

NEWSLETTER



FROM THE DIRECTOR

We can only fit a small slice of life at the Center into the pages of this newsletter, but I hope it still manages to convey the exhilarating momentum of the school.



In this issue we report on:

- the achievements of the Nine-month Comprehensive students at CraftBoston
- the expanding outreach of the Messler Gallery through traveling and juried shows
- the emerging vitality of the Studio Fellowship Program, as evidenced in our current exhibition
- the acquisition of land to provide a facility for finishing and metalwork

You will also notice that the Board of Directors is proactively looking to the future needs of the school. The planning process in which we are engaged is fundamentally a process of self-definition and assessment. Who are we today, what do we aim to achieve, and why does it matter?

One of the wonderful qualities of the school is that it has grown organically around its mission, much as a species evolves around its DNA. If I were to distill the identity of the school into one sentence today, it would be this: We are a not-for-profit educational organization that promotes excellence in wood craftsmanship and contemporary design as transformational explorations of the human spirit.

That statement encapsulates, for me, who we are and what we want to accomplish, but there is a lot more to say about why it matters. Harry Fraser, C.E.O. of Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers, provided a key piece of the "why" sitting in my office just the other day, when he told me, "I support the people who come here and what you're doing because I think it has value in the social structure of the world."

Finally, allow me to observe that the summer Workshop season is upon us and enrollment is at an all-time high. Even so, there are still plenty of course opportunities to justify a trip to Rockport this summer. Penobscot Bay beckons, so give us a call!

— Peter Korn

GALLERY GROWS LEGS

The Messler Gallery enters new territory in terms of reach and effectiveness with two upcoming exhibitions. *Far From the Tree*, which opens in September, will subsequently travel to museums and nonprofit galleries around the country. *Maine Wood 2008*, which opens in late November, is a collaborative effort that unites every major woodworking organization in the state.

FAR FROM THE TREE

Far From the Tree presents contemporary woodturning in an historical perspective. It is curated by eminent wood turner Jacques Vesery, of Damariscotta, Maine and independent curator Kevin Wallace, of Los Angeles, California. At the center of the exhibit are pioneering artists, such as Bob Stocksdale, Rude Osolnik, James Prestini, and Mel Lindquist, who focused on the natural beauty of wood by utilizing simple vessel forms. From that core, in widening orbits, radiates the work of influential artists who have expanded the language of the medium in bold new directions, from the painterly to the sculptural.

Following its opening at the Messler Gallery, *Far From the Tree* travels to the American Association of Woodturners Exhibition Gallery in St. Paul, Minnesota from January 11 – April 18, 2008. Next it goes to the Ohio Craft Museum, in Columbus, Ohio, from July 13 – August 24, 2008. Then, it moves to the Southern Ohio Museum, in Portsmouth, Ohio, for the months of September and October, 2008. After that, the show is tentatively scheduled to appear at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft from mid-November, 2008 through mid-February, 2009.

Far From the Tree is the Messler Gallery's second traveling show. *Getting Personal: Maine Architects Design Furniture* opened at the Messler Gallery last year and will be at the Portland Museum of Art this summer in juxtaposition to another show of architect-designed furnishings: *Frank Lloyd Wright and the House Beautiful*.

"Whether one calls woodworking at this level art or craft, the works exhibited in the Messler Gallery are an eloquent expression of the human spirit, and that is what we would like to share with a wider audience," says Board President Rick Kellogg.

MAINE WOOD 2008

Eleven of Maine's leading crafts organizations have joined together to sponsor *Maine Wood 2008*—the first-ever statewide, juried exhibition of contemporary Maine woodworking. The exhibit will take place at the Messler Gallery from November 29, 2007 through March 14, 2008. Maine furniture makers,

Continued on page 2

CENTER for FURNITURE CRAFTSMANSHIP

is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) educational organization.

Our mission is to provide the best possible education for people who want to design and build functional, beautiful, expressive work out of wood to the highest standard of craftsmanship.

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Center for Furniture Craftsmanship does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin or sexual orientation.

GALLERY GROWS LEGS (continued)

turners, carvers, and sculptors are encouraged to submit work for consideration by the deadline of August 10.

Sponsoring organizations include the Bangor Woodworkers Association, Center for Furniture Craftsmanship, Kennebec Valley Woodworkers Association, Maine Crafts Association, Maine Wood Carvers Association, Maine Wood Products Association, Maine Woodnet, Maine Woodturners Association, Maine Woodworkers Association, Midcoast Woodworkers, and Western Mountain Woodturners.

