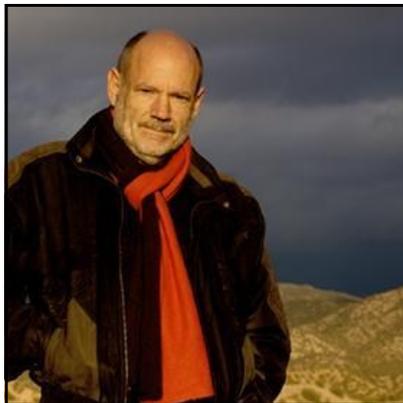


## \$2.5 Million Bequest to Honor Esteemed CVAD Faculty Member Jack Sprague

An estate gift estimated at \$2.5 million from an anonymous donor will ensure that the communication design program in the University of North Texas' College of Visual Arts and Design continues to flourish under a new name, the Jack Sprague Communication Design Program, in honor of one of the college's most distinguished former faculty members.

Sprague retired from UNT in 2009 after 20 years of teaching at UNT,



14 as director of the communications design program. He now resides in Santa Fe, N.M.

"This \$2.5 million gift, when endowed, will produce more than \$100,000 a year in scholarships, faculty and student project support, program resources, guest lecturers and publications," said Robert Milnes, dean of the College of Visual Arts and Design. "It will lift a great program into the stratosphere."

Sprague received his master's degree in communication design and design education from Florida State University. Before joining the UNT faculty, he worked as communication design director of the Art Institute of Dallas and as a creative and art director in the advertising and design industry. Since his retire-



ment, Sprague has worked as education director at the Smart Center Santa Fe, which helps people tap into their creativity in a variety of different fields, from cooking to fine art.

Eric Ligon, associate dean for academic and student affairs and CVAD professor, said Sprague's dedication to his students helped shape countless designers' careers.

"Jack's expectations for excellence fueled his students' academic achievements," he said. "He is a

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## Sprague Honored with \$2.5 Million Bequest

man worth honoring for his contributions to the lives and livelihoods of all his students and to the greater good of the communication design program here at UNT.”

CVAD alumnus Stephen Zhang, who is now vice president and image director at Fossil Brand, said his communication design graduate studies at UNT, led by Sprague, were a critical factor in his professional success.

“Jack is a devoted and inspiring educator. He guided students to



become independent thinkers, to have a worldview and to make a positive impact on the world with creativity,” Zhang said.

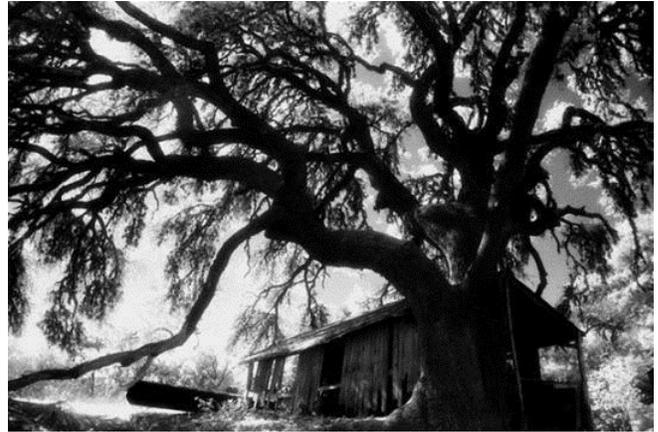
“Teaching was never his job — it was his passion.”

The communication design program name change

will take effect when the fund becomes endowed. CVAD also offers the Jack Sprague Communication Design Scholarship, which helps undergraduate students continue their studies.

Sprague said he played just a part in bringing the communication design program to the distinguished level it has reached today.

“I was only a single member among a significant group of very committed and talented artists, designers, educators and students whom I greatly admire and was so



fortunate to have had the opportunity to lead during a short period of time in the overall journey of the program,” he said. “This could not have been done without the family of faculty, administrators and students that were part of this journey.

“I want to thank everyone for the support and love given me during my time at UNT.”

Milnes said renaming the communication design program in Sprague’s honor is a fitting tribute to someone who has built a talented faculty team and helped so many students succeed as professionals.

