



# Designnotes

News from the College of Design

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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Design students, alumni are Emerging Iowa Artists

For the sixth consecutive year, Iowa State will be well represented among the Emerging Iowa Artists in the Des Moines Arts Festival, June 27-29 at Western Gateway Park. Fifteen of the 24 emerging artists selected for this year's event are College of Design students or recent graduates.

The Emerging Iowa Artists Program is an opportunity for young visual artists who are Iowa residents and enrolled in an institution of higher education to showcase their talent at one of the nation's top festivals.

Like the professional artists, student entrants are required to complete an application, but there is no application or exhibition fee. The festival jury selects the emerging artists separately. In June, the awards jury will present a \$1,000 Best of Show Award for the Best Student Artist.

For Jared Porter, a senior from Waukee majoring in integrated studio arts (ISA), this is "a great opportunity to get my name out there and sell my work."

Jared will exhibit gold, silver and copper jewelry, some set with diamonds. He says the biggest challenge in preparing for a show is "knowing how many different designs to create or if it's more important to have several of one design."

Jared hopes being accepted into the arts festival will help him stand out when he begins applying for jobs. He plans to move to Colorado after graduation and work for a studio.

Another first-time Emerging Iowa Artist, Kate Brown, says her work "toes the boundary of what's comfortable to put in our domestic space." A senior in ISA from Odebolt, Kate will display stuffed animals cast in ceramic, "kitsch bunnies" (rabbit sculptures dressed in disguises) and mixed-media collages dealing with subjects such as violence toward women.

"Everything will be slightly disturbing," Kate says. "I'm interested to see how that will be received." She is also eager to see how her work compares with that of professional artists, both in terms of its quality and its presentation.

This will be Anastasia Kral's second year in the Emerging Iowa Artists Program. She says she has a better sense of how much work to take to sell, how to price it and what pieces might be more appealing to potential buyers.

"I really value the feedback from people who visit my booth. They have different backgrounds and opinions from my professors or other students in my studio classes, which helps me see my work in a new way."

Anastasia, an ISA senior from North Liberty, will be showing both traditional and digital photography and mixed-media work.

The only graduate student from Iowa State in the show is Jon Kamrath, from St. Paul, Minn. Jon's booth will feature oversized custom chess sets made of wood and clay, and large ceramic jars with wooden lids.

In Jon's case, the arts festival is a great way to make contacts and possibly attract commissions. "I hope to sell at least half my inventory at the show, and I'll be handing out lots of business cards and postcards," he says.

Jon will earn his MFA degree in integrated visual arts in May, and he and his wife, Heidi, will move to Eagan, Minn. They are expecting their first child in August. Jon hopes to teach ceramics or sculpture in Minnesota.

For a complete list of Emerging Iowa Artists from Iowa State University and more about the four students featured here, please see [www.design.iastate.edu/stories.php?ARTICLEID=216](http://www.design.iastate.edu/stories.php?ARTICLEID=216).



From top: Anastasia Kral, *After the Rain*, 2008, pigmented inkjet print; Jon Kamrath, detail, *Four-Way Chess Table*, 2007, mixed clays, mixed woods; Jared Porter, *Nest Necklace*, 2007, woven gold wire and silver with tube-set diamonds on yellow gold chain.

### Come see us!

The College of Design will host a hands-on art activity in the Creative Kids Zone at this year's Des Moines Arts Festival, June 27-29 at Western Gateway Park. Our booth will also highlight the college's 30th anniversary celebration, which begins this fall. For a site map and other festival details, see [www.desmoinesartsfestival.com](http://www.desmoinesartsfestival.com).

# Alumni Days: Celebrating the Class of 1958

## Looking back with L.K. Travis

Landscape architecture alumnus “L.K.” Travis (BS 1958) updates us on his life and work.

### From 1958 to 2008

After graduating from ISU, L.K. continued his education at the University of Florida in Gainesville, where he obtained a degree in architecture. He then moved to San Antonio, where he spent two years as the city planner. After interning for a number of architecture firms in the area, L.K. took the state board exam and “thankfully, passed on the first try.”

On January 1, 1967, he opened L.K. Travis & Associates, and has no retirement plans in the near future. “There’s no need to retire when you love what you do,” he says. L.K. is a registered architect and landscape architect in the state of Texas and is a charter member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

## Family and Free Time

L.K. and his wife, Charlotte (BS 1960 Home Economics Education), live in San Antonio. They have two children and three grandchildren. Other than work, L.K. enjoys escaping to their ranch outside of San Antonio and fishing on their 22-acre lake. He also calls himself an “amateur watercolor artist.”

## Iowa State Memories

As a landscape architecture student, L.K. was required to take a number of civil engineering classes. He humorously recalls a very strict instructor who always gave the landscape architects a hard time. L.K. cleared any doubts the instructor may have had about his abilities when they ran into each other one last time at his graduation ceremony.

*“There’s no need to retire when you love what you do.”*

Join us May 15-17, 2008

The class of 1958 has a unique place in Iowa State’s history. They were the Centennial Class, and now their reunion will be held during the celebration of the university’s 150th anniversary.

Reunion highlights include a banquet on Thursday, May 16, where the class gift will be presented to Iowa State. The dinner program features a short video of the campus “then” and “now” and reminiscences that will include artifacts of their years on campus. On Friday evening, the class will be inducted into the Gold Medal Club in a ceremony with President Gregory Geoffroy. The festivities will come to a close Saturday morning at The Knoll.

In addition to the campus-wide activities, the College of Design will host a reception for all design alumni (regardless of when you graduated) at 5:45 p.m. Thursday in the Pioneer Room of the Memorial Union. All alums are also welcome at an open house in the College of Design from 9:45 to 11:45 a.m. on Friday.



