School of Art + Design Receives NASAD Accreditation

The School of Art + Design successfully completed its efforts in obtaining accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). All three undergraduate four-year programs (Bachelor of Arts in Digital Design, Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design, and Bachelor of Arts in Interior Design) in the School of Art + Design were accredited. The Visiting Team described the efforts and impact of the School as “vibrant and commendable.”

The accreditation was achieved through a collaborative effort that required written reports, digital exhibit and physical exhibits of student work, and evidence of participation in regional and national arts communities and activities.

This achievement completes the suite of accreditations for the College of Architecture and Design in the last two years: CIDA (Interior Design); NAAB (Architecture); NASAD (Art + Design). The accreditation is for the full six-year period and the next complete by NASAD review is scheduled for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Digital Design Student Animation Selected for Screening at MetroCAF 2015 in New York City

“Voice,” a music and geometry-inspired animation created in a second year class by Digital Design student Nathalie Carrasco, was selected and screened at MetroCAF 2015 on Friday, September 25. “MetroCAF is the annual New York City Metropolitan Area College Computer Animation Festival organized by the New York City ACM SIGGRAPH Professional Chapter.” Eligibility extends to all students attending a school within a 160-mile radius of Times Square in New York City. Augustus Wendell, principal and creative director of Kim.Wendell Design, LLC in Brooklyn, and Coordinator of the Digital Design program, was selected to serve on the MetroCAF jury.

Recent Interior Design Graduate and Faculty Participate on Winning Design Team

Interior Design alumnus, Peter Fritzky ’13, was part of the design team at VLDG, Inc., of Edgewater, NJ, that won Hospitality Design’s 2015 Boutique/Lifestyle Public Space Award. The winning project, the design of the Hyatt Herald Square Hotel located in Midtown Manhattan, was featured in the magazine’s June 2015 issue, in print and online. VLDG’s co-founders and creative directors Paul Vega and Vennie Lau previously taught design studio in the Interior Design program at the School of Art + Design; and Vega, a registered architect, is a graduate of NJIT’s College of Architecture and Design.

Art + Design Athlete Receives Academic Honors

Digital Design major and tennis player Tiffany Barnes of Hopatcong, NJ, was honored as an ITA Scholar Athlete and recognized on the America East Conference Commissioner’s Honor Roll. The conference recognizes student-athletes who achieve a grade point average of 3.50 or higher.

Now in her second year, Tiffany was also on NJIT Dean’s List in her first academic year and is pursuing a dual degree in Digital Design and Information Technology.
Photographs Receive International Recognition

Of more than 27,000 entries from 104 countries, eight of Professor and Director of the School of Art + Design Glenn Goldman’s photographs received 11 Honorable Mentions across nine different categories in the 2015 International Photography Awards (IPA) program.

The most awarded photo, “Sails and Ship,” received citations in three categories: Architecture: Buildings; Architecture: Other; Travel/Tourism. This same photo received an Honorable Mention in the Annual American Institute of Architects (AIA) Architectural Photography Competition last May, was a finalist in the Photographer’s Forum 2015 contest in September, and will be published in Best of Photography 2015 (December 2015). Another photo, “Portman’s Hyatt” (taken in Atlanta, May 2015), received two citations: Architecture: Buildings; and Architecture: Interiors. “The Road Up” (Chicago, June 2014) was awarded in the category of Architecture: Cityscapes.


Industrial Design Graduate Receives Honors in 2015 Core77 Design Awards

Katie Goswick ’15, who graduated with honors from NJIT’s School of Art + Design with a B.S. in Industrial Design and a minor in Business, was honored by the Core77 Design Awards, which recognizes excellence in all areas of design enterprise and celebrates the richness of the design profession and the brilliance of its practitioners. Goswick was announced as the “Student Notable” in the open design category for her project, “una,” a group of kits that focus on science concepts—biology, chemistry and electricity—and provide education to children worldwide. Among hundreds of student finalists, Goswick’s design, which was born out of a studio assignment to create a product that focused around humanitarianism, sustainability and social equity, was selected for its outstanding execution, insight, creativity and intent.

Goswick, from Friendswood, Texas, was also the winner of the CoAD Academic Achievement Award for earning the highest grade-point average in the 2015 graduating class of the Industrial Design program.

Digital Design Student Creates Animation for a Statewide Environmental Non-Profit in California

Digital Design student Shiao Alice Sung created a 2-minute animation for the California Coalition for Clean Air as part of their intern program. The animation, “Air Pollution 101” is featured on the coalition’s website and illustrates the health effects of poor air quality, and potential solutions to the problem.

