

## NCECA March 2010 Board Reports

### ***Skeff Thomas, President***

March 2010 Philadelphia

2009 and 2010 has been a year of growth for NCECA with the board undertaking important initiatives including a membership campaign that will benefit from the direction inherent in the revisions to the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and By-laws and concurrent strategic planning.

As president of the board I have administered the primary responsibilities by:

- Overseeing direction and providing leadership for the growth and development of the Council realized in the updating of governance documents, broad based strategic planning and an expanded membership in all categories.
- Presided at all Board Meetings and, to increase transparency and intra-board communication, scheduled six board meetings in between regularly scheduled meetings.
- Passed a balanced budget by the beginning of the fiscal year.
- Presided at the Members' Business Sessions and Opening Ceremonies of the annual conference.
- Had an annual report prepared to present to the Council at the First Members' Business Session of the Annual Conference and to be printed in the 2010 NCECA Journal.
- Made Board and Committee appointments and replacements as needed.
- Initiated the reinstatement and charge to the development committee.
- Initiated the development for an NCECA policy for affiliations.
- Initiated and oversaw board action on getting NCECA trademarks and copyright.
- Budgeted for and retained a professional parliamentarian.
- Budgeted for and retained counsel for legal consultations and review of contracts.
- Brought items to the board for discussion and action that led to the updating and refinement of the website and NCECA branding that includes a searchable on-line member directory.
- Led the board in the giving of \$1000 K-12 Scholarship to be administered by the National K-12 Ceramic Exhibition Foundation.
- Oversaw the successful application to the NEA for two grants to support program and planning.
- I have led all Executive Committee meetings, and participated in conference calls for Finance Committee, Nominations Committee, Membership Committee, Communications Committee, Development Committee, Strategic Planning Task Force, Executive Leadership Task Force, Policy taskforce, and the Expo/NEXPO planning committee.

In the time since NCECA last gathered in Phoenix, the council has made progress in many areas. The on-time approval of the FY 2010 budget and the monitoring of NCECA investments in the economic climate that led to a major decline in the investment accounts have realized a collective board action and prudent fiscal management in a tight financial environment. For this the board and staff entire of NCECA deserve commendations for the collective effort in difficult times that has kept the primary mission of education first and foremost in all that NCECA does.

The program and exhibitions scheduled for Philadelphia in 2010 promise to be incredibly rich and resourceful for the NCECA membership and the surrounding community as we bring the council together to educate and to celebrate ceramic art in all its manifestations. The amount of work represented in the various board reports speaks to the dedication each and every board member has for NCECA and the membership can be proud of all this board has been able to accomplish.

Of the work that has been completed over these last months, I am most proud that NCECA has undertaken a thorough strategic planning process that is incorporating input from the board, staff and membership. The need to reaffirm the mission of the council and identify how the council is structured to maximize the benefits for our membership is an opportunity and a necessity to keep NCECA strong and healthy in its primary mission of education. These upcoming days in Philadelphia promise to have opportunities to address whom we are, where we are at, and where we are going. That stated, NCECA and the NCECA board and staff are at a pivotal time in history as roles and responsibilities are addressed in a hybrid model of a governing board that accomplishes a lot of work in partnership with a fantastic professional staff. As these issues are addressed and consensus is developed, the council can position itself to arrive at its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as strong, vibrant and vital as it was in 1966 and 1967 when the council was organized.

Respectfully submitted,

Skeff Thomas

March 2010 Board Report  
President Elect – Keith J. Williams

My activities since the last Board Report have included:

1. The 2012 NCECA conference site has been changed from Houston to Seattle. Contracts have been signed. Marge Levy was approved to be one of the Seattle OSCLs. I failed in my hopes to have sites approved through 2015 by the end of my term as President-Elect. It was an ambitious goal and I am hoping that 2015 will be approved during the May Board meeting. Dori has indicated that she still has some site visits to make before we can address 2015.
2. I have participated in weekly Skype sessions with the Tampa OSCLs in order to address many of the issues that need to be tended to as we look forward to that conference. We have discussed logistics, time management, logo, local committee, CIEs and many other issues of importance.
3. I have participated in Executive Committee meetings, and conference calls for Finance Committee, Nominations Committee, Membership Committee, Communications Committee, Development Committee, Leadership Task Force (ex officio), Search Committee for Interim Office Coordinator, etc.
4. As Chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Task Force I coordinated revisions of the proposed documents from the work done in 2008-09 in response to the Strategic Planning Initiative. All amendments were presented for approval at the October Board meeting and passed with a few amendments. The documents were placed on the NCECA website for review by the membership. Some revisions were submitted and approved by the Board and the language was finalized 31 days before the vote in April. These proposed documents are available for review as per the requirements of our current Bylaws and a modest promotional campaign is taking place in hopes of passage. Separate ballots for this election have been printed for the vote which will require a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority for passage.
5. I have worked with the Past President on the Nominations Committee. We have successfully identified multiple candidates for open Board positions, including DAL and the position of Secretary/Treasurer open due to the resignation of Eduardo Lazo. The vote will take place separately from the Bylaws vote on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. On a related note, much discussion has taken place regarding how NCECA should vote in the future. It is my intention to set up a Task Force to make recommendations to the Board for consideration and action. This will require an amendment to the Bylaws.
6. I attended SOFA, Chicago as one of the representatives of NCECA.
7. I have begun to train Patsy Cox into the position of President Elect specifically regarding future sites which is the most important of the duties of the President Elect. She has also participated in Strategic Planning and other activities before officially starting as a Board member.