More than \$2,000 in prize money is being awarded in the form of gift certificates from corporate sponsors. These include \$500 from Lie-Nielsen Toolworks of Warren, Maine for Jurors' Best-in-Show and \$500 from Holt & Bugbee in Tewksbury, Massachusetts for the People's Choice Award. Maine Coast Lumber in York, Maine is offering a \$350 award for Best New Maker, for which exhibitors who have not previously shown at the Messler Gallery are eligible. Other awards

include \$250 from Fat Andy's Hardwoods in Yarmouth, Maine for Outstanding Craftsmanship, \$250 from Northland Forest Products in Kingston, New Hampshire for Best in Furniture, and \$250 from Certainly Wood in Aurora, New York for Best Use of Veneer.

The jurors for *Maine Wood 2008* are noted author and furniture maker Garrett Hack, of Thetford Center, Vermont, and noted furniture maker, turner, and sculptor Beth Ireland of Roslindale, Massachusetts.

The exhibition has three goals:

1. To educate the public about the breadth and creativity of contemporary wood craftsmanship in Maine
2. To provide Maine woodworkers with an opportunity to put their best work before the public
3. To promote the artistic and economic development of Maine's growing community of fine woodworkers

Application information for *Maine Wood 2008* can be downloaded from the school's web site at www.woodschoo.org.

CATAWAMTEAK LAND GIFT

Through the generosity of the Catawamteak Fund of Maine of the Maine Community Foundation, the Center is purchasing a critically-located parcel of land adjacent to the southwestern end of the parking lot and the Jackson Building.

"This is by far the best possible location for the next building on campus, both aesthetically and functionally," said Executive Director Peter Korn.

The Board of Directors has identified the need for an auxiliary building to house a

dedicated finishing facility, a small metal-working shop, a garage, and a place to air-dry timber. However, the purchase contract for the .7 acre parcel stipulates that no construction can take place for a year and a half after closing.

"That will give us time to address new needs that may surface, before we commit to a final design for the building," commented Board President Rick Kellogg. "Our sincere thanks to the donors for their foresight and initiative."



Marti Stone Photography

Intrepid Comprehensive students (left to right) Ben Richmond, Ben Branscom, Cody Grimes, and Ben Bogie put their carving skills to use representing the Center at the Camden Winterfest Community Ice Carving Contest in February.

FACULTY NEWS SPRING 2007

In March, **Bruce Beeken** (Shelburne, Vermont) and Jeff Parsons of Beeken Parsons exhibited their work at the Architectural Digest Home Design Show in New York. ■ **Ted Blachly** (Warner, New Hampshire) will have two pieces in "Art Unfolding: New Works by the New Hampshire Furniture Masters," opening August 1 at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord. Other exhibitors include **Tim Coleman**, **Garrett Hack**, **Terry Moore** (Newport, New Hampshire), **Brian Reid** (Warren, Maine), **Bill Thomas** (Rindge, New Hampshire), and **David Uphill-Brown** (Rockport, Maine). ■ **Brian Boggs** (Berea, Kentucky) has expanded his shop to include an upstairs finishing area and is also building an addition. His article, "Low-cost Scraper Plane," appeared in *Fine Woodworking's* recent Tools & Shops issue. ■ A reproduction Hepplewhite Sideboard by **Chris Burtis** (Bath, Maine) appears in the Readers Gallery of the June 2007 issue of *Fine Woodworking*. ■ **Ed Churchill** (Augusta, Maine) is officially retiring as Chief Curator of the Maine State Museum, but will continue to develop its permanent "At Home in Maine" exhibit. Also, Ed and two colleagues have begun research for "The History of Beds in America, 1640-1900." ■ **Tim Coleman** (Shelburne, Massachusetts) had a cabinet in Pritam & Eames' Early Spring Show in Easthampton, New York and is also represented in Sharada Gallery's Spring show in Hudson, New York. ■ **David Colwell** (Powys, Wales) designed the interior furnishings for the just-completed Ludlow Food Centre at Bromfield, a flagship project for a new brand of locally produced foods, housing integrated production and retail spaces. ■ A feature article about **Jerry Curry** (Union, Maine) appears in the June 2007 issue of *Woodwork* magazine. ■ **Ross Day** (Poulsbo, Washington) spent a month in Japan this past Fall where he attended the Japanese Handplaning Championships and was given the opportunity of taking a couple of honorary strokes. ■ **Charlie Durfee** (Woolwich, Maine) wrote "Japanese-style Dovetail Saws" for *Fine Woodworking's* Tools & Shops issue. ■ **Michael Fortune** (Lakefield, Ontario) is