## Visual Resource Center Develops Archival Project

Artworks, art exhibitions, and art-related events created by College of Visual Arts and Design students, faculty, staff and alumni are digitally documented and saved for future generations’ research and reference by the VRC staff.

The VRC provides and maintains an encyclopedic collection of images of artworks and films about art, artists, designers, and art history. The VRC online image database at [https://](https://resources.unt.edu/)

[resources.unt.edu/](https://resources.unt.edu/) primarily services the students and faculty of the CVAD with a searchable database consisting of over 60,000 images as well as numerous course pages, a blog, bookmarks, and links.

The VCR also documents artworks, art exhibitions, and art-related events created by CVAD students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

ARCHIVAL PROJECT

## Lesli Robertson Completes IAA Fellowship with US Exhibition Tour

By Ellen Rossetti

Walking down a trail in the bush in far western Uganda, Lesli Robertson heard a pounding noise. As she neared, she saw a man sitting on the ground, thumping a large mallet into a piece of tree bark.

With each strike, the piece grew from a small rectangle to a soft cloth the size of a small room. The experience inspired Robertson, a lecturer in the fibers program at the UNT's CVAD, to spend years researching bark cloth made from the Ugandan mutuba tree.

"It's magic seeing the bark cloth transform in a matter of a couple of hours," she says. "I want people to find a



relationship not only with the intrigue that this material holds, but to consider how materials can evolve over centuries, remaining relevant to the current trends and culture."

Robertson is among seven faculty members who have been named faculty fellows in UNT's Institute for the Advancement of the Arts since its inception in 2009.

Granted one semester off from teaching to focus on their research full-time, these faculty work on projects that are capturing national attention and further raising the profile of UNT as a center for artistic excellence, research and education.

Robertson's exhibition, titled *Material Evolution: Ugandan Bark*

*Cloth*, is expected to tour through the US from 2014 - 2017.

"It's not as if I did the fellowship and the project ended," she says.

"Everywhere the exhibition goes, people are going to know there's an institute that fosters creative excellence at UNT."



## Anam Bakali Wins Prestigious Scholarship

Anam Bakali, a senior photojournalism and interdisciplinary art and design studies major, earned a highly prestigious Critical Language Scholarship from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to study Arabic in Tunisia this summer.

Bakali is among 621 students at U.S. colleges and universities selected for the scholarship among more than 5,200 applicants. Scholarship winners' expenses are paid to travel overseas to study one of 13 languages that have been designated as "critical languages" by the

U.S. government because there is a need for more trained speakers in those languages in business and government positions.

Bakali, who previously studied Arabic as a young child, plans to receive her bachelor's degree this spring and work in graphic design. Her long-term plans are to work in the Middle East as a travel photographer.



## CVAD Grad Students Land Internships at DMA

The Dallas Museum of Art were fortunate to have two wonderful CVAD graduate students working with them in the Family Experiences and Access Programs Education Department this summer.

### Meet Laurel Benson

Here are a few interesting facts about Laurel:

1. I was born in San Diego, California and moved to Flower Mound, Texas when I was five, and have lived here ever since.
2. I attended Stephen F. Austin State for my undergrad and received a degree in Art



History in May, 2010. I currently have one semester left until I will get my master's in Art History with the Museum Ed Certificate.

3. One of my favorite works of art at the Dallas Museum of Art is *Ballet Dancers on the Stage* by Edgar Degas.



### Meet Madeleine Fitzgerald

Here are some fun facts about Madeleine:

1. I am originally from Harlingen, Texas, a small town in the Rio Grande Valley near the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. I spent most of my childhood either on the beach or nursing a brutal sunburn.

2. I attended Trinity University in San Antonio and majored in art history with a focus on Impressionism and Post-Impressionism art.

3. My favorite piece in the DMA's collection is *Sheaves of Wheat* by Vincent Van Gogh.



### Sierra Mendez Wins Writing Award

Sierra Mendez, a CVAD alumna who received her MA degree in Design Innovation Studies in May, won the \$3,000 prize for the Research and Reporting-Based Essay contest at the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference held in June.

Cash prizes of more than \$15,000 were awarded in three categories.

Mendez' essay, "Where the Wild Things are," won against a very competitive field.



