “I am one. Often we don’t make time for education because the opportunity is not easily available. So I want to take down those barriers and connect students with the tools they need to keep learning, no matter what their schedule, finances, or interest.”
RINGLING STUDENTS BECOMING PROFESSIONALS—
ONE AWARD-WINNING PROJECT AT A TIME.

The Ringling College studio model of teaching permeates every classroom, inviting emerging artists, designers, and writers to undergo the creative process and learn by doing. This ideology extends beyond campus through the Ringling College Collaboratory Commitment*, a promise that every Ringling student will have the opportunity take on professional client work through a number of programs, including:

+ ART NETWORK
+ THE COLLABORATORY
+ DESIGN CENTER
+ STUDIO LAB
+ INTERNSHIPS

Through these programs, students have the chance to take risks while building a portfolio of stunning professional work.

REAL + READY highlights noteworthy case studies of Ringling students working with industry leaders, winning national acclaim, and delivering original solutions to very real client challenges.

*The Collaboratory is an initiative developed by Ringling College in partnership with The Patterson Foundation that provides creative, experiential learning opportunities to all of its students.
When Ringling College Studio Lab guest artists are brought to Ringling College to work with students and engage the Sarasota community, they often leave pondering the possibilities that talented students present.

**THOSE POSSIBILITIES CAN, AND DO BECOME REALITIES. SUCH IS THE CASE FOR DYLAN MCDERMOTT, WHO IS NOW DEVELOPING A WEB SERIES ENTITLED SUGAR THROUGH THE RINGLING COLLEGE STUDIO LAB.**

Dylan McDermott first came to Ringling College in April 2013, and returned in the spring of 2015 to explore producing the series with Ringling College. “I originally developed this web series with the students in mind. When I was first introduced to Ringling College by David Shapiro I was truly impressed, not only by the genuine enthusiasm the students had, but by their remarkable talent,” says McDermott.

Executive Produced by McDermott and Semkhor Network’s David Shapiro, *Sugar* tells the story of a young female runaway who must navigate the moral complexity of a small town. It dives into human relationships which have degraded into mere transactions.

The Studio Lab launched the Writer’s Room in the fall of 2015 to further develop the series based upon the pilot written by McDermott. Taught by Film faculty member, Lisa Gottlieb, the Writer’s Room featured 14 students from Film, Illustration, Computer Animation, and Business of Art and Design. Over the course of the fall semester, the class functioned as a development team for McDermott who held Skype conferences throughout the semester to guide the writing.

“Our Skype Video chats with Dylan allowed us to get direct feedback from him and ask him any questions we might have. I was surprised at how available he made himself to us over the course of the semester. I surprised myself at how much I enjoyed writing episodes in television format as I had been preparing for a career as a feature film screenwriter,” says Andrew Murillo, a senior Film student.

Gottlieb says of working with McDermott, “He wanted my students’ youthful voices on the page. The class imagined and created, in style, tone and content, for an audience of their peers.” She says that she never dictated to the class and that the student team drove development. “They taught me who Sugar is, what her journey means and why she is compelling.”

Senior film student, Nichole Fernandez, was excited to work in a multi-disciplinary room of creatives to develop what would eventually become the narrative backbone for *Sugar*. “There were many times that we would throw out ideas that didn’t work, and working that way is always a challenge. We had a lot of fun brainstorming new ideas and seeing where they would take us within the context of the story.”

The Writer’s Room developed an additional fifteen episodes, and the Producer’s Group, a similar multi-disciplinary group, was launched to produce the series, which will be directed by McDermott. *Sugar* has been integrated into the Motion Design Senior Thesis experience with Christina Schucht developing opening title sequences for the respective shows.

Schucht says, “This project is a great real-life experience that will help me with a career in Motion Graphics.” Working on client-driven projects presents a unique opportunity for thesis students, and a high-profile actor like McDermott requires Schucht to deliver at her highest levels. “What he wants is what the rest of the industry wants.”

On the importance of this production, McDermott, a father to two daughters, says, “See *Sugar* and understand how important it is to be an empowered woman in this world. My dream is that Sugar brings some awareness to this most important issue and creates a dialogue for both men and women.” On Ringling College’s ability to deliver, McDermott says, “I was not surprised when they brought me such incredible material for Sugar. I know the students along with the faculty will make it everything I hoped for.”

RINGLING STUDENTS + HOLLYWOOD A-LIST = ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

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Top: Film faculty, Lisa Gottlieb leads students in a collaborative project with Dylan McDermott
In the summer of 2015, thirteen Ringling College students worked on Tim Sutton’s film, *Dark Night*. Six months later, three of them joined him for its World Premiere at the prestigious 2016 Sundance Film Festival.

Ringling College Studio Lab program manager, Tony Stopperan, takes us on their journey from production to the big screen.

Delirious from sleep deprivation and excitement, the Ringling College Film team left Sarasota Airport on a 6am flight to Salt Lake City. Film Junior Mo Shane and Senior Sebastian Selinski seemed like kids at Christmas.

The film, inspired by the 2012 Aurora movie theatre shooting, was co-executive produced by Ringling College and David Shapiro through the Studio Lab. Mo served as 2nd Assistant Camera, and Sebastian worked in the Art Department. Both were eager to see the fruits of their labor.

Senior Illustration student, Dania Hammad, was quiet with a muted joy. Through a collaboration between the Ringling College ART Network and Studio Lab, Dania had met actor/director Adrian Grenier and presented him with her illustration work. That work became the official logo for Grenier’s documentary, *52: The Search for the Loneliest Whale*, and for its ocean and marine-life advocacy organization, the Lonely Whale Foundation, which would launch at Sundance.

I had served as associate producer on *Dark Night*. I succumbed to the thrill of attending my first Sundance rather than catch up on lost sleep. Ringling College’s support team of Joe Granato, videographer, and Rich Schineller, communications and imaging, and I planned the next four days. This plan that would be realized, deviated from, abandoned, and reimagined countless times before we would be in similar seats, at a similar hour, flying back to Sarasota and Ringling College.

Film 2015 alum May Todd, who served as Production Coordinator on *Dark Night*, was waiting for us in Salt Lake. She was beaming. Park City, where Sundance is held, is a thirty minute drive from Salt Lake up into the Wasatch Back of the Rocky Mountains. We stopped at America’s big box store and outfitted ourselves with four days’ worth of provisions and air mattresses for our stay in the condo we rented, to be dubbed Ringling HQ.

In the cold of Friday night, we huddled under the heat lamp outside The Blue Door. A line for the Lonely Whale Foundation launch party snaked around the corner of Swede Alley and ran back toward Main Street. Dania broke from the shelter of the lamp and jumped the queue of aspiring partiers stalled in front of a bank of windows. Each window’s view into the festivities was obscured by logos of Dell and Grey Goose, launch party sponsors, and one of the number 52 forming a whale’s fluke, the logo Dania had created. After a brief conversation with the doorman, who inspected his clipboard, Dania and he waved us to the front of the line. We entered the party—her party.
At the festival, we saw good and great films and did our best to nitpick them. At Ringling HQ, we relived the previous day’s events over bagels and toast. We condensed the surreal to 140 characters for Twitter. We uploaded photos to Instagram and videos for updates on Facebook. We Periscoped. We planned shuttle departures and Main Street arrivals. We dressed in layers.

On Sunday, World Premiere Night, Tim Sutton, his Producer Alexandra Byer and Executive Producer Jonathan Gray had assembled the cast and crew for a toast. There were no students, no hierarchical on-set pecking order, just artists sharing the creation of something beautiful. The three Ringling Film students were a part of something big, something substantive. This film, and their attachment to it, would open doors for them.

Snow fell hard that Sunday night. It was colder and windy. Squinting into the whiteout, we passed the line of ticketholders and directed our credentials toward security. Rich, Dania, and Joe had been granted press passes by Sundance that allowed us to join the press line. Inside the tent, the sound of cameras popped. Cast and crew laughed and held their credentials toward press photographers to ensure their proper credit. We were ushered along the partition by the Sundance Press Officials and the film’s publicist in front of the official Sundance step and repeat. Arms around each other, with the director and producer as bookends, we looked where they told us to look, held our credentials at whomever they told us to, and smiled.

We watched our movie. We watched with pride, and, as is the nature of our film, with terror. It is a beautiful and heartrending film. It is the result of an incredibly talented director with vision, and the unified efforts of his loyal crew. Sarasota was on the screen, shown in all its beauty. America, too, was on the screen, shown at its most horrible. I found myself overcome with emotion for the privilege of contributing a minuscule part to a movie that would challenge a culture into self-examination.

The credit roll was held until the end of the film. Our names appeared sixty feet wide in front of 500 of Hollywood’s movers and shakers. Tim Sutton called his cast and crew to the front of the theatre for us to introduce ourselves. We did. At the Kickstarter Lounge we were the guests of honor. We celebrated.

Sleeplessly in the afterglow, we packed up Ringling HQ in the dark, packed ourselves breakfasts to-go, deflated the air mattresses and deposited the keys on our way down to Salt Lake. Bittersweet, May Todd would leave us at her gate for her Memphis bound flight. The rest of the Ringling College Sundance team boarded a Sarasota-bound flight. I allowed my thoughts to turn toward home and slept.
It started as an exploratory mission. Roman Coppola and Michael Zakin, his VP of Production at American Zoetrope, arrived on the Ringling College campus in the fall of 2013. They soon found themselves inspired not only to develop an ongoing relationship but also to pursue a project on which American Zoetrope and Ringling College could collaborate.

“I ADMIRE THE SCHOOL AND ITS MISSION OF TRAINING YOUNG, ENTHUSIASTIC, ARTISTIC PEOPLE TO ENTER THE FIELDS OF FILM-MAKING—WITH AN EMPHASIS ON NOT ONLY CREATIVITY, BUT ALSO HOW THAT COULD BE APPLIED IN THE PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE,” SAYS COPPOLA.

With Zakin and Coppola seeing the quality of work created by talented students first hand, a creative mission began to materialize. The students and faculty at Ringling College presented to American Zoetrope talent that could be trusted to help adapt one of its most iconic films for a new medium. Confident in Ringling College, American Zoetrope proposed to the Game Art and Design Department an engagement that would take the six selected students and three faculty members a year to complete. The mission: create an in-engine trailer from scratch from one of the most celebrated and highly rated films in cinema history—Apocalypse Now.

On the prospect of working on the Apocalypse Now project, Game Art 2015 alum Ty Harmon says, “I really enjoyed watching the film with the team and then creating completely fresh storyboards and rough compositions that tried to capture what overall made the film so iconic.”

Coppola trusted Ringling College students with this highest pedigreed project, saying, “We were looking for a partner who could deliver the goods, who would be enthusiastic, who would be counted on and capable, and who would ensure that the highest caliber of quality was assured. From all my experience meeting, and touring, and working with the various students, I felt comfortable Ringling College students would do a great job.”

Game Art students and faculty began the task of creating 3D game assets in Unreal Engine 4, as well as character and environment art for the Apocalypse Now Video Game. The Apocalypse Now project was met with enthusiasm and full appreciation for the gravitas of adapting such an iconic film. “After you bite your fingernails off from that, you just move forward. We were excited by the opportunity, and our enthusiasm was buoyed with the confidence shared by Roman Coppola and Michael Zakin from American Zoetrope,” say Computer Animation Department Head, Jim McCampbell. “The creative direction from American Zoetrope on the adaptation of the film to a game was very clear. The game direction meshed well with the film and offered a unique twist on the typical power fantasy action adventure.”

Through the summer of 2014 and the ensuing two semesters, the American Zoetrope team worked intimately with the student team to explore ways to depict the most famous and familiar aspects of the film and translate them into environments for the potential game. “With client-based projects, students learn that real world problems are messy, unlike the neatly presented and well defined assignments. These projects are slippery, multi-dimensional problems that are chock-full of uncertainty and complexity, which is a great way to learn and to prepare these students for an ever-evolving and complex industry,” says Game Art Faculty member Marty Murphy.

On the experience Harmon says, “It reminded me a bit like throwing darts in the dark. It’s stressful, it’s exciting, and when that dart finally hits its mark, there’s an amazing feeling of accomplishment.”

The final product will be used by American Zoetrope to crowdfund the further development of the game. Thousands of painstaking hours later toward the origination of the Apocalypse Now video game trailer, Ringling College students can say, Mission: Accomplished.
In 2007, Pam and her husband launched Buddy Cruise, a non-profit offering a vacation/conference aboard a cruise ship. Here families can be part of a supportive community while learning new skills from a variety of experts, share experiences with families that look like their own, spread awareness of Down Syndrome and just have fun. I’ve filmed Buddy Cruise on various occasions and although I’ve worked with special needs children my entire life, Buddy Cruise touches something inexplicably deep in me. Buddy Cruise touches something inexplicably deep in me.

In 2014, Pam asked if I could facilitate a hands-on workshop for the Buddy Cruise. I immediately thought of my ART Network students and how valuable a life lesson this might be for them, as it had always been for me. In October 2015, with the blessing of the College, I, along with five Ringling students, set sail on a life-changing journey.

I remember the day I received a call from Pam Arnoldson. As the mom of a child with Down Syndrome, Pam identified that there was a strong need to connect with other families that had a member with Down Syndrome. That call was the beginning of our ever-evolving friendship.

My students would become teachers onboard Royal Caribbean’s Independence of the Sea, mentoring eighty children and young adults with Down Syndrome over the course of one week. The expected result would be a 30-minute news show, “The Buddy Cruise News,” that would debut on the last day of the cruise. Each morning we met with Buddy Cruisers to plan the shoot for that day and assign roles: camera operators, reporters, lighting assistants, audio assistants and make-up. Nothing to this extent had ever been done on Buddy Cruise, so I had no idea what to expect. What I witnessed and what we accomplished over that week was humbling.

It was a lot of work to produce the Buddy Cruise News. We had to get our production equipment on-board, meet with our crews daily and film the events, upload the footage to our computer, download music, work around massive internet issues at sea, edit, create graphics and design a news desk for our anchors. In this type of production, the students must be quick thinking, making decisions in the moment that will affect the edit and eventually the entire production.

