

# alumni+friends

Alumni Association

Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design

newsletter - summer 2008

## AN INTERVIEW WITH ROBERT HOLST (GD '80)



*New York Times conference cover*



*Beach Break*



*Lumina circa 1930's*

**RMCAD graduate** Robert Holst (GD '80) has over 20 years experience in the field of art and design that includes working for the New York Times Media Group, teaching, illustrating children's books and also as a freelance designer. Robert currently lives in Wilmington, North Carolina with his wife and two children.

### Why did you choose RMCAD?

I originally thought I wanted to be a marine biologist and took a year and half of marine technology after high school. Then, one cold night at sea while off the coast of New Jersey, alone, the ship heaved to one side and I almost fell overboard. I had visions of myself treading water as the ship disappeared into the darkness. It was then I had a moment of clarity. I needed to pursue what came naturally to me; art.

Not long after that, I came across an ad in the back of an art magazine for the Rocky Mountain School of Art. I have close ties to Denver and it seemed like

a good fit. RMCAD gave me a great foundation to build my art career. It gave me the confidence and skills as an artist to feel that I could take on any project that was presented. RMCAD instilled in me the knowledge that creating is life and that life, like art, should be enjoyable.

### What's your favorite RMCAD memory?

At the time I attended the school was not very large and we were a close knit group. I felt fortunate to be taught by incredibly skilled teachers with a great deal of one-on-one instruction.

I mostly remember the high level of expertise and humor that filled each day. Philip Steele was in his prime and would walk around the drawing studio throwing out words of wisdom, light hearted and funny observations, stopping long enough at each student's easel to demonstrate just how the human figure is supposed to be drawn. "The arm should not look like a paper bag," he would say.

### What have you done since graduating from RMCAD?

At the Willington Star-News I was the newsroom artist. Responsibilities included creating news graphics and feature illustrations. I also contributed to the paper's design. The first couple of years, everything was done by hand, then came the Mac. It was an exciting time to be the first artist in the group to use a computer to illustrate and create graphics.

With the advancement of computers in the newsroom came modems and a way for newspapers to share graphics and illustrations electronically. This gave my work greater exposure. At the time we had about thirty papers in the group. After 10 years at the Star-News I got a call from the headquarters in Atlanta asking if I would like to relocate to take on the responsibility of being Graphics Coordinator for The New York Times Media Group.

*Continued on next page.*

Being a newspaper artist/ journalist has been rewarding. By helping people understand issues, you feel as though you make a difference in their lives. Graphics and illustrations are and always will be an essential part of visual communication. In addition to being a newspaper artist I have also created graphics for health and education publications, illustrated children's books, designed logos and have painted a few murals for businesses in Wilmington and Atlanta. I also continue to enjoy painting, mostly in watercolors.

**What words of advice would you have for students studying art and design?**

I never felt that I was the most gifted artist, but at times I may have been the hardest working artist in the area. Being an artist takes work and patience. Non-artist friends say things like "how wonderful that you can paint and draw, as if it just flows from your finger tips." I tell students that you can't draw

what you don't know. Being an artist requires a lot of knowledge of many different subjects. You have to take time to research and know your subject.

Take time to listen to your client, whether it is a reporter or someone wishing to have a mural painted in their home. Try to find out how they envision the project, and then give them rough sketches to see if you are matching what they are seeing in their mind's eye. Don't be afraid to switch gears, the trick is to use your talents to help them achieve their vision.

Above all don't take criticism too personally, try to learn from it. If things aren't working out with a client, guide them to another artist who can hopefully help them. It is a very small world and most likely you will be dealing with that same client somewhere down the road. To be able to communicate visually is a very important and powerful gift that can make a profound difference in people's everyday lives.



Farmer's Market

# MEET OUR FACULTY

## Gary Emrich

### Head of the Photography + Video Art Program

Gary Emrich is an active artist with work in many private and public art collections including the Denver Art Museum, Curtis Hotel and the Hiawatha Davis Recreation Center. Gary's work was featured alongside that of other contemporary photographers in a recent show titled "Out of Place" at Robischon Gallery in Denver.

