2008-2009 Annual Report

From the Director

The International Quilt Study Center & Museum celebrated its first full year of operation and what a year it has been! Nearly 24,000 visitors from every state and from 31 countries outside the U.S. were welcomed to our new home.

Through its exploration of the artistic and cultural significance of the world’s quilts and quiltmaking traditions, the IQSC strives to foster greater cultural understanding—so important in today’s global society.

Inside this report you will learn about:
- Our unique and thriving Quilt Studies graduate program
- The symposium, “The Global Quilt: Cultural Contexts”
- An exciting year of quilt exhibitions
- Acquisitions of more than 1000 quilts
- The best volunteer force in any museum
- Engaging public programs and visitor experiences
- Membership programs, donors and grant support
- Honors and awards

We look forward to sharing another year of growth,

Patricia Crews
Willa Cather Professor of Textiles
COLLECTIONS & ACQUISITIONS

The IQSC collection is the heart of the institution. Its focused development represents the cumulative efforts of a dedicated acquisitions committee, coupled with the sustained commitment of our benefactors and the many individuals who have donated cherished family quilts and collections to the IQSC.

Approximately 1000 new quilts were acquired in 2008-2009; the collection now totals more than 3000 quilts. All acquisitions are reviewed and approved by the Acquisitions Committee, chaired by Curator of Collections Carolyn Ducey and including Xenia Cord, Patricia Crews, Michael James and Robert James. The committee is guided by the IQSC Collections Plan, which is updated annually.

2008-2009 Acquisition highlights:

• The Byron and Sara Rhodes Dillow Collection includes approximately 275 quilts and 150 chintz and cotton fragments. It added depth to the Center’s pre-1850s collection with numerous chintz wholecloth, album, and red and green appliqué quilts.
• The Mary Campbell Ghormley Doll Quilt Collection contains more than 300 small quilts and 50 doll beds. Made by mothers and daughters, it is a one-of-a-kind group that charms audiences.

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COLLECTIONS CARE

COLLECTIONS MANAGER JANET PRICE AND A LOYAL VOLUNTEER STAFF STEADILY COMPLETE CARE AND CONSERVATION TASKS, AS SHOWN BY THESE STATISTICS FOR 2008-2009:

• 645 quilts photographed
• Quilt object surveys and data entry completed for 645 quilts
• 1588 archival boxes assembled, numbered and organized in storage shelving
• 203 quilts processed before museum exhibition
• 199 quilts surveyed, vacuumed and returned to storage after museum exhibition
• 85 quilts prepared and shipped for traveling exhibitions
• 32 quilts surveyed, vacuumed and returned to storage after traveling exhibitions
• 69 Education quilts processed for display within the museum and at other venues
• 242 quilts made available for study by 10 visiting scholars

Studio quilts:

The Ludy Strauss Collection is a group of quilts made in the 1970s by contemporary artists of the West coast scene. Ludy Strauss encouraged the various artists to design quilts, which were then made by a group of Canadian quilters. The collaborative effort is fully documented with letters, original drawings, maquettes and catalogs that Ms. Strauss carefully maintained.

Significant studio quilts were acquired from international artists, including

• Pauline Burbidge of Scotland
• Theresina Gai of Italy
• Anne Woringer of France

Works by several American quilters were also added, including

• Michael James
• Katie Pasquini Masopust (a retrospective group of 23 quilts made between 1980 and 1995)
• Ruth McDowell
• Esther Parkhurst
• Susan Shie
• Barbara Watler
International traditional quilts:

- Indian and Pakistani rallis representing four new groups or areas: the Wadera, landowners of Sindh; the Rahim Yar Khan region in Punjab; the Cholistan desert region in the southern Punjab; and the Badin district of Sindh
- Indian kanthas including a woven Baruch Sujani
- two seventeenth century corded silk quilts
- an English linen coverlet with false quilting and silk embroidery
- a rare Japanese quilted fireman’s jacket
- two mid-nineteenth century whitework pieces