I watched my students, who had confessed to me that they are somewhat introverted, blossom over the week. The Buddy Cruisers brought my students out of their shells and in turn I saw Buddy Cruisers come alive during production. One Buddy Cruiser fearlessly approached passengers for interviews, confidently holding the mic as if he had done this for years. Another literally glowed as she ran around the ship asking, “Can I do your make-up?” whether they were part of our group or not. One young man was quiet and expressionless the entire week, yet beamed with self-assurance in his job as a cameraman. And yet another cried with pride in her role as our on-camera translator.

I filmed interviews with my students throughout the week, documenting their evolution through their soundbytes. By the last night, each student tearfully relived his or her week and the collective comment I heard was, This was life-changing for me. No student talked about what they had taught the Buddy Cruisers, but rather what the Buddy Cruisers had taught them: being less self-conscious, pushing through your comfort zone, confidence, empathy, and strength. They said they learned that if they were to have a special needs child in their future, they knew they could not only handle it, they would be fine with it because they witnessed parents who were managing their own lives with special needs children brilliantly, and what these parents were being given in return from their child was so much more than they were giving.

The last day, the Buddy Cruise News debuted to an audience of nearly 400 people, and it was a huge hit. But this experience wasn’t really about producing a news show, was it? It wasn’t about our students using the production skills they’ve acquired through ART Network nor about utilizing the talents they’re developing within their majors. That week with the Buddy Cruisers taught our students how to deal with life when it hands you something unexpected, and how wonderfully glorious that can be, whether it’s production challenges or feeling awkward or being blessed with a child with Down Syndrome. That week was an eye-opening introduction to life.

Lisa Moody is an Emmy Award-winning television writer/producer and songwriter. She launched the All Ringling Television Network (ART Network), serving as its Director and Adjunct Faculty at Ringling College of Art and Design since 2011. Her non-profit, The Paper Airplanes Project, offers creative tools to help families cope with the emotional aspects of cancer in children.
Collaboratory Goes Country

By Rich Schneller

When Cumulus Media launched the ‘NASH NEXT Challenge’ to find the next generation of country music stars through the 450 radio stations in the Cumulus network, they knew they were onto something big. Thousands of aspiring country music artists seeking fame and fortune responded. The NASH NEXT Challenge was on.

The NASH NEXT Challenge used online and social media engagement as the basis for selecting the finalists in what quickly became the largest online talent search ever undertaken—to find the artists whose talent shone through and were able to build fan support through a series of six creative challenges.

The sixth and final challenge for the ten finalists was to produce a professional music video to drive fan sharing and ‘likes’ to determine the winner of the NASH NEXT Challenge.

The timeline was tight. Ten music videos featuring each of the finalists had to be created in under one month. Enter: the Ringling College Collaboratory.

SUM Entertainment, NASH NEXT’s strategic partner in managing the challenge, contracted with the Ringling College Collaboratory to have Ringling College of Art and Design student teams work with each of the ten NASH NEXT finalists to storyboard, art direct, animate and produce their final challenge music videos.

Ron Berryman, Founder and CEO of SUM, notes that “the Ringling student teams and performers worked together under a tight time frame to create some very compelling videos. The music videos were core to determining the winner of the NASH NEXT Challenge as they provided the basis in judging how well the finalists could actively engage and build their fan base by leveraging their online exposure.”

The music video creative process began with the Ringling College student team leader of the project receiving the audio tracks for each of the ten NASH NEXT finalists. Each of the five project leaders was responsible for two songs. They then formed teams with fellow Ringling College students and conferred with the musical artists to talk out their ideas and the kind of treatment they wanted in their video. The Ringling teams then storyboarded the videos, and the students detailed how they wanted each of the segments shot. The NASH NEXT musicians then shot the video footage remotely. The rough video was delivered to the Ringling teams, who then edited, animated and added motion design elements to create the finished videos.

Berryman applauded the videos the students from Ringling College created, stating, “They have proven to be phenomenal in driving fan engagement. This is a very exciting time in the music business and it has been revolutionary bringing together our NASH NEXT performers and Ringling College’s visual artists to make great things happen. We look forward to taking this engagement to the next level.”

“The scope of the project and the accelerated timeline was a challenge, but the opportunity was so great that our student project leaders, motion designers and computer animators exceeded expectations. To bring together musical and visual artists in a creative whirlwind was an experience like no other,” observes Cynthia L. Gravino, Ringling College Associate Vice President of Collaborative Enterprises.

Corin Grover, Collaboratory Project Manager, applauded the results—“My hat goes off to all the students and artists because they pulled it off. That they were able to achieve this level of excellence means they will be able handle anything else thrown at them professionally in the future.”

The five Ringling College Project Leads for the NASH NEXT Challenge Videos were students Sarah Lockett, Chi-ling Chu, Alexa Maseillo, Laszlo Bogdan and Stephanie Griner, who were instructed by Ringling alum Ross Cometti. Students working with the project leads on the month-long NASH NEXT charrette were Gisselle Tirse, Michael Warren, Katelyn Hagen and Elizabeth Ramos, facilitated by Ringling alum Ken Trunk. Special thanks is also due to Ringling alum Thomas Eyester, who volunteered his time to help assist with the charrette portion of the project.

The winner of the NASH NEXT Challenge—‘Breaking Southwest’—was announced at the NASH NEXT finale at the Whitehorse Saloon in Nashville, Tennessee in December of 2015. Cynthia Gravino and Corin Grover represented Ringling College at the awards.

Cynthia concluded, “NASH NEXT and SUM Entertainment were so pleased with our collaboration that we are proud to report that we will be working with them both on the next challenge in the spring of 2016.”
ROBERT OSBORNE
BELOVED TEACHER, ARTIST, AND FRIEND

By Stephanie Lederer

It would be hard to find a man with more spirit, talent, and generosity than Robert Osborne. A skilled artist, beloved teacher, and extraordinary administrator, Osborne helped to build the foundation on which Ringling College of Art and Design stands today.

Osborne came to Ringling College in 1972, quickly becoming the Dean of Faculty in 1974. In 1982 he became the first Vice President of Academic Affairs for the College—a position he held for six years. Here, he played an instrumental role in the full accreditation of Ringling College in 1979 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

"Robert Osborne is a legacy here," remarks Dr. Larry R. Thompson, President. "He excelled at every challenge he undertook, working tirelessly to inspire students, advance critical initiatives such as our accreditation, and still find time to create boundary-pushing work. He loved and lived art and Ringling College, and his spirit will live on through the students he empowered over the years."

First and foremost, Osborne was an artist who bent the rules and investigated the world of fantasy. As a testament to both his playful nature and dedication to the College, Osborne would often include faculty and friends in his work, hidden in plain sight, waiting to be uncovered through close scrutiny.

Having known Osborne as a family friend in Indiana and a colleague at Ringling College, lifelong friend Laurie Strothman remembers him as a man "who loved to put puzzles in his paintings. He had a sense of humor, and he would grin as you tried to figure it out. He was a passionate artist and always interested in doing something new. For instance, in the Faculty Show ‘Mr. O’ always had a new painting—large scale—which he unveiled. He never rehashed old ideas."

Close friend and colleague at Ringling College, Donald Nolt recalls the excitement surrounding Osborne’s work at the annual Faculty Exhibition, “Everyone looked forward to seeing Bob’s work. He was an amazing artist, and, after the show, he would often take me to his painting and explain all of the hidden elements. It was fascinating how he would incorporate friends and colleagues in such a way as you would never notice.”

He continues, “We were both sax players, so in one of his paintings there I was, playing the sax—and I didn’t even realize it right away. His work was ingenious.”

Osborne retired in 2004, but before he did so, he returned to teaching. According to Strothman, “He loved teaching. Particularly working with the first years so he could be there at the beginning to help them start out and form their foundational skills.”

Described by Nolt as “a walking book of art history,” Osborne challenged his students to expand their minds by asking questions and contextualizing the effects of art history on the present. He taught understanding—not memorizing—history. Thus, his exams were reportedly among the most difficult, even though they were all open book.

“The answers weren’t in the book,” says Nolt. “That was the idea; he wanted to teach his students how to become thinkers. And he did.”

Robert Osborne is survived by his son Stephen, daughter-in-law Emilie, brother James, sister Betty, grandsons Brent, Jayson, and Ryan, and great grandchildren Kyla, Kayla, and Jerred.
Fiore Custode

Lighting a Candle for Generations to Come

By Stephanie Lederer

Fiore Custode is proof that one man can forever transform the lives of many. A man who came alive in the classroom, Fiore was devoted to instilling intellectual curiosity, reverence, and discipline into generations of students over his 50 year career in teaching at Ringling College of Art and Design.

One such student, Wendell Minor, ‘66 recounts the enthusiasm Custode brought to his classes: “I think every student who had Fiore remembers not only his genuine passion but also his ability to draw beautifully. He was so conscious of light, form, and color; there are very few people with his breadth of knowledge, and it was so translatable in his teaching.”

Minor describes his lifelong friendship with Custode elegantly as a “45 year conversation,” during which the two shared thoughts about art, social changes, philosophy, and teaching. “We talked at least once a week for 45 years, taking the time to really speak to each other and listen... something that today is extraordinarily rare. He was a good friend, and his teachings inspired me to live my life as art and my art as life. Because of him, I have built a career around what I love, my art.”

A ‘62 alumnus of then-Ringling School of Art and Design, Custode immediately began working after graduation at the Longboat Key Center for the Arts until 1964, when he accepted a full-time position at the College. During his five decade career, Custode taught figure drawing, figure painting, still-life painting, and advanced drawing and painting, in addition to founding the printmaking department in 1969. A lover of the Dutch Renaissance masters, Custode grounded his teachings in the classics, helping students build a solid foundation on which to create. He instructed thousands of students, inspiring emerging artists and designers, faculty, and the community with his dedication to teaching and to the arts.

“Fiore was instrumental in the development of a culture at Ringling College that continues on,” remarks Dr. Larry R. Thompson, President. “His contributions laid the foundation for us to grow and prosper, and his legacy will never fade.”

Indeed not. His exuberant spirit will live on through the lives and work of his pupils, friends, and family. Minor remarks, “Fiore was didactic, a true master teacher; but he had a childlike curiosity and spirit to him. In a sense, he was totally ageless—a man who gave freely of himself to his passion to light the candle for the next generation, which I think he did. Fiore brought the sun to all who knew him.”

Fiore Custode is survived by his wife Patt Custode, six children—Marc, Michelle, Giovanni, Mena, Andrea and Fiore Jr., eleven grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.
The life of a working artist closely parallels that of the Jedi in training, requiring early mornings, unpredictable hours, and dedication to personal growth and improvement.

It is a way of life that Illustration alum Karen Hallion has thrown herself into fully, learning to speak fluent geek and pop culture and staying apprised of the dynamic characters and worlds of the industry, particularly Star Wars, Firefly, Buffy, Harry Potter, Dr. Who and Steampunk.

As a successful, full-time illustrator, Hallion creates licensed work for Marvel, Lucas Films, Cartoon Network, DreamWorks Studios, Cryptozoic, TOPPS, Her Universe, and Disney through her company Karen Hallion Illustration and Design. But starting and operating her own illustration business was just the beginning—Hallion has already begun making waves in the industry.

Since starting her brand in 2009, Hallion has been nominated for a 2013 Geekie Award, won first place in the 2013 DreamWorks Studios’ How to Train Your Dragon t-shirt contest, and illustrated the Doctor Who 12th Doctor #1 Midtown Exclusive Variant Cover published by Titan Comics in 2014. In 2015, Hallion was selected as featured artist at the Star Wars Celebration Art Show and designed the ‘Wizard School’ card game for DFTBA Games.

Beyond the acknowledgment of her work, Hallion is finding her voice in the industry serving as a guest panelist for Threadless and Nerd for A Living at the 2014 C2E2 convention and as a panelist for Tee Fury and Nerd for a Living at San Diego Comic-Con in 2014 and 2015.

And this is just the beginning.

We spoke with Hallion about her inspiration, love for pop culture, and advice for aspiring artists.
You are a self described artist, illustrator, geek, and part-time Jedi. When you're not Jedi-ing, what is your typical day as a working artist?

It depends on the day. Definitely it has coffee; always lots and lots of coffee. Generally I try and get some artwork done in the few hours that my sons are in school, answering emails and posting on social media in-between. And then late at night when everyone else is sleeping and it is very quiet, I can get in a couple more hours of really focused work. There are no weekends, really. It's not 9-5. But I work in my pj's.

How would you describe your personal style?

I remember when I was at Ringling College, everyone was very concerned with having a "style," especially senior year. It is hard for me to describe my own style because I never particularly focused on having one. I was more concerned with trying to find a medium that worked for me, working to understand how to get the results I wanted, as well as to get my drawing skills to where I wanted them to be. Now I just draw the way I draw.

So you must get excited when Marvel, Disney, or Lucas Films introduces a new character.

Anytime new movies, shows, etc. come out, it's always exciting for me personally as an artist and as a big pop culture geek. However, what I love now is that it's my job to stay on top of pop culture trends, to see new movies and to pay attention to new stories coming out. When I was at Star Wars Celebration last year, during opening ceremonies JJ Abrams released the newest trailer. I was in the artists' area with all these artists I looked up to, and we were all huddled around someone's iPad, watching the trailer. Everyone who loved Star Wars so passionately, who had worked so hard to create meaningful art for it, all of us watching together and hearing the audience reaction in the huge hall right next to us was an amazing moment that I will always cherish.

I've seen some of your sketches of Rey from the new Star Wars: The Force Awakens. Would you say her character inspires you?

Absolutely, she is a huge inspiration. I have always been inspired by strong female characters, and hers might be one of the strongest to come along in a long, long time. I can't wait to see more of her. She inspires me, not just as an artist, but also as a woman and as a mom. I love that my two sons are seeing such strong women in their usually male-dominated Star Wars world, and now it will just be a normal occurrence for them.

How long have you been a full-time working artist? And how did you make this transition?

Before I became a full-time illustrator about five years ago, I had been doing a lot of mermaids, geisha, and art nouveau work in my spare time, when I wasn't teaching, and had already started to think about trying a freelance career in art. I looked around at some of my favorite artists and thought, "I am going to focus all of my efforts to make this work as a successful career." I started doing some pop culture designs and ended up subbing some work to Tee Fury, which was my introduction into t-shirt design, and it took off from there.

