

CURRICULUM VITAE

ALAN ROBBINS

575 West End Avenue #9D
New York, NY 10024

arobbins@kean.edu
212 724-3844
www.alanrobbins.com

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Named the Janet Estabrook Rogers Professor of Visual and Performing Arts at Kean University, 2006-2009.

Founding director of The Design Center, winning numerous design awards.

In collaboration with students, created the TalkChart, a communications device used in thousands of hospitals throughout the country.

Author of 30 books in the areas of mystery fiction, humor, puzzles, and visual communications.

YouTube channel is in the top 1% of the most viewed non-commercial videos with 9 million hits.

Author and designer of 26 mystery jigsaw puzzles with millions of fans around the world.

Former contributing columnist to *The New York Times* and *Newsweek*.

30 years of experience as a creative director and art director in graphic design, interactive design, and advertising.

Winner of many awards and grants for writing, design, and teaching, including a Sappi Ideas That Matter grant.

Created and taught numerous courses in visual studies and visual communications.

Articles about creative work and innovative teaching have appeared in dozens of newspapers and magazines.

Mentored 7 Kean University students to win the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Student Term Paper Contest over five years.

Frequent presenter at national conferences in the areas of creativity, visual literacy, design, and visual communications.

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Arts	15 credits towards degree in Philosophy of Art (New York University, 1977-1981)
Master of Arts	Educational psychology (Columbia University, 1971-1973)
Certificate of Study	Studio arts and painting (Brooklyn Museum Art School, 1972-1974)
Bachelor of Arts	Major in psychology, minor in art (Brooklyn College, 1965-1969)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Coordinator, Graphic Design Program	The Robert Busch School of Design (Kean University, 2012)
Distinguished Professor	The Janet Estabrook Rogers Professor of Visual and Performing Arts (Kean University, 2006-2009)
Professor	Department of Design (Kean University, 2000-present)
Assistant Professor	Department of Design (Kean University, 1997-2000)
Assistant Professor	Department of Fine Arts (Kean College of New Jersey, 1990-1997)
Lecturer	Department of Art (Elizabeth Seton College, 1980-1982)
Instructor	Elementary and Special Education (NYC Board of Education, 1970-1973)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Writer	30 books, numerous essays and articles (Various publishers, 1990-present)
Designer	Exhibitions, websites, and graphic art projects (Various clients, 1990-present)
Creative Consultant	Development of multimedia products (Music Pen Interactive, 1994-1997)
Creative Director	Development of interactive products (Interplay, 1989-1994)
Creative Director	Creation of advertising /promotion campaigns (Leff Communications, 1981-1989)
Art Director and Copywriter	Writing & design of corporate graphics and ad campaigns (Kaufmann Advertising, 1974-1981)
Assistant Art Director	Advertising/editorial design (The Home Reporter & Sunset News, 1973-1974)

HONORS & AWARDS

Best Creative Fiction Award	For collection of speculative fiction stories (Write On!, 2008)
Best New Science Fiction	Award For collection of speculative fiction stories (Reader Views, 2008)
Communication Arts Pick of the Week	Design Center website featured for outstanding design (CommArts, 2008)
International Design Network Selection	TalkChart project selected as Pick of the Month product (IdN, 2007)
Appointed Named Professor	The Janet Estabrook Rogers Professor of Visual and Performing Arts (Kean University, 2006)
Writer's Notes Fiction Award	First runner-up for best new commercial fiction (Writer's Notes, 2006)
Amazon Shorts	Short story selected for Amazon Short Fiction program (Amazon.com, 2006)
Webby Award	Honorable mention for The Design Center website (The Webby Awards, 2006)
Horizon Interactive Award	Honorable mention for The Design Center website (Horizon Interactive, 2006)
International Academy Of The Visual Arts	Silver Award for the Design Center website (IAVA, 20006)

HONORS & AWARDS

(Continued)

