



Perspectives

...interior design news
and views

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Villa Maria College Interior Design Program, 240 Pine Ridge Road, Buffalo, NY 14225, www.villa.edu

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Interior Design by the Numbers 2015-16
- 2 Distinguished Students
- 3 New York Eleven Plus
- 4 ASID Student Competition
- 5 Honors Convocation
- 6 Faculty News
- 7 IIDA Buffalo City Center
- 8 Villa Study Abroad 2017

The Spring Semester in Review

Interior Design by the Numbers 2015 - 2016

During the 2015-16 academic year:-

- 6 Interior Design students were conferred Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees
- 4 students earned their Associate in Applied Science degree
- 5 of our 6 BFA graduates are completing senior internships this summer. *Of particular note is Martha Aman, who is interning at Walt Disney World, since she was the only intern hired this summer in their design division.*
- 1 student, Kayla Alba, was inducted into the Delta Epsilon Sigma Honors Society.

Employment statistics are in for our 2015 graduating class, with 13 students receiving BFA degrees, 12 are working in the field, and 1 is working in a related field. In fall 2015 we accepted 7 students into the program. All of these students returned for the spring semester. Two of these students are in the Villa honors program.

Distinguished Students of the Year

The Annual Interior Design Student Exhibit opened Friday, February 26, 2016, in the Paul William Beltz Family Art Gallery with a reception hosted by the In Club.

During a private review a panel of invited guests and faculty juried the projects in the main gallery and selected the three distinguished students of the year. This year's recipients are:

- 1st Place** - Nicole Hoffman '16
2nd Place - Melanie Bruning '17
3rd Place - Kayla Alba '16

Freshman Best of Show vote recipient:

Cheri Beitz '19 Freshman Perspective Rendering

Prizes were courtesy of the IN Club.



"This was the best exhibit of student work and the hardest selection process"
Susan Conley Goltz, Editor in Chief DesignNY and Advisory Council Member



Villa alum Megan Ebert, participating panelist, with NY11+ founder Ruth Lynford in front of the Villa student exhibit at Lapidica Showroom, NYC

New York Eleven Plus (+)

The format of the NY11+ student exhibit was modified in 2016 to accommodate budgetary restrictions. The Albany exhibit was postponed. As in previous years, an exhibit was held in NYC. This year it was at the Lapidica Showroom. Our distinguished students prepared the presentation which was well received. Nicole Hoffman and Melanie Bruning attended the opening night reception together with faculty advisor and NY 11+ board member, Sandra Reicis.

As part of this year's NY 11+ Megan Ebert represented Villa Maria College as a guest panelist at the reception at the Lapidica Showroom. With the addition of the Rochester Institute of Technology, the group of participating New York State schools has grown to thirteen. Graduates from four schools were honored as presenters. Megan discussed her career opportunity at DalTile and presented the redesigned showroom in Boston which she completed and where she has been promoted to showroom manager.

ASID 2016 Student Competition Upstate New York – Canada East Region



Rendering from Melanie Bruning's presentation of her Bavarian Biergarten restaurant

Melanie Bruning '17 was awarded first place in the ASID Upstate New York - Canada East student competition for her Bavarian Biergarten restaurant project, sited at Riverworks along the Buffalo River. Melanie's unique hand-rendered drawings have brought her acclaim locally as well as at the NY11+ student exhibit in New York City.

This is the fifth year that a Villa student has taken first place in the ASID regional competition

Honors Convocation 2016

Honors Convocation is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of Villa Maria College students and faculty. This year Melanie Bruning'17 was awarded Student of the Year in the Interior Design Program. This is an honor that is awarded to a Junior level student in the program. Melanie earned this award because of her commitment to design excellence, participation in program events and opportunities, embodiment of the core values and academic accomplishment.

Faculty member Sandra Reicis and Kayla Alba '16 were inducted into the Delta Epsilon Sigma Honors Society.

Adjunct faculty Renee Pratt was presented the Villa Maria College part time faculty award.



Faculty News

Sandra Reicis and Natalia Albul attended the IDEC National Conference in Portland, Oregon March 9-12, 2016.

Paul Brinkworth has become a juried artist with the Roycroft. He continues to participate in art shows, exhibiting and selling both his paintings and sculpture.

Jesse Walp exhibited artwork in the Echo Art Fair Preview in NYC at the Highline Loft, March 2016. He is currently preparing a show for April 2017 at the Indigo Gallery, Buffalo.

Sandra Reicis has been promoted to the rank of Professor.

Adjunct faculty Renee Pratt was awarded the Part Time Faculty Award at the annual Honors Convocation.

Adjunct Professor Robert Szudzik has been offered a wonderful career opportunity and has re-located to NYC where he is opening a branch office for Wendel. He will be dearly missed, and we wish him the best of luck.

Adjunct Professor Sr. Kelly travelled to Sunyani, Ghana, West Africa May 24 - June 4, 2016. She has been invited to design a series of stained glass windows for the Cathedral of Sunyani. She studied both the structure of the cathedral as well as the culture of the Ghanaians, which includes the sad story of the slave trade. Sister Kelly will be presenting a talk on her trip in the Fall semester.

The faculty also wishes Natalia Albul a fond farewell. We thank her for her years of service to Villa. She has accepted a teaching position at the American University in Dubai. She will be missed. We are currently conducting a search for a new full time faculty member. Please direct any interested persons to the Villa website, employment page.



Liturgical Dancers in Sunyani Cathedral



Cathedral of Sunyani, Ghana

IIDA Panel Discussion *Planning Your Career*

On Thursday, January 28, 2016 the IIDA Buffalo City Center hosted a panel discussion for Interior Design students in the Villa Maria College Library. Area design professionals and industry leaders led the discussion followed by a networking session allowing students to engage with the attendees and speakers. Several students from other area schools were also in attendance.

Panelists included:

Laura Shoemaker, NCIDQ, Facilities Planner, Roswell Park Cancer Institute

Kathy McGhee, Design Manager, Prentice Office Environments

Roxanne Button, AIA, MRAIC, LEED AP, CSI, Principal/ Owner, Design Synergies Architecture P.C.

Katherine Gunsolus, President, Grassroots Contract Interiors

Mike Bonitatibus, Owner/CEO, Millington Lockwood Inc



“..excellent speakers and great information to help us prepare for the profession. Many thanks to the IIDA Buffalo City Center and Villa Maria College” - an ECC student

Study Abroad 2017 Italy

Our next 3-credit summer study abroad is scheduled for the end of May, 2017. We will be visiting Italy, specifically Venice, Florence, Rome and Sorrento. The trip is open to students, alumni, faculty and associates of Villa Maria College. Anyone who is interested in the trip should contact Sandra Reicis, reicis@villa.edu for additional information.



Interior Design

240 Pine Ridge Road
Buffalo, New York, 14225

Professor Interior Design
Sandra Reicis

Phone:
716-961-1843

Fax:
716-896-0705

E-mail:
Reicis@villa.edu

Upcoming Events

Faculty Exhibit
August 24 - September 9, 2016

First Day of Classes
August 29, 2016

College Fall Holiday
October 10 - 11, 2016

Last Day of Classes
December 9, 2016

Final Critique
December 16, 2016