While studying at Ringling College, did you have any mentors or classes that inspired you and confirmed you were on the right path?

I struggled at Ringling College, to be honest. I was always unsure I was on the right path and frequently worried that my skill level was low. It seemed to come a lot easier to my classmates and my grades were not stellar. But I loved the environment and was so inspired by my classmates and teachers. I wasn't sure if I had the talent or skill to do what I wanted, but the more time I spent there, the more I knew I wanted it.

I became a Resident Assistant and our advisor was Steve Massott. He had more of an impact on me than anyone else and his influence was less about my art and more about me as a person. He saw that I had stubbornness in me and he encouraged it. He gave me a rock paperweight for my desk with the words "Never, Never Quit" written on it. It's still on my desk 20 years later—I am looking at it right now. I learned so much from the artists, teachers, and students that I interacted with everyday at Ringing. But it's that lesson "Never, Never Quit" that ultimately got me where I am.

Any words of advice for aspiring illustrators?

Some of the things that have helped me, other than hard work and not giving up, are joining an artist's group and learning from other talented people. Submit work to companies you want to work with, and when it gets rejected, do more work and submit it. Just keep moving forward (advice from Walt Disney). Use social media. Learn the best way to use it, and use it. It's free advertising, and it works. Find artists you love, study what they do, and learn from them. Take advice and critiques, and ignore the haters. Draw what you love, not necessarily what you think will sell. Help out other artists when you can.
What started as a simple idea of attending art school, led him to a successful career as Creative Director for the Leo Burnett Company, and into commercial film directing. Now, at age 59, he’s busier than ever, pitching his feature film project, Unmanned Warfare to Hollywood producers.

Ray Dillman ’78
Commercial Film Director, Screenwriter
By Philippe Diederich | Images courtesy of Ray Dillman

What started as a simple idea of attending art school, led him to a successful career as Creative Director for the Leo Burnett Company, and into commercial film directing. Now, at age 59, he’s busier than ever, pitching his feature film project, Unmanned Warfare to Hollywood producers.

This 1978 Ringling College Graphic Design graduate’s first true love was drawing. “I remember liking that the curriculum at Ringling College focused on setting a foundation of classic art that followed through the entire three years,” Dillman said recently via email. He added that while he wasn’t entirely sure of what direction to take, he wanted to be as good as he could possibly be at representational art.

Dillman admits that when he came to Ringling College he was just a naïve kid wanting to learn the mechanics of art. But it was the late Ringling instructor Fiore Custode who taught him how to be an artist from the heart. “He taught me how to open up and lay it out there, to be vulnerable and open,” he says.

Upon graduating from Ringling College Dillman landed a job as an art director at The Hessemer-Runnoe Company in Tampa, which in itself became an education because, according to Dillman, while the Ringling College design program helped him get his foot in the door, he learned quickly that his schooling did not end at graduation. “I pretended to know a heck of a lot more than what I did,” he says, adding that “I was learning layouts, lettering with markers, mechanicals, following artwork through production, printing proofing...all that stuff was new to me.”

Seven years and two agencies later, changes in one company led him to start his own advertising and design venture. He was 27 years old. A year later Dillman’s company was bought out by Louis Benito Advertising. Dillman credits Andy Clingempeel, the head of the creative department at Benito for helping him take his art to a whole new level. “Andy was an amazing guy who really knew how to find great talent, assemble great pairings, and get the most out of them,” he recalls.

Dillman’s work at Benito won a number of Best in Show honors at the local ADDY Awards as well as recognition in the Obies and other national awards and publications, which helped him land a position at Leo Burnett Company’s Chicago office. But the ‘big-time’ was not quite what Ray had expected, and he still wanted more. “I could see that one rogue creative director was doing some pretty interesting work on international business,” Dillman says. So one evening, after everyone else had left the office, Dillman approached him and explained that he wanted to be a part of what he was doing. “I told him I’d do whatever it took to help. I’d work as long and as hard as I needed,” he says.

And indeed, Dillman worked tirelessly for weeks on a presentation to help the company keep a major Oldsmobile account. This got him noticed. In no time he was named Creative Director of Leo Burnett’s International Task Force, a position that placed him near the top of the company’s most important business accounts. “In the mid to late 80s,” Dillman explains, “it was incredible to work on accounts like Philip Morris. There was virtually no limit to the extravagance with which we plied our trade: the very best photographers, design houses, directors—no limit.”
His work with Leo Burnett took him all over the world, but serving as Creative Director on international accounts took perseverance and stamina. One day he might be working as an interim Creative Director in Frankfurt, then doing the same job in Tokyo the next. "It was quite the norm to be casting talent in Los Angeles and Paris, prop shopping in London and then shooting in Morocco and Algeria," he says. It was during one of these film productions when Dillman fell in love with film—and with Serene, the woman who became his wife and with whom he has three of his four children.

Dillman took this new challenge head-on. He left Leo Burnett to direct his own commercials, which in essence meant starting over in a whole new career. But making the transition from writing and supervising film projects to directing was not easy.

To get started, Dillman experimented with the various specialties and categories of filmmaking to find his voice. He was limping along when, during the filming of a commercial for Midland Bank, he took a risk. Instead of shooting head-on in interview form, he wrote a script and had the actors play out the scene. Things clicked instantly. "I finally found my voice as a director," Dillman says. His area of specialization: dialogue and storytelling. "You could say I do little three act plays in the commercial form," he said.

In 1999 Dillman won a best commercial Emmy for an emotional spot he created for an NBC owned portal. "The experience was unreal," he says. "Hearing your name read, the walk to the stage, the naked feeling of the lights, the whirlwind backstage, the interviews..."

Always looking for the next challenge, Dillman is now moving into feature films. In 2014 he and his wife Serene Meshel-Dillman released, Getting to the Nutcracker. The documentary, directed by Serene, follows the Los Angeles-based Marat Daukayev School of Ballet as it puts together the performance of this holiday classic. He recently worked on an adaptation of Amy Bloom's William and Clare, and is now shopping around a number of projects, including a sports-related TV show, and three screenplays.

"One of the most exciting days in my career," Dillman says, "was when I was called in by Steven Spielberg's longtime producers Kennedy/ Marshall." They were briefly set up to pitch Unmanned Warfare to Universal and DreamWorks, but after six months Kennedy/Marshall had to step away from the project when Spielberg's schedule of films overwhelmed their calendar. Undaunted and always rising up to new challenges, Dillman has created a 'proof of concept' trailer and is now busy pitching Unmanned Warfare to Amazon and Netflix. "It's a very exciting time for development," Dillman says. "But you have to have a lot of irons in the fire."
THE RINGLING COLLEGE TRUSTEE SCHOLAR IS NO ORDINARY STUDENT. THIS STUDENT IS DEDICATED, BRILLIANT, AND ORIGINAL. THIS STUDENT IS A VISIONARY. A SELF-STARTER. AN INNOVATOR. THIS STUDENT IS EXTRAORDINARY.

The 2015-16 recipients of the Trustee Scholarship represent the best of every major of study and Student Life. These students have been selected for the dedication, ambition, and talent exhibited both inside and outside of the classroom.

Each year, the academic department heads and the Office of Student Life nominate their two most outstanding students. From the two nominees, the Ringling College Board of Trustees and President Dr. Larry R. Thompson select the one student from each major to receive this prestigious award.

This past November, Ringling College honored the recipients at its 21st Annual Trustee Scholar Awards. This year’s theme, Transformations, recognized the creative development of these young artists and designers and the transformative power of their work. As the awardees delivered remarks about their creative journey and development as artists and designers, the Ringling College community of Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students, and supporters celebrated this critical milestone in the transformative journey of these deserving creatives.

“The creative journey is an endless one—and our theme, Transformations, honors this moment in the development of our Trustee Scholars as artists, designers, and creative thinkers,” says Dr. Larry R. Thompson, President of Ringling College. “Their stories of hard work, vision, and perseverance inspired and heartened everyone at the ceremony.”

Meet this year’s 13 extraordinary Trustee Scholars.

LUIZA ALANIZ
SANTO ANDRÉ, SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL
Computer Animation

Born and raised in Brazil, Luiza, like many children, fell in love with animation from a young age. She noticed the films and cartoons she loved were all in the English language, so she told her parents that she would go to the United States someday to study animation. Soon after, her father was blessed to win the Diversity Visa Lottery, bringing her to the United States where she threw herself into high school art programs. Her hard work and commitment paid off. Luiza won the DreamWorks Scholarship to Ringling College, where she has since demonstrated extraordinary potential in her field.
A shy person by nature, Sara was initially concerned about transferring to Ringling College midway through her freshman year. So she followed the advice of her high school art teacher and decided to propel herself from her comfort zone and became an orientation leader. Empowered by her first leadership experience on campus, Sara became dedicated to helping her classmates shape their own student experience becoming Secretary of Student Government and President this year. Far from her start as the shy freshman, Sara has emerged as a competent public speaker, leader, and proponent of change and advocacy for her peers.

Ben had always been a creative student with the dream of enrolling in an art and design college. That dream was put on hold during his senior year of high school when he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps following the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center. After his service, he built his professional résumé, but when he and his wife decided to move to Sarasota, Ben knew he had been given a second chance to fulfill his lifelong goals. Using his strengthened skills in technology, Ben majored in Graphic Design. As a student at Ringling College, Ben is embracing the supportive environment and preparing for a future doing what he loves.

Inspired by the artwork of her grandfather, Jasmine found her passion for the arts at a young age. When she was only 12 years old, her grandmother passed along a letter from her grandfather, encouraging her to use creativity to help those in need and gifting her all of the art supplies that he owned. So she put her creative skills to work in high school, leading an initiative and volunteering over 1,000 hours to recreate a school mural. After winning the Silver Knight Award for Art, she enrolled at Ringling College, where she discovered the world of motion design, a major that inspires her to push the boundaries of her creative work and follow her grandfather’s advice.

Irene explored the world to find her creative path, moving from Mexico City to spend two years of high school in Hong Kong and then study filmmaking in Argentina. As she pursued her dreams of working in the arts by herself in a new country, she received her acceptance letter to Ringling College and embraced the opportunity to pursue the education she desired. Here, Irene has thrown herself into her work, learning how to create and understand art and push her work further. She worked with children in the YEA Program, learned about gallery management at the College’s Two Columns Gallery, and still seizes every opportunity available to forge her own creative future as an artist.
Nikelle grew up in a small community, searching for something more. She was intrigued by Ringling College because it offered a creative alternative to the future she had already imagined for herself. Nikelle embraced the diversity of thought she encountered on campus, and to further connect with the community, she volunteered for countless events. She also developed leadership experience working her way up the Residential Student Association from Treasurer to Vice President. She discovered through exposure to businesses, such as The Jim Henson Company, that she wants to pursue a future in film and TV production. Nikelle plans to use her communication, leadership, and collaboration skills to push boundaries and lead creative enterprises.

Tebello grew up fascinated by advertising. The creative child in her family, she would often try to recreate the ads she saw on TV or in magazines. Since coming to Ringling College, she has discovered the complexities involved with creating effective advertising. Here, Tebello has worked with clients to design professional advertising solutions, and she participated in the National Student Advertising Competition to present a full-fledged, multi-media campaign for Pizza Hut. As a student ambassador, Tebello volunteers countless hours for Ringling College events. Through her many activities, Tebello discovered her interest in Account Planning, and she hopes to use her knowledge and passion to spark the changes she wants to see in the advertising industry.

An introvert to her core, Justine decided as a freshman to let down her guard by participating in school activities and student government. But Justine’s education has enabled her to acquire more than the technical skills required of professional game artists. She discovered how to use her creativity to advocate for others. In her junior year, she served as head of the Game Design Club to provide a platform for all Game Art students to practice, study and share. She fundraised for the Game Developers Conference Scholarship, raising the money to help send seven members this year. Justine forged her own path as a student at Ringling College becoming not only an exceptional artist but a creative and altruistic leader.

The daughter of two Ringling College alumni, Lauren was destined for a future in the arts. She took art lessons at the age of 10 and attended performing and visual arts schools. After visiting the Ringling College campus, Lauren knew she would be following in her parents’ footsteps. Here, she has not only earned a spot on the President’s List for four semesters, but she has placed in two collaborative interior design competitions. She is a student worker for the Interior Design department, a student ambassador, a student member of industry organizations, and fundraising chair. Dedicated to making a difference through design, Lauren plans to pursue a future in green building and sustainable design.

LAUREN GAYLE
HIGH POINT, NORTH CAROLINA
Interior Design

JUSTINE HAMER
SMITH’S PARISH, BERMUDA
Game Art

NIKELLE MACKEY
APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZONA
Business of Art and Design

TEBELLO MOSENENE
MASERU, LESOTHO
Advertising Design

LAUREN GAYLE
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At Ringling College, Kade seized a number of opportunities to connect with his classmates, peers, and working artists. He served as a figure drawing tutor for the freshman class and later as a lab monitor, where he encountered visiting artist critiques and new collaboration opportunities—including an invitation to participate in the Forgotten Heroes Ringling Volunteer Project. In this project, veterans from the Turning Points Organization sat for open portrait sessions by the faculty and students of the Illustration department to create a fundraising exhibition for veterans. Kade was also selected to paint Neil deGrasse Tyson as a part of the Ringling College Library Association’s Town Hall Series, an opportunity which has propelled his work as a freelance portrait artist.

Growing up on a farm, Robert spent his time completing yard work and watching movies. However, his love for film surpassed that of the typical child. For homework assignments, Robert would deliver video projects he had completed, substituting short films for class presentations. To take his passion to the next level, Robert enrolled in the Film program at Ringling College, where he threw himself into filmmaking with gusto. Robert loves every part of the filmmaking process—which explains how he became the first junior at Ringling College to act as a lead in a film he has written, directed, and edited. Robert plans to write, direct, and make a movie for every genre one day.

