

September 20, 2013

It is great to be back. I hope all of you have had a wonderful and safe summer. To those who are new to Cranbrook—welcome! There are so many meaningful ways for you to experience this special place we call the Cranbrook Educational Community.

We have had an exceptionally busy and successful summer. Thousands of summer students and campers participated in and enjoyed the programs at our Schools, the Institute of Science and at the Art Academy. We also opened two new important exhibitions. At the Art Museum, *Michigan Modern: Design that Shaped America* opened with a symposium exploring Cranbrook's and Michigan's role in shaping midcentury modern design in America. At the Institute of Science, the Dinosaurs are back! *Dinosaurs-The Lost World* is open and includes several dinosaurs never before seen in Michigan. Both exhibitions have received considerable acclaim and I hope you will take a moment to experience each of them soon!

Again this summer, our Community staff along with our dedicated volunteers at the House and Gardens Auxiliary worked tirelessly to maintain, restore and improve the beautiful and historic campus we all share. Our gardens, walkways, buildings and historic walls look just great. We also have continued to invest in the safety of our campus, something that is important to us all.

The Schools shared in the successes and excitement of the summer as well. Cranbrook Schools' summer camps enjoyed a record-breaking year. There were more students on campus than in any previous year (over 3,050), and the broadest spectrum of camps in the program's history. During the summer phase of Horizons-Upward Bound (HUB), over 158 students were engaged in a rigorous six-week academic enrichment program. In addition to classwork, participants were involved in activities which included writing workshops, career planning, college tours, financial planning, Tai Chi, gardening and physical fitness projects.

Last week, we closed the summer season with a unique collaboration that showcased the House and Gardens Auxiliary and the Institute of Science. *Diamonds at Twilight, Stars at Night* gave visitors the opportunity to experience the Cranbrook House gardens in the evening before moving over to the Institute of Science to view the night sky and explore the Institute's collections. Initially we feared the evening would be ruined by rain, but in true Cranbrook style, the skies cleared and we were rewarded instead with a double rainbow over our sunken gardens. A truly memorable Cranbrook experience for the 144 people who attended!

Looking forward—our public programs continue into the fall and winter with some of the richest offerings in years.

The Center for Collections and Research offers one of those truly unique Cranbrook experiences when *From the Archives: Forging Cranbrook's Gatescape* exhibition and tour is presented on October 5. This bus and walking tour will look at the historical and contemporary uses of gates, and the relationship between designer and fabricator, and ornamentation and the architectural

landscape, throughout the campus. Tour guide and Head Archivist Leslie S. Edwards promises some “new discoveries” for even the most seasoned Cranbrook visitors.

And if you missed the *Michigan Modern* symposium in June, we’re excited to be bringing back some of our outstanding speakers for a lecture series at the Art Museum. Every Sunday at 4 p.m., a different speaker will discuss the impact Michigan had on modern design. It’s a perfect way to learn more about the exhibition before it closes on October 13. Of special note to the Cranbrook Community is the September 29 lecture by Cranbrook parent Rip Rapson. After the lecture, we will unveil the Ralph Rapson Papers, which Rip recently donated to the Cranbrook Archives. We hope you can join us.

In November, the Art Museum answers the question “What happens when pandemonium explodes at Cranbrook?” *Crandemonium*, the museum’s annual fundraising event, offers a night of great food, outrageous entertainment and irresistible art from some of the Academy’s most talented alumni. There are rumors that roller derby girls will be on-hand to greet you, so I encourage you to attend this fun-filled event.

The Institute’s Fall Lecture Series explores the science and art of the Institute’s current *Dinosaurs-The Lost World* exhibition through the experiences of the curators and artists who contributed to the exhibition’s creation. From James Gurney, illustrator of *Dinotopia* fame, and John Hankla, of the Hankla collection, as well as the Institute’s resident Dinosaur expert John Zawiskie, each speaker will offer a unique view into the science and art of Cretaceous dinosaurs from *The Lost World*.

I used this past summer to reflect on the "key learnings" of my first year as President. Perhaps the most important thing I have learned is that the true key to Cranbrook's success is our leadership team throughout our Community and our dedicated and passionate volunteers. Over the past year, all parts of Cranbrook have shown a commitment to excellence and a willingness to collaborate and work together. Feedback, as well as comments from many of you have helped us prepare a strategic vision for the Community. Some of you may have seen this document. If not, it is available via a link on our web home page (<http://digital.turn-page.com/t/76311>). This outline of our Mission, Vision, Core Values, and Strategic Themes, will be a useful reference in helping us frame our future while continuing to build upon our past.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Cranbrook will bestow its first Founders Award since 2006. The Board of Trustees recently decided that now is the time to reinvigorate the Founders Award process. Cranbrook’s highest honor, the Founders Award has been given 53 times over the last 58 years and pays tribute to individuals affiliated with Cranbrook and who exemplify the values of September 20, 2013 Cranbrook and its founders, George and Ellen Scripps Booth. Later this fall we will announce the name of this most worthy recipient and will invite you to join in a celebration of this award next spring.

Many of you have expressed an appreciation for these communications. I will continue to stay in regular contact with you as our busy year unfolds. As always, I encourage you to reach out to me in whatever way is most convenient for you.

My first year has left me with an amazing appreciation of those who choose to make Cranbrook such a central part of their lives, including our employees, donors, board members, alumni, volunteers, and individual members and visitors. You are what makes Cranbrook such a special place. Cranbrook's new Vision statement finishes with "Cranbrook challenges minds and transforms lives" and all of us play a special role in this important work.

Dom DiMarco
President
Cranbrook Educational Community