

College of Fine Arts FY09 Annual Report And Plans for FY10

Good morning, Colleagues:

The College of Fine Arts acknowledges the leadership of each of the units for their thoughtful work in providing the lion's share of this report –

Director of the School of Art, Tony Crowley,  
Director of the School of Music, Stephen Parsons,  
Director of the School of Theatre, John Poole,  
Director of the Program in Arts Technology, Shari Zeck,  
Director of University Galleries, Barry Blinderman, and  
General Manager of the Center for the Performing Arts,  
Brandon Burling.

The Dean's Office is also comprised of dedicated employees who helped coordinate this presentation –  
Kathryn Anderson, Lin Hinds, Pete Guither, Laurie Merriman,  
and John Walker.

The rest of the college presents their case to me..

And then, as Dean of the College of Fine Arts, I am the self-proclaimed  
“Mouth Piece” and advocate for the College.

The College of Fine Arts continues to thrive. We are a community of artists, students, educators, problem solvers, researchers, writers, collaborators, all working together. We are active and enthusiastic members of Illinois State University and continue to flourish in part because of the support provided by many of you in this room.

The arts offer valuable ways of knowing and thinking that no other subject provides. The arts provide the means to analyze and experience life and learning on a multi-sensory level. The contributions of the College of Fine Arts enrich many lives through the uniqueness of their ideas, interpretations, understandings, and performances. We are proud to mentor, teach, and guide future artists while also stimulating and engaging artistic insights in the general student population at Illinois State University.

The overriding goals of the College of Fine Arts are:

- 1) To educate students as artists;
- 2) To educate students as elementary, secondary and higher education teachers, and as researchers in the arts;
- 3) To educate students as lifelong audience members for the arts;
- 4) To create studio and performing arts works that support the College's educational mission and which contribute to the cultural life of the citizens of Illinois.

There's another role played by the College of Fine Arts.

**Fabric.**

No, I'm not talking about band uniforms, or the costumes in "Evita" opening next week, but about being an integral part of the fabric of the University and the greater community.

The College of Fine Arts is like a shiny thread woven through the entire fabric, making it stronger and more beautiful at the same time.

Pep bands and the Big Red Marching Machine, music at commencement, Art in campus buildings, helping to produce athletic events... You've seen us at Family Weekend and Homecoming and you heard Alum Troy McKay as both a talented artist and an articulate representative of the University. Madrigal dinners helped bring an enlarged constituency to the new Alumni Center, and the University Galleries regularly serves as the living room for all the University.

The children and families in our community are served by Saturday morning art classes and creative drama classes, by the singing Redbirds, the String Project, and by Community School for the Arts. In the summertime, the Shakespeare Festival provides extensive free programming for children and free green-shows for families. Concerts on the Quad are also available to the campus and the community.

Our students, faculty, and staff not only gladly learn and teach, but they also gladly serve, and that makes them an important part of the fabric of this institution.

**[Slide: FY 09 Challenges and Accomplishments: Facilities]**

Now with a second Governor proposing the Fine Arts Complex in his budget, we are hopeful that five years from now we can all enjoy an aesthetically pleasing, well functioning complex (and the library can finally start working on *their* much-needed project). While we dream and retain hope for an improved Fine Arts facility, we'll wait until it actually gets passed before breaking ground. However, we are aware that this is our time in the Fine Arts

We've also achieved concrete success in dealing with short-term facilities-related challenges in delivering instruction.

Confronted with the approaching demolition of McCormick Hall and its two dance studios, the college faced a crisis. The only space large enough to function as a dedicated dance studio within the School of Theatre was a room heavily used by three other programs in the School. We were facing a massive domino effect, but with no other underutilized spaces to move into. Our own faculty in the college (led by Dan Browder), created an extraordinarily innovative solution by finding ways to renovate other over-taxed facilities in the School of Theatre so they actually provide more useful space.

Centennial East 116 was adapted into a full dance studio, and Centennial West 202 became a combined acting classroom and lighting laboratory. Here's where it got interesting. The old Westhoff seats were removed, the floor leveled and the balcony walled off, and Westhoff Theatre became a flexible thrust theatre at night, and a movement classroom during the day, with a seating section that moves twice each day to convert the space. Dressing rooms were added in the former balcony to service dance classes, movement classes, and theatre productions. While these are partial solutions to the larger College facilities challenge, the important thing is that instruction has been allowed to continue uninterrupted. I want to thank Sheri Noren Everts and the Office of the Provost for their pivotal assistance. Specifically we need to thank Jan Murphy, Kay Moss, Barb Blake and Chuck McGuire for helping to make this all happen.