Rebecca discovered her love for fine art photography at Ringling College. As she experimented with her work, she developed a love of light—and her increasing abilities to control and leverage it. In fact, her photography education has changed the way she sees the everyday world. In her free time, Rebecca often provides lessons and finds ways to use her creative skills to give back to the community. A strong advocate of volunteering, Rebecca works with organizations such as United Way, Orange Blossom Community Gardens, The Venice Wildlife Center, and Safe House Animal League. To pursue her dream of becoming a fine art photographer, Rebecca plans to further her education by enrolling in a graduate school program.

As a freshman at Ringling College, Kevin committed himself to mastering the technical skills and knowledge he needed to succeed. He devoted countless hours and immeasurable effort to practice his skills and learn new techniques. To complement his class work, Kevin took a job as a Resident Assistant, where he stepped into a leadership position for residents. Here, he realized his ability to work under pressure and juggle multiple projects—a skill that will serve him well as a professional. To inform his work further, Kevin sat in on critiques held by other classes, which exposed him to new perspectives and approaches. Ever a student, Kevin believes that with hard work and willingness to take every available opportunity, anything is possible.
No campus is an island. While its borders may be clearly defined, they are both porous and elastic, inviting the community in and beckoning the students out into the world. The Ringling College YEA Program does just that, providing opportunities for students to mentor and support local schools while building their résumé and acquiring valuable leadership skills.

The YEA—Youth Experiencing Art—Program was built on the belief that every child deserves exposure to the arts and the undeniable benefits that accompany these experiences.

YEA, founded in 2002 by John and Robin Sullivan, or “Mr. and Mrs. YEA” as the children affectionately call them, began as a program to bring foster children in group homes to the exceptional performing arts experiences that Sarasota has to offer. “Children need to experience the arts from a young age so they can see many different kinds of role models,” says Robin. “And there are so many kids who don’t have that opportunity. We wanted to become that bridge for them, to inspire them and open their world to new ideas.”

John and Robin worked closely with the Van Wezel as strategic planners, while John also served as Treasurer of the Van Wezel Foundation. It was here they recognized an opportunity. They organized customized experiences for the children, shuttling sixty kids in buses to special performances, including Cats, accompanied by a pre-show, an educational experience, and even an after party with nearly every member of the cast. All but two attended, staying for over an hour after the performance.

This simple, inspired idea quickly took on a life of its own.

Also on the Board of the Van Wezel Foundation was President of Ringling College of Art and Design, Dr. Larry R. Thompson, and one day, he and John started talking about YEA. “In another lifetime, back in Michigan, I used to head up a cultural center that specialized in finding ways to infuse the arts into the educational system,” says Dr. Thompson. “When I found out about the YEA Program, and the work that John and Robin were doing with these children, I saw an opportunity to bring this experience to Ringling College, and to our students.”

So Dr. Thompson offered the name of a then-current Illustration student who would work with John and Robin to bring quality arts programming to children with limited exposure. This student jumped right in, visiting five homes once a week to deliver art lessons that he had designed on his own time.

“We were blown away,” says Robin. “I’m not sure John and I even knew all we were asking of him, but he connected with the kids immediately. There was a mutual respect and genuine connection in his classroom.”

From there, the program slowly gained steam growing from one Ringling student-teacher to a three over the next three years, pairing pioneering student workers with participating elementary and middle school teachers to co-create inventive lesson plans. The idea? Integrate art and design in the classroom to teach writing, reading, science, and other core classes.

Around that time, YEA was expanding into alternative schools and then into the Title I system. Its student base grew to nearly 600 elementary and middle schoolers—and John and Robin needed more help.

To recruit Ringling students and facilitate on campus, Rachel Levey-Baker, Director of Student Volunteerism and Service-Learning at Ringling College, stepped in as YEA Coordinator in 2005. In this capacity, she developed new processes for recruitment, answered student inquiries, and facilitated meet-and-greets between interested teachers and Ringling students in the program. She called these “mixers.”
We had no idea what to expect when Rachel suggested these mixers," remarks John. "But they were brilliant! Students and teachers met face to face to get to know each other before they committed to the project. And they got inspired as the ideas started to take shape."

By now Ringling students were also starting peer-recruit, bringing in more students who were interested in finding a part-time job working with the arts and doing good for the community.

As the program gained popularity from the local schools, Ringling students, and the community, John and Robin made plans to support YEAs expansion. In 2008, they formed a 501(c) 3 to begin fundraising and garnering community support. The response was phenomenal, and it was clear the community was waiting for such a program to come along. However, to meet growing demands, the program required a steady base of Ringling students and local teachers.

As the YEA Coordinator, Rachel was the point of contact for Ringling participants in the program, and under her guidance, the program grew to 30 Ringling students by 2011.

"We didn't even have to recruit students for the program anymore," says Rachel. "The word spread quickly and our students just took to it, making time during their busy semester to participate."

This was no easy feat for many students balancing the weighty demands of their studies, but the program was inspiring and engaging. YEA offers Ringling students the opportunity to develop leadership skills and confidence while also earning a mini-scholarship comparable to the wages they may earn working in a more traditional part-time job. After more than a decade of collaboration between YEA and Ringling College, in 2013 the program was fully integrated into the College under Rachels direction.

"What Rachel, Robin, and John have done is incredible, both for the community and for our students," says Dr. Tammy Walsh, Vice President of Student Life at Ringling College. "YEA teaches our students skills they can't learn in the classroom. It takes them outside of their bubble, and empowers them to build self-esteem and create change. We hear time and time again, YEA is a life-changing experience."
THE ART OF

Giving

MEET THE PEOPLE WHO HELP MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE
In Sarasota, Dr. Alfred Goldstein is a name synonymous with philanthropy. In the Ringling College of Art and Design family, it means even more. Over the last three decades, Dr. Goldstein has served at the helm of many of the College’s most significant initiatives and programs, proving himself an incredibly loyal supporter and genuine friend.

In addition to serving as a long-time member of the Ringling College Board of Trustees, Dr. Goldstein’s extraordinary generosity over the years has empowered the College to build new classrooms, pioneer new majors, and provide life-changing scholarships for students in need. Understanding the importance of attracting new students by staying at the forefront of creativity, Dr. Goldstein says, “The curriculum is the core of an educational system, and by broadening that system we will attract new students open to new ideas. It’s really a win for everyone.”

Now, with Ringling College charging forward with four major building initiatives, he has once again demonstrated unfaltering commitment to the delivery of quality higher education to the students of Ringling College by making a significant contribution to enable the construction of the new library on campus. As a result of his remarkable generosity, the College will honor him by naming the new facility the Alfred R. Goldstein Library.

According to Dr. Goldstein, “As far as I am concerned, the library is the heart and brain of the entire institution. It is the core, which is why it is so important to have the most modern, up-to-date facilities.”

Opening in fall 2016, this library, aptly referred to as the Library of the Future, will indeed have the most cutting-edge technology and facilities, many of which have been incorporated into the core of the building’s design. At 46,000 square feet, the facility will house the entire Ringling College collection, 30% of which is currently stored off-campus due to space limitations. The first floor will primarily be a place for students to congregate, meet, collaborate and work together.

“Modern facilities only make it easier for the students to learn what they need to learn to succeed, and that’s the aim of the institution,” Dr. Goldstein remarks.

He has seen the campus and curriculum change and grow over the last 15-20 years. New programs and initiatives have established Ringling College as a national leader in art and design education. Now in its 85th year, the College is celebrating its steady transformation and the leaders and supporters who made it all possible.

“One such insight includes support for programs such as the Business of Art and Design, integrating entrepreneurship, creativity, and business principles into the College’s curriculum. Ringling College is the only art school to have instituted such a curriculum at the undergraduate level. “Ringling College has had a complete transformation. I have been affiliated with the College in one form or another for some time, and the institution has grown so much. When I first got involved, we did not yet have a Computer Animation, Business of Art and Design, Motion Design, or Film major—four innovative programs that have since taken off,” says Dr. Goldstein.

He continues, “Today, we have so many new facilities and programs. We started many of these things together, and to watch it all come together has been tremendous.”

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Editor’s note: The Verman Kimbrough name will remain on the building housing our current library. This building will be repurposed for other departments as a legacy to Kimbrough, the first president of Ringling College.
"I met Duncan through Carol in 2014, and I got an internship with him," Colon explains. "Now I’m a gallery assistant. I work all over the gallery and the hot shop. If it weren’t for Carol I wouldn’t be doing glass at all. She is such an asset to the glass community, to Ringling, to Sarasota. And she has an incredible collection. I’m so glad Ringling College will have it."

In addition, Camiener also supports emerging performance artists in the community by annually sponsoring a student at the Asolo Repertory Theatre, demonstrating her commitment to the arts in Sarasota. As a lover of all the arts, Camiener is known for collecting more than glass. Upon entering her Longboat Key home, one is struck by the explosion of color rippling out from a stunning array of paintings, sculpture, ceramics, and yes, glass. Boasting an interior arranged by renowned designer Ruth Adler Schnee, Camiener’s home represents the comprehensive tastes of a lifetime collector, who, with her late partner, Jim Herrington, has collected art that she liked, not simply art that was popular. More importantly, Camiener is a collector who buys art by young and emerging artists to support, nurture and promote their talent; This includes the work of Ringling College graduates in an array of mediums beyond glass such as the Fine Arts work of Amer Kobaslija ’03 and Linda Lee ’00.

Camiener’s collection includes works by established artists such as Harvey Littleton, Richard Jolley and Rocky Bridges, among others, alongside that of Ringling College graduates, like Stacy Sternberg ’04 and Danielle Colon ’15. “This collection is a labor of love,” Camiener says. “I don’t buy a piece just because the artist is popular. I buy because I get such pleasure out of it. And I want to support these emerging artists, who one day become the masters. It’s such a feeling to be there at the start, to buy their first pieces, and then watch them take off.”

Colon helped Camiener catalog her collection. “She has an incredible collection. We finished in December,” Colon says. “I got to spend intimate time with the early work of artists who are now important. I got to see what they were doing twenty years ago, to look at things like how they worked through different problems. That was critical to my development as an artist.”

Having artists spend time in her home is essential to Camiener. “I have artists come and stay with me, and they become friends. When I buy a piece I have the artist bring it out to the house. I love having students here.”

This generosity of spirit characterizes all of Camiener’s contributions to the community. Jane Buckman, Director of the Longboat Key Center for the Arts, calls Camiener “a true friend of Ringling College and all of its divisions and outreach into the community. She inspires cultural activism in all of its realms. She has been an advisor and avid supporter of the Center since the College acquired the Center in 2007. Carol’s generosity of time has contributed to the success we experience today.”

Ringling College President, Dr. Larry R. Thompson, concurs. “Carol is one of the most committed, dedicated, and energetic members of the College Board of Trustees. She is willing to do any task that is needed and works on behalf of the College night and day. Carol lets everyone she meets or bumps into know how excited she is about Ringling College and the great things happening. She is the Ringling College ambassador of all ambassadors. Her passion for the College and our students permeates every part of her being.”
Linda and Dick Dickinson, Sarasota philanthropy’s power couple, make innumerable contributions to Ringling College of Art and Design, bringing great benefits to its students. Linda, a realtor with Michael Saunders and Company who loves the arts, and Dick, a former photojournalist and current commercial photographer/owner of Dickinson Studios, are adventurous, open to new experiences and have a dazzling array of interests.

Dick scuba dives, mountain bikes, and flies as part owner of a Cirrus SR22, and as a Coast Guard volunteer pilot, supporting civilian missions. Linda takes drawing and ceramics classes, gardens, cooks, plays with their two standard poodles, and travels extensively.

“Everyone who flies with him says, ’I’d fly with you anywhere,’” Linda says. Dick may be the pilot, but it was Linda who created a dream that inspired Sarasota to fly with her to bring about the new Sarasota Museum of Art.

Over a decade ago, while socializing with a small group of close friends, their good friend the late David Kruidenier noted that Sarasota, great community that it is, really needed a museum of contemporary and modern art.

“Let’s do something about this” became the group’s mantra, which included Sarasota art collectors Dr. Mark and Irene Kaufman, and Nancy and Bill Hartman, owner of William Hartman Gallery. They then added Wendy Surkis and Peppi Elona, and Dotty and Bob Garner. Linda Dickinson lit the original spark and became the ringmaster who brought together these founders to create the Sarasota Museum of Art Board and ultimately the Museum itself.

“We all had a lot of enthusiasm for having a modern/contemporary art museum,” Linda says. “We put out feelers to see if there was community support, we held meetings and invited the public to come and hear about SMOA. The original plan was for SMOA to be an independent non-profit organization.”

David Kruidenier put up a $100,000 challenge gift, the Museum founders and community donors matched it, and the group hired consultants to help with planning.

“When we saw the consultants’ report, we realized we couldn’t do it by ourselves,” says Dick. “About that time Larry Thompson started coming to meetings, sitting in the back, listening, taking it all in. Eventually, it made perfect sense to align ourselves with Ringling College.”

“They were at the very beginning of that project,” says Dr. Larry R. Thompson, Ringling College President. “Dick and Linda had a staunch, unwavering belief in the need for a modern contemporary art museum in Sarasota. That long-standing commitment to make it a reality never, ever wavered. Linda, now a board member of Ringling College, has put that same effort into everything in which Ringling College is involved.”

With the historic Sarasota High School as the brick and mortar Museum location, and the growing challenge fund, Sarasota’s new museum slowly took shape, with Wendy Surkis as SMOA President, Linda as its Vice President, and the entire SMOA Board working with Ringling College to raise funds to achieve their dream. “Creating this museum out of nothing was a supreme challenge,” Linda says.

Adds Dr. Thompson, “Linda is very intuitive and insightful and always has a unique way of expressing an issue or a solution to an issue that is creatively brilliant.”

Linda and Dick brought many people in the community on board, garnering support across a spectrum of what she calls “likeminded, aesthetically sensitive people who share our enthusiasm for SMOA.”

“We needed to show the community what SMOA could be,” says Dick. “Artists came in, did presentations and talked about their work. It was a combination of art and education— that’s where it came alive for me, that’s Ringling’s thrust. Making art accessible to a community through a museum was so exciting.”

“We both take a great pride in what we’ve accomplished,” Linda says. “It’s going to be better than we imagined.”

Dick, who grew up in Sarasota, had long known about the College; as owner of Dickinson Studios, he has hired Ringling College graduates as assistants and given talks and presentations to photography classes.

