The Ulrich Museum has two heroes who deserve special acknowledgment. For any art museum, there are countless silent angels, individuals who work diligently, quietly behind the scenes and far from the spotlight. We have reason to sing praises for John Gist and Woodrow DePontier. They have stepped up to the plate for the museum.

John Gist is director of Facilities Planning at Wichita State University and Woodrow (Woody) DePontier is director of the Physical Plant. They have each been involved in service to the Ulrich as long as they have been engaged in facilities management on campus—successively, for a very long time. Now they are engaged in the creative problem-solving to correct climate control at the Ulrich.

Art museums are charged with the care and preservation of art in their possession. Whether for the works in the permanent collection or for art loaned for exhibition, the museum provides the utmost care. Professional standards require that art is stored in conditions that maintain a consistent and stable temperature and humidity levels. Extremes in temperature or humidity or sharp changes in these climate conditions threaten the physical composition of most artworks. So the galleries and art storage areas must have steady temperature and humidity levels. Paintings will crack and works on paper can buckle or become brittle. The Ulrich needs to upgrade the systems in place to assure that we maintain the highest professional standards. When we accept art into the collection, our commitment is to protect and preserve it for generations to come as well as show it and share it with today’s audiences. Climate control is a key and fundamental ingredient in these preservation efforts.

In early December 2011, the Ulrich Museum of Art will close its doors for several months to install a new state-of-the-art system for climate control to assure that our facility meets the highest professional standards. John and Woody are a remarkable team, and they always have the museum’s best interests at heart. They have led the cause for this project, so we at the Ulrich consider them heroes and applaud them.

Stay tuned for updates on the Ulrich closure as plans solidify. Museum programming will be very active while our galleries are dark. Look for more news in future Ulrich Updates.

Please come, look and enjoy.

—Dr. Patricia McDonnell, Director
ART ON SPEED
August 21 - December 17, Polk/Wilson galleries
A fast for speed holds a critical place in our culture. Travel, Internet connections, sports, photography: These are a few of the arenas in which speed reigns. In the 1974 film Speed (with star-studded cast including Keanu Reeves), the mental and physical aspects of the character were central to the story. The Ulrich Museum is committed to exploring strategies to represent speed. In terms of painting, sculpture, photography and video, stop-action and open-shutter camera work as well as visual icons and extreme contrast are some of their artistic methods. Not surprisingly, vehicles figure large in their imagery, as do natural events such as lightning bolts and fireworks. The definitive artist in this tradition is Harold Edgerton (1903–1990), noted Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor in electrical engineering who in 1931 coupled the stroboscope with a camera to see speed. His images of milk splashing, bullets whizzing through apples and playing cards and athletes in stop-action have become icons of the modern era. His photographs were immediately celebrated and displayed in New York’s Museum of Modern Art in 1937. Art on Speed is the occasion to unveil a major gift of 10 Edgerton photographs to the Ulrich collection generously given by the Harold & Esther Edgerton Family Foundation, thanks to foundation executive Carl Kajola-Toikka artists remain mesmerized by and grapple with Edgerton’s images. The Ulrich exhibition Art on Speed offers a distinctly 21st-century look at how artists internationally confront and confront our desires for and romance with all things fast, faster, fastest. Art on Speed has been organized by the Ulrich Museum of Art with co-curation and generously supported by Spirit Aerosystems and the Flensh Fund for Art Exchange.

Hindsight is Always 20/20
September 11 – November 28, Amsden Gallery
Hindsight is Always 20/20, an installation of 43 prints, artist R. Luke DuBois has been organized by the Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota and generously sponsored by Fidelity. Hindsight is Always 20/20 presents the work of 15 contemporary artists hailing from cities around the globe who are all obsessed with and mesmerized by and grapple with Edgerton’s images. The prints present each president’s most commonly uttered words as a Stélie chart—the charts that optometrists to test patients’ vision. In making these charts, DuBois mises on political, social, and historic and proposes to test the metaphorical eyesight of the nation. As contemporary Americans prepare for the 2010 midterm elections and as we go to the polls in November, it is the occasion to unveil a major gift of 10 Edgerton photographs to the Ulrich collection generously given by the Harold & Esther Edgerton Family Foundation, thanks to foundation executive Carl Kajola-Toikka artists remain mesmerized by and grapple with Edgerton’s images. The Ulrich exhibition Art on Speed offers a distinctly 21st-century look at how artists internationally confront and confront our desires for and romance with all things fast, faster, fastest. Art on Speed has been organized by the Ulrich Museum of Art with co-curation and generously supported by Spirit Aerosystems and the Flensh Fund for Art Exchange.

EXHIBITIONS ON VIEW
ULRICH EXHIBITIONS ARE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY THE ULRICH SALON CIRCLE AND MUSEUM ALLIANCE.

The Ulrich Museum has embraced change and pursued an increasingly ambitious future in recent decades. Through much of that time, Carol Wilson has contributed mightily to the museum’s leadership. And credit is due where credit is earned. Wilson has been deeply involved in many Wichita arts organizations, sitting on boards and committees for the Wichita Symphony Orchestra, Ballet Wichita, Wichita Design Council and Wichita Center for the Arts, as well as Wichita State University’s College of Fine Arts. Nonetheless, her attention has been vitally important to the museum’s mission and growth. Through much of that time, Carol Wilson has been a vital ingredient—inspiring, thinking big and leading. And as ever with Carol, Ulrich holds bright promise, it stands to reason that if success marks the recent past and the future for the museum, the addition of a new outdoor sculpture—Millipede by Tom Otterness. As long-term and untiring chair of the Ulrich Advisory Board, Wilson oversaw the development of two strategic planning processes. As the granting result of one major priority for the Ulrich, under Wilson’s guidance, the Ulrich commissioned two major outdoor sculptures in recent years. In 2004, the campus dedicated Andy Goldsworthy’s Wichita Art. In 2008, the university again elected the addition of a new outdoor sculpture—Millepede by Tom Otterness. Fracases marks the recent past and the future for the Ulrich holds bright promise, it stands to reason that Carol Wilson has been a vital ingredient—one necessary element in any successful institution. And credit is due where credit is earned. With Wilson’s guidance, the Ulrich continues its commitment to the arts. With its move to the Cityscape downtown, the Ultrich has the space to continue to grow and explore new ideas. As contemporary Americans prepare for the 2010 midterm elections and as we go to the polls in November, it is the occasion to unveil a major gift of 10 Edgerton photographs to the Ulrich collection generously given by the Harold & Esther Edgerton Family Foundation, thanks to foundation executive Carl Kajola-Toikka artists remain mesmerized by and grapple with Edgerton’s images. The Ulrich exhibition Art on Speed offers a distinctly 21st-century look at how artists internationally confront and confront our desires for and romance with all things fast, faster, fastest. Art on Speed has been organized by the Ulrich Museum of Art with co-curation and generously supported by Spirit Aerosystems and the Flensh Fund for Art Exchange.

FALL OPENING PARTY
7-9 P.M. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2
Join in celebrating the opening of Art on Speed featuring an international show of today’s artists who explore the fast and the furious. Engage in lively banter, and enjoy music and refreshments.
Free to Ulrich Museum members, $7 for nonmembers. RSVP at 316-978-3664 or e-mail ulrich@wichita.edu.

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Spotlight
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