Narahara and Abbruzzese Present at SIGGRAPH 2015

Assistant Professor Taro Narahara of Digital Design, with graduate student Kevin Abbruzzese and Associate Professor Richard Foulds of NJIT’s Department of Biomedical Engineering, presented “Haptic Collaboration: Biomedical Engineering Meets Digital Design” at SIGGRAPH 2015 in Los Angeles. Narahara and Abbruzzese presented a user-controlled haptic manipulator that allows individuals with neurological impairment to be therapeutically assisted while interacting with virtual objects in a 3D animated environment. The talk was presented in SIGGRAPH’s Studio which focused on “disruptive practices in the world of content creation” through “projects from alternative fields that utilize and build new foundations in computer graphics – particularly those that extend beyond traditional screens and into the physical world through novel interactivity.”
Interior Design Students Strut Their Stuff at IIDA Fashion Show

The NJIT student chapter of the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) had a successful showing at the fourth annual IIDA Fashion Show, Fashion Meets Finish 2015: 7 Deadly Sins. The 16-team competition and fundraiser for interior design education was held June 25 at Kean University, which paired designers from schools and local architecture and design firms with product manufacturers, who provided materials to create clothing expressive of this year’s theme.

Consistent with the spirit of “making,” the students created components by cutting vinyl tile into 3/16” strips and weaving them together. Carpet fibers were handwoven and stitched on carpet backing for the dress, and pressed fiber backing was used to create a train. Demonstrating an acute understanding of the materials used and an ability to transform and adapt their purpose, the NJIT and Mannington team won the award for “Best Construction.”

Recent graduate Amy Cahill, former president of the IIDA NJIT student chapter who currently works at VLDG Inc. in Edgewater, NJ, led the NJIT team, working alongside seniors Samantha Cato (who modeled the clothes), Aya Hafez, and Maria Romo, and juniors Elouie Gaspar, Chrysie Lozada, Stephanie Peralta, Dakshita Supawala, and Alma Villalba. The NJIT team partnered with carpet, tile and rubber flooring manufacturer Mannington Commercial, which was represented by Jenna Gathman and Nancy Eckmayer.

The School of Art+Design was represented on other teams as well at the event. Former Interior Design student Nora Hamadé was a designer on the Gensler + Teknion team. And current Interior Design student, Chelsea Chamra, who had a summer internship with multi-disciplinary design firm Ware Malcomb, was part of their team with AIS which won the award for “Runway to Street Chic.”

Gosser and Brothers Participate in Seventh Annual Paterson ArtWalk

CoAD Gallery Curator and adjunct instructor at the School of Art + Design, Matthew Gosser, curated two separate exhibits that opened during ArtWalk 2015: Industrialism 2 (with more than 100 separate pieces that included sculpture, painting, drawing, and photography), and The Big Show (a group of large-scale art pieces) in the Dolphin Gallery at the Art Factory on Spruce Street in the Historic District of Paterson. Gosser was assisted in his preparations for the show by 2014 Industrial Design graduate Roxanna Munoz of Passaic, NJ. In addition organizing two of the exhibits, Gosser and Senior University Lecturer and Coordinator of the Interior Design program, David Brothers, showed sculptures as part of the exhibit.

ArtWalk is coordinated by the Paterson Arts Council and is a showcase for hundreds of artists, art organizations, and galleries from the tri-state area presented in six distinct historic venues surrounding the Great Falls National Park. The two-day event was held June 13 and 14, 2015 and included the unveiling and exhibition of the panels from the iconic Alexander’s Department Store mural by Stefan Knapp, that were held in storage in Carlstadt, NJ for the past 20 years.

Zarzycki Presents in South Korea

Associate Professor of Architecture and Digital Design Andrzej Zarzycki presented “Applied Creativity and Innovative Engineering” at the Digital Human Research Center (DHRC) seminar at the Advanced Institutes of Convergence Technologies (AICT) in Suwon, South Korea. Co-run by Seoul National University and the Gyeonggi government, DHRC focused on the connection between analogy and digital technologies as related to human interaction, specifically motion analysis, real-time motion capture systems and robotic manufacturing. Zarzycki’s talk focused on the role of creativity and innovation in the advancement of convergent research in smart technologies.
New Faculty in the School of Art + Design

Partner in Design bu Ltd. in Antalya, architect and designer Direnc Demirbas is teaching AD 463, Collaborative Design Studio. Demirbas holds a professional degree in architecture from Trakaya University in Turkey, and attended the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland for interior design. In 2005, Demirbas created the first online furniture store in Turkey and, while a manager at Yuceturk Interiors and Woodworking in Fatsa, he developed and produced easy-to-assemble flat-packed modern solid and composite wood furniture for online sales. He brings international professional experience in architecture, product and furniture design, and interior design.

