

Howard Zeiderman, St. John's College, Annapolis, B.A. 1967. Originally from New Jersey, Howard Zeiderman graduated from St. John's College in 1967. He became a tutor (the college's equivalent of professor) in 1978. In addition to teaching at St. John's, **Zeiderman is the co-creator of the Touchstones Discussion Project, founded in 1985. Throughout the country, more than 250,000 students in elementary, middle, and high schools are using the Touchstones program in their classrooms.** The Touchstones Project centers around the discussion of short texts taken from Western classics, non-Western cultures, folk tales, reproductions of paintings, and modern works. Students in Touchstones classes learn to express themselves clearly and listen to others with respect and accuracy. Today, the Touchstones Discussion Project is used in a number of nontraditional settings. Several years ago, Zeiderman introduced it into a prison in Jessup. For more than a decade, he and his partners have used Touchstones with a group of executives in New York. Recently, they sought out a new population: senior citizens. Bulgarian graduates of St. John's have brought the program to their home country. A Palestinian educator has translated the texts and is initiating Touchstones discussions in Gaza. A former St. John's tutor uses it as part of a literacy project in Haiti. And closer to home, Touchstones is widely used in Anne Arundel County schools, both public and private.

Howard Zeiderman

FIRAXIS has become one of the leading game development companies in the world and employs many MICA alumni, including Mike Bates, Greg Foertsch, Mike Bazzell as senior artists; and artists/animators Steve Chao, originally from Taiwan, Kevin Margo from New Jersey, and Ryan Murray from Wisconsin.

Nick Rusko-Berger, Maryland Institute College of Art, B.F.A., 1991. Hunt Valley, Maryland, is now a major center for the thriving computer game industry—second only to California's Silicon Valley in the number of companies located there. **This is due in large part to the availability of a steady stream of talented artists graduating from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). Nick Rusko-Berger, lead artist at FIRAXIS Games, is a case in point.** A native of Darien, Connecticut, Nick came to Baltimore to study at MICA. Without a single computer course to his credit, he was hired for his talents as a painter by MicroProse Software, a Maryland company cofounded by legendary game designer Sid Meier, who is known to many as the "Father of Computer Gaming." Nick moved to FIRAXIS Games when Meier and Jeff Briggs founded the company in 1996.

Nick Rusko-Berger



I am pleased to share *To Name a Few* with you. MICUA's 16 state-aided institutions are fully accredited and range in size from colleges enrolling a few hundred students to a university with 18,000. These institutions vary in mission, purpose, and vision, providing unique educational opportunities to more than 46,000 students. While the majority of MICUA's students are Maryland citizens, many others, like those profiled in *To Name a Few*, come to Maryland from other states and countries and make their livelihoods in Maryland after they graduate.

To Name a Few highlights just a few of the many alumni of our MICUA institutions who entered Maryland as out-of-state students—and stayed. These out-of-state students stayed in Maryland and became state and local leaders, small-business owners, award-winning authors, teachers, and high-tech workers. MICUA's alumni live in, work in, and contribute to this state and its citizenry. Their presence in Maryland is a direct result of having attended a Maryland independent college or university.

A Message from Tina M. Bjarekull

President, Maryland Independent College
and University Association (MICUA)



Maryland's partnership with the state's independent colleges and universities is 200 years strong. This important partnership has played a pivotal role not only in the development of Maryland higher education but in the state's growth and progress as well. These independent institutions receive only 3.5 percent of the state's investment in higher education, but they confer 25 percent of all degrees awarded in Maryland annually. In fiscal year 2002, the 16 state-aided independent institutions generated \$7.2 billion in net new income to the state. More than 90,000 new jobs were directly or indirectly attributable to these institutions. MICUA institutions are an economic engine, providing trained workers, generating new businesses, and revitalizing urban neighborhoods. MICUA graduates, like those highlighted in this document, provide a skilled and educated labor force and give back to the state in innumerable ways. Maryland is enriched by the contributions of these independent institutions and their students.