“The team saw evidence again and again that Woodbury is not standing still, but that it is working to make its own future.”—WASC team report, p 26.

OUR REGIONAL ACCREDITING AGENCY SPEAK

The team from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges has issued their report of the visit. It gave the university some tasks to work on in order to assure the continuous improvement of student learning, but the visiting team was also “impressed with the collegiality, energy, enthusiasm, and commitment of the faculty, staff, students, and administrators with whom they met. The team was particularly struck by the focus on student success and with the ongoing steps the University is taking to meet the needs of its diverse student population. . . . There has also been at the University a strong focus on developing planning processes that will work alongside financial stability to provide ongoing support. . . . Woodbury is also to be congratulated for its ambition. The team saw evidence again and again that Woodbury is not standing still, but that it is working to make its own future. . . . Woodbury wishes to have some of its well-established programs . . . ranked as “one of the three best” nationally and the team applauds the University for setting this ambitious goal (26-27). See full report online at http://my.woodbury.edu/SiteDirectory/WRSC/CPR/WASC%20Response/2008%20WASC%20Response%20to%20CPR.pdf

AWARDS FOR WOODBURY FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS

May Routh, fashion design faculty, will receive the first Excellence in Costume Design Award from the Costume Society of American in New Orleans this May. One of her costumes for the film Ronin was featured in the 2005 Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences gallery that spotlighted 50 designers and 50 costumes. May’s extensive work includes costumes for the highly acclaimed Being There. Her costumes may currently be seen in Alan Ayckbourn’s Snake in the Grass at the Matrix Theatre.

The work of Woodbury students Ryan Klinger and Karina Davtyan (“folded suture”) took one of the prizes at the American Institute of Architects Los Angeles’ exhibit 2x8:SKIN. 2x8 is an annual exhibition sponsored by the AIA/LA, showcasing exemplary student work from architecture and design institutions throughout California.

Diana Osorio, an accounting student, was one of 50 students awarded a Becker CPA Review Scholarship. Accounting professors from across the country nominated students who demonstrate high moral character and leadership qualities, aspire to achieve significant career goals, and will shortly meet CPA Exam requirements. Diana joined winners from Bentley College; Chapman University; George Washington; James Madison; University of Arkansas; University of Maryland.

The European Ceramic Work Centre (EKWC) has selected Joshua Stein, interior architecture faculty, for a three-month residency at Den Bosch Holland. He will use his residency to investigate ceramic slip-casting using plaster and CNC-milled molds derived from packaging foam. The institute selects artists, designers, and architects from around the world who explore the use of ceramics in their fields.

Yael Hellman, organizational leadership faculty, who graduated from the distinguished West Point Leadership program this fall, was selected to participate in “The Art and Practice of Leadership Development” program of the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Sage Publications has also asked her to review Peter Northouse’s new book tentatively titled Fundamentals in Leadership.
Todd Rinehart, architecture faculty, and Catherine Herbst, head of the San Diego architecture program, won a Concrete Masonry Design award in residential design for the Welton Residence in Palo Alto (left). The jury praised the integration of the interior spaces with the exterior, and the sculptural forms.

Architecture student Tiffany Dang was awarded the "Citation" award (4th place) in the 2008 Lyceum Competition, a mini-studio that was taught by Gerard Smulevich, associate professor in the School of Architecture, over a 10-week period during the spring 2008 semester. The given design problem was an inter-generational, publicly assisted housing project on Wilshire Boulevard across from Lafayette Park. Woodbury submitted a total of five projects to the competition. Among the 13 competing schools were Cooper Union, RISD, SCI-Arc, University of Cincinnati, University of Illinois-Chicago, McGill University, and University of Arizona.

On January 29, animation faculty Bill Matthews was honored by industry artists past and present at the DreamWorks Animation Studio to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of Canada's Sheridan College's animation program, which Matthews helped found. Jeffrey Katzenberg served as the evening's host and made the award.

Fashion design students Cristina Osorio, Rania Salibi, Stan Salas, Jose Galeana, Tiffany Maxwell, and architecture student Bryan Oknyansky are finalists in the Sole Perspective challenge sponsored by Bernardo Footwear. In 1947, architect Bernard Rudofsky founded the footwear company. The competition to design innovative shoes in the Rudofsky tradition is being held in conjunction with a retrospective on Rudofsky at the Getty.

**ART EXHIBITIONS BY WOODBURY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND FACULTY**

"Illusions" art show included work from Woodbury University art instructor Dr. Carol Bishop. She explored the idea of place through figurative and abstract images of landscape and architecture. Dr. Bishop’s work is well known. She was the first living American woman to exhibit in the Carousel de Louvre in Paris.