The University of Colorado recently acquired one of Gary's large video installation pieces and will show the work at the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art in September. Gary works simultaneously in both photo and video and has been in a number of film festivals including the Denver International Film Festival.



Pieces from "Out of Place" at Robischon

## Julie Pollack

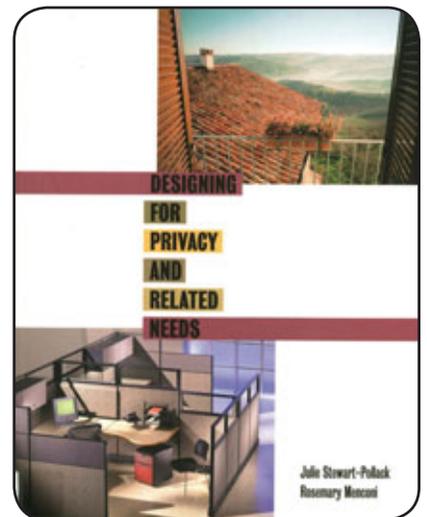
### Program Chair, Certificate in Sustainable Design Interior Design Faculty

In 2005, Julie co-authored the award winning design textbook, Designing for Privacy and Related Needs, and is currently working on a sustainable design textbook with ID Department Chair, Lauren Pillote. She is also working on another book based upon her research focusing on understanding the human need for nature (Biophilia) as a rationale for the conservation of the natural environment and as a premise for the design of the built environment.

Julie has written numerous Biophilic Design articles for Interiors & Sources Magazine and Ultimate Home Design Magazine, and presents workshops and seminars on sustainable design and education and Biophilic Design at international, national and local design conferences. She is NCIDQ certified and a professional member of The American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), The Interior Design Educator's Council (IDEC) and the United States Green Building Council (USGBC).

Her professional work involves primarily consulting with architectural and design firms to help green their projects, but her passion for the environment and education makes her work at RMCAD her central focus.

Julie is the Director of the Certificate program and also of the newly formed Institute for Sustainable Studies, which will coordinate sustainable education at RMCAD as well the implementation of the RMCAD Sustainability Initiative. Julie is also very excited to have been chosen to represent interior design educators in the new national Academy of Environmental Design, which will join the other four National Academies (science, engineering, medicine, research). They will provide research and policy advice on the environmental, social and economic impacts of the built environment to the United States Congress and the President.



# YOUR FELLOW ALUMNI

## The 60's

**Carol Sass Tuttle (GD '69)** currently lives in Niwot, CO, where she is a watercolor and portrait artist. Carol is also co-founder of Art Camp, an organization that organizes getaways for women to explore their creativity for a week in the mountains.

## The 70's

**Debra Knight (GD '72)** has her own graphic design studio and has worked as freelance designer for the past 19 years.

## The 80's

**Robert Holst (GD '80)** has created illustrations and graphics for over 25 newspapers and also teaches new artists about graphics, illustration and journalism at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

## The 90's

**Eric Parrish (FA '97)** recently showed his paintings at Soft Pinecone Productions, a small studio/gallery in Denver's Santa Fe Drive art district.

**Christine Murphy (GD '96)** married **Robert Murphy (GD '97)**, and they have two children. She recently started her own green design firm and works with clients who want to make the world a better place through environmental education, stewardship and sustainability.

**Benjamin Hummel (IL '98)** recently started doing political cartooning. He now has his own political career cartoon blog ([www.politixcartoons.com](http://www.politixcartoons.com)) and the Independence Institute (a national policy center based in Golden, Colorado and at [www.i2i.org](http://www.i2i.org)) has decided to take him on as their only featured weekly cartoonist. He is waiting for approval from various syndicates and is starting to do some work for Backbone America, an organization set up by former Colorado State Senate Majority Leader John Andrews.

**Matthew Sweet (GD '99)** is currently working as a User Experience Engineer for a company called iovation in Portland, Oregon. He does interface design and front-end development.

## The 00's

**Lynn Williamson (ID '05)**, with her business with partner Cynthia Peacock, StudioMetro LLC, was featured in the Wall Street Journal in the Personal Journal section on Entrepreneurship/Small Business.