Nebraska quilts by

- Carol Falk of Nebraska City
- Louise Howey of Lincoln

Education Collection

The IQSC Education collection has also grown in number and usage. Quilts in the Center’s Education Collection may be displayed outside the museum for a variety of reasons: some may lack provenance; some styles or patterns are duplicated in the Permanent Collection; and occasionally, donors specifically ask that their quilts be part of the Education Collection. Whatever the reasons, the quilts in the Education Collection serve as excellent examples of particular quilt styles, time periods, or artistic efforts. They are available to institutions that cannot meet the strict environmental and security conditions required for the Permanent Collection.

2008-2009 Quilt Donors

Hortense Beck
Kathryn Berenson
Ellen Burd
Comhusker Regional Chapter of the Red Cross
Kathryn Christopherson
Byron and Sara Rhodes Dillow family
Carol and Laurence Falk
Virginia Fast
Roger and Mary Campbell Ghormley
Jackie Greenfield
Lenn Jackson
Judith Kampmann
Sarah Beck Kirby
Jill Lasersohn
Kenneth and Gayle LeGrand
Robert Masopust
Lindsey Miller-Lerman
Kathleen Murphy
Nebraska Quilt Project Committee members
Quilts of Valor organization
Audrey Newton
Janet Newton
Meredith O’Malley
Julie Patterson
Sr. Frances Pytlak
Margaret Rickers
Katsuhiko Sakiyama
Sheldon Stone
Judy Wendorff
EXHIBITIONS

The IQSC featured ten changing exhibitions during the past year. These exhibitions allowed audiences of all ages and backgrounds to explore the diversity of people around the world and the ways in which all cultures are connected. The inaugural exhibition “Quilts in Common”, which remained on view until August 2008, powerfully emphasized the connections and commonalities that quiltmaking traditions have to each other and to other forms of visual art across time and place.

Other 2008-2009 exhibitions included:

- “Pojagi: Patchwork and Quilts from Korea” featured over 100 pojagi (Korean patchwork wrapping cloths) from the Chojun Textile Art and Quilt Museum of Seoul, South Korea. This exhibition introduced a beautiful art form to many visitors, highlighting the similarities and distinctions between a Korean craft and American quiltmaking. (Curated by Soon Hee Kim, Marin Hanson, Jonathan Gregory, and Ree Chyu.)

- “Chintz Applique: From Imitation to Icon,” showcased 21 exceptional (and exceptionally large) examples of this early tradition and featured several quilts from the Byron and Sara Rhodes Dillow collection. A monograph that included all IQSC chintz applique examples complemented the exhibition and featured an insightful essay on the history of chintz fabrics and chintz applique techniques. (Curated by Carolyn Ducey.)

- “American Quilts in the Modern Age, 1870-1940” featured quilts made between the Civil War and World War II, and included quilts in styles ranging from pieced block to Crazy style to Colonial Revival examples to one-of-a-kind creations, the full array of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century quilt design. (Curated by Marin Hanson, Patricia Crews, and Jonathan Gregory.)

- “Crafting a Better Planet” displayed winning quilts from the Mountain Mist-sponsored competition.

- “Inspired by Red and Green” showcased selections from the American Quilt Study Group’s red and green applique quilt study.

- “Quilt Japan” featured selected quilts from the 9th Quilt Nihon Exhibition.

Three well-researched exhibitions curated by graduate students as their culminating graduate projects included:

- “Visual Systems: the Quilter’s Eye” (Peggy Derrick)
- “Yikes! Stripes” (Elizabeth Andrews)
- “Grace Snyder: A Life in Extraordinary Stitches” (Janet Price)
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The International Quilt Study Center & Museum fosters the discovery of quilts and quiltmaking traditions by offering programs that are of consistent high quality, relevant to our collections and to our audiences, and innovative in both concept and execution.