the 2007 recipient of the Furniture Society's Award of Distinction. ■ **John Reed Fox** (Acton, Massachusetts) was an exhibitor at the Smithsonian Craft Show this past April, as was **Craig Stevens** (Sunbury, Ohio). ■ This summer, **Linden Frederick** (Belfast, Maine) is riding a bicycle from Seattle to Boston as part of his two-year project, "American Studies," which will culminate in a show



Studio Fellowship Coordinator Brian Reid (left) and Visiting Artist Dean Pulver (El Prado, New Mexico) enjoy a late evening moment in the Jackson Building during Dean's Fellowship this past winter.

of the same title at Forum Gallery in New York in the Fall of 2008. The show will comprise 50 or more images painted on 12 x 12 inch panels representing an overview of the American landscape. ■ **Stephen Gleasner** (Appleton, Maine) is having a solo show at the Dane Gallery on Nantucket from May 31 – June 30. "Making Sense of Vises" by **Garrett Hack** (Thetford Center, Vermont) appears in the June 2007 issue of *Fine Woodworking*. ■ **David Haig** (Nelson, New Zealand) was featured in a recent article in the *Australian Wood Review* (issue 53) and has just completed an article for them titled, "Curving Solid Wood." ■ **Wayne Hall** (Bucksport, Maine) will be an exhibitor at the Berkshires Arts Festival in Great Barrington, Mass. from July 6-8. ■ A cabinet made by **Michael Hurwitz** (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) for the "Inspired by China" Exhibition at the Peabody Essex Museum appeared on

back cover of *Fine Woodworking's* February 2007 issue. ■ This fall, work by **David Klenk** (Gray, Maine) will be on display at the College of the Redwoods' 25th Anniversary Show at the Highlight Gallery in Mendocino, California. ■ **Silas Kopf** was an invited speaker at the second international Marquetry Symposium in Vadstena, Sweden, May 10-12. ■ **Peter Korn** (Rockland, Maine) will participate on two panels at the Furniture Society's annual conference in Victoria, British Columbia this June. Other presenters include **John Dunnigan** (N. Kingston, Rhode Island), **Michael Fortune**, **Miguel Gomez-Ibanez** (Weston, Massachusetts), **Michael Hosaluk** (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan), **Tom Hucker** (Jersey City, New Jersey), **Jere Osgood** (Wilton, New Hampshire), and **Peter Pierobon**. ■ **Alan Lacer** (River Falls, Wisconsin) will have work in two exhibits sponsored by the American Association of Woodturners this year: "Turning Green" and "Japanese Bowls: A Western Perspective." ■ **Andrew Lawton** (Grindelford, England) was one of seven makers short-listed for the 2006 Wood Awards for his Janus Chest of Drawers. ■ **Phil Lowe** (Beverly, Mass.) was featured as the cover story of the April issue of *Woodshop News*. ■ **Teri Masaschi's** (Tijeras, New Mexico) article, "Dyes Can Do It All," appeared in the April 2007 issue of *Fine Woodworking*. **Austin Matheson** (Rockport, Maine) and his wife Kassia, had their first child, a baby boy named Kane, on May 3. ■ Felted, lacquered bowls made by **Clifton Monteith** (Lake Ann, Michigan) in collaboration with Jorie Johnson were recently exhibited in "Timeless Vessels" at the Society of Arts & Crafts in Boston. ■ A wall piece by **Julie Moringello** (Stonington, Maine), titled "Lily White," will be in a juried show that opens at Isalos Fine Art in Stonington on July 6th. ■ **Peter Pierobon** (North Vancouver, British Columbia) recently had a one-person show at the David Kaye Gallery in Toronto. ■ **Michael Puryear** (Shokan, New York) was a panelist at the Center for Craft Creativity and



Visiting Instructor David Colwell (Powys, Wales, U.K.) conducts the final critique for the Nine-month Comprehensive chair project.