**Michele Matt (AN '03)** is starting work on the game Rock Band 2 and will also be teaching motion capture at Parsons and SVA during the spring 2008 term.

**Matt Corley (FA '07)** was accepted to be part of the Mile High Denver Youth Corps. He will be working in state parks and in low income neighborhoods installing energy saving measures in houses.

**Ryan Nee (GD '05)** is currently working as a designer for Wall Street on Demand in Boulder, CO.

**Amy Fleishman (AE '07)** is currently working at RMCAD with the Fine Arts department helping with health and safety regulations as the Safety Coordinator.

**Lisa Ryan (GD '05)** started a new position at the Legend Retail Group located in Denver, Colorado. She is working as a designer/ marketing associate.

**Michael Tiger (IL '06)** was recently commissioned to design, fabricate and install a custom counter top in a home. He is also doing concept drawings for tattoos and was commissioned to do a painting last summer. He is also starting work on a graphic novel.

**Jenny Morgan (IL '03)** was part of a portrait show with Jonathan Hartshorn and Jin Kyoung Bom at Columbia University in New York titled "Face Forward." The show ran February 18 - March 10.

## RECENT GRADUATES



**Monica Argenio**  
ILLUSTRATION

**Kristopher Bevel**  
ILLUSTRATION

**Tom Bickerstaff**  
GRAPHIC DESIGN

**Dana Brancucci**  
ILLUSTRATION

**Daniel Burns**  
2D ANIMATION

**Sterling Crispin**  
PAINTING

**Amber Dressen-Boyer**  
SCULPTURE

**Sarah Eason**  
2D ANIMATION

**Travis Egedy**  
PAINTING

**Ashley Esau-Warren**  
INTERIOR DESIGN

**Erin Ewer**  
ILLUSTRATION

**Matthew Ficken**  
3D ANIMATION

**Meghan Furey**  
ILLUSTRATION

**Jonathan Grimm**  
3D ANIMATION

**Eric Hardies**  
3D ANIMATION

**Jennifer Hassel**  
ID Green Design

**Kevin Hinkle**  
2D ANIMATION

**Joshuah Johnson**  
2D ANIMATION

**Andrea Kilness**  
GRAPHIC DESIGN

**Sarah Kingdom**  
INTERIOR DESIGN

**Lilly Laser**  
INTERIOR DESIGN  
Green Design

**Jared Linton**  
3D ANIMATION

**John Maltese**  
ILLUSTRATION

**Adam Nixon**  
3D ANIMATION

**Kelly Nugent**  
ILLUSTRATION

**Cheryl Rickers**  
INTERIOR DESIGN  
Valedictorian

**Caleb Richter**  
SCULPTURE

**Dominique Settles**  
PAINTING

**Allison Shelly**  
ART EDUCATION/ PAINTING

**Christine Smith**  
INTERIOR DESIGN

**Elizabeth Stefanick**  
PAINTING  
Valedictorian

**Bethany Strothman**  
INTERIOR DESIGN  
Green Design

**Ben Tapia**  
ILLUSTRATION

**Carrie Thompson**  
PAINTING

**Lindsay Trammel**  
ILLUSTRATION

**John Varvir**  
2D ANIMATION

**Xi Zhang**  
PAINTING

**Jessica Zugarramurdi**  
PAINTING

*Those who want a copy of  
the graduation video can  
contact VA Hayman  
at 303.225.8569*

# RMCAD STUDENT WINS NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CONTEST

**Contributed by Andy Musser  
Sophomore, 3D Animation and Illustration  
Newberg, Oregon**

At the end of 2007 I learned about a short film contest hosted by the National Geographic Channel. The contest invited participants to develop a public service announcement for a campaign called Preserve Our Planet (POP). The challenge was to address the theme of "What You Do Counts" in relation to conservation of the environment.

I entered a 30 second animation titled "Battle of the Bulbs", and much to my surprise, won first place. The prizes included a scholarship, having my film broadcast on the National Geographic Channel, and an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to accept the award.

In April I flew to Washington, D.C. to accept my award at the National Geographic Society's headquarters in the heart of Washington, D.C.