8. I have offered aid to Jim Romberg and Joe Molinaro regarding our upcoming symposia. I have engaged Shoji Satake in conversation regarding the upcoming China Symposium.
9. I have aided with Expo/Nexpo planning in an ex officio capacity.

Please contact me at [williamsnceca@csp.edu](mailto:williamsnceca@csp.edu).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Keith J. Williams

NCECA Board Report – Robert Harrison – NCECA Past President  
Report to the Membership – Philadelphia – March, 2010

As NCECA Past President I have the role of advisor to the board, utilizing my decade plus of board experience as well as chairing and sitting on several committees that meet regularly. The Past President is also the chief liaison to the Honors and Fellows of the Council.

As chair, I have convened the Nominations Committee regularly over the past several months to review nominations for NCECA awards and open board positions. Nominations were solicited from the membership for the awards and recommendations by the committee were made to the board for their endorsement at the October board meeting. The committee makes a concerted effort to evaluate board make up, striving to identify candidates that will offer excellence, needed strengths and diversity to the board.

At the Philadelphia conference the membership will vote for one Director-at-Large (DAL) position and the Secretary Treasurer. There are three DAL's on the board, and they each serve a three-year non-renewable term with one DAL rotating off the board each year. The Secretary Treasurer serves a three-year term, which can be renewed. The committee reviewed several qualified candidates for both positions and has recommended three candidates: Terry deBardelaben, Jim Ibur and Cindy Bracker Sturm as our board candidates for DAL and Glenda Taylor for Secretary Treasurer. The board subsequently endorsed the recommendations. The committee took the boards' advice and recommended more than one candidate for this year's DAL nomination process to ensure the membership has a number of candidates to choose from.

The Nominations Committee also recommended that interim Communications Director, Brian Kohl be considered for a three-year term. Brian has served the one-year interim position very well and was willing to serve for a full term of three years. The board endorsed this recommendation. This is an appointed position, endorsed by the board and appointed by the President.

The Nominations Committee has also recommended that the Communications Director position become an elected position at the end of the next three-year cycle. Both the committee and the board endorse the idea of additional elected opportunities for the membership.

The Nominations Committee has also met to review, discuss and consider improvements to the nominations and elections processes. Some changes will be evident at the Philadelphia conference and others will be considered and implemented when appropriate. The committee welcomes comments and suggestions from the membership.

The Past President also chairs the Regina Brown Undergraduate Fellowship committee. The committee, which includes an NCECA Fellow and our SDAL, met by conference call, reviewed the candidates and made their selection. The three RB Fellowship winners will be announced at the Philadelphia conference.

Dick Wehrs and I are co-chairs of the recently formed Development Committee, which met numerous times during its initial year and is working on development initiatives for NCECA. The committee, comprised of NCECA Fellows, members, board and staff began its work with a priority for cultivating giving in three distinct areas. An on-going *charitable giving campaign* (including Web-based giving) will be kicked off in 2010, a *planned giving appeal* is being prepared, and a *special events* emphasis is dedicated to providing unique opportunities to learn about NCECA and participate in advancing its work. Development is a critically important source for funding for most not-for-profit organizations especially with the challenges of today's economy.

I also chair the NCECA Green Task Force (GTF), which has met several times during its second year of operation. The task force has board, member, student and staff representation. We have written a mission statement (see below) and have a presence on the NCECA web site to disseminate information and offer a forum for members concerns and suggestions. We will have a substantial presence at the Philadelphia conference and conduct a survey/questionnaire with the help of student volunteers. The goal is to gather information on sustainable studio practices and help NCECA and our members become leaders in green thinking and energy efficient initiatives.

With the help of Ceramics Monthly magazine, NCECA conducted a Green Student Writing contest and is very pleased it has been published in the March, 2010 issue. Based on the success of this initial effort, we hope to create additional opportunities for students and all members interested in sustainability in our field.

I am a member of the Executive Committee and defer to chair, Skeff Thomas.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Harrison, NCECA Past President

## *NCECA GTF Mission Statement*

*NCECA's Green Task Force (GTF) is committed to environmental stewardship in all venues; from administrative work to conference gatherings and further extending to educate NCECA's members about important environmental issues affecting the ceramic arts. Creative solutions to issues will be shared and it is the GTF that will provide a forum for progressive discussion on green studio practices. The GTF will bring members the tools and information to help facilitate change, however a sustainable future in ceramics necessitates a community effort. We understand that it is not entirely feasible to make ceramics totally green, however it is possible to make small changes in our studio practices that will have lasting effects on minimizing global impact.*

*In addition to educating our members, NCECA and the volunteer officers of the GTF will demonstrate, by our own policies and practices, that we are good environmental stewards. Sustainability practices will be in place for the management and operations in NCECA's home office, and the annual conference. This will include but is not limited to: recycling of waste, handling of printed documentation, communication with members, and future site considerations. NCECA and the GTF have the future of clay in our sights. Together we will discover new ways to work in sympathy with our planet.*