In 2008-2009 a wide variety of programs were provided for the museum’s specific audiences (quilt enthusiasts, the general public, K-12 school students, tour groups).

Public Programs

**Quilt Identification Days:** 4 events held, 96 quilts identified and documented by curatorial staff and trained volunteers.

**Lecture Series:** Public lectures featuring
- Janet Berlo, Professor of Art History, University of Rochester
- Patricia Crews, Willa Cather Professor of Textiles, UNL
- Rosemary Crill, Sr. Curator South Asian Dept., Victoria and Albert Museum
- Jonathan Gregory, UNL Doctoral Student
- Marin Hanson, IQSC Curator of Exhibitions
- David Hornung, Associate Professor of Art, Adelphi University
- Bridget Long, IQSC Fellowship Recipient
- Janneken Smucker, Author and doctoral candidate, University of Delaware

**Tuesday Talks:** Monthly talks led by curators, special guests, and IQSC staff offered museum visitors the opportunity to engage with quilts more deeply during their visit. Twelve talks were held with an average attendance of 10 people.

**Public Guided Tours:** Available free with admission on Wednesdays (11 am) and Saturdays (11 am and 1 pm). 160 tours led by trained volunteer docents.

**Pre-Arranged Guided Tours:** 206 tours, 4,429 participants

**Workshops & Classes:** 6 workshops, 291 participants

**Discovery Cart:** Hands-on materials related to exhibitions

**Resources provided to K-12 Programs**
- Visual Systems curriculum
- Grace Snyder online exhibition and curriculum

**University Collaborations**
- Arts in Basic—aesthetic education program managed by the College of Fine & Performing Arts (259 student participants)
- Art in the Community—UNL students in Sandra Williams’ course worked with middle school students to create quilt blocks that represented something personal about themselves.

Long-time IQSC volunteer Jean Davie was the first to be featured in the Volunteer Spotlight, a new feature on the website, www.quiltstudy.org, to recognize volunteer contributions.

VOLUNTEERS

IQSC volunteers proved to be among the most dedicated and hard-working of any institution. More than 140 volunteers work in Collections, in the Reading Room, as docents, and as Gallery Assistants. They provided more than 4,400 volunteer hours in FY 2008-2009.
TEXTILE HISTORY / QUILT STUDIES

The highest priority of the Center is to support the academic mission of the University, in the areas of research, outreach and teaching. The collections are an extraordinary resource for advancing our understanding of the past. They offer opportunities to graduate students for research using culturally significant textile documents that can be found no where else.

Twenty-seven students have completed the Textile History/Quilt Studies program since the formation of the IQSC in 1997. Of those, eleven completed the distance delivery program in quilt studies; the remainder completed their masters degree via the traditional program offered on campus. Students in the unique masters program are prepared for careers or career advancement in universities, museums, historical societies, and historic sites in the areas of collections care and management, education and research. They become part of a world-wide network of museum professionals and textile scholars, devoted to the furtherance of quilt scholarship.

Currently twenty textile history/quilt students are admitted to the graduate program. Twelve students are in various stages of completing the distance delivery masters program; eight students are in the residential program in textile history/quilt studies.

Twenty-seven students have completed the Textile History/Quilt Studies program since the formation of the IQSC in 1997.

Summer Seminars 2008-2009

“History of Quilts”
June 9 to August 14, 2008
Dr. Virginia Gunn, Professor, University of Akron

“Textile and Costume Conservation.”
July 13-17, 2009
Martha Grimm, Executive Director of Textile & Costume Conservation Services, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona; textile/costume conservator with the Missouri Historical Society, Phoenix Art Museum, and Heard Museum
SYMPOSIUM

The International Quilt Study Center’s fourth biennial symposium, “The Global Quilt: Cultural Contexts” held April 24, 2009, was truly international in scope. It was exactly the sort of activity envisioned when the IQSC was formed – a conference that brings together a diverse group of individuals for dialogue and discovery.