It was great to meet all the other award winners who entered the contest. The POP award ceremonies were held in conjunction with the annual award ceremonies for National Geographic Explorers as well as the premiere of the TV special "The Human Footprint." As it turned out, the NBC news anchor Elizabeth Vargas was the narrator for "The Human Footprint," so I got to meet her as well. It was an amazing experience having an animated short that I created screened at the National Geographic headquarters.

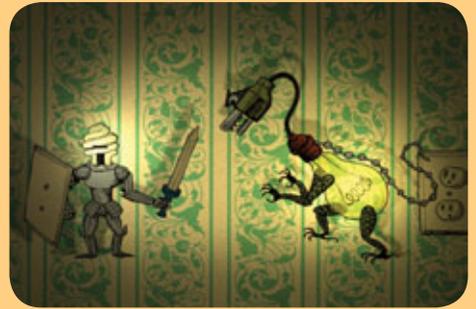
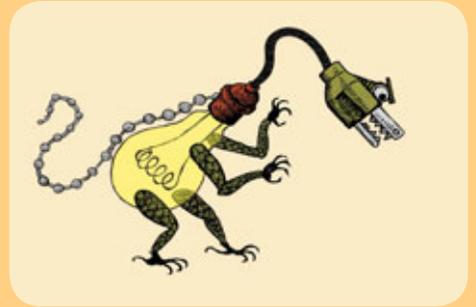
The next morning, the award winners were invited to the National Geographic Channel's offices and we got to sit in on a meeting in which they discussed the ad campaign they created for "The Human Footprint." Seeing the way the NGC's creative team worked was extremely insightful.

I was also able to sit in on a lecture that focused on the effects of global warming. This talk was a part of the National Geographic Society's Annual Explorers Convention, for which the society's explorers all gather to discuss their past and future work.

After the meeting, the Director of Design gave a tour of the film and graphics department. He introduced us to video editors, graphic designers and two of the animators who work to create the motion graphics for the channel's promos.

It was inspiring to talk with the animators and the Director of Design and pick their brains about what career path to follow and how to promote myself. They gave me advice about the industry and about what to put on my demo reel and what computer programs and skills I should learn.

Since my visit, I have been in touch with several members of their creative team. They have been tremendously kind and helpful, answering all of my questions and giving great advice and information about working in a major cable channel. My trip to Washington D.C. and the National Geographic's headquarters was an incredible experience - one that I will never forget.



*"Battle of the Bulbs" characters*

To see Andy's award winning animation go to [http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/channel/videos/player.html?channel=22826&category=23025&title=05258\\_00](http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/channel/videos/player.html?channel=22826&category=23025&title=05258_00)



*Andy at the conference in Washington, DC*

## Alumni Association BBQ

Saturday, August 9, 2008

1-4pm on the RMCAD campus

RMCAD alumni and their families are invited to an afternoon of food, fun and reconnecting with graduates, faculty and staff. Please RSVP by August 3, 2008 to VAhayman@rmcad.edu.



## CREATIVE MINDS ARE HARD TO FIND- LET RMCAD HELP!

If you're looking for a talented artist or designer RMCAD can help you connect with new graduates. Each term RMCAD hosts an exhibition showcasing the work of students who are graduating. These exhibitions are a great time to see the exciting work happening and also a way to find employees, interns and freelance artists and designers.

## Summer Graduation Exhibition:

July 25-August 2, 2008

Opening Reception- July 25, 6-9pm

## Fall Graduation Exhibition:

December 12- 20, 2008

Opening Reception- December 12, 6-9pm

The graduation exhibitions take place in the Philip J. Steele Gallery, open Monday- Saturday, Noon – 5:00 pm. If you are not able to attend the exhibitions but would like to connect with graduates, please contact the Director of Career + Alumni Services, VA Hayman, at vahayman@rmcad.edu or 303-225-8569.