*10/08 revisited 10/09*

## Secretary / Treasurer's Report

1. Our revenue to date is \$950,000; our expenses are \$520,000 with a net gain of \$430,000. Note that the majority of our conference expenses have not come through at this point.
2. Our current bank balances are ML \$1,574,716 and Great Western Bank \$144,351 with a planned transfer to ML of \$120,000.
3. Portfolio review. The stock market is down 1% so far this year. Our NCECA portfolio is only down 0.75%. After the finance committee met with Catherine Clarke, no significant changes in our posture are recommended at this time. Catherine will circulate an updated portfolio for first quarter 2010 April 1st.
4. Conference registration and bus ticket sales are solid and we are optimistic to surpass our forecasted figures for this year.
5. The Regina Brown Scholarship Fund, (the Fellowship Fund) is temporarily restricted with a little over \$99,000. Recommend to the board a \$1000 Regina Brown Scholarship be offered through the K-12 organization as a budget variance. Also need to reassess Investment Policy regarding ability to spend funds based on three year rolling returns-for future Finance Committee discussion
6. Since board meals at the conference were deleted from the budget, a variance was passed by the board for a maximum of \$50.00 per day reimbursement. .
7. All minutes of meetings have been transcribed and are on file at the NCECA office. These will be available for membership review at the conference booth in Philadelphia.
8. The appropriate documents for the vote on changes to our governance documents at the second Board Meeting have been distributed on the web and will be present at the booth. These include copies of our Current Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and Bylaws as well as proposed changes for consideration by the membership. Keith Williams will be available at the booth at various times to respond to member's questions.
9. Dori is working on contracts for future conference venues.

Eduardo Lazo

**Programs Director  
Report  
March 30, 2010**

Submitted by Steve Hilton

Our programming for Philadelphia is coming to a close. However, as of March 13, we are still missing 10 PowerPoints and several eulogies. From what I have been told, this is somewhat typical from past conferences. Dori and I have been working for months trying to get presenters to comply with deadlines with little avail. We have several strategies we would like to try for 2011.

Even with the current situation, we continue to have a great lineup of presentations, panels and demonstrators. With 2010 having once again, the largest number of entries ever submitted for consideration, the competition for a part in the program increases yearly. This once again testifies to the health of NCECA and ceramic art.

It has recently come to my attention that surveys have been done of all presentations for the past several years. We are not doing surveys this year, but should investigate resuming in 2011. I am interested in the possibility of more informal surveys being done at the conference.

Major changes in the program are as follows:

- The opening ceremony will be “commercial” free with minimal stage changes
- The first business meeting was moved back to the noon slot by member suggestion
- The Awards/Honorees part of the program has been moved into a “regular” slot in the program on Friday afternoon at 1:00 PM
- The Eulogies have also been removed from the opening/closing and have been given a “regular” slot on Friday morning at 8:00 AM
- The closing will also be commercial free with Malcolm Davis giving the closing lecture immediately after the emerging talent
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> business meeting will be the final even of the 2010 conference in Philadelphia

The video room, which also has been growing in popularity over the years, will show more film than ever before.

The Reciprocal Symposium with the Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute and West Virginia University has been postponed until 2011.

The 2011 conference is already beginning to take shape with the hard work of Brian, Anna, Keith and others. The 2011 conference ‘call for proposals’ is available on the NCECA web site, and we once again encourage all NCECA members to seriously consider submitting proposals for a presentation or panel. While we encourage proposals

with topics relating to the 2011 conference theme any clay related topic is welcome and seriously considered.

Respectfully submitted by  
Linda Ganstrom  
Exhibitions Director  
March 1, 2010

### **2010 Philadelphia Exhibitions Program**

It has been my great pleasure and a valued learning experience to work with Philadelphia On-Sites Jeff Guido and Amy Sarner Williams in planning and organizing the 2010 NCECA Exhibitions Program. Their expertise in writing and receiving grants, organizing a curatorial team, citing the concurrent independent NCECA exhibitions and keeping track of nearly a hundred exhibitions for the Gallery Guide has allowed me to focus the majority of my energy on conceptualizing, reviewing submissions, selecting the works for and curating the 2010 NCECA Invitational, "Earth Matters." Working with Lorie Mertes and Gabrielle Lavin at the Galleries at Moore College of Art and Design in the heart of Philadelphia, I have learned how the cooperation of specialists in an urban community can overcome the challenges of working in a venue where space is precious. My thanks go out to Nick Kripal and Eric Miller at Tyler for accepting and storing the crates and to John Williams for storing the crates for the duration of the exhibition. I am looking forward to working with the professional installation crew and art handlers in receiving and setting up the exhibition when I travel to Philadelphia for a week to accept, inspect and install the work with our NCECA artists. This intense "hands on" experience will indeed fulfill my vision of offering an exhibition whose work is as relevant, inspirational and thought-provoking as it is beautiful and well-crafted. Working closely with the catalog designers, Karrie Simpson Voth and Chaiwat Thumsujarit has allowed me the opportunity to develop a catalog that closely parallels the exhibition. The writers, Glen R. Brown and Nicole Burisch and the "Earth Matters" artists offer a variety of written and visual views and challenges related to art with a social or more specifically an environmental theme. Tucked within an envelope in the more traditional, "recycled" format of the print catalog, a digital catalog is intended to function as a resource for extending the exhibition and sharing its message with students and artists who could not attend the conference and view the exhibition. I hope all NCECA members make viewing "Earth Matters" a part of their 2010 conference experience and that it inspires them to make changes that will affect the planet and their lives in a positive way.

Despite technical challenges relate to hosting the juried competitions through the NCECA website, the student competition expanded its scope to become the first annual NCECA National Student Juried Exhibition. Student Director, Jessica Orłowski took the lead on this project and the resulting excellent exhibition featuring the rising stars of the ceramics world can be viewed at the University of the Arts, Rosenwald-Wolf Gallery. A huge thank you goes out to the NCECA office staff, especially Kate Vorhaus and Jonathan Hopper for working to organize the entries into slide shows, to our

Communications Director, Brian Kohl for hosting the slideshows on his website and to our jurors, Matt Long and Erin Furimsky for making the selections. Congratulations goes out to the forty students whose work was accepted and much gratitude to our sponsors for offering the awards. In an effort to conserve funds, but preserve NCECA traditions, we created a joint Invitational/ NSJE poster featuring images from this year's NCECA exhibitions and announcing our 2011 competitions and a joint reception for the NCECA exhibitions. As a bonus and in this spirit of combining resources, the images from the NSJE are included in the digital version of the 2010 NCECA catalog. We hope many members will join us on Thursday at 7:00 pm at the Galleries at Moore College of Art and Design to celebrate this year's NCECA exhibitions.