Art Director's Club of NJ	Excellence Award for the newsletter <i>Ampersand</i> (ADCNJ, 2005)
Quality First Initiative	Series of annual Grants to support The Design Center (Kean University, 2004-2006)
MTA Centennial Contest	Runner-up in poster design competition (Metropolitan Transit Authority, 2003)
Release Time for Research	Grant to support book on technology and design (Kean University, 2003)
2001 Memorial Design Selection	Design for Ground Zero memorial selected as part of permanent exhibition (NYC, 2002)
Sappi Design Competition	Grant to distribute TalkChart to 2,000 hospitals nationally (Sappi Papers, 2000)
HEART Grant	Support for exhibit for The Design Center (Union County Freeholders, 2000)
Release Time for Research	Grant to write the book <i>Understanding Images</i> (Kean University, 2000)
Speakers in the Humanities Fellowship	Grant to support lecture series on Visual Literacy (New York Council for the Humanities, 1999 & 2000)
Strategic Initiatives Grants	Budget to operate The Design Center (Kean University, 1999-2003)
Release Time for Research	Grant to support a book on technology & art (Kean University, 1999)
UFRI Release Time For Research	Grant to support development of a course on Visual Literacy (Kean University, 1998)
NEA/CAPS Award	Award for fiction book entitled <i>Blue Moon</i> (NEA/New York State, 1984)
Kurtz Fellowship	Financial support for graduate study (New York University, 1977)
Phi Delta Kappa	Honors society in psychology (Columbia University, 1973)
Citation for Excellence	For innovative high school art curriculum (NYC Board of Education, 1973)
Max Beckmann Scholarship	Tuition support for study in painting (The Brooklyn Museum Art School, 1972)
NY State Regents/Scholar Incentive Awards	Tuition support for undergraduate study (New York State/Brooklyn College, 1966)

PUBLISHED BOOKS*(Fiction)*

Children of the White Sun	Mystery science fiction about the future of media (iUniverse, 2011)
Following the Trail of Blood based on a true event	Time travel mystery (iUniverse, 2008)
Stories At the Edge of Time	Mystery science fiction short story collection (iUniverse, 2007)
A Small Box of Chaos	Mystery novel about surveillance technology (iUniverse, 2005)
Interlude in Dreamland	Mystery novel about myth and technology (iUniverse, 2005)
Murder in a Locked Box	Second in Interactive mystery novel series (Ballantine Books, 1989)
A Call for Murder	First in Interactive mystery novel series (Ballantine Books, 1988)
On The Trail of Blood	Historical mystery with multiple plotlines (Henry Holt and Company, 1987)
Secret of the Gold Jaguar	Interactive adventure for young adults with puzzles (Putnam Publishing, 1984)

PUBLISHED BOOKS*(Non-Fiction)*

Ampersand	7 annual issues of the design newsletter (The Design Center, 2000-present)
The World of the Image	Book of readings and writing exercises (Longman Publishing, 2006)
100 Greatest Designs	Catalog/book about the history of design (The Design Center, 2000)
Grandma's Pantry Cookbook	Illustrated recipe collection (Simon & Schuster, 1981)

PUBLISHED BOOKS*(Puzzle & Humor)*

The `Toon Book	Interactive cartoon drawing book (Speedball Press, 1993)
Inspector Cross Books 1 & 2	Series combining mysteries and crossword puzzles (BePuzzled Press, 1991)
The Puzzicles Series	Three-book series of visual games (Ballantine Books, 1988-1990)

PUBLISHED BOOKS

*(Puzzle & Humor
Continued)*

3D Puzzles	Cut and construct book of dimensional puzzles (Dell Publishing, 1989)
Cut & Construct Your Own Brontosaurus	Construction book for a model dinosaur (Ballantine Books, 1988)
Presidential Role Call	Cutout doll book satire (Franklin Press, 1987)
When Good Things Happen	Collection of celebrity cartoon caricatures (Simon & Schuster, 1983)
The Dieter's Coloring Pad	Coloring book spoof of diet fads (Simon & Schuster, 1981)
Guide To College Graffiti	Collection of humorous sayings (Citadel Press, 1967)