Design's 2007 "Think Tank" in Hendersonville, North Carolina. He was also the subject of an article in the April 2007 issue of *Woodwork*, titled, "Inspired by China: an Interview with Michael Puryear." ■ **Chris Pye** (Hereford, England) will soon be carving the Shrine of St. Thomas Cantaloupe at Hereford Cathedral. Chris' new book, 'Woodcarving Projects and Techniques' will be released by GMC Publications in June. ■ **Kevin Rodel** (Pownal, Maine) wrote "Arts and Crafts Side Chair" for the April 2007 issue of *Fine Woodworking*. He has just completed a major commission to design furnishings for the visitors' center of the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. Much of the work was built by **Tim Rousseau** (Appleton, Maine), **Austin Matheson** (Rockport, Maine), and **Eric Hurt** (Portland, Maine). ■ Three sculptures by **Betty Scarpino** (Indianapolis, Indiana) were in the American Art Company's 7th Annual Sculptural Wood Exhibit, in Tacoma, Washington, this Spring. ■ **James Schriber** (New Milford, Connecticut) has work in the group show "Small Tables" at Boston's Gallery Naga through June 2. Also, James curated "Student and Teacher," which is at the Silo Gallery in New Milford, Connecticut through July 8. ■ **Carter Sio** (Newtown, Pennsylvania) is on sabbatical from his teaching position at the George School and is spending two months as a Studio Fellow at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship. ■ **Craig Stevens** (Sunbury, Ohio) is teaching a workshop in Japan. ■ **Al Stirt** (Enosburg Falls, Vermont) is a featured speaker at the American Association of Woodturners Symposium this June in Portland, Oregon. ■ **Peter Turner** (South Portland, Maine) will show at the Directions: Maine Crafts Guild, Bar Harbor Show, August 3-5. ■ **Toby Winteringham** (King's Lynn, England) has been asked to sit on the Craft Guild Mark committee for the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers, a City Guild based in London. "Precision Jig for Precise Joints," an article by Toby, appeared in the April 2007 issue of *Fine Woodworking*. ■ Work by **Jacques Vesery** (Damariscotta, Maine) may be seen in "Turned & Sculpted Wood" at the del Mano Gallery in Los Angeles, July 28 – August 25. ■ **Stewart Wurtz** (Seattle, Washington) has been invited to participate in the exhibition "Cascadia" at the Maltwood Art Museum & Gallery in Victoria, British Columbia, from June 15 to Aug. 20.

BOARD INITIATES PLANNING STUDY

The Board of Directors of the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship has retained PS Harris Associates of South Portland, Maine to conduct a planning study. The study is the most recent step in a process that began two years ago, when the Board convened a Long-range Planning Committee to examine the challenges and opportunities the school is likely to encounter over the next five to ten years.

The Long-range Planning Committee was chaired by Bill Stengel and included Bob Fippinger, Mark Horowitz, Rick Kellogg, Peter Korn, Craig Satterlee, and John Tuton. The committee considered all aspects of the school, such as governance, outreach, finance, faculty, staffing, marketing, enrollment, housing, programming, financial aid, scholarships, accreditation, succession, and facilities.

The report from the Long-range Planning Committee to the full Board

identified specific issues as being critical to the future quality of the school's programs, including faculty retention, financial aid, and strengthening and growing the Studio Fellowship Program.

For the study conducted by PS Harris, more than 30 alumni and donors are being interviewed to get their opinions and ideas about how the Board should proceed in its continuing efforts to strengthen the programs and the school. The study is being guided by an Oversight Committee that includes Board members Karen Cadbury, Bill Stengel, and Joan Welsh, and community members Joe Higdon and Dyke Messler. Executive Director Peter Korn also serves on the Oversight Committee.

Recommendations of the planning study will be reviewed by the Board of Directors in the summer of 2007.

COMPREHENSIVE STUDENTS AT CRAFTBOSTON

At the end of March, the Nine-month Comprehensive class participated as exhibitors in the prestigious CraftBoston crafts show, sponsored by the Society of Arts and Crafts. For the event, the students designed and set up a 10' x 25' booth (shown below) featuring completed projects from the first six months of their course.

The entire CraftBoston project was done at the students' initiative, from renting the space and designing the booth, to transport, set up, staffing, and tear down. Their purpose was to gain real-world experience in professional practices, including interacting with the public, making sales, and testing market response to their work.

During the three days of the show, the air around the booth seemed to be charged with electricity. There were always four to eight students ready to engage visitors and the public response was hugely validating. Several major pieces and a number of smaller items sold, plus at least four students took orders for their work.