## Family + Alumni weekend ~ 2008

Saturday, October 18, 2008

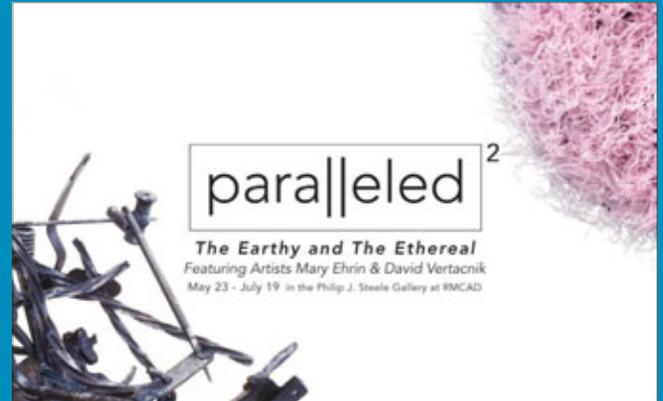
RMCAD students, families and alumni are invited to join us for a day of workshops, an alumni panel, and an evening on the town.

For more details go to [www.rmcad.edu](http://www.rmcad.edu)



## In the PHILIP J. STEELE GALLERY

PHILIP J. STEELE  
GALLERY



### Paralleled 2: The Earthly and The Ethereal

Featuring David Vertacnik and Mary Ehrin  
through July 19

### Summer Graduation Exhibition

July 25 - August 2

Reception: Friday, July 25, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

### Paralleled 3: French Street Art + American Landscapes

August 7 – September 20

Reception: Friday, September 5, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

### Mike and Doug Starn: Attracted to Light

September 26 – October 25

Reception: Friday, September 26, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

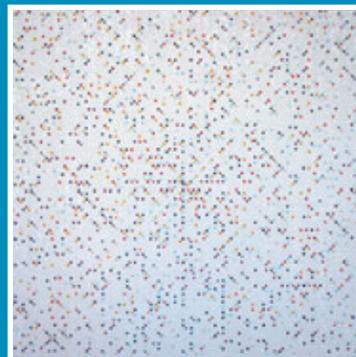
## ALUMNI GALLERY

ALUMNI  
GALLERY

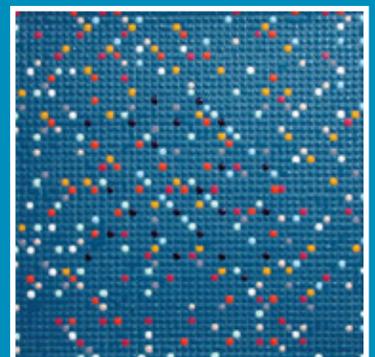
RMCAD now has a dedicated space on campus for graduates to display work. There are several terrific spaces on campus to display 2 and 3-dimensional work, video pieces, installations, and outdoor sculpture.

If you are interested in having a show please send three high resolution PDF's of your work along with an artist statement and a resume to RMCAD Gallery Director Cortney Stell, [cstell@rmcad.edu](mailto:cstell@rmcad.edu). Graduate work will be featured on a rotating basis around campus.

Our thanks to alumnus Greg Hayes (FA '07) who helped us christen the new display space in April 2008 by installing his show entitled "Primary Array and Lights #2".



Primary Array #101



Primary Array #50



Jeff Youel and Jennifer Sheets at Shomp BMW



Coors Tek Building

## TWO INTERIOR DESIGN GRADS FIND WORK IN THE FAST LANE

Acura, Honda, and BMW are not names you would usually associate with an interior design firm, but Impresa, Unlimited in Denver, Colorado specializes in car dealerships, corporate offices, residential and hospitality design.

The Impresa staff works on a number of projects with a small team of full time designers including owner and President Joyce McDaniel, and RMCAD graduates Jeff Youel (ID '06) and Jennifer Sheets (ID '07). Both Jeff and Jennifer interned at Impresa while attending RMCAD and were hired upon graduating.

Jeff and Jennifer find that designing car dealerships presents some unique challenges. According to Jeff, "We aren't designing for a family or married couple, our design process needs to take in account thousands of people who all have varying tastes and who need to feel comfortable and ultimately buy a car."

Impresa projects can be seen from Colorado to Florida with the most recent project, Schomp BMW in Highlands Ranch, Colorado, opening this fall.