Krystal Persaud, founder of Grouphug Design Collective and Director of Product Design for littleBits Electronics in New York City is teaching Methods and Materials to students in the Industrial Design program. She earned the degree of Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design from Georgia Tech University. Previously, Persaud was a contract industrial designer for International Diversified Products in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Nadeem M. Firoz is a researcher and educator with expertise in international business with more than thirty years of teaching experience. He joins the School of Art + Design teaching Ethnographic and Market Research to students in the Industrial Design program. Dr. Firoz earned a Ph.D. at the University of North Texas; an MBA at the University of Dallas; and both his Masters and Bachelors of Commerce from the University of Peshawar in Pakistan. Dr. Firoz retired from Montclair State University to pursue his recently completed Fulbright Scholarship work in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Faculty Hold “Girls Who Code” Summer Workshops

Assistant Professors Martina Decker and Taro Narahara each conducted separate workshops as part of the Girls Who Code Summer Immersion Program sponsored by Verizon. Decker’s workshop, Smart Materials and Physical Computing, combined art, technology and science to explore new trends in smart technologies. Participants worked hands-on with a shape-memory alloy, which acted as artificial “muscles” that can respond to electrical currents or temperature fluctuations with a change in shape. Using these alloys, the participants created kinetic assemblies that moved and changed as the alloy responded to electrical stimuli and/or temperature changes.

Narahara held a workshop that gave students an opportunity to explore the use of photogrammetry and game design tools to create a 3D virtual model of themselves from their photos, and to learn how computing and coding can be applied to design and aesthetic-based work beyond the context of science and engineering. As part of a demonstration on cross- and inter-disciplinary applications, the workshop included a visit to Professor Richard Fould’s Biomedical Engineering Laboratory.

Art + Design Advisor Exercises Judgment on the Court

School of Art + Design academic advisor Sasha Corchado competed in the 2015 World Naginata World Championship (WNC) in Montreal, Canada, in June. This was the second time Ms. Corchado was named to the U.S. Naginata Federation Team, this time in the Individual Women’s Shiai (sparring) event. She competed in her first WNC event in 2011 in Japan, where she won the silver medal in the Women’s Team Shiai event. Ms. Corchado earned her International Naginata Federation Shinpan certification this summer, making her eligible to serve as a referee in international Naginata Engi (kata) and Shiai competitions.
More than Forty Art + Design Students Have Work Exhibited at SIGGRAPH in Los Angeles

Samples of student work produced in NJIT’s School of Art + Design were exhibited for the fourth consecutive year at the curated Student Work Exhibit at SIGGRAPH, the Association of Computing Machinery’s (ACM) conference on computer graphics and interactive techniques, in Los Angeles, CA, August 9-13. NJIT was one of 16 schools included in the international exhibit, which also included work from Rhode Island School of Design, Rochester Institute of Technology, University of the Arts, University of Pennsylvania and more.

All disciplines in the School of Art + Design were represented by 45 different students who produced the work in studios and classes taught by 12 different instructors/critics. Foundation year work was created by Tess Albyn, Everett Aldrich, Rebecca Cortes, Manuel Diaz, Albeirys Francisco-Parra, Qiusi Jin, Stephanie Jen, Arianna Milla, Monica Nelson and Nathaniel Soto. Industrial design work exhibited was produced by Troy Benjamin, Lisa Burlew and Qiusi Jin. Interior design student works selected were from Marina Attalla, Amy Cahill, Kevin Chen, Katarzyna Cyrulik, Alyssa Diaz, Aya Hafez, Pamela Jablonski, Viktorya Kiruschanka, Sean Liao, Stephanie Marczak, Angelica McKenzie, Maria Romo, Stephanie Peralta and Alma Villalba. Digital design projects were created by Alyaman M. Alhayek, Marta Brulinski, William Busarello, Brian Coleman, Lee Coward, Amanda Cronce, Amos Dudley, Adriana Eteson, Sharon Feng, Kimberly Hastings, Miles Johnson, David Kong II, Ed Lopez, Jr., Nathaniel Soto and Ian Yunits. Collaborative projects created in a studio taught by Adjunct Angus Eade were produced by the team of Amy Cahill, Brian Gunning and Chris Inserra; and another by a team consisting of Richard Casaletto, Joshua Sanders and Alan Valente.

This is the second time work created by Benjamin, Cahill, Chen, Cyrulik, Diaz, Dudley, Hastings, Jablonski, McKenzie, Marczak, Romo and Soto were displayed at SIGGRAPH. Digital design student Gunning had work exhibited for the third time. NJIT was the only school to exhibit work selected from interior and industrial design programs.