Students Ben Branscom and Jack Rodie chaired the effort, and the teamwork of the entire group was outstanding. Exhibiting students included Ben Bogie, Jordan Charney, Mike Cyphers, Aaron Fedarko, Cody Grimes, Dan Griggs, Silas Holmes, Ted Hukill, Liz Phillips, Ben Richmond, Liz Vera, and Ric Washburn.



The Nine-month Comprehensive students' booth at CraftBoston, ready for throngs of admirers

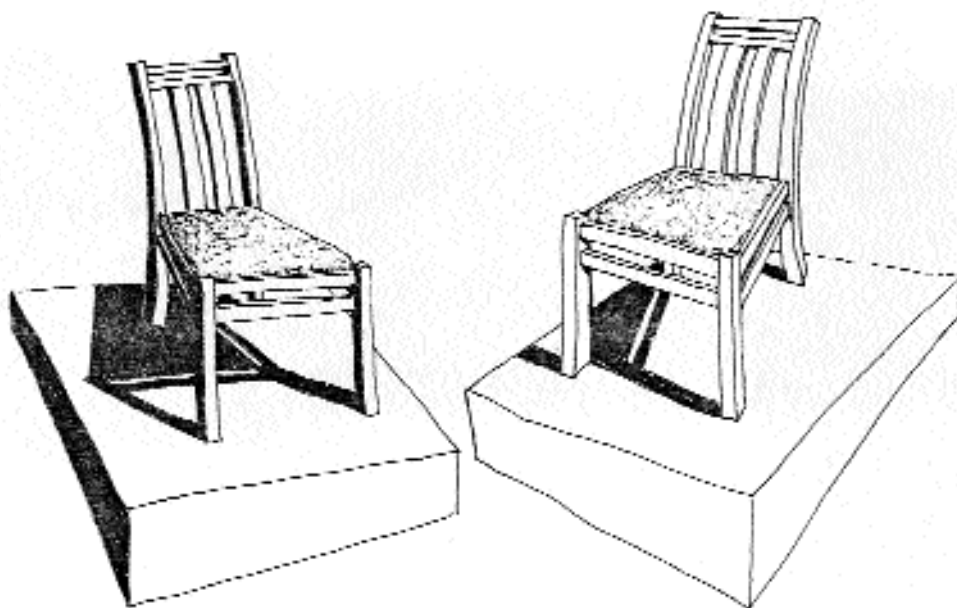
A L U M N I N E W S

Nine-month Comprehensive students **Ben Bogie**, **Ben Branscom**, **Jordan Charney**, **Mike Cyphers**, **Aaron Fedarko**, **Silas Holmes**, **Ben Richmond**, **Jack Rodie**, and **Liz Vera** will be exhibiting at the Silo Gallery in New Milford, Conn., along with instructors **Tim Rousseau** and **Brian Reid** in "Students and Teachers," from May 19 through July 8. ■ A cabinet by **Mike Boillot** (Tempe, Arizona) was featured in *Woodwork* magazine's Gallery section (February 2007 issue). ■ **Bruce Christenson** (Lower Hutt, New Zealand) will be serving a ten-week apprenticeship with chairmaker Brian Boggs this summer. ■ **Mike Dreesen** (Boxford, Massachusetts) is working at Fox Brothers Furniture Studio in Newburyport. ■ **Jesse Fisher** (Salt Spring Island, British Columbia) is a self-employed furniture maker. His work can be seen at www.jessefisher.ca. ■ A table made by **Dave Frechette** (Barnet, Vermont) during his Nine-month Comprehensive course appeared on the cover of *Woodshop News'* 20th Anniversary issue this past December. ■ A cherry secretary by **Phil Karsell** (Rochester, Minnesota) is featured in the Gallery at the Taunton Press website (www.finewoodworking.com.) Phil's Piano Desk will be published in the August issue of *Woodwork* magazine. ■ **Tim Lawson** (Port Townsend, Washington) has a new website for his wood-working business, Whitebox Studio, at www.timlawson.net. ■ A jewelry box by **Chris Mann** (Arlington, Virginia), built during his Twelve-week Intensive, was featured in the Readers Gallery of the April 2007 issue of *Fine Woodworking*. ■ A sideboard built by **Pat Megowan** (Corvallis, Washington) during his 2006 Twelve-week Intensive was featured in the Readers' Gallery of the February 2007 issue of *Fine Woodworking*. ■ A table by **T.J. Mifflin** (South Portland, Maine) has been accepted to appear in the Furniture Society's annual journal, "Studio Furniture, Volume 5: The Meaning of Craft." ■ **Mark Moskovitz** (University Heights, Ohio) introduced a series called Future Perfect in a show titled "Side by Side" at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA Cleveland). ■ **Mikey Pumphrey**, **Libby Schrum**, **Kristen Terpening**, and **Tyler Vroman** are all employed at Lyman Morse Boatbuilding Company in Thomaston, Maine. ■ **Rollo Scott** (Rockport, Maine) is working for William Evans Cabinetmakers in Waldoboro, Maine. ■ **Paul Stefanski** has opened his own business, Woodspace Furniture Studio, in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.

WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE

These workshops still had at least one opening as of May 20:

June 4-8	INTRODUCTION TO BOWL TURNING	Ernie Conover
June 18-29	INTERMEDIATE FURNITURE MAKING	Peter Shepard & Peter Turner
June 18-22	SCULPTURAL CARVING	Chris Pye
July 2-13	FURNITURE DESIGN ON THE COMPUTER	Denis Cormier
July 16-27	CABINETS AND CASEPIECES	Jerry Curry & Rod Wales
July 16-20	INTRODUCTION TO TURNING	Stephen Gleasner
July 23-27	FORM AND DETAIL	Michael Mocho
July 30 - Aug. 3	REALLY BASIC WOODWORKING	Liza Wheeler
August 13-24	STRUCTURE AND DESIGN	Tom Hucker & Michael Hurwitz
August 13-17	WOODTURNING FOR BEGINNERS	Beth Ireland
August 20-24	TURNING FOR FURNITURE	Nick Cook
Sept. 10-21	DESIGN AND CRAFTSMANSHIP	Ted Blachly & Jere Osgood
Sept. 10-14	WOODTURNING FUNDAMENTALS	Alan Lacer
Sept. 24 - Oct. 5	ADVANCED FURNITURE MAKING	John Fox & Craig Stevens
Sept. 24-28	BASKETS, SPHERES, & SCULPTURAL WORK	Christian Burchard
October 1-5	THE UNPLUGGED WOODSHOP	Tom Caspar
October 8-19	BASIC WOODWORKING	Peter Korn & Craig Satterlee
October 8-12	MARQUETRY AND CHIP CARVING	Craig Stevens



Chair and Chair Alike

MESSLER GALLERY NEWS

CURRENTLY SHOWING

CELEBRATING THE STUDIO FELLOWSHIP
April 27 – June 22, 2007

“Celebrating the Studio Fellowship” annually presents the work of current and former participants in the Center’s Studio Fellowship Program.

This year’s fourteen exhibitors include Joe Brewer, Kevin Gill, John Godfrey, Eric Hurt, Chloris Lowe, Mikey Pumphrey, Dean Pulver, Brian Reid, Tim Rousseau, Libby Schrum, Jesse Shaw, Carter Sio, Kristin Terpening and Akiko Yokoyama. From the graceful bends of Akiko’s stool, to Mikey’s conceptually-driven Divorce Chest, the pieces exhibit the accomplished design, bold creativity, and excellence in craftsmanship that have become hallmarks of the Center.

Since 1996, Studio Fellowships have provided advanced creative opportunities to talented young woodworkers and mid-career artists. Fellows receive free studio space at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship plus open access to all of the school’s other resources, such as faculty, equipment, the Messler Gallery, and the Fine Woodworking Library.

Messler Gallery hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Saturdays. Pieces from the exhibition can also be viewed on the Center’s website, at www.woodschooll.org.

UPCOMING SHOWS

NEW WORK BY FACULTY
June 29 – September 6, 2007
Once again, luminous work from some of the finest makers around the world

FAR FROM THE TREE
September 14 – November 22, 2007
An evolutionary view of contemporary woodturning, curated by Kevin Wallace and Jacques Vesery

MAINE WOOD 2008
November 29, 2007 – March 14, 2008
A juried exhibition of outstanding work by contemporary Maine furniture makers, turners, carvers, and sculptors

CALL FOR ENTRIES

MAINE WOOD 2008

*An exhibition of outstanding work by contemporary
Maine furniture makers, turners, carvers, and sculptors*

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: August 10, 2007

ENTRY FORMS: May be downloaded at www.woodschooll.org.

EXHIBITION DATES: November 29, 2007 – March 14, 2008

JURORS: Garrett Hack & Beth Ireland

AWARDS: Six prizes totaling more than \$2,000

See article on Page 1 for details.



“Celebrating the Studio Fellowship” runs until June 22nd.

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