PUBLISHED WORK

(Essays & Stories)

City Maps	Design of city maps in <i>Field Guide to the Street Trees of New York City</i> (Johns Hopkins Press, 2011)
Using Images	Essay published in the book <i>Graphic Design Solutions</i> (Wadsworth, 2010)
The Power of Story	Essay published in the book <i>Advertising by Design</i> (Wiley, 2010)
Harlan Coben Interview	Interview with the best-selling author (Diversions, 2007)
At the Edge of Time	Short story published by in Amazon Shorts (Amazon.com (2006)
New Life In Old Tech	Essay on the lighter side of technology (The New York Times, 1998)
Snapping In The Wind	Essay on the lighter side of technology (The New York Times, 1998)
E-Mail: Making Its Mark	Essay on the lighter side of technology (The New York Times, 1997)
Egg On Your Interface	Essay on the lighter side of technology (The New York Times, 1996)
Mad At Your Modem	Essay on the lighter side of technology (The New York Times, 1996)
A Communications Test	Essay on the lighter side of technology (The New York Times, 1996)

PUBLISHED WORK
(*Essays & Stories*)

- The Multimedia Debate Essay on the lighter side of technology
(The New York Times, 1995)
- Uncle Jack Eats A Mummy Short story published in the book *Mummy Stories*
(Ballantine Books, 1990)

PUBLISHED WORK
(*Assorted*)

- Gizmotics Blog about the impact of technology
<http://gizmotics.blogspot.com>
- MazelTales Work-in-progress collection of family stories
<http://mazeltales.blogspot.com>
- Ingenarium Blog about creativity and the creative process
<http://ingenarium.blogspot.com>
- Understanding Images Interactive textbook for a college course
<http://www.alanrobbins.com/~Website/Overview/Understanding.html>
- YouTube Channel 16 videos that have gotten 9 millions hits
(2006-present)
- Diversions Editor Puzzle editor and creator
(Kean Review literary journal, 2007-2009)
- Mystery Jigsaw Puzzles 26 separate game titles that combine mystery tales
and jigsaw puzzles (BePuzzled, Western Publishing,
Broderbund Publishing, 1985-2001)
- The Return of Osiris Interactive mystery game on CD-ROM
(Music Pen, 1997)
- The Magic School Bus Interactive CD-ROM game for kids
(Microsoft, 1996)
- Cartoons 14 separate panel cartoons
(The New York Times, Utne Reader, Harper's, others,
1985 -1994)
- Graphic Puzzles Dozens of visual puzzles and games
(Games Magazine, 1986 -1993)
- Master Criminals! Mystery board and card game
(BePuzzled, 1993)
- Board & Card Games 20 individual game titles
(Creative Child Games, 1989 -1992)
- Graphic Designs Work appeared in Mademoiselle, Seventeen, The
Daily News, many other publications (1973 -1975)

EXHIBITIONS

(Curated & Designed)

The Design Studio: 35-year Retrospective	Exhibition of student work from The Design Studio (The James Howe Gallery, Kean University, 2010)
Innoventions	Exhibition on innovative inventions (Thinking Creatively Conference, Kean University, 2009)
100 Greatest Designs	Design history exhibition (The Visual Arts Gallery, Brookdale Community College, 2009)
Beyond the Studio	Exhibition of student/teacher projects (The James Howe Gallery, Kean University, 2007)
Designers@Work	Exhibition of design faculty work (James Howe Gallery, Kean University, 2007)
WTC Memorial Design	Design submission for memorial on display (World Trade Center website, 2003)
Imagic: How Pictures Trick Us Into Seeing	Curated and designed exhibit on visual literacy (The Design Center, 2002)
The Shape of Language	Exhibition on the visual impact of written language (The Design Center, 2001)
100 Greatest Designs	Exhibit on design history of the past millennium (The Design Center, 2000)
Art of the Movie Poster	Exhibition on movie poster design (The Design Center, 1999)
Artist's Toybox	Exhibition of graphic sculpture in faculty art show (James Howe Gallery, Kean College, 1996)
Portable Art	Original design selected for inclusion (The Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 1981)
Conjugations	Solo exhibition of paintings (The Brooklyn Museum, 1974)
Service Learning	The Design Studio as a learning environment (UCDA Design Education Summit, 2010)
Global Media Stardom	Using digital media for self-promotion (Thinking Creatively Conference, Kean University, 2010)

**CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS**

The Visuality Project	How we perceive and make sense of images (Research Days, Kean University, 2010)
Images Shake the World	Key images and their impact on the world (Thinking Creatively Conference, Kean University, 2008)
Seven Creative Secrets	Keynote Address on the creative process (Interior Design Educators Regional Conference, Kean University, 2006)
The Story of My Family	Demonstration of Visual Narrative (National Conference on the Arts, SVA, 2004)
Ahalograms	Visualizing the Creative Process (Thinking Creatively Conference, Kean University, 2004)
The Dire Image	The Image as Propaganda In Nazi Germany (National Conference on the Arts, SVA, 2003)
The Dire Image	The Image as Propaganda In Nazi Germany (32nd Annual Scholar's Conference, National Council of Churches, 2002)
Of Bits & Pages	The Future of Digital Publishing (Changing Face of Publishing Conference, Long Island University, 2001)
Understanding Images	Visual Literacy in the Digital World (Media and Literacy Conference, Westchester Community College, 2001)
Interactive Narratives	The Role of Story in Visual Art (National Conference on the Arts, School of Visual Arts, 2000)
What is Visual Literacy?	Overview of Visual Studies (National Conference on Liberal Arts School of Visual Arts, 1999)
On Visual Literacy	Introducing Topics in Visual Studies (Postsecondary Pedagogy Conference, SUNY at New Paltz, 1997)
The Technology Challenge	Using new technology in college settings (General Education Conference, Kean College of New Jersey, 1997)
Living with Technology	Keynote Address on technological change (Faculty Development Conference, Essex Community College of Baltimore, 1997)
From Pigment to Pixels	The evolution of technology in art and design (Technology and Art Conference, SUNY at New Paltz, 1996)

**CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS**
(Continued)

- Interactive Multimedia Interactive structures in visual communications
(National Conference on the Arts, School of Visual
Arts, 1996)
- The Multimedia Challenge Keynote Address on multimedia in education
(National Multimedia Conference, Biltmore Hotel,
Asheville, NC, 1995)

**PUBLIC LECTURES
& SEMINARS**

- Cloudwriting: Becoming
A Successful Web Author Using the Web for publishing
(Writer's Conference, Molloy College/Oceanside
Library, NY 2012)
- Becoming a Global
Media Star Creative secrets for professional success
(Graphics Artists Guild, Pratt Institute, NY 2010)
- How the Web Became
My Work My work as an artist, writer, designer, teacher
(The Type Directors Club, NY 2009)
- The Image Transplosion Inaugural presentation for the Professional
Enrichment Series (College of Visual and Performing
Arts, Kean University, 2009)
- 10 Pictures that Shook
the World Image history and exhibition
(SVPA Spring Showcase, Kean University, 2006)
- Is This the Mona Lisa? Visual Studies as a Discipline
(Phi Kappa Phi Spring Initiation, Kean University,
2001)
- On Visual Literacy Images and Understanding
(Ulster Public Library, NY, 2000)
- Understanding Images Visual Literacy in the Digital World
(Adult Education Forum, Jeffersonville Library
of NY, 2000)
- Movie Talk Seminar on Film
(Cover to Cover cable TV show, Kean
University, 2000)
- On The Design Center The Work of the Design Center
(Cover to Cover cable TV show, Kean
University, 2000)
- Secret Language of
Movie Posters Discussion on the Art of the Movie Poster
(Cover to Cover cable TV show, Kean
University, 1999)
- The Interactive College Interactive technology in the classroom
(President's Investiture Forum, Kean College
of New Jersey, 1997)