### Sam Williamson's Big Thought Job

Sam Williamson, a CVAD alum who received his MA degree in Design Innovation Studies in May, has recently been hired as the project manager for the UNT/Big Thought fellows program.

Big Thought launched its first Teaching Artist Fellowship Program in July. The Program is aimed at individuals that are committed to developing policy and professional practices that support the growing field of teaching artistry. Williamson will be instrumental in designing this new program.



## Chalk It Up to Talent—Dana Tanamachi

By Jessica DeLeón

**Dana Tanamachi's** ('07) use of a simple, cheap instrument has thrust her into the national spotlight

Tanamachi's chalk lettering has appeared on the cover of *O, The Oprah Magazine* and the West Elm catalog and in a full-page article in *The Wall Street Journal*.

Her career began as "sort of a happy accident" when she started doodling on a chalkboard wall at a friend's party in Brooklyn. "I didn't think anything of it," she says. But impressed partygoers asked her, "Oh, did you just do this?"

She's currently working on projects for merchandise packaging, magazines and books. She's also traveling frequently, working on installations and lecturing to colleges and professional organizations.

Eric Ligon, associate dean for academic and student affairs at CVAD remembers Tanamachi. "Her work is really popular now because she is good at what she does," he says. "The typography is hand rendered and great fun."

Tanamachi says UNT's communication design program gave her a great foundation, especially the intense exercises in Ligon's typography classes.

"I'm so glad I ended up at UNT," Tanamachi says. "It is such a great place for the arts. I didn't know that going in. I still tell people about it."



### Q&A with Dana

**Degree in:** Communication Design

**What is it like to work with chalk?** When you work with chalk, you get dirty. That's the best part. You're in there, working with your hands. It's not pristine.

**Toughest part of her job:** Keeping up with email. It has nothing to do with the chalk. The chalk is the easiest part. It's the managing of everything that's a big challenge.

**Most rewarding part of her job:** I love people's reaction to my work. I feel like there's a sense of joy people get from just looking at it. Chalk is such a humble medium. You don't expect something big to come out of it.

**Favorite place in Denton:** My favorite place to hang out and eat was El Guapo's. I still really miss it because New York doesn't have any great Tex-Mex.

## Jenny Vogel Selected as Artist to Watch

Jenny Vogel, Assistant Professor in New Media Art, is listed as one of 30 artists to watch this year by NYARTS online magazine .

*NYARTS magazine wrote: "The artists presented in our '30 Artists to Watch' are a band of disparate, working in mediums that stretch from soundscapes to installations, acrylics to bed sheets.*

*One notices a bend in feminist art; even when incorporating "girlie" craft into their work, these artists twist and distort such practices to create beast-like sculptures and eerie landscapes."*



Jenny Vogel's work explores subjective themes as they are experienced in the age of information.



She examines the anxiety of alienation, the desires of communication and a sense of belonging in a virtual world. These traits, attributed to Romanticism, are dealt with in her work through the lenses of contemporary communication technology, the media and historical preconceptions.

Through the juxtaposition of technology and Romanticism, Vogel attempts to challenge the image of the Internet as the "global village," objectivism in the news and the ideology of science.

## Photography Professor Doherty Wins Guggenheim Fellowship

Dornith Doherty, professor of photography, was one of 181 recipients of a prestigious John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowship.

She is completing her **Archiving Eden** project in which she takes X-ray images of seeds and cloned plants at international seed banks and incorporates them into digital collages. She began the project in 2008, inspired by the construction of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault to secure the world's seed collections.



For 12 hours a day for two days, Doherty photographed inside the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in extreme cold. She says the documentary-style photographs she took of the vault are in the tradition of 19th-century expeditionary photographers who went west to show people what the continent looked like.

"To stand in front of that vault door that was covered in frost and only open two days — and to be there with a camera — was amazing," she says.

## Erick Swenson Exhibits Sculptures at the Nasher



The Nasher Sculpture Center only shows nationally and internationally known artists, rarely if ever regionally known and grown artists.

Erick Swenson (1999, BFA, Drawing & Painting) has achieved fame nationally with his astonishingly realistic sculptures of animals that are made out of

polyurethane plastics. His exhibition at the Center, carried over throughout the summer, features three intricate works, one of which includes eight hundred snails.