Desiring to keep exhibitions close to the heart of the conference experience and open up the NCECA experience to the Philadelphia community, a number of exhibitions will be offered in the hotel space adjoining the convention center. Wanting to build on the momentum of the 2009 Gallery Expo, NCECA is presenting an expanded 2010 Gallery Expo and Nexpo. Director at Large, Lydia Thompson accepted the lead role in this major branch of the Exhibitions Program. Working closely with her is former Board Member, Susan Filley who has organized the physical space of the Gallery Expo to elegantly recreate a gallery feel in this beautiful ballroom. A new feature in the Expo will be the NCECA booth or Nexpo organized by Director at Large, Rhonda Willers. Hoping to bridge the educational gap between the academic, collecting and business worlds, these exhibitions present the best of the best from the K- 12 Exhibition to our university showcases to the commercial galleries that routinely feature the contemporary ceramics work. A kickoff reception for these exhibitions will be held Tuesday, April 30. Free to the general public, this area is intended to welcome the Philadelphia community into our world of ceramics and excite their interest in viewing, collecting, even making ceramics.

My role in the 2010 Concurrent Independent Exhibitions was limited to helping Jeff Guido and Amy Sarner Williams select from nearly 90 proposals, the exhibitions that would contribute the most to the theme of "Independence" and the overall conference experience. In trying to reduce duplication and pool resources, the decision to work with Ceramics Monthly in creating a single Gallery Guide had my full support. I'm looking forward to the expanded bus tours and seeing as much ceramic art as I can during the conference week. I hope your conference viewing experience is rich, meaningful and inspirational.

In addition to working on the exhibitions for this year's conference, I curated "Continental Divide" a regional ceramic competition and exhibition at the Arvada Center, in Arvada, Colorado with Bebe Alexander and Collin Parson. Cited in the main galleries of the Arvada Center, the overall impact was breathtaking. Many of the exhibiting artists from the states containing the geographical feature of the Continental Divide traveled to Denver for the opening where the NCECA Office manned a booth promoting NCECA membership. A terrific catalog documented the experience. Intended to be first among other joint ceramic events, I am pleased NCECA now has a formal policy that openly offers other entities the opportunity to propose joint projects with NCECA.

While the vast majority of my volunteer time for NCECA focused on exhibitions, I was a committee member on the Strategic Planning Committee and helped formulate the survey and developed the process to glean input from members about the direction NCECA should be heading. The need for NCECA to have a clear direction and goals was stressed if we want to be successful in receiving grants and serving our membership. When asked to help the Development Committee, I donated and made calls to former Board Members, Honors and Fellows. While garnering their financial support, I also learned much about their concerns, goals and the direction they feel NCECA should be headed. It is my hope that the effort to update the vision and rules that govern NCECA will open our governance up to our members in a way that makes NCECA more inclusive and engages a larger number of our membership.

I've also been busy planning ahead for future NCECA conferences. The 2011 Tampa/St. Pete Exhibitions Program Planning is well underway. I traveled to Tampa and St. Petersburg last summer where I loved the great tour of their art culture and attended a planning meeting where I received a warm welcome and heard of many great plans the local ceramic lovers have for hosting a unique NCECA conference. The 2011 NCECA Biennial will be held in the brand new Tampa Museum of Art. We have a full slate of Award Sponsors, three outstanding jurors, a prospectus and have just signed a contract to outsource the jury process. The venue is exquisite, located next to the water. I'm so excited to see it full of NCECA members and great contemporary ceramic art. Be sure to send in your application by August 30, 2010. The 2011 NSJE will be hosted by the University of South Florida and everything is in place for the competition that will once again be national. Working with On-sites, Brian Ransom and Anna Calluori Holcombe, the 2011 Concurrent Independent Exhibitions proposals have been reviewed and are being cited. This is a conference experience you will not want to miss.

Contracts have also been negotiated and signed for the 2012 NCECA Invitational with a major museum and 2012 NSJE with a prestigious university gallery. Next summer, I have plans to travel to our 2013 host city and meet with the On-site and visit the museums and area university galleries in order to attract venues for the NCECA sponsored shows. Verbal commitments have been made and contract negotiations for the Invitational with a major museum and the NSJE with a prestigious institution of higher education are in their final stages.

March 22, 2010

### *Introduction*

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve NCECA this past year. I am consistently excited by the passion and enthusiasm shared by the membership and the board of NCECA. My focus, as Director at Large, has been in areas of: Membership, SOFA Santa Fe, NCECA Connections/Topical Discussions, NEXPO Gallery, Constitution and Bylaws Taskforce, Executive Director Review Committee and Executive Leadership Task Force.

### *Membership Committee*

The membership committee was active this fall and began to develop an annual plan for a review of member benefits and categories. Part of this process was a goal to develop an annual budget for membership that would help to support promotional materials, events, etc. With the upcoming conference, membership has slowed its push forward. Membership must also wait for the bylaws passage to move forward additional membership categories of Galleries and eventually collectors.