In February, Armen Tutundzhyan (below), a second-year architecture student at Woodbury University, participated in a show of 10 students from Atanian Art Center in Glendale, where he has been a student since he was 10. The exhibition called “New Vision” took place at the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church across from the university. Tutundzhyan’s work, which stylistically is influenced by Picasso, Magritte and Dali, takes as its subject human relationships and their impact on the world.

Mike Tracy, background designer and adjunct in animation, has a one-person show entitled “Tales, Toys, and 'Toons” at the San Luis Obispo Art Center. Works consist of large and small paintings, etchings, wind-up toys and a rotating display of Tracy's sketchbooks.

Megan Willis, who works with Estudio Teddy Cruz and teaches architecture at Woodbury University, displayed her thesis at Agitprop in a show, called “Urban Interventions,” which examined residual spaces in San Diego and used small-scale models to demonstrate how a little utilitarian thinking can go a long way toward increasing public access and allowing citizens to engage their city.
Arno Kroner is an animation faculty and trainer at Disney studios. His picture show “plastic ok?” runs through May 30 at the Wildfire Studios.

Wedge Gallery exhibition “A Tale of Two Queen Cities” displayed the digital murals produced collaboratively by two teams of faculty and students, one team at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, and one from Woodbury University. The team members are identified below. The exhibition ran from April 9 through 26. The project was made possible in part through a Frankel Foundation Award. Queen City West Team (Los Angeles) included the following members of Woodbury University: Ramon Ramirez, architecture faculty, and students Emily Cheng; Clinton Evans; John Huey; Eric Lopez; Chris Parsell; Vestalis Pizarro; Hector Solis.

PAPERS, PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Ani Okkasian, communications major, Tien Chia Cheng and David Anthony David, undergraduate business majors, and Jian Xia Wang, an MBA student, attended the four-day Alliance Toward Harnessing Global Opportunities (ATHGO) 5th annual Global Forum. The four-day forum on global warming was held at UCLA. Later in the spring business major Mihir Jogani joined Okkasian and David at the Third International Conference on Global Governance in Athens, Greece. The three served as interns for the conference, assisting organizers in setting up and preparing the report of the meeting. Sebastian Zacharia, director of Woodbury’s international studies program, presented a paper on “Global Governance, EU or United Nations Model.” The invitation-only conference brought together former heads of governments, CEOs of major global corporations, civil society leaders, academics, and journalists.

Sebastian Zacharia also represented the United Nations Fund for International Partnership in March at the international roundtable "Impact of Micronutrient Nutrition on Economic and Social Development in the Industrial and Developing Worlds.” Sight and Life of Basel, Switzerland, the Oxygen Club of California, and the Linus Pauling Institute of Oregon State University organized the event.

Because six members of the Woodbury community presented papers at the Lilly West Conference on College & University Teaching this March, Woodbury was recognized as an official sponsor of the professional event. Presenters from Woodbury were Nathan Garrett, institutional research, on “The Social Portfolio: Supporting Student Control and Peer Learning”; Tahmoures Afshar and Satinder Dhiman, business, on “Assessment of Excellence of Academic Advising: Lessons Learned”; and Paul Decker, director of the Institute for Excellence in Teaching & Learning, Douglas J. Cremer, director of the Institute of Transdisciplinary Studies, and Phyllis Cremer, head of student development, on “Affinity Learning Communities and Institutional Change.”

2008 International Assessment & Retention Conference has selected Anne Ehrlich, dean of students, Paul Decker, and Phyllis Cremer to present “Helping Faculty Assess Concerning Student Behavior inside the Classroom.” This presentation deals with the assessment of student behavior in the wake of the Virginia Tech tragedy. The presentation offers Woodbury University’s model for helping faculty assess and respond to “red flag” behavior inside the classroom, with the assumption that faculty training must involve more than just the development of pedagogical skills.

Paul Decker, Douglas Cremer and Phyllis Cremer also presented at the 2008 WASC annual Academic Resource Conference (ARC). They showed how the results of the National Survey of Student Engagement at Woodbury led to development of an innovative “learning community” model and institutional improvement. Also at ARC, Sue Vessella, head of graphic design, Eddie Clift, head of communication, and Dori Littell-Herrick, director of the school of media, culture & design and head of animation, presented information about the evolution of the new school.