- 180 registrants attended from at least 25 states and nine countries outside the United States
- Participants included artists, historians, educators, collectors, curators, quiltmakers, students and enthusiasts

Symposium keynote speakers were:
- Dr. Jennifer Harris, Deputy Director/Curator of Textiles at the Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, UK
- Dr. Jacqueline Atkins, Curator of Textiles for the Allentown Art Museum in Allentown, Pennsylvania

Fifteen concurrent sessions featuring 37 papers and panel discussions covered:
- how the quiltmaker’s art is expressed and transmitted among and across cultures,
- ways in which quilts communicate cultural values and reflect cross-cultural transmission of style or technique, and
- how quilts reflect and express environmental, artistic, scientific and technological influences of the society in which they were made.

Moderators included UNL faculty and curatorial staff as well as a number of Associate Fellows of the International Quilt Study Center. The cochairs of the symposium were Mary Ellen Ducey, UNL Archivist and Angela Konin, IQSC Education Coordinator.

RESEARCH

IQSC research is disseminated through the biennial symposium as well as numerous publications and presentations.

Publications 2008-2009


Marin Hanson and Patricia Crews (Eds.) American Quilts in the Modern Age, 1870-1940. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2009.

Presentations 2008-2009


Marin Hanson. “Modern, Yet Anti-Modern: Two Sides of LateNineteenth and earlyTwentieth-Century Quiltmaking.” American Quilt Study Group Annual Seminar, Columbus, OH, October 3-5, 2008.


VISITOR SERVICES

The International Quilt Study Center & Museum welcomed nearly 24,000 guests between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. Visitors came from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and thirty-one other countries. While adults were in the majority, more than 3,000 young people visited last year.

GRANTS


Visitation by Category: July 2008–June 2009

Several additions to visitor services were implemented in the past year:

An expanded Visitor Guide provides timely information about current and upcoming exhibitions and events, along with a building map and information about the building, sculpture, and the Center.

A third floor Education Gallery gives visitors the opportunity to view approximately a dozen quilts that are typically drawn from the Center’s education collection.

Doll quilts and furniture may be viewed at all times in the Ghormley Reading Room.

Exhibition panels provide visitors with the opportunity to more fully understand the breadth of the Center’s mission and activities.

Illustrated maps in the lobby allow visitors to orient themselves and plan their time in the building.

When available, audio tours of major exhibitions are a FREE benefit with admission.

Videos on the first floor provide information about collection care, the graduate program, and other “behind the scenes” work at the museum.
COMMUNICATIONS

Communications resources are allocated to each area of the IQSC mission. During the first full year of museum operations a strategic advertising and promotion plan was made possible by grant funding. Efforts included:
- National cooperative advertising programs targeting the general public and travelers
- Ads in quilt and textile industry publications targeting the quilt enthusiast
- Local and regional print and broadcast advertising aimed at establishing awareness of the new museum and stimulating first-time visits
- Extensive distribution of promotional materials in key travel markets

Public relations activities build awareness of each new exhibition and also spotlight significant donations, special events, awards and other IQSC news. Well over 120 placements of “free” media coverage have been tracked in the last fiscal year in local, national, and international media channels. Relationships developed with major publications, freelance writers, and industry leaders are essential to successful placement of feature stories, photographs, interviews and other coverage. Regular stories featuring IQSC quilts and information are now included in Fons & Porter’s Love of Quilting, American Patchwork & Quilting, Australian Patchwork & Quilting and the magazine of the Japan Handicraft Instructors Association. Regular maintenance of numerous local, national and international media calendars of events is also useful in creating excitement about the center and its exhibitions and programs.

Regular stories featuring IQSC quilts and information are now included in American Patchwork & Quilting, Australian Patchwork & Quilting, Fons & Porter’s Love of Quilting, and the magazine of the Japan Handicraft Instructors Association.

WWW.QUILTSSTUDY.ORG

The website continues to serve as the first point of contact for thousands of IQSC fans around the world.