Improv Technicians Selected to Perform in NYC Comedy Festival

Student acting troupe Improv Technicians (I.T.) was one of 600 entrants accepted to perform in the 17th Annual Del Close Marathon, an international week-long comedy festival held in New York City. The troupe was selected from more than 2,000 applicants from around the world.

Founded in 2012 under the Rutgers-Newark/NJIT Joint Theatre Program, Improv Technicians’ members included Art + Design students from the Class of 2015 Michael Chiappa (Interior Design) and Gretchen von Koenig (Industrial Design). Von Koenig was also a dual-degree major with the Theatre Arts and Technology program and is currently a fellow in the Education Department at the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian National Design Museum; and Chiappa is now pursuing the degree of Master in Architecture at NJIT.

I.T. performed an extension of the long-form structure they created under the direction of Louis Wells, Joint Theatre Program Artistic Coordinator from his improvised play “Certified Organic” originally performed in May 2014. Mr. Wells also teaches in the Digital Design program.

The I.T. performance for the comedy festival took place on June 27 at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theater, New York City, NY.

Brew Watch Co. Featured in Esquire Magazine

Industrial Design alumnus Jonathan Ferrer ‘14 continues to earn accolades for his Brew Watch design, this time with a feature in men’s style magazine Esquire online showcasing the top watch designs launched on Kickstarter. Ferrer’s Brew Watch Kickstarter campaign was successfully launched and funded in Spring 2015, and shipped to customers in September. According to Esquire, it’s not hard to see why: “Brew’s caffeine-fueled aesthetic is a bold mix of rugged industrial meets refined dress watch.”
Digital Design Students Receive Research Grants

Two Digital Design students, Alex Bradbury-Wallad and Nate Soto, were selected to participate in the Provost Undergraduate Summer Research program between their third and fourth years at NJIT. Bradbury-Wallad worked with his faculty advisor Daphne Soares from the Federated Department of Biological Sciences on “Cavefish Morphological Evolution” and Soto with Digital Design Program Coordinator Augustus Wendell on “The Impact of Multiple Sense Stimulus in Goal-Oriented VR Simulations.” The two students presented their work at the summer research symposium July 30.

CoAD Showcases New Fabrication Lab

The College of Architecture & Design added a MakerBot Starter Lab with four Replicator Desktop 3D Printers, a Replicator Mini Compact 3D Printer, and Digitizer Desktop 3D Scanner this summer, expanding its fabrication and prototyping facilities. Industrial Design fabrication facilities were also expanded with the addition of a new Stratasys Objet 30 Pro 3D printer which adds, among other things, the ability for students to create transparent objects. On October 2, CoAD and MakerBot co-hosted an event for 40 students, teachers and administrators from K-12 schools in New York and New Jersey showcasing how 3D fabrication technology can serve as teaching tool and expand the boundaries of design.

Faculty Present at eCAADe in Vienna

Professors Martina Decker, Taro Narahara, and Andrzej Zarzyci each presented papers at the 33rd Annual conference for Education in Computer Aided Design in Architecture at the Vienna Institute of Technology in September.

Narahara’s Publishes in Computers & Graphics Journal

Assistant Professor of Digital Design Taro Narahara’s article “Design exploration through interactive prototypes using sensors and microcontrollers” was published in the August 2015 issue of Computers & Graphics, “an international journal of systems and applications in computer graphics” that contains “algorithms and techniques for interaction, multimedia, modeling and visualization” published by Elsevier.

Narahara’s article explores the use of project-based modules to teach basic technical skills and knowledge in coding combined with toolkits for prototyping. This teaching strategy enables students to quickly learn and adapt these skills and technologies in the creation of interactive, interdisciplinary design projects.

A+D Participation in SIGGRAPH Expands

The School of Art + Design was represented by students, faculty and administrators, and alumni at SIGGRAPH 2015 in Los Angeles. Five continuing Digital Design students were selected to participate in the Student Volunteer program this year. Sophomore Monica Nelson along with Seniors Marta Brulinski, Amos Dudley, and Kevin Ratigan all participated for the first time. Senior Mark Sanna was selected to the program for the third consecutive year. Student volunteers provide approximately 25 hours of work and have access to individualized portfolio and demo reel reviews as well as a variety of networking opportunities. Dean of the College of Architecture and Design Urs Gauchat attended his first SIGGRAPH conference. And Director of the School of Art + Design, Glenn Goldman, was part of the international conference committee and served on the Unified Jury that selected scholarly and artistic content, and was also Courses Chair for the event.