



## Connecting Scholar Alumni Worldwide

*"Not one of the honors bestowed upon me throughout my 30-year career can begin to compare with having received a Boettcher Scholarship and with being able to list myself as a Boettcher Scholar. It has been a cornerstone of my entire adult life." – Boettcher Scholar*

### Upcoming Alumni Events

May 16: Scholar/ Alumni Service Day

July 16: Chocolate & Wine Tasting

Late Summer: Boettcher Barbeque – welcoming recently graduated scholars to the alumni fold

Early fall: All Alumni Service Event

### Alumni Programs Update

Mentor Program Launching

Looking for Speakers & alumni to profile

### Boettcher Foundation News

Claudia Boettcher steps down from the Foundation Board

## Scholar Alumni Event Spotlight

### An evening with Salvador Dali and the Surrealists

by Alex Ruehle

You can take a student out of the classroom, but scholars invariably find a way to return to the halls of learning. Approximately 25 Boettcher alumni proved their "scholar" status by revisiting a college campus to hear one of their own, Mr. Elliott H. King (a 1995 scholar), deliver a lively lecture on the surrealists movement of the 20<sup>th</sup> century focused on the contributions of Salvador Dali.

King is certainly qualified to speak on the topic: after graduating from the University of Denver with a B.A. in Art History, he

obtained a M.A. in the History of Art from the Courtauld Institute of Art at the University of London, and is completing a Ph.D. in Art History and Theory from the University of Essex. Salvador Dali's legacy forms the core of King's academic career. King has delivered numerous lectures, written books, and taught courses that parse the quixotic life and times of Salvador Dali.

King's expertise attracted a diverse audience of scholar alumni to a cozy classroom on the University of Denver campus. Within



the space of an hour, Elliott introduced his pupils to the surrealist movement and detailed the ethic and lifestyle of the early Parisian surrealist community. King explained the aims of the movement, and connected samples of the period's art to the worldview that inspired it. *(story continues on page 2)*

## Upcoming Scholar/ Alumni Service Day

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*We are happy to announce that our upcoming Alumni event will be participation in the 3rd Annual Boettcher All-Scholar Community Service Day on Saturday, May 16th from 8am – 12pm, followed by a picnic from 12pm to 1pm.*

The All-Scholar Community Service Day was started as a great way to spend a day serving our community, while also creating the opportunity for Current and Alumni Scholars to meet and interact with one another. This year's event will take place at Garland Park in Denver where we will

be assisting the Denver Parks and Recreation Department in getting the park ready for the spring and summer seasons. Details are as follows:

**Where:** Garland Park, 1001 S. Kearney Street, Denver (10 minutes east of Washington Park)

**When:** Saturday, May 16th (Service work: 8am - 12pm & Picnic: 12pm-1pm)

**What:** Mulching trees (primary task), raking pine needles, and turning over the playground

Scholars are asked to bring their own work gloves; all other tools will be

provided

Light breakfast and a picnic lunch will be provided by the Boettcher Foundation

**Who:** Current and Alumni Boettcher Scholars

**Please RSVP with your name and preferred contact information to Kavitha Kailasam**

**([kavitha.kailasam@gmail.com](mailto:kavitha.kailasam@gmail.com)), as soon as possible,**

**and no later than May 11, 2009.** Unfortunately, due to space restrictions and the amount of work available, we will not be able to accommodate spouses or family members.



A scholar alum puts her finishing touches on a surrealist drawing.

*“We are all scholars, and we all love to learn.*

*Whether you’ve taken a trip and experienced another culture, dabbled in Colorado gardening, or spent your career studying cancer biology, your fellow scholars would love to hear what you have to share!”*

## Salvador Dali event (continued)

At one point, the attending scholars put pen to paper to create their own surrealist sketches. Dali entered the discussion later, and Elliott described the strained relationship that Dali had with the other surrealists and the eventual schism that formed in large part due to the fame that enveloped Dali and his work.

The scholars left that evening with relationships—new and rekindled—and a fuller understanding of a curious fellow, Salvador Dalí. Elliott enjoyed his involvement, saying “as they’re all past and present

Boettcher scholars, the alumni are always intelligent, motivated, and very open to meeting new people, sharing ideas, and helping others. It’s a great community with which to get involved, and the more people who attend events and contribute to projects, the better it will be.” The event’s organizers, Kavitha Kailasam, Chris Morrison Bliven, and Matt Lausten, were pleased with the number of alumni who attended. Moreover, they are busily planning the next

lecture and looking for other scholars willing to share an interest. Bliven urges anyone interested in giving a talk of any length on any topic to contact her, saying “we are all scholars, and we all love to learn.