## **[Slide: Students & Faculty]**

The points of pride for the College are numerous and center around our students and faculty:

1. Annual College of Fine Arts baccalaureate degrees confirmed increased 22% in the last four years and total credit hours generated also increased.
2. The average ACT scores for 2008 enrolled freshmen in all areas of the College of Fine Arts were above the University average.
3. The average high school GPA for enrolled freshmen in the School of Music and the School of Art were above the University average.
4. Although fine arts students make up only about 5% of the entire university enrollment, in the fall of 2008, College of Fine Arts students comprised 8% of the total number of students enrolled in the Honors Program AND
5. they comprise approximately 25% of the campus' freshman Presidential Scholars...

6. An original print by Nick Satinover was selected by the International Print Center for its annual exhibition, selected from a pool of nearly 2,000 submissions.
7. Works by Sean Roosevelt and Shawn Prokes published in *2009 American Corporate Identity*, an annual collection of outstanding work by student designers.
8. Joe Madrigal, was awarded the Bronze prize in the Taiwan Ceramics Biennale in Taipei, Taiwan.
9. The School of Music's "Secondary Dominance" was selected to compete in a national a-cappella festival.
10. Something unprecedented in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region III history -- all the major awards in the 5-state region were swept by Illinois State University this year. The following will be in Washington, DC next month competing for national honors.
  - Acting winner: Ryan Hallahan, with partner Matt Kerrigan
  - Acting winner: Max Gannet, with partner Matt Gorkis
  - Acting alternate: Annie Rix, with partner Ken Mooney(Note: Each region selects two winners and one alternate. Yes, they were all from Illinois State.) Also:
  - Directing Competition: Bob Quinlan
  - Dramaturge Competition: Neal Ryan Shaw
11. The multi-media work of Arts Technology students and alums was featured in the first Arts Technology exhibit at University Galleries this summer: Test Pattern Sound Check
12. The Improv Mafia (Registered Student Organization) was the 2008 Winner of the National College Improv Comedy Competition and was invited to attend and present at Aspen Comedy Festival in June, 2009. They just celebrated their 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a special show on campus featuring a host of improv alums.

**[Slide: Additional Accomplishments  
CFA Faculty]**

1. College of Fine Arts specifically works to foster a rich and diverse culture with our faculty, that places a high value on the full spectrum of creative inquiry, including basic and applied research, the scholarship of learning and teaching, and creative expression in all its forms. Here is just a very small portion of the productivity of our faculty. In addition to other creative endeavors, they were published in a variety of books and professional publications last year.
2. They presented papers at professional conferences and other universities, and were panel members and guest speakers.
3. They received artist residencies.
4. School of Art faculty members were represented in solo exhibits, group exhibitions, individual catalogs, and group catalogs, and they served as jurors and curators.
5. School of Music faculty members gave master classes; performed solo, band, orchestra, and ensemble performances off-campus. They were guest performers, jurors and adjudicators; they had compositions performed in concert and had recordings and compositions published.
6. School of Theatre faculty had professional design and acting credits, taught master classes, and served as professional jurors and adjudicators.

**[Slide: Program accomplishments]**

1. The Illinois Shakespeare Festival was one of only 16 national theatre festivals that achieved a balanced budget this year. Attendance and ticket revenue were up this year.
2. The Program in Arts Technology's show rate for admitted freshman this year was 88%.
3. Due to the recruitment efforts of faculty, School of Music major auditions are up by 100 students over last year.
4. Normal Editions Workshop's book publication, *Marks from the Matrix*, was a Bronze Medal Winner in the 2008 Independent Publisher Book Awards.
5. The School of Theatre was the lead sponsor of *Shakespeare Behind Bars*, which filled the theatre to 95% capacity.
6. An articulation agreement between the School of Art and the graphic design program at Parkland Community College has been established - the first of its kind in the College.

## **[Slide: Fundraising and Advancement Efforts]**

The Friends of the Arts hosted its second annual successful Postcard Art fundraising event – bringing in over \$14,000, with one incredible 4” by 6” artwork by Distinguished Professor Jim Butler fetching \$675. This event not only raises funds, but also serves as an important social evening with our special Friends -- with refreshments and performances by College students and faculty.

We’ve continued advancing with our endowment accounts, including new accounts for the Farlee Scholarship and the Ed Livingston Grand Puba Tuba Fund.

The college is in its second year hosting an Emeriti Luncheon and we’ve made great stride in including Emeriti Faculty in all aspects of College life.

In Fall 2009, there will be a major benefit for the Big Red Marching Machine, and starting in Fall 2010, the College of Fine Arts will be celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, with an entire year of special events featuring Illinois State University alumni.