My thanks to Barbara Webb, my co-chair of the membership committee, for her work and support within our committee during her tenure with NCECA.

As part of the plan to move forward, it would be in our best interest to add additional working members to the committee. Due to responsibilities, the committee work was carried out by our Student

Director at Large, Jessica Orłowski, committee co-chair, Barbara Webb, and myself. For the future, we need at least 5 working members on the committee. The additional members should include 1 non-board member. This committee is of the utmost importance as we are a membership organization.

### *SOFA Santa Fe*

In July of 2009, I attended SOFA Santa Fe on behalf of NCECA. It was a lovely event overall. The city of Santa Fe provided support for the event by placing SOFA signage in windows and outside of galleries with exhibitions. This is an idea we may wish to pursue for NCECA conferences. It also helped to promote the "brand" of SOFA. Barbara Webb and myself were representatives for NCECA. We made many new connections with gallery owners and art enthusiasts. We compiled these new contacts into an excel sheet with contact information when possible. Our table was located outside of the main gallery event and in the future I would recommend trying to have a space within the gallery expo as the foot traffic was a little slow at times in comparison to foot traffic within the expo area.

### *NCECA Connections and Topical Discussions*

This year, a review committee was assembled for the selection of NCECA Connections and Topical Discussions. The committee included Patsy Cox, Jessica Orłowski and myself. We were greatly assisted by Kate Vorhaus in the office. We received 51 applications! Of those received, 12 NCECA Connections were accepted and 16 Topical Discussions were accepted. We are pleased to offer a variety of programming from traditional topics to new

and innovative ideas in concept and presentation! Additionally, we were able to include several student-led or student-involved presentations.

For future considerations, members have asked us to consider fewer Topical Discussions/NCECA Connections be accepted so that each presentation may have a solo room rather than sharing, which has been the traditional format. This is a valid concern and one that warrants further discussion with the full board. It is also my recommendation, that the Topical Discussions/NCECA Connections application process be wrapped into the application process for conference programming rather than a separate application time. Doing so would streamline the process and provide less confusion and require less “man hours” to accomplish the same goal. One final concern that has been raised is in the area of AV/Technology needs. It may be beneficial to think ahead and determine if we wish to have a “standard” AV package of (LCD project and screen) available to each of the presenters. This year, there were more requests for AV than were available.

#### *NEXPO Gallery*

This year marks the first year of NCECA’s sponsored NEXPO gallery, which will raise funds for the Fund for Artistic Development. Invited artists included: NCECA emerging artists, demonstrating artists, honorees & teaching award winners, and contemporary recommended artists. We have 24 participating artists with over 100 pieces expected. Artists were given the option of donating works in various commission rates with NCECA (NCECA/Artists: 50/50 – 75/25 – 100/0). Happily, many artists donated some pieces at 100% to support the Fund. Board members were also invited to participate with donations of 100% to NCECA as another way to support the organization. The NEXPO gallery will be located in the Liberty Ballroom of the Marriott connected to the Convention Center with the Gallery Expo. This looks to be a fun and exciting event, marked with an opening reception on Tuesday evening.

Future notes for this Gallery include: an earlier timeline to engage more of the NCECA conference artists, and opening the participation to any member through an online process that would be reviewed by an outside jury. Additionally, the continued consultation of a lawyer to over see the contract process would be advised. Harry Rosenthal provided great support in this matter for Philadelphia’s NEXPO. Additional thanks to Helen Anderson and Kate Vorhaus for their assistance in the office and to Jeff Guido for his assistance in arranging pedestals – well done! And final THANKS to all artists who are participating and donating their time and art work!

#### *Constitution and Bylaws Task Force*

My work for this task force has been limited based on need. Keith Williams and I worked on a logo to use as an identifier for the conference vote. We sent this logo with an e-blast a few weeks before the conference to remind members of the important vote at this year’s conference that included the logo and notes from the top ten reasons to vote for the bylaws changes.

#### *Executive Director Review Committee*

The Executive Director Review Committee worked efficiently and fairly to provide an accurate review process. The committee met via teleconference and provided feedback to

the full board for consideration. Several factors were considered through the review process. It was an effective committee and my thanks to my fellow committee members.

#### *Executive Leadership Task Force*

Beginning in January of 2010, the Executive Leadership Task Force (ELTF) has met with a charge of:

The charge to the task force is to assess and adjust the Executive Director position as it currently exists, and propose changes, as the task force deems necessary and advisable, to the position's nature, job title, compensation package and responsibilities.

The task force will also make recommendations regarding the process, inputs and timeline necessary for conducting this search including gathering of appropriate data, background information, etc.

The task force will evaluate the desirability of engaging an executive recruitment agency and recommend whether or not to pursue a contract with such an agency. In either case, the task force will create and recommend a budget for the process and seek approval.

The task force will oversee the recruitment process, whether the task force is directly involved or the work is outsourced, and bring forward the best candidate to the board for its consideration.

To date, the ELTF has created a Job Description, Communications with the Membership, the Staff and the Board. The ELTF will begin the search process and begin reviewing candidates in the near future.

Dick Wehrs and myself are serving as co-chairs. We have a wonderful task force members: Patsy Cox, Associate Professor, CSU Northridge; Lenny Dowhie, NCECA Fellow, Past President, and Professor of Art, University of Southern Indiana; Sherman Hall, Ceramics Monthly Editor; Steve Hilton, NCECA Program Director. Ex-officio: Skeff Thomas, NCECA President; Keith Williams, NCECA President Elect

#### *Conclusion*

Again, I find myself grateful for the opportunity to contribute to a field I love. The NCECA board is working hard to provide value and valuable experiences for our membership, and I am pleased to be a part of these opportunities. I look forward to another two years of service and the chance to develop new possibilities for NCECA members.