“Both of us love what the College has done for Sarasota. This school is a visionary place. It enables students to access the most exciting careers imaginable in the arts,” says Linda.

“You cannot come to this school and not be inspired,” says Dick. “You walk into the Academic Center and see the Basch Gallery. Then down the corridor to see the portraits of the Trustee Scholars. Ringling College is an upbeat, positive place that’s absolutely bustling with positive energy.”

“The lives of the people we have brought in to the College have become so much more fulfilling through art openings, classes, and other events,” Linda says. “I’m so proud to be affiliated with Ringling College.”

Editor’s Note: Ringling College successfully closed a $22M capital campaign in May 2016 led by then-Board President Wendy Surkis. In May 2015, the College hired the Museum’s inaugural Executive Director, Anne-Marie Russell. The Museum is expected to open in late 2017.
In October of 2015, a fortunate group of 30 art experts and enthusiasts had the experience of a lifetime as they embarked upon a curated immersion in the Los Angeles arts scene.

Comprised of patrons and leaders of Ringling College of Art and Design, the group embarked upon this unique inside view of various art organizations, venues and collectors within the Los Angeles area with an exciting and varied schedule of opportunities managed by Ringling Advancement’s staff members, Stacey Corley and Sarah Crittenden.

The destinations were not the only attraction, however. As Dean Eisner, Vice-Chair of the Ringling College Board of Trustees, observes, "The Los Angeles Art Tour was stellar, but the museums and homes we visited were only part of the experience—most fulfilling was hearing from the others on the Tour who collect and appreciate art with such enthusiasm."

Ringling College President Dr. Larry R. Thompson states that the mission of these trips is to share the amazing ‘behind the scenes’ access available through the College’s relationships with an ‘incredible group of smart and fun people who are devoted to Ringling College.’

Day two highlighted the ‘Treasures of Pasadena’ as the group began the morning with a private tour of The Huntington Gardens, and then another private tour of the Norton Simon Museum. The day ended with a visit to the home of Anne and David Rudderman to view their extensive art collection.

Day three kicked-off on a creative tone with a conversation with artist Simon Toparovsky at his home-studio complete with a live demonstration from the artist himself. The group then had the pleasure of joining Ringling College alumnus Ray Dillman ’78 and his wife Serene at their home for cocktails and dinner.

Day four anchored with a private tour and lunch at the Getty Restaurant. The group then had the privilege of a private visit to the Department of Photographs Study Room and then a guided tour of the Getty’s Hellenistic Bronzes and others artworks.
DAY 5

An insider’s look at the industry was the theme for day five, with Jeffrey Katzenberg of DreamWorks Studios meeting with the group along with Ringling College alumni working there.

Katzenberg, holder of an Honorary Doctorate from Ringling College, notes that “he has made it his mission in life to exceed others’ expectations in everything he does,” a sentiment that resonated with the group, especially as it related to Ringling College.

According to Ringling College Trustee Maurice ‘Mo’ Cunniffe, “To be able to spend an intimate hour with Jeffrey Katzenberg sharing DreamWorks strategy as well as raving about how exceptionally qualified Ringling College grads are was one of the highlights of the trip for me. The access that Ringling College provided was unparalleled—from private collections to the behind-the-scenes tours, these trips are rare opportunities indeed for a seasoned cultural traveler.”

DreamWorks’ well-established competency in adapting their films to worldwide markets through engaging anthropologists, sociologists and linguists to ensure that the films feel ‘of their culture’ connects with the Ringling philosophy of cultivating artists who are global citizens. Their exceptional technical training is combined with a well-roundedness that is necessary for success in a global marketplace— one reason Katzenberg values Ringling graduates.

DAY 6&7

After finishing out the afternoon at Sony Studios, days six and seven heralded the treasures of downtown Los Angeles and the Miracle Mile, with a tour of Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral, including Simon Toporovsky’s bronze ‘Crucifix’, the newly opened Broad Museum and the musical highlight, an evening concert with the Los Angeles Philharmonic featuring Stravinsky’s ‘The Rite of Spring.’

“A highlight for me was Dudamel conducting Stravinsky,” says Sarasota Museum of Art Executive Director Anne-Marie Russell. “It was such a monumental event when it debuted—literal fistfights broke out in response to the avant-garde nature of the work. There were, thankfully, not fisticuffs during our performance, but coming back to Ringling College and hearing Roman Coppola discuss his new series with a character based on Dudamel brought the whole trip full circle—a 360 degree view of the impact our College has.”

At the Los Angeles County Museum of Art the group enjoyed a specially arranged visit to the Rifkind Center for German Expressionism and a Frank Gehry Retrospective exhibition.

Echoing Dean Eisner’s sentiments, Ringling College Trustee Maurice ‘Mo’ Cunniffe concludes that “It was such a pleasure to travel with our Trustees, donors and friends, all of whom bonded over a shared love of all things Ringling. I’ve travelled around the world with many groups, and I can tell you I have never been with a group that had such a strong sense of intellectual curiosity combined with an easy-going, open-minded and fun-loving sensibility. You learn a lot from and about people when you travel, and I learned that Ringling College draws the best people into our fold.”
1963
Walton Luck (Interior Design) and Ned Darr ’64 (Interior Design) ended one of the longest engagements on record with their marriage in April 2015. After 20-year careers in interior design and wholesale and another 20 years summering in Maine, Walton and Ned are now residing full-time in Asheville, NC, where Ned exhibits his photo collage shadow boxes at the FW Gallery.

1964
Edward Paolozzi (Commercial Design) retired after 37 years as a director at Paramount Greeting Cards and now resides in Warwick, RI. Edward also served in Vietnam in 1968-69 with the 107th Sig Corps and the Southeast Asia Pictorial (SEAP) Center as a combat artist and photographer.

1965
Dr. Irene “Joy” Lasseter (Interior Design) is a nutritionist, professional speaker and author, teaching wellness and success principles through food, lifestyle and environmental programs in the greater Vancouver, WA area. joyhealth.com

1966
Wendell Minor (Commercial Design) had his artwork added to the permanent collections of Schingoethe Center for Native American Cultures, in Aurora, IL; The Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, MA; and, The De Grummond Children’s Literature Collection at the University of Southern Mississippi, in Hattiesburg. Wendell also had two award-winning picture books published: Trapped: A Whale’s Rescue and Daylight, Starlight Wildlife. minorart.com

1967
Carol Darling (Commercial Design) is a visual arts instructor, and portfolio development coach to high school art scholarship candidates in the Prescott, AZ, area, directing students in fine arts, graphic design, photography, and printmaking. She also works with the Mountain Arts Guild of Prescott scholarship program. cdarlinganimalart.com

1969
Diana (Hollingsworth) Gessler (Commercial Design) published the first two children’s books in a series of seven, Twin Trees, and she resides in Melbourne, FL. dianagessler.com

1972
Arless Day (Advertising Design) had two solo shows in 2015: “Arless Day Collage Paintings” at Augen Gallery in Portland, OR, and “Mountains, Gardens & Private Rooms” at Hidell Brooks Gallery in Charlotte, NC. Arless resides in Cary, NC.

1972
Tony Morgan (Commercial Design) has retired from his 43 years as a senior illustrator in entertainment attraction design, most recently with ITEC Entertainment Corp. Bonnie (Gold) Morgan ’82 (Graphic Design & Illustration) and Tony reside in Altamonte Springs, FL, where Bonnie is a freelance art instructor. borntoillustrate.com

Dr. John Hirsch (Fashion Design) exhibited in “Who’s Huldah? Biblical Women Who Shaped our Tradition” at the Museum at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City from February-June 2015. John earned his doctorate from New York University in performance studies in 1988, is a long time member of United Scenic Artists Local 829, and is listed in Who’s Who in Entertainment. Since the early ’80s, John has served on the architectural review board for the Village of North Hills, NY, where he is currently chair. After 44 years together, John married Herbert Leiman in 2012.

Marie (Postle) Marcella (Commercial Design), after 18 years of painting en plein air in Florida, now owns Emerald Quilts, a fiber-arts studio near Asheville, NC, and Green Turtle Quilts, an online Etsy storefront. emeraldquilts.com


John “Randy” Smith (Interior Design) is enjoying designing renderings for sale and commission, including his most recent project, “Outdoor World Art Collection.” After a successful career in contracting and design with his own firm and the State of Florida, as well as teaching at Florida State University, Randy resides in Tallahassee with his wife, Lesley.

Ronald “Ron” Norvelle (Fine Arts), an emeritus professor of graphic design at Florida State University, volunteers for the Charlotte Harbor Regatta and serves on the Charlotte Harbor Wounded American Veterans Event (W.A.V.E.) program committee. Ron builds virtual aircraft to be used in the X-Plane Flight Simulator and resides in Punta Gorda, FL, with his wife, Jan. norvellipress.info
1973
Randy Eckard (Commercial Design) exhibited in “Works On Paper” at Richard Boyd Art Gallery in Portland, ME, in February 2016. Randy’s studio/gallery is in Blue Hill, ME. randyeckardpaintings.com

1974
Leoma Lovegrove (Commercial Design) recently taught at the Art Colony Giverny in May 2015. In October she opened a solo show, “An American in Giverny,” at Maison du Peintre Pierre Bonnard. Leoma recently received the prestigious Junonia Award for bringing tourism to the State of Florida with her colorful art. leomalovegrove.com

Tom Stanley (Interior Design) opened Jac’s Gallery, a designer-focused consignment furniture and décor store in September 2015, meanwhile running his Sarasota-based interior design business.

1980
Bill Farnsworth (Illustration) and Nancy Turner ’01 (Fine Arts) exhibited as part of two 2015 group shows at Dabbert Gallery in Sarasota: “Summer Showcase” from June–September and “Local Color Sarasota Inspired” from November–December.

1981
Courtney Canova (Graphic Design) has been serving as adjunct professor of Art & Drawing at Valencia College since 2010, while running an award-winning photography studio in Orlando with her wife Kelly. thecanovasphotography.com

Kimberly (Wade) Cheiffer (Illustration) teaches advanced art at Villa Walsh Academy in Morristown, NJ.

William “Will” Fleishell (Fine Arts) was featured in The History Detectives (PBS) on historic Florida maps, Esquire magazine, and Inside the World’s Mightiest Banks (Discovery Channel). Will is a master engraver for the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, D.C.

1982
Christopher Tuscan (Illustration) had a solo show “Chicago On Parade” at the Harold Washington Library Center in Chicago in July–August 2015. doghousestudio.com

1983
Carrie (Hubschman) Gayle (Graphic Design) and David Gayle (Graphic & Interactive Communication) surprised and celebrated their daughter, Lauren Gayle ’16, recipient of the 2015-2016 Trustee Scholar Award for Interior Design, at the awards ceremony in November 2015.

Pam Holland (Graphic Design & Illustration) is celebrating her Sarasota business’ 30th year, specializing in trompe l’oeil & decorative murals and award-winning exquisite faux finishes, plaster finishes, marbleized columns, faux wood-graining, portraits, straight painting, and repairs. pamhollandart.com

1984
Gary Pritts (Graphic Design) is now illustrating wildlife on commission and resides in Centennial, CO, after a successful career as an environmental natural resource specialist and earning his Masters in Biology and Certification as a Professional Wetland Scientist. fineartamerica.com/profiles/gary-pritts.html

1985
Jon Euwema (Interior Design) is celebrating his 30th year in development consulting and design, which includes full architectural design and construction services. Jon has also been creating art and products as well; his latest “Caribbean Colloquialisms” is a limited edition graphic art print series celebrating island culture. He resides in St. Thomas, the Virgin Islands, with his wife Rosa. euwema.com

Debbie (Terry) Gerardi (Interior Design) was named by her colleagues as the 2015-16 Lakeview Elementary School Teacher of the Year in Sarasota County.

1986
Joel Anderson (Illustration) published 59 Illustrated National Parks, a collection of poster art celebrating each of the United States national parks. andersondesigngroupstore.com

Beverley “Bev” (Terrell) Bellile (Advertising Design) is retired after a successful career in technical writing and proposal management at Xerox Business Services. In 2013, Bev and husband David relocated to Playa del Carmen, Mexico, where she paints full-time. beverleybellile.com

Michele (Graham) Vair (Graphic Design) exhibited as part of the group show, “Small Works 2015” at Main Street Arts Gallery in Clifton Springs, NY, from November–December.

Lynn (Schuchman) Yott (Graphic & Interactive Communication) is celebrating her 20th year as graphic artist/photographer at Stennis Space Center. Lynn and her husband Joe reside in Long Beach, MS.

1987
David Daughtry (Interior Design) retired in March 2015 from a successful career as Director of Design for Florida Business Interiors.

1989
Aaron Blaise (Illustration) and Nick Burch ’02 (Computer Animation) visited students as part of Ringling College’s 2015 Next Step Speaker Series. They met with multiple majors and Visual Development classes, giving advice and critiquing student work.

Vicki Chefl (Fine Arts) opened an art studio at the Sarasota Trading Company in August 2015. vickisvegankitchen.com

Maureen “Mo” Seder (Illustration) is a calligrapher with Union Street Papery in San Francisco. Mo’s work has appeared in Martha Stewart Weddings and Style Me Pretty.
1990
A.D. “Dan” Hamilton (Illustration) was featured by Boing Boing in “Grabbing Dan Time with Hollywood’s Most Elusive Illustrator” in August 2015. Dan is a storyboard artist and illustrator for 42 Entertainment and resides in Glendale, CA, with his wife, Carolyn. adhamilton.com


1992
Philip “Phil” Noto (Illustration) was featured in USA Today’s January 2016 issue in “Star Wars: Poe Dameron” comic book debuts in April. Phil is the artist for the Marvel Comics series, Star Wars: Poe Dameron. notoart.com

1993
Scott Ryan (Fine Arts) opened Baltimore Chef Shop, a culinary school/teaching kitchen, in 2015. Executive chef and owner, Scott trained at the Cambridge School of Culinary Arts in Cambridge, MA, and has over 10 years experience as a culinary instructor on both coasts. baltimorechefshop.com

1994
Joseph Arnegger (Fine Arts) exhibited as part of a contemporary art collective called SaRtQ, in “Here and Now,” curated by Danny Olda, at State of the Arts Gallery in Sarasota in August 2015.