The enormously popular Quilt of the Month list has grown to include 7000 subscribers.

Traffic to the web has grown to an average of nearly 10,000 unique visitors per month, a 15% increase in the last year.

Additions and improvements to the site include:
- integration of Quilt Explorer into www.quiltsstudy.org in July 2008,
- addition of six new podcasts, and
- development of new on-line exhibitions.
MEMBERSHIP

The International Quilt Study Center & Museum’s 435 members come from 35 states, the District of Columbia, and six countries outside the U.S. Membership increased by more than 50% last year, growing in four categories.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category/Rate</th>
<th>On July 1, 2008</th>
<th>On May 31, 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual - $40</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family - $60</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributing - $100-$249</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustaining - $250+</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student - $15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>435</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Individual and Student members receive a full year of unlimited free admission to the museum and invitations to special events, including Sneak Previews of major exhibitions. They also receive discounts on selected classes, workshops, and events, as well as a complimentary quarterly enewsletter. In addition to all of the benefits of Individual membership, the Family category allows a member to bring a spouse or guest, as well as children and grandchildren under age 18.

In addition to the benefits of Family Membership, Contributing members receive guest passes for two free admissions as well as exhibition gallery guides. Sustaining members receive four guest passes, gallery guides, a complimentary certificate for Quilt Identification day, and a complimentary copy of selected exhibition catalogs. Contributing and Sustaining members are also recognized in the Museum’s Annual Report.

Membership by Location

- Lincoln: 36%
- Other States & District of Columbia: 25%
- CO, IA, KS, MO: 10%
- Other Countries: 3%
- Other NE: 26%
Sustaining Members
[$250 and above]

Hazel Anthony
Cynthia and Kenneth Erdman
Marianne Fons
Carol Gendler
Pat and Mike Heaton
Carolyn Hoefer
Frances Holliday-Alford
Julie & Michael Jacobson
Judith and Michael James
Ralph James
Carol Kusek
Joan Laughlin
Ted McMinn
Gayle Murphy
Shirley and Daniel Neary
Audrey Newton
Catherine Paglia
Ruthanna Russell
Diann Sorensen
Betty and Duncan Starr
Marsha Stork
John M. Walsh, III

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The International Quilt Study Center & Museum’s 435 members come from 35 states, the District of Columbia, and six countries outside the U.S.

Contributing Members
[$100-$249]

Margrethe and Bill Ahlschwede
Sharon Allder
JoAnne and Gordon Bair
Rosalie Barabas
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Karyl Smith
Gladys E. Sorenson
Rebecca Stevens
Elizabeth Sterns
Deanna and Theodore Suhr
Odette Goodman Teel
Dianne Thomas
Harry Tompkin
Kris Townsend
Shelly Zegart
Building Campaign Donors
Includes individuals, corporations and foundations who have given $1000 or more to the capital campaign.

Individuals

Alice Ahlschwede
Margrethe P. and William T. Ahlschwede
Harold and Marian Andersen
Beth Stringer Anderson
In Honor of Sandra Anderson
Hazel M. Anthony, Ed.D.
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In Honor of Anna Stutz Bailey
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Ondrea Geisler D.V.M.
Merikay Gengenbach
Helen James Fell George
Roger and Mary Campbell Ghormley
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Bret and Stacey Gottsch
Robert and Cindy Gottsch
William and Carrie Gottsch
In memory of Eleanor and Herman Grazi
Sheila and Ken Green
In Memory of Mrs. Taylor (Martha) Atken Greer
In Honor of Pamela Wilson Gunlicks
In Memory of Edith Malone Gunlicks
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Pat and Chip Hackley
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Tom and Jane Heany
Kenneth and Christina Hecht
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Mary and Cliff Hilligass
Dr. Robert Hillestad
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Bill and Sue Holmes Hodder
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In Honor of Anna Lea Hoerner
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Jared Holstein
Jonathan Holstein
Hal and Judy Hoppe
Ruth Andrews Hopping
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Eleanor Reimers Irwin
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Janice and Ralph James
Michael and Judith James
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Diane Oldfather
Wanda and Irv Ottvedt
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In Honor of Ann Smiley Paulson
In Memory of Leona Brant Paulson
Lucille Jack Payne
Mary and Roy Pearson
Paulette and Terry Peters
Miriam and Charles Peterson
Jane Bruckett Phelps
Burtted and Ted Randolph
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In Honor of Dora O. Reagan
Carl and Jane Rohman
Luana and Paul Rubin/eQuiter
Stella Rubin
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Gertrude Clarke Skade
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Jody and Bob Weigel
Virginia Welty
In Memory of Fredricka Matthiesen Wilson
Lois E. and Douglas J. Wilson
Linda (Esslinger) Winter
In Memory of Camilla Bush Woerner
Joyce Ellen Worley
Marion Ekstrom Wright
Erceil and Pat Kerkman Young
In Memory of Darlene Young
Shelly Zegart

