The Fall Semester in Review

Faculty News

Jesse Walp is the 2014 recipient of the Elizabeth Brown Grant to Interior Design Programs awarded by the International Furniture Design Association Educational Foundation. The grant will be used for the purchase of 3D printing technology. He also had a solo exhibit in the Sylvia Rosen Gallery at the Burchfield Penney Art Center, on exhibit until February 25. He attended the International Sculpture Symposium in New Orleans, LA.

Sandra Reicis is the 2014 recipient of the Irma Dobkin Universal Design Scholarship which made possible the Universal Design Symposium held at Villa in October 2014. She attended the IDEC East Region conference at Kean University in Union, New Jersey.

This semester Natalia Albul served as Coordinator of Villa’s new Honors Program, organizing several special events and introducing new academic initiatives. She attended a conference in Denver, CO for Honors Program coordinators. She also teaches preparatory workshops for all sections of the NCIDQ exam. These workshops are run through Villa Workforce Development. Industry professionals as well as students from any school are eligible to attend.

Sister Ann Therese Kelly attended conferences in Kansas City, MO and Bryn Athyn PA, and gave numerous lectures and workshops both local and as far as Chicago, IL. During the summer her work was displayed in the American Glass Guild’s annual juried show and High Temp Art Gallery in Buffalo. She hosted a number of groups to her glass studio including Explore Buffalo, University Heights Arts Association, Roycroft and VMC staff. She also designed, fabricated and installed windows in Polonia, WI and Sacred Heart Academy (installation pending). She also continues to teach online courses for Felician College.

Professor Paul Brinkworth’s Holiday display and sale of artwork was thwarted by Snowvember. We are looking forward to a re-scheduled event during the spring.
Universal Design Symposium

The most significant event to occur at Villa this semester was the Universal Design Symposium. This was held in conjunction with our special guest for three days, Universal Design expert Cynthia Leibrock. The event was generously sponsored by the Interior Design Association of Western New York, SmartDesign Architecture, Eastern Energy Control Window Films and supported by the Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access from the University at Buffalo.

Our speakers included Professor Beth Tauke, Dr. Korydon Smith, Dr. Alex Bitterman, researcher Jonathan White, Ryan Renshaw and Laura Wax. The keynote speaker was Ms. Leibrock. All presentations were registered with the AIA and IDCEC for continuing education credit. The all day event was free to all architecture and design students in the region as well as practicing professionals. Studio 2 students had the opportunity to present their UD residential projects in a poster presentation format to the attendees.

Field Trips

Local field trips occur on a regular basis in all courses of the Interior Design Program. We are very grateful to have the ability to expand on the classroom experience with these essential, off campus activities. Thanks go out to the many businesses and cultural venues that host our students during the course of each semester. Featured here are the out-of-town field trips that are part of our course requirements.

Sophomore students had a weekend trip to Pittsburgh which started with docent led tours of to Frank Lloyd Wright’s famous Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob homes. The following day they had a docent led tour of Phipps Conservatory and the Center for Sustainable Landscapes as well as a self-guided tour of the Carnegie Museum of Art. We also stopped at University of Pittsburgh’s Cathedral of Learning.

Junior students prepared for their retail and restaurant studio projects with another successful visit to New York City. This year the itinerary took them throughout iconic sites in Manhattan and an architect led tour of recent retail projects including the newest REI location. The Callison firm generously hosted the Villa students and faculty at their corporate offices.
In Club Activities

Lunch with Barbie is a fall event which benefits Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo. This year Interior Design joined with Fashion Design and Merchandising to work this event. The IND students decorated a giant mystery box for the prize table, and worked the boutique. Freshman Ryan Morley created a theme wreath that later was auctioned at Festival of Trees.

The Festival of Trees to benefit Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo is a perennial favorite event. This year’s Service Learning Project was a wreath design with an Art Deco theme.

It’s a Junior League of Buffalo Decorator Show House year again. The location is the Edward H. Webster House at 164 Lincoln Parkway. Villa rose to the challenge, even during finals week, to prepare three strong proposals. We were thrilled to be offered our favorite space, on the third floor of the mansion. We will be designing an artist’s studio.

Our In Club President, Tara Clack, serves as the student representative to the ASID Board of Directors. Tara has been busy this semester planning some fun events, including a kayak tour of the Buffalo Grain Silos and a tour or Griffis Sculpture Park. The prequel to the park visit was a special lecture at Villa by local sculptor Larry Griffis, who provided a wonderful historical background and insightful description of the sculpture park.

Alumni Activities

Jillian Schultz represented Villa Maria College in a panel discussion at the Boutique Design New York Conference at the Javits Convention Center in New York City.

As Jillian works on her graduate studies, the program is fortunate to have her serve as our tutor for various Interior Design courses.

Junior League of Buffalo

Once again the Villa Maria College Interior Design program has been awarded a space in the Junior League of Buffalo Decorators’ Show House. This year’s house is at 164 Lincoln Parkway and is called the Edward H. Webster House. The house will be open for tours April 25 – May 17. Our room is located on the third floor, and will be an artist’s studio.
New York Eleven Plus

The 2015 exhibition of student work is titled “Interior Design: Counts for New York State”. The exhibit will open in the Legislative Office Building in Albany on April 13th where it will remain on display until April 17th. The exhibit will move to the Lapicida showroom in New York City with an opening night reception and ribbon cutting on April 22nd.

Gallery News

The Interior Design Student Exhibit will be on display from February 13th to 27th in the Paul William Beltz Art Gallery. Once again we will be honoring our top students with Distinguished Student of the Year Awards on opening night. This is a juried event conducted by members of the Interior Design Advisory Council, Villa Art faculty and other invited judges.

Please consider an awards donation for this event.

Final Critique

The Interior Design program wide final critique will be held Wednesday, May 13 on the upper floor of the Main Building.

Calendar of Events

Jan 20 First day of classes
Feb 13 Student Exhibit Opening Reception
Mar 15 Spring Break starts
Mar 23 Classes Resume
Apr 13 NY11+ Albany opening
Apr 22 NY11+ NYC opening
Apr 25 JL Show House opens
May 13 Final Critique
May 18 - 28 Travel Abroad
London and Paris