David Sporn (Graphic Design) was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his 15 years of service to the community and students of the Anaheim Union High School District (CA). David teaches drawing & painting at Loara High School. LHS’ art gallery was created through a grant David secured, and his art students have been recognized with various national awards.

Jamie Townsend (Illustration) exhibited as part of “Idiosyncratic Expressions” at Agora Gallery in New York City from July-August 2015. JamieTownsendArt.com

1995
Jennifer (Thomas) Germundsen (Interior Design) married Aaron Germundsen in October 2014 on Sunset Key, Key West, FL. They reside in St. Petersburg, FL. Jennifer announced opening Interiors and Surfaces, LLC in March 2015.

Brandon Oldenburg’s (Illustration) latest directorial work is a short film, Taking Flight, currently accepted to major film festivals including Cinequest, GLAS Animation Film Festival, and Santa Barbara International Film Festival. Last summer, Brandon, along with his Moonbot partner William Joyce, hosted TCM Movie Camp, a television show targeting young adults and future filmmakers. The 13-episode series premiered in June 2015.

Ryan Sais’ (Illustration) book Sniff Sniff! was published by Abrams Applesauce Books in April 2015. Sniff Sniff! was inspired by and dedicated to Simon and Abby, the dogs of classmate Brandon Oldenburg. A 25-year animation, film, and television veteran (including directing), Ryan is now writing and producing multiple TV projects and apps. ryan sais. com

As part of a contemporary art collective called SaRtQ in 2015, Fine Arts alumni Steven Strenk and Tim Jaeger ’02, illustration alumni Jenny Medved ’04 and Javier Rodriguez ’05, Photography & Imaging alumnus Noelle McCleaf ’06, Sculpture alumnus Morgan Janssen ’13, and Graphic & Interactive Communication alumni Daniel Miller ’13 exhibited in “Key Influence” at the Longboat Key Center for the Arts after completing a 2-month summer residency, in “Here and Now,” curated by Danny Olda at State of the Arts Gallery in Sarasota in August and in “Fifty Shades of Green” translating the concept of green at Englewood Art Center from November-December. Steven also exhibited along with fellow Fine Arts alumni Tom Stephens ’97, Julie (Miller) Kanapaux ’00, Nicole Mauser ’06, Anna Paul ’13, and Kyler Duhe ’15 in “Defining Abstraction” in Ringling College’s Selby Gallery from July-August. Fellow Fine Arts alumnus Nathan Skiles ’03, Illustration alumnus Dustin Juengel ’08 and Steven exhibited as part of “4 Artists/4 Walls” at Ringling College’s Basch Gallery from August-September.

Allie Pixley Young (Fine Arts) was awarded Best in Show for “Lightgeist” in 1708 Gallery’s “InLight Richmond” at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in November 2015. She also exhibited “Will You Miss Me When I Burn” at the Santa Fe International New Media Festival in June 2015. alicepixleyyoung.com

1996
David Bromstad (Illustration) was the 2015 Ringling College Commencement speaker at the Bradenton Convention Center, inspiring those following in his footsteps. David’s latest HGTV show, My Lottery Dream Home, debuted in January 2016. bromstad.com

Jason Harvey (Fine Arts) had a solo exhibition of his graphite drawings, “Fantasy Composites,” at Fort Gansevoort Gallery in New York City from November 2015-January 2016. Jason is a detective and forensic artist for the New York City Police Department.

Ryan Moskowitz (Illustration) was awarded the MAX award for his work on EndoChoices’ patient-facing campaign around Fuse® Full Spectrum Endoscopy®. Presented by the Department of Marketing at Georgia State University’s J. Mack Robinson College of Business and Atlanta Business Chronicle, the MAX Awards program recognizes the creative genius of marketers and marketing in Georgia.

1997
Vince Contarino (Illustration) exhibited his work in group shows throughout the US in 2015: “January” at Mixed Greens gallery in Chelsea, NYC, from January-February; “Microscopes and Binoculars” curated by Michael Wille, at Hoffman LaChance Contemporary in St. Louis, MO, from March-April; “Twenty by Sixteen New York,” curated by Geoffrey Young, at the Morgan Lehman Gallery in NYC from March-May; and, “New New York: Abstract Painting in the 21st Century,” curated by Debra Drexler and Liam Davis at The Art Gallery at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa in Honolulu from October-December. With Kris Chatterson ’02 (Fine Arts), Vince curated “The Ecstasy of Influence” for the annual SPRING/BREAK Art Show at the Skylight at Moynihan Station in NYC in March 2015. ArtCritical noted their show in “Their Grandparents Would Have Called It a Salon.” vincecontarino.com

Jay Davis (Fine Arts) exhibited “You’re Sending Me Mixed Signals” at Triumph & Disaster gallery in Montgomery, AL, from November 2014-January 2015. Jay was featured in the February 2016 issue of Whitelight Magazine. jaydavisstudio.com

Dennis Gergel (Illustration) had three pieces of artwork selected to be included in the Kinsey Institute’s permanent art collection in February 2015. The Kinsey Institute is located at Indiana University in Bloomington.

Aiko Hachisuka (Fine Arts) exhibited at NADA New York and The Armory Show in 2015, where Anrten News noted her work in its “10 Best Contemporary Artworks at the 2015 Armory Show.” Her solo show at II gallery, New York City was reviewed in the November issue of Sculpture Magazine. Aiko’s studio is in Los Angeles. ii gallery.com

Kristen Sabo-Foures (Illustration) won a Kennedy Center Award for Excellence in Scenic Design for theater and fellowship in set design at The O’Neill for their National Playwrights’ & Music Theater Conferences. kirstensabo.com

Tom Stephens (Fine Arts) exhibited “A Land Remembered” at Crossley Gallery in February 2015, and “Tom Stephens Paintings:
2005-2014” at the Patricia Thompson Gallery from June-August, both at Ringling College. Tom also had a solo show “Along the Rainbow River” from August-September at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. Tom and his wife Beth Noble ’97 (Computer Animation) reside in Sarasota. tomstephenspaintings.com

1998
Holly Antoszewski (Graphic Design) celebrated her 15th year in Ringing College’s Design Center.

Rhonda (Anstett) Leiberick (Graphic Design) serves as development and communications manager for Habitat for Humanity Sarasota. In 2015, Rhonda received an Award of Distinction at the Florida Public Relations Annual Golden Image Awards, was the Central West Coast Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Chapter Member of the Year, and earned professional accreditation in public relations (APR).

David Madden (Illustration) celebrated his 25th anniversary with Hard Rock Café in New York City. davidmaddenart.com

1999
Marya (Van Voorthuijsen) Camilleri (Graphic & Interactive Communication) earned her Master’s in Art Therapy & Counseling from Drexel University and, with husband Michael Camilleri, celebrated the birth of their daughter Frieda in 2015.

Bruce Hoover (Graphic & Interactive Communication) is an international videographer, photographer, and motion graphics designer celebrating his 5th year working with the Canadian company, D+H. Bruce currently resides in Milwaukee, WI. thisisbruce.com

2000
Julie (Miller) Kanapaux (Fine Arts) had a solo show “Recent Work” in Ringling College’s Patricia Thompson Gallery from March-May 2015, which was the focus of WWSB-TV’s feature “Fine Arts graduates return to Ringling College for special shows.” She also had a solo show “Connections” at Manatee County Cultural Alliance in Bradenton, FL, in June. jukartaart.com

Bettyjean “BJ” Pergola (Fine Arts) showed in “StrikeAway,” curated by Courtney Cerrut, at Praxton Gate Curiosities for Kids in San Francisco in May-June 2015. globart.com

Joanna “Jo” (Zeller) Quentin (Illustration) was named official artist of the HIT’S Thermal Desert Winter Show Circuit for both 2014 and 2015. She was also awarded an associate membership in the American Academy of Equine Art. MoosePantsStudio.com

2001
Titus Castanza (Illustration) was interviewed as part of filmmaker Evan Grae Davis’ Just Be You Project. Titus’ studio is in downtown Tucson, AZ. citizensart.com/Titus-Castanza

Amy (Dickey) Kligman (Illustration) joined Charlotte Street Foundation in Kansas City, MO, as a programming director in June 2015.

Sean Murray (Illustration) started Great George, a watch company, in New York City. seanmurray.com

Brett Schroeder (Computer Animation) was a senior animator on the feature film PAN through Framestore in Montreal, Quebec.

2002
Omar Chacon (Fine Arts) exhibited in the group show “Pixelated: Sum of Its Pieces” at the Cynthia C. Wainwright Gallery in the Children’s Museum of New York in New York City from January–May 2015. He also had a solo show “Las Mesalinas y Otros Ensayos” at Margaret Thatcher Projects in New York City from October–December.

Tommy Cinquegrano, Shane Daley ’06, Aden Winkelman ’12, and Matt Krotenberg ’12, Computer Animation alumni, were part of the Activation lighting team honored with the 2015 Visual Effects Society Award for outstanding real-time visuals on Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare. Chris Stone ’95 and Ivan Kaplow ’02 also contributed to the game’s animation and environments.

Danny Delpurgatorio (Illustration) is executive creative director at Vitamin Pictures in Chicago. Danny visited Ringling College on a recruiting trip in March 2015. delpurgatorio.com

Tim Jaeger (Fine Arts) was appointed Ringling College’s campus and community engagement manager in 2015. regeajstudio.com

Daniel Miyares’ (Illustration) FLOAT (Simon & Schuster) was named to Huffington Post’s “Best Picture Books of 2015” in the category “Most Charming” and was featured in the Wall Street Journal. Master artist and author/illustrator for Hallmark, Daniel visited Ringling College on a recruiting trip in February 2015 and presented on picture book development and publisher presentations. danielmiyares.com

Noelle (McCloy) Rogovin (Fine Arts) and husband Joshua “Josh” Rogovin ’03 (Photography & Digital Imaging) have relocated back to Sarasota, with their budding artists (daughters) Sage and Violet, after a decade in Connecticut. During their time in New England the couple completely rehabilitated a Queen Ann Victorian home. Noelle is a design consultant for The Plumbing Place and Josh is an account manager and associate producer at Home & Castle TV.

Sylvia (Panama) Rosenberg (Illustration) is founder and head chef of We Heart Cake in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. weheartcake.com

2003
Neal Alfano (Graphic & Interactive Communication) volunteered in Ringling College’s Food For Thought panel on mentor/mentee relationships in December 2015. Neal is creative director for Miles Marketing Destinations.

Tim Kail (Illustration) is the founder and executive creative director of Rockbox. Tim visited Ringling College on a recruiting trip in March 2015. rockbox.tv

Amer Kobaslija (Fine Arts) had a solo show at Arthur Roger Gallery in New Orleans from March–July and exhibited in “Objects to Be Contemplated” at Ringling College’s Selby Gallery in April. Places, Spaces: A Survey of Painting 2005-2015” was Amer’s solo show at George Adams Gallery in NYC from September–November.

Cindy Mason (Graphic & Interactive Communication) exhibited in “The Interpreted Landscape” at Longboat Key Center for the Arts from November 2015-January 2016. cynthiamason.com

Michelle Roth (Illustration) and husband Joseph Smoot welcomed their first child, Harrison, in March 2015. youngrembrandts.com

Sherrie (Dorr) McKinley (Illustration) and husband Austin McKinley’s (Illustration) Caster’s Blog was selected for the 17th annual Sarasota Film Festival. Sherrie also serves as graphic design manager at Sarasota Orchestra.

Christian Sampson (Fine Arts) exhibited in “Cosa mentale. Imaginaries of Telepathy of the 20th-Century Art” curated by Pascal Rousseau at Centre Pompidou-Metz, Paris, France from October 2015–March 2016. christiansampson.net

2004
Tom Jaeger (Illustration) visited Ringling College on a recruiting trip in February 2015.

Sarah (Avery) Swanson (Graphic & Interactive Communication) was a senior and presented on picture book development and publisher presentations. danielmiyares.com

Noelle (McCloy) Rogovin (Fine Arts) and husband Joshua “Josh” Rogovin ’03 (Photography & Digital Imaging) have relocated back to Sarasota, with their budding artists (daughters) Sage and Violet, after a decade in Connecticut. During their time in New England the couple completely rehabilitated a Queen Ann Victorian home. Noelle is a design consultant for The Plumbing Place and Josh is an account manager and associate producer at Home & Castle TV.

Sylvia (Panama) Rosenberg (Illustration) is founder and head chef of We Heart Cake in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. weheartcake.com

2005
Annie (Gemmell) Mancini (Illustration) had a solo show at the Sprengel Museum of Modern Art in Hannover, Germany in May 2015.

Amer Kobaslija (Fine Arts) had a solo show at Arthur Roger Gallery in New Orleans from March–July and exhibited in “Objects to Be Contemplated” at Ringling College’s Selby Gallery in April. Places, Spaces: A Survey of Painting 2005-2015” was Amer’s solo show at George Adams Gallery in NYC from September–November.

Cindy Mason (Graphic & Interactive Communication) exhibited in “The Interpreted Landscape” at Longboat Key Center for the Arts from November 2015-January 2016. cynthiamason.com

Michelle Roth (Illustration) and husband Joseph Smoot welcomed their first child, Harrison, in March 2015. youngrembrandts.com

Further information can be found in www.ringling.edu/context
2004
Laura (Bucklew) Bucholtz (Graphic & Interactive Communication) joined the Ringling College’s Design Center in February 2015 as a graphic designer, creating in-house materials for Ringling College, and helping teach the Design Center class. laurabucholtz.com

Eric Dolhon (Illustration) and his wife Sugeiely married in December 2012 and welcomed their first child, Aurora Cataleya Dolhon, in April 2015. Having earned a Master’s of Business Administration in 2007 from Phoenix University in Orlando, Eric is pursuing his JD at Florida A&M University College of Law/Orlando.