**Communications Director Board Report**  
**Respectfully submitted by: Brian J. Kohl**

**First I would like to thank the board for supporting me in my one year appointment as interim Communications Director. I would also like to formally thank the board in voting me into a full three year term and I look forward to serving the membership of NCECA.**

### **Publications-**

- NCECA collaborated with Ceramics Monthly to publish the conference guide and exhibition guide in one publication. Special thanks to Marko Fields our publications director, and Sherman Hall, the editor of Ceramics Monthly. Without these two this project would not have been possible.
- The NCECA Journal will be delivered at the conference for the second year in a row.

### **Website-**

- I visited the NCECA office in November to meet with Jonathan Hopper our webmaster to test the online registration forms for the Philadelphia conference. Online registration is working better than it has in the past and we will continue to make the process easier for users.
- Online Member Directory is now live and has many interactive search fields that make it the most comprehensive search in our field.
- An Industry Links area has been added to the website where you can find logos and links to NCECA's corporate and institutional members, including: products, services, publishers, schools, and non-profits.
- Minor changes have been made in the design of the website to make navigating the site easier for the user. More redesigns are to come in the future including drop-down menus to reduce the number of clicks to get to popular areas of the website.
- Our focus after the conference will be to add more content and resources to increase the value of NCECA Membership.

### **Podcast-**

- I am proud to announce that Stephen Crout has been appointed the Podcast Manager. This will make it possible for us to post more episodes of the podcast. We will be starting with the recordings from the last two conferences mixed in with some from Philadelphia. He will have two interviewers on his team, Tate Rich, and Sarah Grear.
- Monthly podcasts are a goal.
- Recordings of all conference presenters will be made in Philadelphia.

### **Marketing/Branding-**

- Press releases are continuing to be drafted for the Philadelphia conference. Two press releases for the Expo and the Expo/NEXPO are posted in the Press Room area of the NCECA Website, with more to follow.

- NCECA is in the process of registering for trademarks of the acronym “NCECA”, the full name “The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts”, and the NCECA Logo.
- The Spirit of Ceramics film *Victor Spinski: A True American Master of Funk* will be aired on WHYY, a PBS station serving southeastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and all of Delaware. Program times are: Tuesday March 2th and Thursday March 4th at 3:30pm on channel 12-2 and 64-2 Y-Arts, Friday March 5th at 3:30 pm on channel 12-2 and 64-2, and Friday March 12th at 7:30 am on channel 12-2 and 3:30pm on channel 64-2.

#### **NCECA Video Series-**

- Demonstrator DVD’s from the Phoenix conference and the new Spirit of Ceramics film on Dick Hay will be available for purchase in Philadelphia. I am awaiting the jacket designs from Marko Fields to send to the duplicators.
- Changes to this years DVD’s will be the addition of a “play all” button in the DVD menu. This will allow for all the demonstrations and the interviews to play through from the beginning to end uninterrupted. You will still be able to select individual sections.
- I am working on full color DVD printing on the disc, This year is a maybe, but next year will be for sure.
- Demonstrator filming is set for the Philadelphia Conference.
- Budgeting for a new Spirit of Ceramics Film is planned for the next fiscal year.

I have continued my involvement on the NCECA Green Task Force, and will be working some hours in the Green Task Force booth during the conference.

#### ***BOARD REPORT - JIM ROMBERG, DAL, 3/2010***

##### ***ACTIVITIES SUMMARY:***

-Graduate Fellowship Awards

- Finance Committee Member
- Project Director, CRITICAL Santa Fe.

## GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

We are just completing the selection process. Other jurors are Annabeth Rosen, UC Davis, and Thaddeus Erdahl, Artist in Residence- Arrowmont, and award winner last year.

The number of applicants is lower this year than the last two. I am not sure what this represents but I think we should increase the visibility of the award since these are the students that will be our future.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER

- As we all know this is not the best of time for investment but the Committee has worked well to keep things in balance.

-One of my goals has been to make the budget for readable and to clarify what funds are available for what activities. To that end I have made some recommendations to Helen that we create an “ Annotated Budget” for use by the Board and especially new Board member. This would explain line by line what income and expenses are, the limitations on funds, the revenue and expense streams for each fund and an explanation of the budgetary process. Increased transparency for the Board and for the Membership is important in many areas so that there is clarity and accurate communication when recommendations are made. The reaction to the off-again, on-again planning for the Randall Session is a good example of Budget muddling which brought some strong negative reaction.

## CRITICAL Santa Fe

- The majority of my time and efforts have been involved with shaping the CRITICAL Santa Fe Symposium.

**OVERALL IT IS GOING VERY WELL AND NCECA IS GETTING PRAISE FROM MANY DIFFERENT SOURCES ABOUT THEIR FORESIGHT IN SPONSORING A SYMPOSIUM ON CRITICISM.**

-We have a world-class group of international speakers representing many facets of art and ceramics.

-A very positive buzz is getting around and interest is growing.

-A good program of presentation, response and discussion is in place.

DAL REPORT, Jim Romberg, page 2. March 2010

-The Santa Fe Community is responding and excited. A number of participants from the Santa Fe Art Community will be included. Also several local galleries and the Santa Fe Community College (very strong in ceramics) will be presenting exhibitions and gallery discussions as part of the Symposium.

**-ADVERTISEMENT AND PUBLICITY ARE THE GREATEST NEED AT THE MOMENT.**

- Word of mouth to those you think should come or would be interested is the best way.