## Interior design alumni reunion a success

Interior design alumni were welcomed back to campus for a day full of activities on March 29.

Festivities kicked off with a tour of the Iowa State campus and ended with a reception held in conjunction with the closing of the interior design senior student exhibition. In the afternoon, alumni, students, parents and friends had the opportunity to attend a panel discussion with the program’s professional advisory board and hear Lee Cagley’s (BA 1975 Interior Design) thoughts about the future of interior design.

“The reception was a great way to share the work I’ve done over the past four years with my family and friends,” said senior Jessica Fenton, who will graduate in May with a BFA in interior design. “I’ve been fortunate to get to know some of our alumni on the advisory board, and it was fun to see them again and network with others.”

## About Designotes

Designotes is published three times per year by the College of Design, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-3091. We encourage correspondence from alumni and friends via our online form at [www.design.iastate.edu/alumniinfo.php](http://www.design.iastate.edu/alumniinfo.php), or mail to the college.

Share your e-mail address with us to receive the monthly Designotes e-newsletter. The message is sent the second Thursday of every month in both HTML and text-only formats.

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## Endowment will help more students study in Rome

Since 1991, more than 1,400 students have studied in Rome through the College of Design's flagship international program — the only fully licensed study-abroad program in the Iowa regents' system. As many as 160 students from all of the college's departments now participate in this important educational and cultural experience each year.



Photo: Cianne Suhr  
Palazzo Cenci-Bolognetti, home to the College of Design's program in Rome.

In addition to tuition, students are required to pay a program fee to participate in the Rome Program. It supports the studio facility and provides funds for program expenses such as course materials, guest critics and lecturers, the exhibition of final projects, and field trip expenses such as transportation, lodging and museum entrance fees.

For some students, the cost of international study is prohibitive. The College of Design intends to establish an endowed fund to support student scholarships for this program as well as a fund to support the rising costs of maintaining a program and facilities internationally. These funds will be critical to

ensuring that all of our students have the opportunity to study abroad.

Corey Schnobrich is a fifth-year student who will receive his bachelor of architecture degree in May. A \$1,000 scholarship supported by a College of Design alum helped Corey realize his dream of international study. In spring 2007, he was one of 55 students who took part in the Rome Program.

"I had always been set on going to Rome, and the scholarship made it more feasible, especially with the existing economic climate," Corey says.

For Corey, study abroad "diminished my fear of foreign environments and made me realize the possibilities outside of an American way of living and creating space. It taught me a lot about public space and different ideas of privacy and social interaction, in addition to the obvious knowledge to be gained from the multitude of monumental structures and piazzas.

"You can always travel, but the study-abroad experience is unique in that you live there on a daily basis," he says. "Investing the extra money now is so much more fruitful than taking an extended vacation later in life."

To learn how you can help students like Corey participate in study abroad, please contact Jenni Cushman, senior director of development, (515) 294-6984, [cushman@iastate.edu](mailto:cushman@iastate.edu).

## Remembering Barb King



The College of Design mourns the loss of our dear friend and benefactor, Barbara King, who died March 4 after a courageous seven-month battle with cancer.

For more than 30 years, Barb was an advocate at the local, state and national levels for enhancing the lives of all people, especially children and families.

Barb's generous spirit will live on in the lives of the ISU landscape architecture students who continue to benefit from the Barbara King Scholarship for Innovation

and Entrepreneurship. The King Pavilion will stand as a tribute to the leadership, generosity and enthusiasm of both Barb and her husband, Steve, and recognize their commitment to sustainability.

Barb and Steve met at Iowa State and earned degrees here in 1968. In 1971, they founded Landscape Structures, a global manufacturer of children's play equipment based in Delano, Minn. In 2005, they received the College of Design's Christian Petersen Design Award for their contributions to safe, innovative design.

## Engelbrecht to step down in 2009

After 15 years as dean of the College of Design, Mark Engelbrecht will step down from his post in June 2009. A professor of architecture, he assumed leadership of the college in 1994.

"After considerable reflection on the road we've traveled together, and the generally favorable prospects for the way ahead, I've decided that this will also be a good time for new leadership in my office," Engelbrecht wrote in a March 28 letter to faculty, staff and others.



Engelbrecht says he hopes the early announcement will provide executive vice president and provost Elizabeth Hoffman ample time to "search for a new dean exhibiting those qualities that we all desire and deserve."

As dean, Engelbrecht has overseen development of the Core Design Program uniting all first-year students in a common curriculum, and successful fund-raising efforts to construct the Karol J. and Lila Furman Kocimski Auditorium, three new art studios, critique spaces within the college, and the pending construction of the King Pavilion. He also helped found the Center for Town/Craft in Perry, and helped develop the partnership with Sioux City that resulted in the ISU Design West Studio facility there.

## Coming Events

### May

- 10 Graduation Convocation
- 15-17 Alumni Days
- 16 AIA National Convention  
Alumni Reception – Boston

### June

- 27-29 Des Moines Arts Festival

### July

- 2-16 FuturePast: The Techno Shaman  
Trent Grover MFA Thesis Exhibition

### August

- 25 Christian Petersen Design Award  
presentation and reception

More events and information at  
[www.design.iastate.edu/calendar.php](http://www.design.iastate.edu/calendar.php)  
and [www.design.iastate.edu/gallery.php](http://www.design.iastate.edu/gallery.php)



Image: RDG Planning and Design

## King Pavilion construction begins

Following an open bid period, the Cedar Rapids office of Miron Construction Co., Inc., was awarded the King Pavilion contract. Construction began in mid-April. Lead architect on the project is Kevin Nordmeyer with RDG Planning and Design in Des Moines. For webcam views and updates, see [www.design.iastate.edu/KingPavilion](http://www.design.iastate.edu/KingPavilion).

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