Miguel Elasmar (Graphic & Interactive Communication) volunteered in Ringling College’s Food For Thought panel on mentor/mentee relationships in December 2015 and participated in Insight offering professional advice and networking to Ringling students. Miguel is UX Art Director at Vooalte in Sarasota. migueelasmar.com

David Gibson (Computer Animation) won a 2015 Annie Award for character animation in a video game for Evolve. David is a senior animator for Overwatch with Blizzard Entertainment. davidanthonygibson.wordpress.com

Tristan Henry-Wilson (Illustration) became a senior graphic designer at McCann Echo in February 2015 after five plus years as a graphic designer with Godiva. In July, Tristan married Josephine Raimo, and one of his wedding oil paintings was a runner up for Creative Quarterly. #39. thewhiteleaf.com

Jennifer “Jenny” (Greene) Medved (Illustration) was featured in the SRQ Magazine’s list of ‘2015 Ones to Watch.” jennymedved.com

Majida “Maggie” Mugharbel (Fine Arts) married Darren Tuozzoli in September 2014. She is on the Louise Bourgeois Archive cataloguing team at the Museum of Modern Art.

Nelani “Nel” Palomino (Graphic & Interactive Communication) received her Master’s in Media Design from Full Sail University where she was awarded Salutatorian, as well as Course Director Awards for Professional Practice and for Design Integration in 2015. Nel also founded Nifty Nel, a design and illustration company located in Tampa. NiftyNel.com

Eric Riemenschnieder (Illustration) exhibited in Lee County’s Alliance for the Arts’ exhibit “Best in Show Winners: The Past Decade” in May 2015 as well as their “29th Annual All Florida Juried Exhibit” in June. artoferic.com

Timothy “Tim” Rogerson (Illustration) was featured in the November 2015 issue of SRQ Magazine’s “The Road to Disney.” tdrogerson.com

2005
Bronwyn Coffeen-Mercer (Illustration) married John David Mercer in July 2014. They relocated to the greater Atlanta metro area in April 2015, where Bronwyn is a graphic designer and layout artist for the Newnan Times-Herald. From March–August 2015, Bronwyn exhibited at Lyon’s Share Gallery in Fairhope, AL. bron-arts.com

John DeLucca (Illustration) and Claire Mojher (Illustration) welcomed their first child, Junot, in July 2014 and reside in the greater Cleveland, OH area. Both John and Claire work in the creative division at American Greetings. In addition, Claire’s freelance clients include book publisher Ivy Press (United Kingdom) for cover art and interior illustration spreads and Walt Disney Imagineering for design. John’s freelance clients include the band The Protomen where he has acted as production designer on their upcoming music video, album art, promo merchandise, and interactive website illustration. ClaireDeLucca.com and society6.com/JohnDeLucca


2006
Jeremy Cox (Graphic & Interactive Communication) won a 2015 Creative Arts Emmy for Outstanding Main Title Design on the critically acclaimed series Manhattan. Jeremy is a creative director at Imaginary Forces in New York City. JeremyCox.com

Christopher “Chris” Happner (Illustration) joined Revolve Clothing in Cerritos, CA, as a graphic designer, after two years working in the fashion industry. cstmla.com

Derrick Kennelly-Cohen (Graphic & Interior Communication) joined Above Average Productions, the web division of Broadway Video, as a VFX/graphics designer, in April 2015. Derrick also freelances for The Onion.

Jill (Sieber) Martini (Interior Design) and her husband Robert welcomed their first child, Lila, in June 2014. Jill and Robert married in May 2012 and reside in Sarasota.

Nicole Mauser (Fine Arts) was a High Concept Labs’ sponsored artist in 2015. nicolemauser.com

Noelle McCleaf (Photography & Digital Imaging) was featured in LenScratch Fine Art Photo Daily’s “Photolucida: Noelle McCleaf: Evie Lou and Laura Jane” in August 2015. noellemccleaf.co

Brooke Olivares (Illustration) and Matteo “Teo” Calioaro ’07 (Illustration) were featured in The Observer’s “Studio Space” in August 2015, sharing their passion for art and their work at Ringling College. BrookeOlivares.com and Calioaro.com

Caleb Prochnow (Illustration) volunteered in Ringling College’s Food For Thought crowdfunding and resources panel in November 2015 offering professional advice and networking to Ringling students. Caleb is serving as interim co-department head for Illustration at Ringling College. vectorgenuis.com

Rebekah Stewart (Photography & Digital Imaging) was awarded her Master’s in Library and Information Science from the University of Alabama in August 2015.

2007
Jennifer “J.D.” Harper (Graphic & Interactive Communication) received an American Institute of Architects New York State Chapter Honor Award in October 2014. J.D. was awarded her Master’s in Architecture and Sustainability from Rochester Institute of Technology in May 2015 and resides in Washington, D.C. jdharper.info

Jennifer (Hatch) Price (Interior Design) returned as an interior designer to Baker Barrios in February 2014, a commercial planning and design firm in downtown Orlando, where she had interned in 2007. Jennifer married Jeffrey Price in February 2015, and they reside in the greater Orlando metro area.

Michelle “Shelly” Rodriguez (Illustration) is the founder and lead designer of the character goods brand inki-Drop. This comes after years in the game industry with GREE Inc., OMGpop, Electronic Arts, and Disney Interactive. ShellyRodriguez.squarespace.com

Gregory “Greg” Shives (Computer Animation) was featured in the Waunakee Tribune article, “From White House to Game Creator,” in July 2015. Greg founded High Iron Studios, an independent game development studio. HighIronStudios.com
2008
Celeste Argueta (Graphic & Interactive Communication) owns Studio Dos, an event decor and styling, print, crafts, photography and design company based in San Salvador, El Salvador. studio-dos.com

Ashley Buerkett (Graphic & Interactive Communication) founded Bull & Dog Collective, a network of audio engineers, musicians, photographers, videographers, and designers that specializes in making musicians and bands not only sound good, but look good too. Bull & Dog is located in Champaign/Urbana, IL. BullandDog.com

Ross Cometti (Graphic & Interactive Communication) volunteered in Ringling College’s Food For Thought “Like/Share/Promote: Beyond the Blog” discussion on websites and platforms in October 2015. Ross is creative director and co-founder of Commit Marketing in Sarasota. commitmarketing.com

Lucas Human (Graphic & Interactive Communications) was promoted in February 2015 to art director at SBC Advertising in Columbus, OH.

Dustin Juengel (Illustration) was appointed exhibition curator at Art Center Sarasota in June 2015.

Charles “Brent” Lewis (Computer Animation) spent four years in Austin designing and building websites before marrying Courtney Robb in October 2011 and relocating to Atlanta. In December 2013, Brent and Courtney welcomed their first child, Charlie. Brent is now an award-winning senior web developer at blacQube where he leverages his background in 3D graphics to impact web experiences, animations, and augmented reality tests.

Dax Norman (Computer Animation) shows at Gallery 444 in San Francisco and teaches 3D digital art at the University of Texas at Austin. In May 2015 Dax earned his Master’s of Fine Arts in Art and Technology from the University of Texas at Dallas. Dax’s recent work includes his first animated feature film, Leptune, a collaboration with composer Neil Anderson-Himmelspach, and a trailer and poster for the Melbourne International Animation Festival. Dax’s animated short Genuine Suede played at both the 2015 MIAF and the Sydney Film Festival. daxnorman.com

Nicole “Jane” Radstrom (Illustration) was featured in Pastel Journal Magazine in October 2015. Jane exhibited in Pastel Society of the West Coast juried show at the Haggin Museum in Stockton, CA, from July–September where “Girl in Stripes” won an award sponsored by the Connecticut Pastel Society, and “Lady in Blue” was selected by the Haggin Museum to represent the show on their banners, newsletters, and promotions. Jane also exhibited at Wally Workman Gallery in Austin, TX, during their 35th anniversary celebration. janeradstrom.com

2009
Brittany (Adkison) Ferguson (Illustration) married Warrick Ferguson in 2015. Brittany was promoted to Director of Student Services for the Smart Horizons Career Online Education School District in Fort Lauderdale, FL. brittanyadkison.com

Jorge “Jay” Garcia (Computer Animation) and wife Carrie Hurley welcomed their child, Caden Emilio, in November 2014. Jorge is an animator for Walt Disney Animation Studios where he just completed work on Zootopia and is currently working on Moana.

Heather Heckel (Illustration) had her children’s book, What Will Snarl Fig Be? / Nutsy and Her Tree, published by Author House in 2015. heatherheckel.com

Catherine “Cat” Hicks (Computer Animation) was featured in the Time Picayune article, “Pixar Animator from Alabama: The Good Dinosaur is ‘the most beautiful film I’ve worked on’” in November 2015.

Max Marin (Illustration) is co-founder and CEO of A Painting Fiesta, a Miami-based painting studio franchise for both “wine and paint” and family-friendly studio events. PaintingFiesta.com

Aubrey Pendleton (Interior Design) opened her own design firm, Aubrey O’Brien, in August 2015. Her business specializes in building custom furniture, case goods, lighting, accessories, textiles, and upholstery and is located in Dallas, TX. AubreyObrien.com

Brittany Zachos (Interior Design) worked alongside Jonathan and Drew Scott for Season 5 of their hit HGTV series Property Brothers. Brittany is the principal designer at Zachos Design Group in Westchester, NY. zachosdesigngroup.com

2010
Reed Black (Illustration) was interviewed about his comic What a Queer Family in Project Q Atlanta in February 2015. In November, Reed began a new position with the DeKalb County Library System. reedblackillustrator.com

Jennifer “Jenna” Bors (Computer Animation) and Josh Jaillet (Computer Animation) married in October 2013 and reside in the greater Columbus, OH area. The duo is currently developing a new film project.

Alessandra Cruz (Graphic & Interactive Communication) and Jeremy “JP” Putnam (Computer Animation) married in October 2015. Alessandra is a graphic designer for Studio Fuse while JP was recently promoted to Art Lead at Riot Games, both in Los Angeles. AlessDesign.com and JeremyPutnam.com

Jason Heaton (Computer Animation) visited campus in April 2015 recruiting for Epipheo Studios where he is a design lead.

Nilah Magruder (Computer Animation) sold her debut picture book How to Find a Fox to Feiwel & Friends (Macmillan) in March 2015 for release in September 2016. Nilah also won the inaugural Dwayne McDuffie Award for Diversity for her independent comic M.F.K. She resides in the greater Los Angeles area. NilahMagruder.com

Jennifer “Jen” Nugent (Fine Arts) exhibited in the group show “(A) State of Florida” curated by Danny Olds at Alfstad & Contemporary ( Sarasota) from June–July 2015. JenNugent.com

George Retkes (Fine Arts) and Laura Spencer ’11 (Illustration) exhibited in “Much Ado: An Immersive Experience + Exhibition” in February 2015 at the Historic Rialto Theatre in Downtown Tampa. LauraSpencerIllustrates.com and GeorgeRetkes.com

David Serna (Illustration) won the 2015 Commercial Bronze Telly Award for Use of Animation in Get Out and PLAY. davidserna.net

Lauren Joens (Interior Design) married Nathan Veliz in April 2014 and resides in Baltimore. Lauren is a mural artist and crossfit coach.

2011
JaymeLee (Benesh) Rivera (Graphic & Interactive Communication) married Jorge Rivera in January 2016, and they reside in the greater Memphis, TN area. JaymeLee is lead graphic designer with VPX Sports. jaymebenesh.com

Kristen Cruz (Illustration) was promoted to production supervisor at BaubleBar in New York City. kcruez.com
Sonika Fourie DeChow (Interior Design) completed her NCIDQ certification in 2015 and began a new position as an interior design associate at Space As Art in Sarasota. SonikaDesigns.com

Benjamin “Ben” Kowalski (Graphic & Interactive Communication) and wife Margot Brody welcomed their first child, Jack, in August 2015. Ben is a product designer at Doordash in San Francisco, CA.

Michael “Gable” Marynell (Computer Animation) relocated to Sarasota and began working for Ringling College as a render support specialist in October 2015.

Joshua “Josh” Otero (Illustration) recently won the 2015 Children’s Literature Classics Seal of Approval for My Big Tow: The Adventures of Captain Recovery. Josh also launched a webcomic The Corgs. joshuaotero.blogspot.com

Allison Papak (Graphic & Interactive Communication) was promoted to senior graphic designer at PostcardMania in Clearwater, FL.

Alyssa (Coles) Pilcher (Illustration) married Ian Pilcher in December 2011 and resides in Atlanta. Alyssa is a CAD designer with Carter’s.

Athena Torri (Photography & Digital Imaging) had her book The Outsiders published by Conveyer Editions in 2015. In September, Athena had a launch and book signing for her first solo book at MoMA PS1 and American Photo Magazine named her to their “Five Best Photobook Tables from the New York Book Fair” list. AthenaTorri.com

2012

Tarrah (Belcher) Hendricks (Illustration) married Eric Hendricks in November 2015. Tarrah is a project manager at Let There Be Light in Kansas City, MO.

Katrina “Kat” (Fong) Carver (Fine Arts) married Keith Carver in November 2012 and resides in Sarasota.

Ari Gabel (Photography & Digital Imaging) was featured in the Spring 2015 issue of American Photo on Campus. Ari’s latest works, “Roads Less Taken,” came while traveling the world and seeing through other people’s eyes, finding those desolate areas and people that the world has left behind. arigabel.com

Alexandra “Alex” Garey (Graphic & Interactive Communication) relocated to Seattle in 2013 after three years working in Chicago design studios. In Seattle, WA, she works professionally as a freelance designer, where her clients range from wedding planners to local restaurants and bars to multi-billion dollar realtors. alexgarey.com

Marilyn “Mari” Garman (Business of Art and Design) became a visiting full-time faculty member at Ringling College for Business of Art and Design in August 2015. marilyngarman.com

Nico Gavrilles (Graphic & Interactive Communication) was promoted to senior visual designer at Code and Theory in New York City in fall 2015. nicoegavrilles.com

Adam Hartlaub (Illustration) was promoted to front end web designer at Unique Industries, the leading manufacturer and worldwide distributor of original design and officially licensed party paperware and accessories. AdamFineDesign.com

Amy Hoffman (Interior Design) relocated to New York City and began a new position as a project designer for O’Neil Langan Architects in May 2015.

Keaton Kramer (Computer Animation) relocated to Dallas, TX where he is a lighter for Reel FX.