Swenson has made a national name for himself with his astonishingly realistic sculptures of animals that are made out of

polyurethane plastics.

His works — including ones in the collections of the Dallas Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art in Fort Worth — have been compared to museum dioramas in their detailed, captured stillness.

But these dioramas are often grotesque or mysterious in some way.

Not bad for someone who was unsure of what he wanted to do when he came to college.

Swenson minored in philosophy, and was a member of the Good/Bad Art Collective, the 1990s group that created quirky one-day art installations.

“Sculpting just came naturally,” Swenson says. “I didn’t run out of things

to say with it, I suppose. Do what works.”

Read more about Erick Swenson's exhibit on the Art & Seek website and listen to a KERA podcast. <http://artandseek.net/2012/04/25/death-and-poetry-in-plastic-erick-swenson-at-the-nasher/>



## James Thurman Registers Trademark Thurmanite®

For more than ten years, James Thurman has been experimenting with a material he developed called Thurmanite®.

It is a composite material made of layers of paper (usually recycled) adhered together with epoxy resin and then carved to reveal colorful patterns similar to woodgrain.

After conducting numerous workshops on making and using the material, along with completing hundreds of pieces of jewelry and tableware with the material, the trademark has finally been approved and registered.

The Society of North American Goldsmiths (SNAG) will be publishing a technical article about Thurmanite® in the upcoming June issue.



Also, while in Turkey this summer as a Fulbright Specialist, James will be teaching several Thurmanite® workshops. For more information, please visit <http://www.jamesthurman.com>

## CVAD Faculty Members Celebrate the Summer with Weddings

### James Thurman and Umut Demirgüç

Umut Demirgüç and James Thurman (Assistant Professor, Core Design) were married in Istanbul on June 15, 2012. Umut received her MFA in Metalsmithing in 2005 while James began his UNT faculty appointment in 2009.

Their two-part Honeymoon consisted of a trip to Turkey as well as a two week driving tour of the USA, highlighted with a variety of studio visits (including Albert Paley's in Rochester, NY).

They will continue to maintain studios both in Turkey and Texas & join each other when their schedules permit.



### Amie Adelman and Chris Ware

Chris Ware and Amie Adelman (Associate Professor, Fibers) were married at sunset on June 5, 2012 on a beautiful white sand beach on North Captiva Island, Florida.

The couple resides on Eagle Mountain Lake in Azle, Texas with five dogs, a horse, and a few stray cats.

Amie hasn't received her professional photos back yet, but we will post a few in the next newsletter!



### Michèle Wong Kung Fong and Jeff Wang

Michele Wong Kung Fong (Assistant Professor, Communication Design) and Jeff Wang were married on June 2, 2012 at the Dallas Arboretum.



## CVAD Students Welcome Beautiful Babies



Congratulations to Art Education PhD student, Fahad Aljebreen on the birth of his son Laith Aljebreen who was born on July 10.

Congratulations to Art Education Master of Arts student David Bearden and his wife, Dana on the birth of their son Oliver Isaiah Bearden who was born on July 9.



## Gallery Exhibitions



### UNT North Gallery

#### *Unplanned Growth in the North Gallery*

*Unplanned Growth* was motivated by an attempt to use the unique architectural and material characteristics of the North Gallery to mimic the growth and construction seen along Fry St in Denton.

The Gallery's long, inviting window and placement within the building allows for an atypical experience when viewing art and installations.

The artists involved were CVAD art students: Justin Archer, Sarah Collins, Morgan Everhart, and Analise Minjarez, and Mick Burson.

The project evolved over an eleven-week period through various iterations, which were documented and cataloged as photographs.



### UNT Art Gallery

The **UNT Art Gallery**, part of the UNT's CVAD, will present the following events. UNT Art Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, and noon to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Admission is free.

#### **Contemplating Limits**

Aug. 28 – Sept. 22  
Featuring sculptures by Austin Ballard, photographs by Robin Dru Germany and paintings by Kirsten Macy and Gary Passanise. Curated by Tracee W. Robertson, gallery director. Opening Reception: 5 – 7 p.m. Aug. 30. Sponsored by the UNT Fine Arts Series.

#### **UNT on the Square**

The following exhibitions will be at UNT on the Square, 109 N. Elm St. in downtown Denton. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. MonFri, with extended hours until 8 p.m. Thurs, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free.