Whether you’ve taken a trip and experienced another culture, dabbled in Colorado gardening, or spent your career studying cancer biology, your fellow scholars would love to hear what you have to share!”

**To volunteer to share your expertise, contact Chris at [ceep7@hotmail.com](mailto:ceep7@hotmail.com)**

## New Scholar Alumni Mentorship Program Launching

*Are you looking for a way to give back to Boettcher and to connect with other alums in a meaningful way? Whether you are in Colorado or in another part of the world, mentoring or being mentored might be just the right fit for you!*

Based on the results to of 2008’s scholar alumni survey, and enthusiasm within the Boettcher Scholar Alumni committee, volunteers are developing an alumni mentorship program for launch in the fall of 2009.

The program will be designed to provide mentorship opportunities to current scholars as well as for alumni at different stages in their career and life learning path. Mentorship, in this instance, is being conceived of as a short or long term commitment to share wisdom, experience, guidance

and perhaps networks between members of the scholar community with the goal of helping to enrich the community and to build on one another’s experiences. This could include choosing a path while in college, identifying and getting into graduate schools, applying for fellowships, pursuing a particular career path, developing leadership skills, or learning a new skill set.

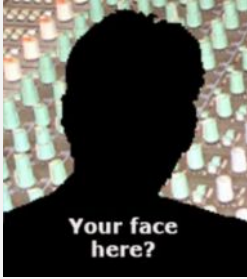
The level of commitment could be a single conversation, a set series of meetings, or the development of a longer-term mentoring relationship. Volunteers would be able to indicate their contact and commitment preferences as part of their mentor profile.

We believe the benefits to this program will include:

- (1) providing a way for scholar alums who are out of state to feel connected and able to give back through the program;
- (2) contributing to the success of new generations of scholars based on the lessons learned of alums who have gone before them—from getting into medical school to breaking into Broadway to winning a Rhodes scholarship to starting your own business;
- (3) strengthening the relationships within the alumni community beyond occasional events; and
- (4) enriching the lives and leadership skills of both mentors and mentees.

**If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity and feel it could be a good fit, please contact Kara Penn, [kf\\_penn@yahoo.com](mailto:kf_penn@yahoo.com).**

## Nominate a Scholar Alum for Profiling 3



Do you know a scholar alum you would like to see profiled in the *Boettcher Connection*? Profiled scholars will be asked a series of questions over e-mail to which they can directly respond. Alums will

also be asked to provide a recent photograph to be included in their profile. Being profiled as an alum is a great way to get back in touch with others from your scholar class, and to make connections with others

who may share your interests. Don't wait! Nominate today!

Nominate your candidate, or yourself, by e-mailing Kara Penn at [kf\\_penn@yahoo.com](mailto:kf_penn@yahoo.com).

*"The scholarship has given me a community that acted as a family away from home. I have had the freedom to pursue my passions without financial constraint and wholly commit myself to learning, while knowing that there are people who believe in me. That has given me the confidence and framework to let college be some of the most formative years of my life."*  
– Current Boettcher Scholar

## Time for a Tasting: Chocolate & Wine Pairings

Save the Date! The next Boettcher Scholar Alumni social event will be a chocolate and wine tasting event brought to us by the experts at Belvedere Chocolate.

**When:** Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Who:** All of-age scholar alumni, spouses and/ or Significant Others welcome

**Cost:** \$20 per person, which covers the cost of the specialty products and time of the experts at Belvedere Chocolate

**Hosts & Organizers:** Jeff Bliven and scholar alum Chris Morrison Bliven.

**Location:** The Bliven's House ( a formal e-vite will be sent with more details)



Attendees will have opportunity to taste several types of Belgian Chocolates paired with wines from exclusively Colorado wineries with an educational component provided by an expert host from Belvedere Chocolate.

Stay tuned for more information about this event via e-vite in June, and in the meantime, make sure you mark your calendars for this special event.

