



Trevor Oswalt

Message from the President George Campbell Jr., Ph.D.

The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art has great cause to celebrate. Academic program rankings place the college among the upper echelon of top tier institutions, and students continue to win a vastly disproportionate share of the nation's most prestigious academic prizes and fellowships. Applications for admission to Cooper Union have reached record levels and the college consistently is among the nation's two or three most selective institutions of higher education. We've introduced new degree programs—an interdisciplinary bachelor of engineering degree and a master of architecture (M.Arch.II)—along with a postgraduate Summer Residency Program in the School of Art.

The college has expanded collaborations with other academic and research institutions, locally and internationally, and established new interdisciplinary initiatives in areas such as sustainable design, environmental graphics and art and public policy. Great Hall lectures and programs uphold Cooper Union's long tradition of bringing leading thinkers from around the world to engage faculty, students and the New York community in intellectual discourse. Among recent speakers are Bill Clinton, Brian Greene, Tony Kushner, Cornel West, Marlene Dumas, Renzo Piano, Wangari Maathai, Mario Cuomo and Newt Gingrich.

The Campaign for Cooper Union has now crossed the halfway mark toward our goal of \$250 million. This places us on track to secure the institution's financial future, to sustain the standard of academic excellence for which we're known and to guarantee the full-tuition scholarship policy for the foreseeable future. Included in the \$140 million raised is the largest grant the institution has ever received from a foundation: \$10 million from the Starr Foundation, which will support our new academic building, endow an engineering professorship and provide scholarships to students. In 2006, we began demolition of the Hewitt Building in preparation for a spring 2007 construction start on the new building. Our 26 Astor Place property is now occupied by a signature residential building designed by Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects LLC and developed by The Related Companies. The building is already earning much needed revenue to support the college's operations. We've issued a request for proposals for development of a mixed-use, largely commercial

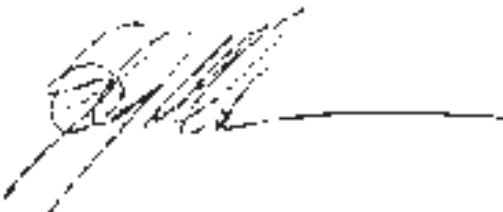
building at 51 Astor Place, scheduled to break ground as soon as our students and faculty move into their new building in 2009. This confluence of milestones represents significant progress in realizing the many goals set forth in our 2001 strategic plan.

This fall, we began a new strategic planning process to envision the future and develop Cooper Union's direction for the next five years—2007 to 2012. The Academic Council—comprised of the deans and vice presidents—will coordinate the planning process. Each of the academic and administrative divisions will prepare a “portfolio” analysis and preliminary plan for its area of responsibility. Special emphasis will be placed on the growing interdisciplinary academic interests and the interdependence of administrative departments. We know that sustaining Cooper Union's academic profile will demand reinvestment in academic programs, renewal of the faculty, evolving curricula and effective utilization of the enhanced technological infrastructure that will be available in the new academic building.

As we examine the exciting and stimulating challenges of the future, Cooper Union's historic and still unique mission, commitment to academic excellence and dedication to the full-tuition scholarship policy will continue to be guiding principles. We will also consider a number of important, overarching questions, such as: What will life in the 21st century demand from the young people we educate as architects, artists and engineers? What major curriculum changes are needed to address those demands? How can we ensure that our recruitment processes are more inclusive and attract talented students from all population groups? What must we do to continue to attract and retain new faculty members with exceptional abilities?

As the college enters what is a truly historic and potentially transformative period, with more than one-third of its academic space to be replaced by new state-of-the-art facilities, substantial renovations in the Foundation Building and an updated vision for the next five years, the outcome of the strategic planning process will profoundly impact Cooper Union's programs and students for many years to come.

We look forward to achieving a shared vision among the constituents of the Cooper Union community—students, faculty, administration, parents, alumni, friends and donors. We will need all of their support to see these plans through to realization and to “preserve the future” of The Cooper Union.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. H. H.', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.