#### **Cloth Talks: West African Arts Exhibition and Symposium**

Sept. 4 – Sept. 29  
Central to the textile traditions of the Ashante of Ghana, West Africa, are Adinkra and Kente cloths. Printed or woven, these fabrics are a visual embodiment of proverbs, events and cultural

values. "Cloth Talks" presents a collection of these textiles, subtle and striking, drawn from private collections and from the Boakye family workshop in Nthonso, one of the only remaining traditional Adinkra villages.

## Reception and Awards Ceremony for *On My Own Time*

UNT Employee Art Exhibition



**Friday, August 10**

**5:30-7:30pm**

**UNT on the Square  
109 N Elm St  
Denton, Tx**

Reception will honor participants and announce winners of the *On My Own Time* exhibition. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend!

On My Own Time (OMOT) is an annual, regional art competition featuring the artistic talents of people who work for companies, non-profit and governmental agencies throughout North Texas. Each year, area companies and organizations hold in-house exhibitions featuring artwork that was created outside of working hours by their employees.



untonthesquare.unt.edu  
laa.unt.edu 940.369.8267



## Available Positions and Internships



### MATERIALS HARD & SOFT

The Greater Denton Arts Council's *Materials: Hard & Soft* deadline for applications is September 7.

This annual competition and exhibition of contemporary crafts was started in 1987 and is now in its 26th year.

Recognized nationally, *Materials: Hard & Soft* attracts hundreds of entries from every state in the union.

Nationally recognized jurors select the show from slides and then award \$5000 in prize money. A catalog is printed. Many of the artists seen in the *Materials* exhibitions have been featured in national publications such as *American Craft*.

#### Fashion Show Dressers

Volunteers Needed for September 18th by Rhonda Sargent Chambers, "FOR WHITNEY." 25 volunteers are needed for September 18<sup>th</sup> from 5p-10p.

Please contact Rhonda Sargent Chambers directly to confirm if you are interested, [rschambers@sbglobal.net](mailto:rschambers@sbglobal.net) or by phone at 214-707-7724.

Duties: Fashion Show Dressers and After Event Tidy Up!  
South Side Lamar – 1409 South Lamar Street, Dallas, Tx 75215  
Wear All Black: comfortable shoes and nice black cocktail attire!



The latest opportunity for fame comes from what may seem like an unlikely source. Brillo®, introduces the **15 Minutes of Fame** contest.

Brillo is calling all artists to create and submit an original Cover Design for a limited-edition commemorative book which will celebrate Brillo's 100 year anniversary in 2013.

The contest winner will receive a \$1,000 Visa® gift card and 10 copies of the book, but more importantly, the winning design will also be displayed in the Andy Warhol Museum for one month.

Entries may be submitted July 16 - August 17, 2012 through Brillo's Facebook page: [Facebook.com/Brillo](https://www.facebook.com/Brillo). Winners will be announced September 10, 2012.

#### Stylist and Intern Positions

Reinvent My Wardrobe is looking to hire about 20 Fashion Merchandising/Design students for stylist and intern positions starting August 20, 2012.

*Must* fill out this application for Internship; [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?hl=en\\_US&formkey=dE8zS1ZUR2N5WkRjWHRMVWhwMWZFBmc6MQ#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?hl=en_US&formkey=dE8zS1ZUR2N5WkRjWHRMVWhwMWZFBmc6MQ#gid=0)

Also looking for 20 Wardrobe Stylists in and around the DFW!

GET PAID to do what you've already been doing for years, help women get dressed!

*Must* fill out application to be considered;

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=dDhtM0tRc09VcFJNMXIIRnA5RjN2anc6MQ#gid=0>

Natalie Marie Erwin, CEO

#### P.R.I.N.T. Press Internship

An internship at [P.R.I.N.T. Press](http://P.R.I.N.T.Press) is available to one undergrad student for fall semester. It requires 8 to 10 hours per week for 3 credit hours. Duties could include but are not limited to assisting staff & visiting artists on special projects & events.

For more information, contact Lari Gibbons, associate professor and director of P.R.I.N.T. Press. [Lari.gibbons@unt.edu](mailto:Lari.gibbons@unt.edu)