For the third year in a row, SENCER (National Center for Science and Civic Engagement) has selected a Woodbury University team of teachers led by Nageswar Chekuri to attend this year’s summer institute. In addition, Dr. Chekuri has been nominated to serve as a founding member of SENCER’s Leadership Fellows Program.
Rich Matzen, Writing Center director, Will McConnell, asst. director, and Rachel Fischbein, student Writing Coach Coordinator, will make a presentation about the work of the Woodbury Writing Center at the annual conference of the Council of Writing Program Administrators in Denver this summer. Will McConnell also presented “As One Tutor to Another: Peer Observations and the Professional development of Writing Center Coaches” at the 15th Annual Rocky Mountain Peer Tutoring Conference and gave a talk at the Focus the Nation event at the College of the Canyons: “Big Business, Big Footprints: Reducing Your Business’ Carbon Emissions.”

Keith Walsh

“Head-On Collision: Associative Realms of Classicism”

Exhibition at Woody’s Cafe, March 25–April 30, 2008

Reception with sculpture at Woody’s: Wednesday March 26, 6:00 pm. Refreshments served. Artist’s talk 7 pm.

Annual Faculty Colloquium for the presentation of work undertaken with support from the Faculty Association’s professional development grants took place this semester and included Vic Liptak and Vinayak Bharne “The Emerging Asian City”, Keith Walsh, “Head-On Collision: Associative Realms of Classicism”; Mary Collins and Joye Swan, “Got God?”; and Randall Stauffer, “The Poche: The Intersection between Ethics and Design.” Grants are highly competitive and the results were once again excellent.

Edward Clift, head of the communication program, has been invited to participate in the International Conference of Russian Communication Association in Moscow in June. He will deliver two papers: “The Economic Subjectivity of 50 Cent” and “Griefer U: Educational Experiments in the Global Technoscape.” Clift has also been invited to contribute a chapter to a new book on Rhetoric and Disciplinarity from Sage publishers.

Woodbury’s Penny Collins, chair of the fashion design department, lectured on her book Wear Your Chair at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) in an event sponsored by the museum’s Costume Council. Collins explained how particular influential designers work across different media, using respect for the past, an understanding of technology, the pursuit of creative solutions, and a willingness to keep learning.

Maren Clegg Hyer, writing faculty, presented her work on literature and clothing at the annual convention of the Modern Language Association this year. Exeter University Press has accepted for publication Daily Life in Anglo-Saxon England, which she is co-editing and co-authoring. In addition, she will be attending the International Congress on Medieval Studies this May.

Over the last few months, John Karayan has had five articles in the American Institute of CPA’s Corporate Taxation Insider: “Can You Really Attack State and Local Taxes under the State’s Constitution?”; “Can Tax Accrual Work Papers Ever be Privileged? That is the Question”: “Voluntary Employee’s Beneficiary Associations: A Forgotten Tool in the Corporate Tax Planner’s Belt”; “Can a State Tax the Income of Businesses Having No Physical Presence There?”

CAPSIM, the management simulation company, will hold its Los Angeles area seminar on the Woodbury campus in September. Robert Bjorklund, chair of management, has used the simulation in his business classes for several years. Woodbury students have consistently placed among the top ten teams in the competitions.

Business professor emeritus, Robert Schultz’s book “Information Technology and the Ethics of Globalization” has been accepted for publication. He will be lecturing in Bulgaria on the subject this summer.
In January, Satinder Dhiman, associate dean of business, addressed students of the Punjab School of Management Studies at Punjabi University on the emerging management trends in 21st century. According to the school head, Dhiman was one of several “top executives and academicians to hold interactive sessions with students to bridge the gap between classroom learning and industry.”

On March 18, Here is Tijuana (illustration below), a book by Woodbury University architecture professor Rene Peralta, became the focus of Kobra, a show on Swedish television channel SVT.

Amy Pederson, director of art history, is one of the three authors contributing to the book accompanying the exhibit Paradox and Practice: Architecture in the Wake of Conceptualism. This exhibition brings together practitioners whose work lies at the nexus of architecture and conceptual art. Pederson, who serves on the board of directors of Outposts of Contemporary Art, an international artist exchange, is also working on the MexiCali Biennial. The MexiCali Biennial will provide a platform for border crossing contemporary art exhibitions by Mexican and SoCal artists. Pederson will be curating the LA Section “Goya’s disasters of war.”

Interior architecture faculty member Joshua Stein, who earned a cash award from the 2007 American Institute of Architects (AIA) Research Grant program to pursue research on the subject “Reactive Void: Socializing Space through Responsive Technology,” has been invited to present his findings at the 2008 AIA National Convention in Boston.