Our fundraising efforts are progressing, but we are operating without a Development Director, and if we are to make the kind of progress over the next few years that is not only necessary, but quite doable, we desperately need the assistance of a full time Director of Development.

**[Slide: Goals for FY '10: Faculty and Personnel for the College]**

School of Art:

Replacement positions in Metals, Teacher Education, and Lithography, plus an A/P or Civil Service technician.

School of Music:

Replacement positions in Music Therapy, Trombone, and Theory/Composition, plus non-tenure-track position in Jazz, and an A/P or Civil Service advisor

School of Theatre:

Replacement positions in Directing, Theatre History, Stage Management, plus a new Sound Design position, and a non-tenure-track position in movement.

Arts Technology:

A new position in Visual Arts, plus a non-tenure-track line for visiting scholars

College-wide:

Graduate Assistantships and a ½ time lab manager

**[Slide: Goals for FY '10: Faculty and Personnel for the College]**

The College of Fine Arts Enhancement Needs range from the salary for a staff member to focus on grants, to a Digital Working and Printing Center, to Marketing support for the College.

**[SLIDE: ADDITIONAL MAJOR OBJECTIVES FOR FY10]**

**[Slide: Improve student recruitment, admission, and retention]**

Student recruitment, admission, and retention are always top priorities for the College.

We now have a College Advisement Committee to improve advisement practices across the College, and a College Recruitment Committee to share and develop creative and effective recruitment techniques.

Scholarships are also essential in our efforts to attract quality students, and we're extremely grateful to the University for its vital assistance in this area.

The College of Fine Arts will always face the challenge of finding enough merit-based scholarships to balance critical need areas, where it is not sufficient merely to find a student of outstanding quality, but you must find one who also is an accomplished cellist.

In critical needs areas, if we cannot find (or buy) students in highly competitive skill areas, then our ability to provide proper instruction to the rest of our students is significantly hampered.

*[wait for slides]*

**[Slide: Continue to review curriculum and instruction in all areas]**

Curriculum review and revitalization is ongoing in the College. Specific strategies to improve curriculum and instruction next year include revising the Arts Technology curriculum, and continuing the dialog in the College about the assessment of teaching.

**[Slide: Increase support for faculty research and professional travel.]**

The College has an exceptionally active faculty in all areas of research, performance, and studio arts. In order to help them reach their potential and to retain the highest achieving faculty, an increased emphasis on faculty research and travel is crucial.

The appointment of Laurie Merriman as Assistant Dean to focus on grant writing is an essential part of fulfilling this goal.

## [Slide: What's Next?]

The uncertainty of knowing about the capital budget, and the continuing efforts to put band-aids on existing facilities (hearing my assistant and other Chatters members compare horror stories of water features and collapsing ceilings) – all these things can be frustrating when it comes to facilities. However, we also see this as a time of great opportunity in terms of the Fine Arts and facilities and we see this opportunity as a way that we can contribute some more “shiny threads” to the fabric of the University and the Community.

An Illinois State University presence in Uptown Normal will finally put an end to our architectural history of presenting our backside to the community. While the university has been working hard to change that image, having University Galleries, a theatre and WGLT in Uptown Normal will take us even further from being *in* Normal to being a *part of* Normal.

Having the arts in the streets of uptown Normal will help vitalize the town and do wonders for Illinois State University outreach...

Another shiny thread that will make the fabric stronger is a world-class Cultural Series in Braden Auditorium, managed by the College of Fine Arts and supported by a Fine Arts fee. We have a facility in Bone Student Center that has not lived up to its potential, we have the artistic expertise to program it in the College of Fine Arts, and we have the geographical location to draw people from all directions to Illinois State University. There is no need to cede the arts programming crown to Krannert Center at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

With the Illinois State University Center for the Performing Arts, the Uptown Normal University Galleries and Theatre, the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and the Braden Cultural Series, we can, over the next four to five years, make Illinois State University the cultural center of Illinois, increasing the economic vitality of Bloomington-Normal, and positioning Illinois State University in yet one more way as the University of choice – for students, for faculty, for donors.

Yes, we can, and we will, be an even greater part of the fabric of the University and the community.

**In closing, it is my pleasure to be in the Office of the Dean in the College of Fine Arts. I enjoy coming to work every day where collaboratively we attempt to make great things happen for our students and the University. Our purpose is to deliver the instruction and the service appropriate for this great institution. It is my hope to provide the kind of environment where students, faculty and staff will look forward to coming to campus, doing what they do, often until late at night, often seven days a week. The administration within the College is dedicated to doing all it can to facilitate these “good things.”**

**THANK YOU**