Groups and Organizations
AHSGR-Lincoln Chapter Quilters
American Quilt Study Group
Applebee Quilters
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska
Blue Valley Quilt Guild
Braided River Quilters
Calico Quilt Club
Cottonwood Quilters of Nebraska
Country Piecemakers Quilt Guild
European Art Quilt Foundation
Fat Quarters Evening Quilt Guild
Fremont Friends
Friends of the Robert Hillesstad Textiles Gallery
Heartland Quilter’s Guild
Heritage Needlework Guild
International Quilt Festival Houston
Japan Handicraft Instructors Association
Lincoln Quilters Guild
Midwest Feedsock Club
Nebraska State Quilt Guild
Omaha Quilters Guild
Panhandle Quilt Guild
Plum Creek Quilters Guild
Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors Auxiliary of NE
Prairie Quilt Guild
Quilt Study Group of Australia
Quilters Guild of Dallas
Quilters Guild of Plano
The Quilters’ Guild of the British Isles
Union Bank and Trust Company
York Area Quilt Guild

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Memorial Funds and Endowment Funds

Prairie Piecemakers Needlework Guild
Hammersmith Quilters Guild
Amador Valley Quilters, Inc.
Alice Ahlschwede
Lee Basham
Tom Basham
Kathryn Christopherson
David and Patricia Crews
David and Linda Daiker
New York Empire Quilt Guild
John Fulwider
Allen Hoffman
Kenneth and Gayle LeGrand
Gwendolyn Newkirk
Alison Schwabe
Margaret Stent
Nancy Summerville
Mr. and Mrs. James Swartz
The NEBRASKAland Foundation named the International Quilt Study Center & Museum its Rising Star Award winner, recognizing the new museum as a significant contributor to the state’s tourism effort.

**HONORS**

International Quilt Study Center & Museum in collaboration with Second Story Interactive Studios: Bronze Award, Online Presence category of the 2009 American Association of Museums’ MUSE Awards for “Quilt Explorer”

International Quilt Study Center & Museum’s Quilt Explorer: Nominated for the 13th Annual Webby Awards in the Cultural Institutions category, regarded as the most prestigious web award offered

Michael James: 2009 Outstanding Research and Creative Activity (ORCA) Award conferred by the University of Nebraska system.

Patricia Crews: 2009 College of Education and Human Sciences Faculty Student Mentoring Award

Jonathan Gregory: 2009 College of Education and Human Sciences Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Carolyn Ducey: Meredith Scholar Award, sponsored by the American Quilt Study Group; 2009 Lincoln Quilters Guild Scholarship; 2009 Geeta Khandelwal International Quilt Study Center Research Award

Madeleine Roberg: UNL Chancellor’s Fellowship for recruitment of outstanding graduate students

Jonathan Gregory: awarded the 2009 Barbara L. Kuhlman Scholarship for students of fiber arts by the Barbara L. Kuhlman Foundation, Greene, New York
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