**-EACH OF US CAN HELP GUARANTEE SUCCESS BY SENDING EMAILS OUT TO THOSE YOU THINK MIGHT BE INTERESTED AND TO PLACES THAT SHOULD BE INFORMED OF THIS EVENT.**

-Everyone who has become aware of this event has said it will be good for ceramics and good for NCECA. So please help spread the word.

Jim Romberg.

**Lydia Thompson, Director-at-Large  
NCECA Board Report, March 2010**

**NCECA International Residencies Partnerships** We invited 14 international art centers to apply for the international residencies program and received 4 responses. The following are the 2010 international residencies:

1. Jingdezhen Sanbao Ceramic Art Institute, China
2. International Ceramic Research Center- Skaelskor. Denmark
3. A Residency for Ceramics Berlin, Germany

The recipients of the award will be posted at the conference. Staff: Kate Vorhaus

**NCECA Policy Taskforce- Chair, Lydia Thompson. Members: Dori Neilsen, Skeff Thomas and Anna Holcombe.** The Taskforce conducted conference calls to review the need for several policies such as the Partnership Policy, Logo Policy, and the NCECA Employee Handbook. In consultation with Mr. Harry Rosenthal, it was recommended to the Policy Taskforce that we replace the word “partnership” with affiliation. Therefore, the Taskforce was successful in creating the NCECA Affiliation Policy. It will enable The Board to consider affiliation proposals from other non for profit organizations, universities, research institutes, foundations, art centers, art institutions, publications, other professional organizations e.g. (CAA, FATE, NCAA, SOFA) and individuals will be eligible to apply. NCECA will also consider proposals that form joint affiliations with other organizations. The Affiliation policy was presented to the Board and approved with a unanimous vote and is posted to website. The Taskforce did create a Logo Policy, however the Board will revisit the policy, once the NCECA identity trademark license has been renewed. The NCECA Handbook has been tabled and the Taskforce will resume its work in late spring.

**2010 NCECA Expo/Nexpo Committee- Lydia Thompson, Coordinator. Members:** Linda Ganstrom, Susan Filley, Rhonda Willers, Skeff Thomas, and Keith Williams. Staff: Dori Neilsen, Kate Vorhaus, and Marko Fields. The Committee and staff have been working diligently to make this a successful event. We have 6 commercial galleries participating in the Expo and 2 NCECA sponsored exhibitions in the Nexpo. Susan Filley, project manager worked very closely with Jed Schiegel and Danny Meisinger both from Dolphin Song Gallery on the booth design and construction. This was a huge task and many thanks for their help. Marko Fields, Publications Director provided the following advertisements for the Expo: ½ page ad in 2010 March issue of Ceramics Monthly, ad design is posted on the NCECA website, American Craft Magazine Calendar of Events website, signage at the conference and a targeted mailing list from Clay Studio to send postcards announcing the event. A reception is scheduled for the event Tuesday, March 31 prior to the opening of the NCECA conference. Skeff and Susan made arrangements to hire and secure crew to help with setup and breakdown of the Expo. Dori provided support and assisted in the arrangements with the hotel such as supervision of the space. Thank you everyone for your help and support with this project.

**2010 Emerging Talent:** Chair: Lydia Thompson. Committee Members: Jim Romberg and Brian Ransom. Staff: Kate Vorhaus. The Committee reviewed and discussed the

criteria for the selection process and record keeping. Kate and Jonathan uploaded the applications to the website for each of us to evaluate individually. The Committee reviewed 67 applications. The application pool consisted of the following:

Gender- 33 female, 34 male

Ethnic Breakdown:

|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| African American | 1  |
| Asian            | 6  |
| Caucasian        | 58 |
| Hispanic         | 2  |

Geographic locations: more than 30 states.

The following individuals are the recipients of the emerging artist award. The artist will be recognized at the Awards Ceremony and Rhonda has invited the artists to exhibit their work in the Expo/Nexpo.

Nidhi Jilaln NY (Installation)  
Christina West, GA (Figure)  
Amanda Salov AK (small sculpture mixed-media)  
John Oles, LA (vessels)  
D.H. Rosen, Japan (Installation)  
Martha Grover, MT (vessels)

**Nominations Committee:** Robert Harrison, Chair. Committee Members: Keith Williams, Susan Harris and Lydia Thompson. Robert Harrison presented the recommendations of Honors, Fellows, Distinguished Teachers award, and president-elect to the Board meeting in Tampa, FL and the recommendations were approved by the full Board. The Honors and Fellows work will also be exhibited in the Expo/Nexpo. Rhonda has made these arrangements.

- The jurors for the 2010 NSJE Erin Furmisky and Matt Long selected 41 pieces from 40 students.
- Reception will be held in conjunction with The NCECA Invitational at the Gallery at Moore on Thursday from 7-9. The Uarts gallery will also be open at this time for visitors after the awards are announced.

### **2011 NSJE**

- The jurors for the 2011 NSJE will be Neil Forrest and Ayumi Horie. Contracts are signed.
- The exhibition will be hosted by the University of South Florida.

### **Student DAL recruiting**

- 4 perspective SDALs have call and several others have e-mailed with questions.

### **Student Logo competition**

- 16 entered
- 465 votes- winner received 239 votes
- 800 wooden rib tools will be distributed at conference with designed burned in

### **NCECA on Facebook and Twitter**

- NCECA group 2-18-10: 1,067 members
- NCECA fan page 2-18-10: 1,028 fans
- NCECA conference event page 2-18-10: 323 confirmed guests
- Bit size versions of all e-news and important links are transmitted regularly
- Twitter representative will be available during the conference to update members regarding programming changes and other announcements.