"I'm fully involved in almost every stage of the design process. I'm designing cabinetry, purchasing furniture, supervising installations and meeting with clients. I have a level of responsibility I never expected this early in my career" said Jeff.

Jeff and Jennifer cite the skills they acquired while at RMCAD as key to their success. "As a student you rarely get to see your project become a reality. It's such an exhilarating feeling to see all your hard work come to life. My passion for interior design has definitely grown since graduating and I'm so fortunate to work with people who inspire and enlighten me on a daily basis" said Jennifer.

"Working in the interior design field can be a little daunting sometimes. When you see the finished project, when you hear a client tell you how much they loved what you did for them it all becomes worth it" said Jeff.

### CAREER NEED A JUMP START? RMCAD CAN HELP!

**RMCAD's Continuing Education Department offers lifelong learning opportunities designed for working professionals who want to fine tune or expand their art and design skills.**

With the working professional in mind, all continuing education courses take place either in the evenings or on weekends, are short and affordably priced.

Current options for professionals include:

- Advanced workshops in Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign
- Certificates of Completion in WebDesign and Desktop Publishing
- Introductory classes in Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Dreamweaver, Flash, HTML and CSS
- Introduction to Interior Design.

For the working artist and educator, RMCAD also offers a Visiting Artist program which provides artists of all skill levels the opportunity to study with professional artists. The Visiting Artist program includes three and four day Artists' Retreats and a variety of workshops.

For a complete schedule of continuing education programs contact the Continuing Education Office at 303.225.8570 or visit our website at [www.rmcd.edu](http://www.rmcd.edu) and click on continuing education.

### CERTIFICATE IN SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

**Sustainable design is the fastest growing segment of the interior design and architecture professions.**

Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design has long been a leader in sustainable design education. Beginning this fall, RMCAD will offer a Certificate in Sustainable design as a concentrated program of study for design professionals and those in related industries.

Designed to be completed in one year, this 15 credit hour program consists of six courses provided in three consecutive semesters of study. The program addresses the issues, strategies, technologies, products and processes of sustainable design.

Using a whole-systems approach to developing problem solving skills, courses within the program blend relevant studies of the following topics:

- historical and theoretical foundations of environmentalism and sustainable design
- effects of the built environment upon energy and resource use
- global warming and quality of life issues
- principles and strategies of integrated, sustainable design
- materials, methods and technologies
- sustainable lighting, ventilation, heating, cooling and water systems
- methods, standards and certifications used to evaluate sustainable design
- marketing sustainable design services

Classes are held on Friday evenings and Saturdays to accommodate the schedule of working professionals. Students take one lecture course on Friday evenings and one studio course on Saturdays each semester.

To find out more about RMCAD's Certificate in Sustainable Design or to apply for admission to the program, visit our website at [www.rmcd.edu/csd](http://www.rmcd.edu/csd) or call our Admissions Office at 800.888.2787 (303.753.6046, local), Monday through Friday.

# RECENT HAPPENINGS



Reconnect to RMCAD Event

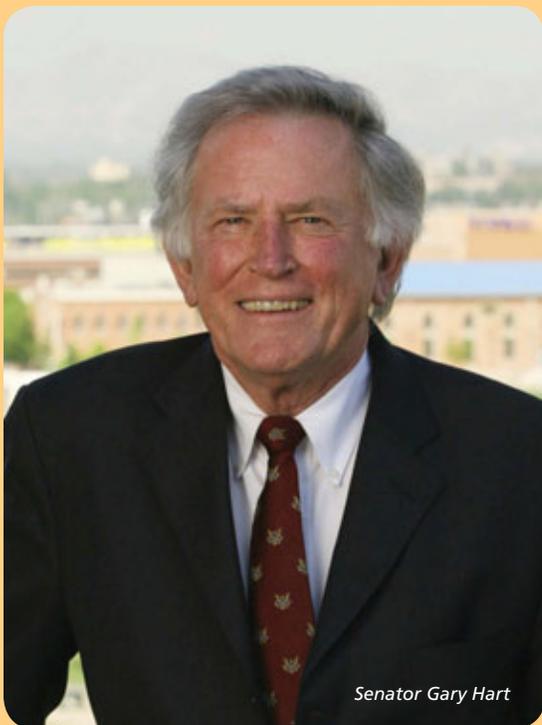
## Reconnection Event

In April 2008 we reconnected with more than 30 alumni at a special gathering. Many graduates from the 70's, 80's, 90's and even recent graduates enjoyed this evening of refreshments and re-connecting.