Bryan Cantley, San Diego architecture faculty, is a pioneer in architectural tablet research. He was one of the presenters at this year’s Mac expo.

Barbara Bowley, associate professor of social sciences and information literacy, served as a panelist on a special plenary session on aggression at the 79th annual meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association “The Messiness of Human Social Life: Complexity, Contradiction, Tension & Ambiguity.” She moderated another session entitled, “Got Fascism?”

Nedra Peterson, library director, has been selected to present her paper “It Came From Hollywood: Using Popular Media for Information Literacy” at the LOEX (Library Orientation Exchange) conference. The paper explores the connection between competencies in non-book media and the information literacy standards for higher education.

**Other Items of Note**

Two-time Emmy Award winning director and Woodbury MBA student Nelson Recinos will produce a 3D animation film with ACCEL Animation in India. The movie is based on a pilot that Recinos produced.

Movie producer and MBA student Semone Roberts has a new movie in the works. Interlove stars Brian Austin Green (Beverly Hills 90210).
Georgi Williams, from the LA County Fiscal Administration Bureau of Grants and Grants Accounting, recently wrote in glowing terms of her experience in the Woodbury-Sheriff Department’s Deputy Leadership Program (DLI). In the Sheriff’s Department newsletter, DLI graduate Williams wrote: “I was amazed by the wealth of knowledge received and the enhancement of my character. This class was definitely a significant emotional event in my life.” She goes on to call the DLI “a groundbreaking program that enables sworn and professional staff to develop latent ability.”

Communication student Christine Senerdijan has earned a position with the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) as a Community and Government Affairs Intern. As an intern for ANCA, the largest Armenian American grassroots political organization, Christine will get an inside look at the American political process.

Kaleena Rallis, a communication student, has been accepted into the Villanova University COM Summer in Greece program. Only 25 students are selected every year for this unique and intensive study abroad opportunity that takes students to ancient sites including the Athenian Acropolis and Agora, Delphi, and Ancient Olympia.

This spring, Woodbury University’s School of Business sponsored a symposium entitled “Coming to a Small Screen Near You: Opportunities and Challenges in Portable, Mobile and Broadband” as part of the Fifth Annual Los Angeles County Technology Week. Put together by Woodbury graduate and instructor Von Johnson, the event drew sixty of the most important users of entertainment technology, including representatives from the major movie studios and television. The university has already agreed to hold another panel on technology and the media at next year’s LA Tech Week.

In April, Woodbury hosted “Shifting Focus: Architecture, Urbanism, and Development in the San Fernando Valley.” The event brought together architects, academicians, planners, as well as representatives from the LA office of planning, the Valley Economic Development Center, and others to discuss the future of the valley. This marked the beginning of the “Year of the Valley” in the school of architecture, a yearlong initiative that will create working collaborations among Woodbury University, "the Valley’s architecture and urban design school,” and the community agencies and organizations charged with development of the valley. The school of architecture hopes to serve as a resource and research center for both real and visionary responses to the issues facing the valley.

**LIFE AFTER WOODBURY UNIVERSITY**

In talking to the finalists for commencement speaker, the screening committee found out just how many exceptional students go to Woodbury. For instance, Lele Doan, business, had an internship at REM Eyewear (http://www.remyewear.com/) last year that turned into a full-time job, where she has been working as she finishes her senior year. Nare Abramyan, business, has worked in telecommunications firms since she was 15. Although she is a "traditional" student, this past year she was headhunted and made the District Field Marketing Manager in Los Angeles for Samsung, handling well over 100 accounts. Her first day on the job was spent at the national sales conference in Texas, where she took notes for her work group, put together the PowerPoint, and gave a 45 minute presentation before the president of Samsung and his board. She was introduced as the youngest manager in the company and as the company’s newest employee, just over 24 hours with the firm. Her report received a standing ovation, and on his next visit to California, the president remembered her and sat with her at lunch. Top grade getter Emil Davtyan, business, works full-time as a paralegal at Conkle, Kremer & Engel in Santa Monica while he goes to school full time. After graduation, it is on to law school for Emil.

Angela Getter ('07), a recent graduate of communication, was accepted into the NYU Tisch School of the Arts Master's in Performance Studies program. Angela plans to continue to research many of the ideas she first began to develop as an undergraduate at Woodbury.

Many of the graduating architecture students are hearing from top-level firms like The Jerde Partnership and graduate programs at Harvard, Columbia, Penn, USC and UCLA. One, Bryan Oknyansky, has taken a job with a Beijing architectural firm. In fall 2009, he will head to graduate work at the AA. More information on our graduates in the next Academic Update.