### **Student Critique Room**

- From 10am-4pm on Thursday and Friday there are 112 half hour slots available, almost twice that of last year.

### **Salon des refuses**

- Plans for student to bring piece no larger the 12 in to critique room are underway
- Liability releases will be signed
- Work will be monitored by critique room volunteers

Thank you to all of the office staff and board for their dedication to student programming.

### **NCECA Board Report**

**October 2009**

**Jeff Guido/Amy Sarnier Williams, Philadelphia on-site liaisons**

## **Exhibitions**

Basically everything is set to go for the exhibition program. Some shows are already open while others will be opening in coming weeks. We believe the attendees will be blown out by the quality of works.

*The Clay Studio* has arranged for free admission to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Eastern State Penitentiary and the Philadelphia Art Alliance with a conference badge on Wednesday March 31 (the day of the tours) We are also working on that for the University Museum.

**TO BE RESOLVED:** Dori has informed Amy that the NCECA office only has 40 or so purple flags. Under no circumstance should the on-site liaisons be left holding the bag on this one. NCECA should either order more flags or pay for flags that the Clay Studio orders. This aspect of things is not well organized and should be clarified before the next conference.

## **Bus Routes/Transportation**

Tours and shuttles are set. Amy worked with Lew White to finalize the routes, and also worked with Sherman Hall to assure the maps were correct. There is no bus transportation to any Thursday or Friday openings. Some venues are providing free shuttles at their own cost.

## **Pre- and post-conference events**

are on The Clay Studio's website and all information has been given to NCECA.

## **Openings/Events**

As with past NCECA events, people will be challenged to make decisions due to conflicting events. There is no bus transportation to any openings.

## **Pedestals**

are ordered for CIE's and NCECA booth.

## **Opening Ceremonies**

Through the generosity of an anonymous board member, the ceremonies will open on Wednesday night with a ten minute performance by the MUMMER group: Polish American String Band. The contract has been faxed to Dori. Mayor Nutter will welcome participants to the conference and to Philadelphia.

## **Project Space**

This has been scrapped

## **Marketing/Advertising**

- NCECA Website
- TCS Website
- Micro site through Philadelphia Convention Visitors Bureau (PCVB)

- Targeted email blasts via The Clay Studio's list and monthly email blasts to NCECA's list.
- Coordinate viral email and web efforts of participating venues.
- *The Clay Studio* has lined up coverage by The Philadelphia Inquirer of the conference, with an overview piece on Sunday March 28th and reviews of shows then and in the following days.
- *The Clay Studio* has partnered with a software company to include NCECA 2010 in a new downloadable iPhone/Itouch/Andriod app called **ici** (that's French for "here") which includes information about all NCECA shows, openings and events that we have data on- Go to Itunes Store to download for only \$2.99. Search for **ici**, then narrow search by clicking apps under "filter by media type". Then, once downloaded, go to channels, and click on NCECA 2010.
- *The Clay Studio* has joined forces with Philagrafika and Phillyfunguide.com on a promotion called PRINT + CLAY MONTH, highlighting over 200 visual art exhibits around the region. All exhibits will be promoted on Phillyfunguide.com starting later this month (see more below under DEADLINES).
- Press Releases: Overall concept of conference with overview of events, etc; targeted story pitches: Economic Impact, Independent Thinkers in Ceramics converge on Philadelphia, Arts are alive in Philadelphia, etc. TCS prepared press release template and distributed to all venues for use.

### **Post Cards/Branding/Exhibition Signage**

The Clay Studio spearheaded a gang printing and branding effort to unify the printed collateral for exhibitions. We developed a unified design and reduced costs for participants. The Clay Studio will also be printing 24" x 36" Curatorial statements specific to each exhibition to be hung in each space whenever possible, which include NCECA Logo and TCS logo.

To: the NCECA Board, Philadelphia, 2010

From: Brian Ransom, co-liaison (with Anna Calluori Holcombe) for the Tampa/St Petersburg NCECA Conference, 2011

RE: Board Report on Progress of NCECA 2011 in Tampa Bay FL

### Theme Choice

- “Tidal Forces, the Next Wave.” NCECA 2011.

### Continued Work With Local Committee

#### Creation of subcommittees:

- Group working on Placement of CIE’s (jurying completed, site selection 90% complete), in Tampa, St. Pete, and sites to the North and South.
- Group working on K-12, with an emphasis towards fall in-service sessions with teachers in Pinellas and Hillsboro counties. Plans forming for student involvement and busing to conference.
- Group working on Fundraising (both corporate sponsorship and individual). Progress slowed down with changes in the NCECA office.
- Group working on Involvement of City officials on both sides of Tampa Bay.
- Group working on Advertising and Publicity.

### Conference Logo

- Creation of “snappy look’n” logo (thanks Marko!).
- Preparation of logo for Philadelphia Conference.
- Making bookmarks for promotion.

### Continued Brainstorming

- Pre and Post-conference possibilities- need direction from Board on how to handle proposals.
- Ideas for involving “New Wave Founders Circle,” Hoping to involve the Tampa/St. Petersburg friends of NCECA members in Philadelphia and Tampa Bay. We still need an updated members list recovered from Barbara’s computer files.
- Seeking partnerships with MOSI, Aquariums, Local news media and Grand Prix of St. Petersburg.
- Investigating possible featured event participants i.e. Keynote Speaker, Randall Session, and Bands for dance (this part is fun).

### Weekly conference calls with co-liaisons, Keith and Patsy