**PUBLIC LECTURES
& SEMINARS**

(Continued)

The Art of Essay Writing	Workshop for writing students (Creative Writing Seminar, Hunter College, 1997)
Art on the Internet	Moderator for panel of online artists (The Arts Dialogue Lecture Series, Kean College of New Jersey, 1997)
The Design Studio	Student work in The Design Studio (Cover to Cover cable TV show, Kean College of New Jersey, 1997)
Multimedia for Designers	Using multimedia in visual communications (School of Liberal Arts Presentation, Kean College of New Jersey, 1996)
The Case of Professor X	Introducing art to college freshmen (College Wide Open House, Kean College of New Jersey, 1995)
An Artful Romance	Introducing design to college freshmen (College Wide Open House, Kean College of New Jersey, 1995)
Micro-Publishing	Seminar on self-publishing (Adult Education Seminar, The Learning Annex, 1985)
EDUCATIONAL INNOVATIONS	
The Center for the Image	Created a center for information about images (Kean University, 2010)
The Robert Busch School of Design	Collaborated on the creation of the new school (Kean University, 2009-present)
The Design Center	Created a center for education in design (Kean University, 1998 – present)
Understanding Images	New course in Visual Studies (Kean University, 2007)
The Design Studio	Directed students working for non-profit clients (Kean University, 1994-2003)
BFA in Visual Communications	Collaborated in revision of undergraduate curriculum (Kean University, 2006)
Department of Design	Collaborated in the creation of a new Department of Design (Kean University, 1998)

**SERVICE TO
THE COMMUNITY**

National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils	Designed the logo for this non-profit group (2008)
Conflict Collaborative	Created promotional materials for mediation group (2005)
Riverside Language Center	Designed of educational materials (2004)
The Design Studio Kean University	Directed student design work for non-profit agencies (1994-2003)
Union County Arts Council	Created the CultureNet database and questionnaire (2001)
Summer Festival Program Kean University	Designed promotional posters (1998-2000)
Jewish Studies Program Kean University Ars Vitalis Kean University	Designed annual newsletter and conference material (1997-2000) Designed promotional material and posters (1998-2000)
Department of English Kean University	Designed material for Contemporary Writer's Series (1997-2000)
The Arts Dialogue Kean University	Designed promotional materials for lecture series (1997-2001)
New Jersey Educational Association	Designed Focus on Education magazine (1996 & 1997)
The Yardarm Trio	Designed promotional material (1998-2001)
Holyoke Community	On-site evaluation/report for Middle States College, NY(1998)
Golden Books	Creative consultant for premium products (1998)
JP Kids	Consulted on creation of a children's television show (1998)
Gateway Institute	Consulted on corporate identity design (1997)
Journal of Basic Writing	Designed logo and masthead (1997)
Lehman College New York	Educational consultant for multimedia curriculum (1993)

**SERVICE TO
THE COMMUNITY**
(Continued)

The American Jewish Committee
Media consultant for corporate promotion (1994)

NY Hall of Science
Consultant on educational computer games (1994)

DIRECTORSHIPS

The Center for the Image
Founding director and creator of website, publications, videos, products (Kean University, 2010)

The Design Center
Founding director and creator of exhibitions, publications, products, website (Kean University 1998-present)

The Design Studio
Directed the production of student work for non-profit agencies (Kean University, 1994-2003)

**UNIVERSITY
COMMITTEE WORK**

Middle States Committee (2009-2010)

Robert Busch School of Design Council of Coordinators (2009-present)

School of Liberal Arts Planning Committee (1997-2001)

Department of Design Recruitment, Curriculum, Promotion, Technology, and Planning Committees (1997-present)

Kean College Web Site Committee (1996-1997)

Department of Fine Arts Curriculum Committee (1996-1997)

General Education Task Force - Technology Evaluation (1996-1997)

Department of Fine Arts Release Time, Recruitment, Curriculum committees (1995-1997)