Elizabeth “Liz” Landis (Game Art and Design) won 2nd place in the ELLE Jewelry Design Contest with her “Bound Bracelet.” ELLE described her work as “inspired by the things that bound everyone: Love, desire, friendship, ambition.” landestroyer.com

Elizabeth McMahill (Computer Animation) is a freelance animation generalist in Los Angeles, CA. Her work includes prop design for the Tornante Company’s adult animated series BoJack Horseman. ElizabethMcMahill.com

Nick Morgulis (Digital Filmmaking) directed Paradise, FL which premiered at the Sarasota Film Festival in April 2015 and was accepted into the Skyway Film Festival (Bradenton, FL). NickMorgulis.com

Tara (Stone) Piedra (Illustration) and her husband Trevor welcomed their first child, Grayson, in early 2015. Tara was featured in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune’s “Woodworker Chooses Boards with History” in September 2015.

Eric Prah (Computer Animation) was promoted to animator at Blue Sky Studios in Greenwich, CT in 2015.

Taylor Reed (Business of Art and Design) is an account manager for Steelhouse in Los Angeles, CA.

Roy “Drew” Rios (Graphic & Interactive Communication) was recruited by Microsoft Corp.’s Power BI department in July 2015. He works in their Cloud & Enterprise division in Seattle, WA on several high-level conceptual projects for the future of business intelligence. DrewRios.com

Alicia Stein (Fine Arts) is an elementary art educator at Bay Haven School in Sarasota. She works with Ringling College on multiple fronts: charrette facilitator for the Collaboratory, mentoring volunteers for the YEA Program, and teaching collage for the CSSP Teen Studios art program.

Andrew Theophilopoulos (Illustration) had his first solo exhibition “& Theo” at Oddity Tattoo in Sarasota in April 2015.


2013

Mauroof Ahmed (Motion Design) was promoted to user experience designer at LinkedIn. MauroofAhmed.com

Karen Arango (Photography & Digital Imaging) was named to Photo Boîte’s 2016 "30 Under 30 Women Photographers" recognizing the excellent work of female photographers across the globe. Karen showed work in “Ex-Patria,” an exhibition of edgy work by four contemporary Latin American artists curated by Ringling College CSSP instructor Elena De La Ville at Art Center Sarasota from March–April 2015. karenarango.com

Megan Castellon (Fine Arts) received the 2015 Girl’s Club Collection Fellowship. Her artwork was featured in the July 2015 issue of Plenilune magazine and she continues portfolio work painting for private clients. megancastellon.com

Ronel Constantin (Interior Design) and Ayu "Karisha" Saraswati ’14 (Business of Art and Design) married in May 2015. Ronel is pursuing a Master’s in Architecture from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and Karisha is a junior product manager specializing in user interface at ShopperTrak.

Matthew “Matt” Coombs (Painting) exhibited work in the “Annual Contemporary Art Survey” juried by Dean Sobel at the Lincoln Center in Fort Collins, CO, from August–October 2015 and “Exhibition 280” juried by Patterson Sims at the Huntington Museum of Art in Huntington, WV, from October 2015–February 2016. mattcoombs.com
Kevin Herron (Computer Animation) was a junior animator on *Rock Dog* and *Book of Life* for Reel FX in Dallas in 2015. Afterwards he relocated to Greenwich, CT where he was an animator on *Peanuts: The Movie* and *Ice Age 5* for Blue Sky Studios.

Dylan Johnston (Photography & Digital Imaging) was profiled in the February 2016 issue of *Popular Photography On Campus* feature entitled “Two Years Out.” This national photography publication honors the outstanding work and the different ways young people are starting their careers two years out of college. Dylan’s studio is in New York City. dylan-johnston.com

Gracie Kennedy relocated to Dallas in 2015, where she is a graphic artist for ARA, a Newmark Company. paperlaine.com

Raymond “Alex” Malkiewicz (Graphic & Interactive Communication) was promoted in 2015 to designer at Microsoft.

Walter Matthews (Painting) had a solo show “New Paintings-2015” in Ringling College’s Patricia Thompson Gallery from November 2015–January 2016. Walter is pursuing his Master’s at University of South Florida, where he also teaches beginning painting.

Connor McCampbell (Game Art & Design) relocated to the greater Seattle, WA area and began a new position as an environment artist at Microsoft’s 343 Industries in 2015. connormccampbell.com

Evan McDermott (Business of Art and Design) is the department coordinator for American Custom Yachts in Stuart, FL.

S. Wren McDonald (Illustration) had his book, *Cyber Realm*, published by Nobrow Ltd. of London in August 2015. WrenMcDonald.com

Chitra Patel (Interior Design) married Aniken Patel in October 2015 in Tucson, AZ. Chitra is a project designer and accounts associate with Bisley North America, and the couple resides in New York City.

Anna Paul (Fine Arts) earned her Master’s of Fine Arts from the School of The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and Tufts University. annarpaul.com

Riccardo “Ricky” Renna (Computer Animation) began working as an animator at Blue Sky Studios in Greenwich, CT in June 2015. rickyrenna.blogspot.com

Jamie Sealander (Photography & Digital Imaging) was featured in the *Tampa Bay Times* article “Major Events in Tampa’s History to be Subjects for Riverwalk Monuments.” jamielee.sealander.zenfolio.com

Blair Seward (Advertising Design) was promoted to junior art director at TBWA/Chiat/Day in Los Angeles, CA in September 2015. BlairSeward.com

Dehne Sibbensen (Interior Design) relocated to New York City in July 2015. working for HOK—the largest U.S.-based architecture and engineering firm and the second-largest global interior design firm—as a project interior designer. Dehne is serving as an Alumni Trustee at Ringling College.

Lisa Szaraz (Business of Art and Design) is office and cultural manager for The Zebra in Austin, TX. lisaszaraz.com

Kathryn “Kat” Wilson (Business of Art and Design) was promoted to associate manager of public services and yacht services administrator for Marina Jack’s in Sarasota, FL.

Louie Zuniga (Advertising Design) was promoted to art director at 22Squared in January 2015. LouieZuniga.com

2014

Salome Abad (Interior Design) joined the aviation team for Corgan Architects in Dallas in December 2014. Salome’s recent work includes designing an extension to the Ft. Lauderdale Int’l Airport.

Andrew “Andy” Angstadt (Business of Art and Design) joined Pyper Young in St. Petersburg, FL in April 2015 as an account coordinator. Previously he served as Coordinator of Student Volunteerism and Service Learning for Ringling College.

Alexander “Alex” Bernard (Motion Design) was promoted to full-time junior broadcast designer at Showtime Networks in New York City in February 2015.

Michael “Mike” Bidinger (Computer Animation) and Michelle Kwon (Computer Animation) won Best Computer Animated Short at SIGGRAPH 2015 for their thesis film *Jinxy Jenkins and Lucky Lou*. Michael is now a fix/crowds animator for Pixar and Michelle is a CG generalist for Jib.Jab.

Stacy Bloodworth (Graphic Design) was promoted to UX designer at LinkedIn in 2015.

Minzhe “Yuan” Chen (Graphic Design) is an interaction designer at Google in London.

Marisabel “Marisa” Fernandez (Motion Design) relocated to Toronto and began working as a designer and animator at Tendril in March 2015. marisafsa.com

Yahira Hernandez (Motion Design) joined Showtime Networks in New York City as a junior broadcast designer in September 2015. yahirahernandez.com

George “Hiro” Hubbard (Advertising Design) is a junior designer for Wunderman Seattle.

Edyta Jaworek (Advertising Design) relocated to London where she is an interaction designer for Google.

Miranda Leek (Illustration) had a book signing at Hastings Bookstore in Murfreesboro, TN and was featured in the Daily News Journal’s “Local Artist Pens Book, *Twisted*” during January 2015. MirandasMagic.com

Natalie Lerner (Fine Arts) joined Bitforms Gallery in New York City as a gallery assistant in October 2015.

Bryan Locantore (Computer Animation) joined Disney Animation Studios in Burbank, CA as a lighting trainee in February 2016. blocanto.wix.com/bryanlocantore

Aliyva “Livvy” Long (Illustration) was featured in the *Hanover Evening Sun’s* “New Oxford-area Woman Takes Her Artistic Talents to Hallmark” in January 2015. A lettering artist and illustrator, Livvy also visited campus recruiting for Hallmark.

Jessica Marinello (Graphic Design) was promoted to guest communications associate for the Walt Disney Company. JessicaMarinello.com

Alexis Schultz (Photography & Digital Imaging) joined Sarasota Film Festival in February 2015 as a media manager. Alexis is also a freelance photographer. AlexisSchultz.com

Hunter Slade (Fine Arts) volunteered for Ringling College’s Food For Thought discussion “Strut Your Stuff: the Fashion Industry” offering professional advice and networking to Ringling students in October. In August 2014 Hunter welcomed his son Kai. Hunter is a regional visual designer, merchandiser and stylist with clients including the Southwest FL Saks Fifth Avenue stores, SHORE on St. Armand’s Circle, and Selby Gardens.

Ray Vazquez (Graphic & Interactive Communications) started contracting with PayPal as a visual designer in March 2015. Ray resides in San Francisco, CA. rayv.me

Gang “Maria” Yi (Computer Animation) joined Paramount Animation as a character designer in 2015.
**2015**

*Steven Adams* (Motion Design) won the Student Silver Addy for Animation or Special Effects at the National Addy Awards in July 2015 for his work *Cyclical*. Steven joined Brazen Animation in Dallas as a junior motion designer in June 2015.

*Kerim Camdzic* (Motion Design) joined Moving Picture Company in New York City as a junior designer.

*Gienna Dame-Baker* (Sculpture) teaches art at Island Village Montessori in Venice, FL, in addition to her studio work.

*Kathryn Harrison* (Photography & Imaging) was featured in the summer 2015 issue of *American Photo on Campus*. “The Class of 2015” focused on Kathryn’s thought provoking and moving work, [*Half in Two. kathryneharrison.com*]

*Tandeka Lauriciano* (Advertising Design) joined Razorfish in Chicago as an associate copywriter intern in June 2015 and then relocated to San Francisco as an associate copywriter for AKQA September. [*tlauricianno.com*]

*Nick Lennon* (Digital Filmmaking) and *Harrison Stagner* (Digital Filmmaking) shared the stage with *My All American* writer and director *Angelo Pizzo* and producer *Paul Schiff* on Ringling College’s campus in September 2015 after the film’s screening, describing their internship experience.

*Mindy Nguyen* (Graphic & Interactive Communication) joined LinkedIn as an associate UX designer and resides in San Francisco.

*Irene Rofail* (Illustration) worked on a joint venture project with UNESCO to help build a creative market for African crafts in Tanzania in fall 2015.

*Brooke Scott* (Motion Design) joined Moore & Scarry Advertising in Ft. Myers, FL, as a motion designer in June 2015.

*Jamie Sharpsteen* (Graphic Design) joined CBS Interactive in Burbank, CA in July 2015 as a UX designer. [*jamiesharpsteen.com*]

*Shoulong Tian* (Illustration) joined Hasbro in Providence, RI in June 2015 as a sculptor.

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**In Memoriam**

**Lonnie Cullen Newman ’56**
*(Commercial Design)*
November 17, 2015, Orlando

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**Harold Knerr ’57**
*(Advertising Design)*
April 18, 2015, Austin, TX

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**Fiore Custode ’62**
*(Illustration)*
Ringling College Faculty
June 5, 2015, Sarasota

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**Ted Masters ’82**
*(Illustration)*
June 25, 2015, Greenville, SC

---

**Christine (Lawrence) Finney ’89**
*(Illustration)*
January 5, 2016, Spartanburg, SC

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**Paula Kozak ’97**
*(Illustration)*
May 1, 2015, Sarasota

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**Daniel Mark Neil, II ’13**
*(Computer Animation)*
July 23, 2015, Emeryville, CA

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**A Fond Farewell**

Wishing our friends and colleagues who dedicated more than 20 years to Ringling College all the best as they move on to the next chapter of their lives. Congratulations and thank you for your many years of hard work!

**20 YEARS**

Laura Avery
Assistant Director of Galleries and Public Programs

**23 YEARS**

Carolyn Bloomer  **FACULTY EMERITA**
Faculty, Liberal Arts

**27 YEARS**

M.K. (Mary) Foltz  **FACULTY EMERITUS**
Faculty, Photography & Imaging

**32 YEARS**

Norman Hervieux  **FACULTY EMERITUS**
Interior Design Department Head

**22 YEARS**

Dee Hood  **FACULTY EMERITA**
Faculty, Photography & Imaging

**37 YEARS**

Steve Kaplan
Faculty, Computer Animation

**21 YEARS**

Sheridan Latimer
Library Technician III

**35 YEARS**

Allen Novak
Visual Resources Librarian

**23 YEARS**

Reenie Page
Office Manager for Student Health Services

**26 YEARS**

Robert Stanton
Faculty, Liberal Arts

**24 YEARS**

Mike Volino
Field Services Manager

**27 YEARS**

John Williams
Faculty, Computer Animation
CONTXT is designed and produced in-house by the Ringling College Design Center. It is published by the Office of the President of Ringling College of Art and Design.

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Illustration Kyle Beckett ’16, Regan Dunnicliff, Jonah Duvall ’16, David Allin Reese ’17

Meet the illustrator
Kyle Beckett ’16 (Illustration) is an award-winning illustrator, designer, and cartoonist. Recipient of the DreamWorks Scholarship, exhibited in the “Illest of Ill” show, and captain of the Ringling College Quidditch Team, Kyle is an exuberant and accomplished character, which shines through in his work. While currently working on an 80-page children’s book for his Senior Thesis, Kyle plans to continue working in the field to create and share quirky stories. Kyle provided the illustrations for the lead story, History in The Making, pages 4-9.

Alumni, keep in touch!
Update your contact information at www.ringling.edu/alumni and let us know what’s new in your life. You may also email us at alumni@ringling.edu.

We encourage comments and questions about CONTXT
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Production Notes
The inks, coatings, and varnishes used in this issue of CONTXT are formulated with significant amounts of bio-derived, renewable resources, including vegetable oils such as linseed oil, resins based on tall oil or gum rosin, and alkyds derived from vegetable oils. The paper used in this issue of CONTXT is Endurance Recycled Silk. It is a sustainably produced paper that comes from responsibly managed forests.

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