## Last Boettcher Family Member Steps Down from Board

Claudia Boettcher Merthan, a lifetime trustee of the Boettcher Foundation, served twenty-one years and provided a firm grounding in the values and intentions of her family. She served as the Chair from 1992 to 2007 and many scholars of the past three generations remember her warm, calming personality during their Boettcher Scholarship interview. Claudia will be honored in the upcoming annual report for the Boettcher Foundation and many past scholars have written letters sharing the profound impact the Boettcher family has had in their lives, and on the state of Colorado. Here are some excerpts from those letters which express the gratitude all of us feel and share personal memories of Claudia and we wish her the best in the next phase of her life.

*"I remember being at the Boettcher Scholars Rockies Game the summer before the start of my college career. I was very overwhelmed and in awe of the Boettcher Foundation. Then you sat next to me during the game and I could tell from your warmth and gracefulness that I had just become part of a great family."*

*"Several years ago, I had the opportunity to serve on the scholarship finalist interview committee with you. I was extremely impressed with the insight you had in working with these young people, along with the disarming manner in which you asked your questions. I could see that, for you, this was a labor of love, fueled by a passion for continuing a tradition of excellence."*

*"The Boettcher Foundation and the State of Colorado will dearly miss your contributions in the coming years. But given what you and your family have done for us all, we are on solid footing to continue to build a bright future for ourselves and future generations."*

## Scholar Alum, Russell George, Completes 3-year Term on Boettcher Board



In 2008, Russell George completed his three-year term as the Board of Trustee's second Boettcher Scholar alumni Member to serve.

George represents the best of the Boettcher Foundation's aspirations for scholars. He is a leader in his community and in the state of Colorado. As a past Speaker of the House, and as the current Executive Director for the Department of Transportation. He also served in this role for the department of Natural Resources, and the Division of Wildlife.

Russ was a member of the Colorado House of Representatives from 1992 to 2000. During that time, he was named Legislator of the Year in 1994 and 1996 by the Associated Press' capitol reporter, and received awards from a variety of groups, including the Colorado Bar Association, the Colorado School Boards Association, Colorado Bankers Association, Colorado Counties, Inc., and many others. In 1999, he was elected by his

peers to be Speaker of the House. Russ was elected to the House of Representatives to represent District 57 (Moffat, Rio Blanco, Garfield and Pitkin Counties ).

Russ is a graduate of Rifle High School , Colorado State University--where he was a Boettcher Scholar--and Harvard University Law School . Russ is married to Neal Ellen George, who teaches elementary special education in their hometown of Rifle. They have four grown sons: Russell, Charles, Thomas and Andrew.

## Tales from Interview Days: Selecting the 2009 Scholar Class

By Kara Penn,  
1994 Scholar

A junior champion ski jumper, a non-profit founder, a master in bull-whipping and a nationally recognized jazz musician—these are just a few of the incredible individuals I was privileged enough to meet and interview as part of the 2009 selection committee.

I can remember my own scholar interview experience, waiting nervously in the waiting area, smiling at others and making small talk to calm my own nerves. And then, it was my turn—ushered into a large board room with twelve faces around the table. I remember when my time was up I couldn't believe it. It was the fastest fifteen minutes of my life.

Fifteen years later, I was one of those twelve faces contributing questions and basking in the amazing energy, accomplishments, commitments and values of 70+ interviewees.

The efforts of the Boettcher Foundation staff are astounding—they prepare each selection committee member by providing a notebook with the applications and recommendations of each scholar, each day's schedule and order of interviews, notes pages and special instructions. Each committee member then reads through every application and crafts questions tailored to each scholar hopeful being interviewed ahead of time.

By the time the three days began, committee members were familiar with each and every interviewee. The days were intense and packed full. Everything ran smoothly and on

time. It was a feat of coordination and incredibly hard work.

**"It's amazing what you can learn about a person in fifteen minutes..."**

It's amazing what you can learn about a person in fifteen minutes, and I completed my experience as an interviewer completely, utterly humbled. In the end, I felt I had been the recipient of a great gift—a chance to learn about and be inspired by an incredible group of young people. For months afterwards, I felt refreshed and energized. I remembered who I had been the day I came in for my own interview and took a seat at the head of a very long table--twelve faces peering at me, and me peering back.

*Do you have a story idea, an event you'd like to host in your own town, wherever that might be, or a great idea for the organizing committee? We hope you'll share your interests and ideas so we can keep Boettcher Scholar Alumni news and events interesting, relevant and entertaining. If you'd like to be a part of the committee, please contact us as well.*

*E-mail: [alumni@boettcherfoundation.org](mailto:alumni@boettcherfoundation.org)*