**OLYMPIC GRADUATES**

When the city of Chicago recently unveiled the logo that is part of the bid presentation for the 2016 Olympic Games, the artwork of two recent SOVA graduates was on display: Kyle Poff ’03 and Matt George ’05, both received BFA’s in Communication Design at UNT. While they were both part of the design team from VSA Partners who created the Chicago Olympic logo, Poff designed the chosen identity mark. The logo, and the city of Chicago’s announcement, may be seen at http://vsapartners.com/news.asp. The International Olympic Committee is scheduled to announce the 2016 host at its meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009. Poff also worked as part of the UNT design team that created the University’s updated brand, which was unveiled in 2005.

*Read more about SOVA ALUMNI at www.art.unt.edu/alumni.

*Please send ALUMNI NEWS to Kathryn Joyce at kjoyce@unt.edu.

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**GIVE TO EXCELLENCE**

As you make your plans for giving this season, please consider a gift to the School of Visual Arts. As you may know, UNT receives approximately 16% of its budget from state support. The additional 84% must come from tuition and gifts from donors like you who care about insuring excellence. Please join us in this season of giving with a gift directed to your favorite SOVA program or institute. $25 enrolls you in the new SOVA member support group AVANT-GARDE. If you select a gift of $1,000, you are also enrolled in the President's Council. You can give MORE by giving LESS more frequently with a recurring monthly pledge. Select a gift amount and frequency on the enclosed form. Know that your gift is a much appreciated investment in SOVA students. If you have already made a gift, thank you! We would still love to hear from you.

**AVANT-GARDE MEMBER LEVELS**

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<tr>
<th>Minimum Gift</th>
<th>Invitations To Events</th>
<th>Recognition in The North Texan</th>
<th>UNT Art Gift</th>
<th>President’s Council</th>
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<td>Patron $1,000 &amp; up</td>
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We have been so busy this fall with SOVA events! You will read about some of them here in AVANT-GARDE. We know that our alumni and friends cannot attend all of our events no matter how much you might like to or how much we would like you to. We want you to know about them though, and we'd also like to know about what you are doing. Our best link to you is our new website. It is fast, comprehensive and visual. Through the SOVA web site you can read up-to-date stories of what is happening in the various departments, view an event calendar so you won't miss a gallery opening or student show, or the chance to attend a conference or class with one of our numerous visiting artists/scholars and see the many ways that you can partner with the School. An upcoming feature will be a NEW section on Alumni and Friends. This will be an area to read about our alumni’s accomplishments: where they are and what they are doing. We invite you to become part of SOVA again. It is a great place filled with great people. You can find us at www.art.unt.edu. We are eager to hear from you. Happy holidays!

Dr. Robert Milines, Dean
School of Visual Arts, University of North Texas

Extraordinary creations of Cristobal Balenciaga, one of fashion’s most prominent designers, will be featured in an exhibition February 4 – May 27, 2007, in collaboration between the University of North Texas School of Visual Arts and Southern Methodist University. “Balenciaga and His Legacy: Haute Couture from the Texas Fashion Collection” will showcase over 70 original Balenciaga creations representing Spanish heritage, French couture and luxury branding from 1949 to 1968. Also included are 25 hats and images taken by well-known photographers for Vogue magazine and Harper’s Bazaar. The items are from the Texas Fashion Collection, which is part of the School of Visual Arts at UNT under the direction of Myra Walker. The Collection, featured in a new book Balenciaga and His Legacy by Myra Walker, will be exhibited at SMU’s Meadows Museum of Art, alongside the Museum’s holdings of Spanish art. Save the date for this stunning show. For more information visit www.tfc.unt.edu.

For over thirty years the Metalsmithing and Jewelry Program has been under the thoughtful and talented hand of Regent’s Professor Harlan Butt. His work, and the work of his fellow faculty and students, has a world-wide reputation. The UNItartspaceFW [in Fort Worth – across from the Kimbell Museum] just opened a new exhibit featuring “Thirty Years of Metals: POLISHED.” An opening night fundraiser was held in honor of Professor Butt, and an endowment was born that will help graduate Metalsmithing and Jewelry Design students far into the future. With a generous seed gift of $10,000, over 130 gallery attendees added another $8,000 with their ticket and silent auction purchases. The goal is to reach $25,000 that will generate $1,000 a year.

Congratulations Professor Butt!

Dr. Jean Andrews ’75, found her calling while doing her doctoral work in the School of Visual Arts. Discovering that little to no research existed on peppers, Jean set out on a life adventure – literally. Traveling the world, Dr. Andrews collected, grew and painted many varieties that she later featured in her book, Peppers: The Domesticated Capsicums, which is the most comprehensive text on the species written. Dr. Andrews has graciously offered 19 of her original paintings featured in the book available for purchase. All of the proceeds from the sale of the paintings go directly to the Jean Andrews Scholarship Endowment. Scholarship Endowments are one of the most important gifts donors can make. These are funds that last in perpetuity, and directly help students. The painting featured is #15; image size is 11x14. These are being offered at their appraised value of $1,500 each. To view the entire collection, visit the SOVA website at www.art.unt.edu/peppers. Please contact Kathryn Joyce for information about purchasing one of these collectibles. 940-565-4026 or kjoyce@unt.edu.

On the cover: Father Christmas, by Robert Jessup (painting & drawing faculty); brochure design by Eric Ligon (communication design faculty)