## Senator Gary Hart visits RMCAD

In early April former U.S. Senator Gary Hart addressed the RMCAD community as part of the Liberal Studies open house held on campus. He talked about the relationship between art and government and how we can critically understand and responsibly act as citizens locally, nationally and globally.

Gary Hart represented Colorado in the U.S. Senate from 1975 to 1987, where he served on the Armed Services Committee, specializing in nuclear arms control and military reform. More than 150 people attended Senator Hart's lecture and enjoyed the lively discussion.



Senator Gary Hart

## 2008 ARTY Awards

The spring RMCAD recognized outstanding faculty, staff, and students for their contributions to the RMCAD community. Dubbed the "Artys" (A RMCAD Thank You), the ceremony recognizes the people who have demonstrated leadership, role modeling, and pride in RMCAD.

Congratulations to our 2008 Arty award winners.

Staff Award: Hugh Thurlow, Resource Center Director

Faculty Award: Martha Russo, Fine Arts

Student Award: Lauren Kimball, sophomore, 2-D & 3-D Animation, Olathe, KS

## West Colfax Art + Music Festival at RMCAD

On April 12, 2008, RMCAD was the site for the 2nd annual West Colfax Art + Music Festival, co-sponsored by the City of Lakewood, the West Colfax Community Association, and Rockley Music. Over 50 artists participated in the festival including a number of RMCAD faculty, staff, students and graduates. Our thanks to the RMCAD graduates who participated.

Benjamin Hummel (IL '98)

Michael Tiger (IL '06)

Kris Baxter (GD '85)

Michael McGrath (IL '07)

Karen Tagstrom (FA '07)

Andrew Tomlin (IL '03)

Karena Conley (FA '95)

John Panagulis (FA '96)



Art + Music Festival '08

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: JOHN CARLSON (IL '98)

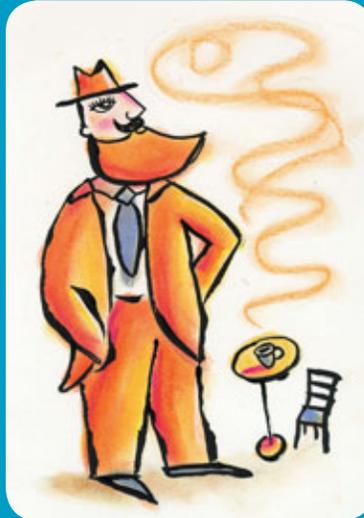
Since April 2007 I've been working as a designer for WhiteWave Foods in Broomfield, CO. Some of the brands I do design work for include Silk Soymilk, Stok Black Coffee shots and Horizon Organic milk. I also get the opportunity to work with some really skilled creative people in the in-house department.

Before WhiteWave, I worked in the creative department at Einstein Bros. Bagels in Golden, CO. I was a designer and illustrator there for almost 9 years. I've also been busy with a handful of restaurant clients doing design, advertising and illustration for a variety of clients. It's great to have a mix and variety of design and illustration projects to keep the work fresh for me.

I took the job at Einstein Bros. Bagels right after I graduated from RMCAD in 1998. I was already a staff designer and freelancer for a number of years before attending RMCAD, but I wanted to expand my skills as a creative.

I had the desire to learn more about illustration and integrate it into my design work. Through getting my degree in Illustration from RMCAD, I gained the skills and confidence to use illustration in my design and advertising work. Plus, I got work as a freelance illustrator in addition to design jobs.

RMCAD was a great learning experience overall. In addition to all the important artistic skills I gained, I also learned a lot academically at RMCAD. It's all been so important for a well rounded and exciting career path for me.



Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design  
Alumni Association

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