COURSES CREATED

Visual Storytelling	Introduction to narrative in visual media
Understanding Images	Introductory course about visual literacy
Expressive Imaging	Creating images for visual communications
Cartooning	Drawing, visualizing, and storytelling techniques
Basic Design	Introduction to art and graphics for non-majors
The Creative Process	Methods for enhancing creativity and innovation

COURSES TAUGHT

The Design Studio	Student workshop producing professional level work for non-profit clients
Design Fundamentals	Introductory applications course for design students
2D Design	Introduction to composition and elements of design
Graphic Design	Applied design methods and techniques
Illustration	Visual communication for fine artists
Art Production	Techniques for preparing art for printing
Visual Thinking	Introduction to aesthetics and the creative process
Portfolio	Preparation of work for graduating majors
Color Theory	Introduction to color theory and color use
Art Direction	Managing and overseeing graphics campaigns
Advertising Concepts	Introduction to advertising for designer

MEDIA MENTIONS

Using Information Technology	Quoted in textbook by Williams and Sawyer about designing machine interfaces. (2010)
Local Source Newspapers	Article about my innovative course Understanding Images. (2010)
The Union Navigator	Article about my innovative course Understanding Images. (2010)
The New YorkTimes	Letter to the Editor about social media. (2010)
The Hub	Article/review of the 100 Greatest Designs exhibition at Brookdale Community College. (2009)
New Jersey Life	Article about Innovations exhibition at the mounted at the James Howe Gallery. (2009)
Review Direct	Review of my book <i>Stories at the Edge of Time</i> . (2008)
International Design Network	Article about the TalkChart. (2008)
Communications Arts Magazine	Selection of the Design Center website as top pick. (2008)
Reader Views	Interview with me in connection with my book <i>Stories at the Edge of Time</i> . (2008)
PR Web	Article/review of <i>Stories at the Edge of Time</i> . (2008)
Amazon.com	Rave review of <i>Stories at the Edge of Time</i> . (2008)
Sun Chronicle 2001	Quoted in an article about game design. (2001)
Home News Tribune	Extensive article/review of the exhibition 100 Greatest Designs. (2000)
The Journal News	Quoted in article about the impact of design on our lives. (2000)
The New York Times	Rave review of The Art of the Movie Poster exhibition. (1999)
Newark Star Ledger, The Record, Somerset Messenger, et al.	Numberous reviews of the Art of the Movie Poster exhibition. (1999)
The New YorkTimes	Quoted in article about the design of technology. (1999)
The Chronicle of Higher Education	Article about my work as creator of mystery puzzles. (1998)

MEDIA MENTIONS

(Continued)

The New York Times	Letter to editor about the evolution of technology. (1997)
The Star-Ledger	Article about my work as creator of mystery puzzles. (1997)
The New York Times, The Star-Ledger, The Chronicle of Higher Education, many other newspapers	Articles about the innovative uses of the TalkChart in local and regional hospitals. (1997)
Morristown News, Daily Record, Star-Ledger	Articles about my work with students in The Design Studio. (1995)
The New York Times	Article about using mystery clues to find stolen cars. (1989)
Sunday Republican	Review of my book <i>Cut and Construct Your Own Brontosaurus</i> . (1989)
Games Magazine	My interactive novel <i>Murder in Locked Box</i> cited as one of the best puzzle books of the year. (1989)
The LA TIMES	Review of my novel <i>A Call for Murder</i> . (1988)
LA Daily News	Review of my novel <i>A Call for Murder</i> . (1988)
Mystery Scene Magazine 1988	Review of my interactive novel <i>On the Trail of Blood</i> . (1988)
Rave Reviews	Review of my interactive mystery <i>A Call for Murder</i> . (1988)
Mademoiselle	Excerpt from my book <i>Grandma's Pantry Cookbook</i> . (1988)
The New York Times, Chicago Tribune, dozens of other newspapers	Reviews and mentions of my novelty book <i>The Dieter's Coloring Pad</i> . (1983)