

worked in emergency service at NC State's College of Veterinary Medicine's teaching hospital. **Lindsay Alan Lambert '93** of Randleman, N.C., is director of the N.C. Pottery Center. For more than a decade, he was director of the Brock Historical Museum and College Archives at Greensboro College.

1994 **Scott Michael Harvey '94** of Wake Forest, N.C., is director of engineering at APCON. He had worked for 12 years with Overture Networks as director of software engineering. **John P. "Patrick" Haywood '94** of Greensboro, N.C., was named among *Business North Carolina's* 2013 Legal Elite. He's a construction-law attorney with Carruthers & Roth, P.A. **Jennifer Head Hoots '94** of Hendersonville, N.C., is chief operating officer with Blue Ridge Community Health Services. She had worked in executive positions with Pardee Hospital in Hendersonville. **Norman Frank Klick Jr. '94** of Greensboro, N.C., was named among *Business North Carolina's* 2013 Legal Elite. He's a personal injury defense attorney with Carruthers & Roth, P.A. **Peter William "Pete" Schuhmann '94 MA, '96 PHD** of Wilmington, N.C., received one of the 19th annual Awards for Excellence in Teaching from the University of North Carolina Board of Governors. He's an economics professor at UNC-Wilmington.

1995 **Georgia Pate Love '95, '98 MS** of Rowland, N.C., is a regional agronomist with the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, serving Anson, Guilford, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Randolph, Richmond and Scotland counties. She had been an extension associate with NC State. **Henry Samuel Morphis '95** of Hickory, N.C., is a member of the Catawba County (N.C.) United Way board of directors. He's an attorney with Young, Morphis, Bach & Taylor LLP.

1996 **Robert Thomas "Bobby" Fitts '96** of Wendell, N.C., is the finance director for the town of Zebulon, N.C. He has worked in the town's finance department for 16 years, most recently as assistant finance director. **Michael Jason Houser '96** of Raleigh is owner-operator of the Houser Consulting Group LLC, a state government-relations firm. **Patti West Ramseur '96** of Greensboro, N.C., was named to the 2013 "Up-and-Coming" list in the labor and employment law division of the 2013 *Chambers USA Guide*. She's an attorney with Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP.

1997 **Ashley Millar Berry '97** of Rocky Mount, N.C., received the 2013 J. Edgar and Peggie T. Moore Excellence in Teaching Award from Nash Community College. She's an instructor of humanities at the community college. **Jennifer Hanes Sullivan '97** of Alexandria, Va., is a consultant at McChrystal Group. She's a former executive director of Cape Fear Botanical Gardens.



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The Art of Building:

Raleigh sculptor enjoys success by combining art, architecture and industrial design.

Toward the end of his time at NC State's College of Design, **MATT MCCONNELL '94** concluded that he liked building things more than designing them. So he asked Dana Raymond, his sculpture professor, what he should do. "You'll figure it out," Raymond told him. McConnell had hoped for a more concrete



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF MATT MCCONNELL '94; PORTRAIT OF MCCONNELL COURTESY OF CRASH GREGG, THE TRIANGLE DOWNTOWNER

answer, but it turned out to be all he needed because that's exactly what he's done, finding a niche combining art, architecture and industrial design.

Over the past decade, McConnell Studios has done public and private art projects ranging from 150-foot fabric sail sculptures to table lamps. You name it, and McConnell has probably built it—furniture, globes, movie marquees, a weather vane for a carousel. Even a large DNA sculpture for a biotech company. "That was fun, wrestling

stainless-steel pipes into form," he says. "I'm a sculptor and we create, design, fabricate and install architecture, lighting and furniture out of steel, glass, wood, plastic, concrete, whatever. At the core is a creative vision integrated into everyday life. Something as simple as a railing can be artwork."

Following graduation, McConnell worked a few years at the Raleigh-based Clearscapes architecture firm, where he found a sympathetic setting for his idiosyncratic vision merging form and function. After he went out on his own, one of McConnell's first projects was a sculpture for the N.C. Museum of Art's café in Raleigh. Since then, demand for his work has grown. McConnell has done about 500 projects all over the country since 2001. "We get a lot of calls from people who have an idea but don't know how to execute it," he says. "That's what we do, figure out the right solution and materials."

This past spring brought the unveiling of one of McConnell's most ambitious projects, a custom-made percussion instrument he designed and built for the *Tomb Raider* computer game. It's a one-of-a-kind piece made to be a visual match for the game's raw look, and composer Jason Graves used it for percussion effects in his orchestrated score. "I'd never dealt with video games before, and it was great to watch and learn the professional discourse required to execute these projects," McConnell says. "It's not just about the art, it's career path and business and the energy of very creative, driven people."

—David Menconi



Matt McConnell '94 (in his workshop, left) has created light fixtures and steel sculptures that can be found in places like the N.C. Museum of Art (above) and the Amtrak Depot in Cary, N.C. Above left, the instrument he made for *Tomb Raider*.

