



Communications

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## **JOHN W. KURTICH TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OFFERS SAIC STUDENTS OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY AND SEE THE WORLD**

### Mentor and SAIC Master Teacher's New Charitable Donation to Provide Student Scholarships to Help with Tuition and Travel for International Study Trips

CHICAGO, IL—The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) proudly announces the inaugural recipients of the new John W. Kurtich Travel Scholarship Program, providing annually from the estate of beloved SAIC professor and scholar John W. Kurtich (1935–2004) **travel scholarship funding for up to 20 SAIC students**. The new scholarship program joins the **Edes Foundation Prize**, the **Eunice W. Johnson Fellowship**, and the **Golub Scholarship** as the fourth major new student award established at SAIC in 2010, which experienced a six percent increase in undergraduate enrollment this fall.

The recipients for Winter 2011 are: **Morgan Carter** (BFA 2011), **Veronica Diaz** (BFA 2012), **David Evancho** (MARCH 2012), **Allison Glenn** (MA/AAP and MA/AH 2011), **Andrea Gonzalez** (BFA 2011), **Katharine Houpt** (MAAT 2011), **Siavash Khorrani** (MARCH 2011), **Matthew Lockdall** (BFA 2011), and **Natalie Pfister** (MFA 2011). Representing seven SAIC degree programs, the scholars will travel in at least seven foreign countries on four different trips organized by SAIC. Each scholarship offers approximately \$5,000 per student to cover tuition and travel expenses for international study trips.

“John’s amazing passion was always apparent when he talked about his love of travel as education for the mind, body, and soul. His lasting legacy should always be that any student should experience the joy of travel while continuing to better themselves through education,” says Troy Underwood, President of the Board of the Kurtich Foundation for Study and Research.

“John’s love for SAIC has profoundly enhanced the quality of the curriculum,” says Tony Jones, CBE, Chancellor of SAIC. “More importantly his influence has overwhelmingly changed the lives of the people he loved the most, the students.”

Study trips allow SAIC students to travel for 3–6 weeks to artistic centers across the globe, from Italy to Brazil to China, Singapore, and Hong Kong. Study trip participants from various SAIC departments and disciplines not only learn about the history of art and architecture at each location, but they also have the unique opportunity to travel with and learn from each other. Faculty advisors work together to plan each trip, thereby ensuring interdisciplinary dialogue and rich exchange. With the new John W. Kurtich Travel Scholarships, each recipient will carry on Kurtich’s legacy throughout their careers in the contributions they make to art and culture.

The 2011 Kurtich scholars will be invited by the Kurtich family to a commemorative celebration highlighting their travel experiences organized by SAIC.

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### **About John W. Kurtich**

After 35 years as a SAIC faculty member Kurtich donated the sale of his Hyde Park estate to the campus and people he cherished the most, the SAIC community. His personal collection of more than 12,000 books, 250,000 slides, digital images, and intellectual properties were the focal point of the donation. Since his death in March 2004, John W. Kurtich's legacy continues through the gift of the proceeds of the sale of his estate but also in the generous travel scholarships that will forever alter the lives of the selected SAIC students.

Born in Salinas, California, in 1935, John W. Kurtich joined the faculty of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1968 after completing his master's degree in architecture at Columbia University. Trained as a licensed architect, his artistic practice also extended to writing and to filmmaking. At SAIC, Kurtich made an impact on everyone who knew him; as a mentor, a master teacher and a multifaceted artist. His work, travels, and eagerness to learn and live touched his colleagues, friends, and three decades of students, many of whom describe John as their intellectual inspiration. His legacy for scholarship, aesthetics, connoisseurship, and spirited living will endure through his Scholars.

Kurtich received numerous awards, including a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Graham Foundation award, a William Kinne Fellows Traveling Fellowship, and several Fulbright-Hays Mutual Education Exchange Grants. His interdisciplinary scholarship of nearly every field—classical architecture, environmental design, filmmaking, theater, performance, music, photography, archeology, art history, and cooking—influenced the spirit of interdisciplinary study that serves as the foundation for all SAIC curricula.

### **About the School of the Art Institute of Chicago**

A leader in educating artists, designers, and scholars since 1866, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) offers nationally accredited undergraduate, graduate, and post-baccalaureate programs to nearly 3,200 students from across the globe. Located in the heart of Chicago, SAIC has an educational philosophy built upon an interdisciplinary approach to art and design, giving students unparalleled opportunities to develop their creative and critical abilities, while working with renowned faculty who include many of the leading practitioners in their fields. SAIC's resources include the Art Institute of Chicago and its new Modern Wing; numerous special collections and programming venues provide students with exceptional exhibitions, screenings, lectures, and performances. For more information, please visit [www.saic.edu](http://www.saic.edu).