CHAIR'S NOTE

Greetings students, parents, alumni, and friends of the department. This spring, the department navigated the unexpected challenge of moving all our courses online due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The studios were shuttered, the campus was closed, and our physical collaborations and classroom teaching were replaced with a screen. We faced an unprecedented time and were asked to do unprecedented work. Through it all we continued to teach, create, and build community. It has been incredibly impressive to witness the innovative solutions, personal resolve, and speed with which our faculty, students, and staff adapted to life online. It’s clearly not been ideal but it has taught us much about what’s possible, revealing new and interesting ways to engage in creative study. The Class of 2020 has arrived at graduation unlike any class before them, but we couldn’t be prouder of their accomplishments. They will leave us as creative leaders, driven change-makers, and life-long learners. This issue of Thinking and Making is dedicated to our graduates. Congratulations Class of 2020!

–Richard Gray, Chair

DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

Annual MFA, BFA, BA Honors students exhibit thesis projects online

The Department of Art, Art History & Design celebrates this year’s annual MFA, BFA, and BA Honors Student Exhibition with a new online gallery. The website showcases the creative work and thesis projects of twenty-three graduating BA, BFA, and MFA degree students in art history, studio art, and design. The
thesis project represents a year-long investigation and demonstrates our students’ ability to express complex concepts and themes by employing strategies and processes that are particular to their disciplines in art history, design, and studio art. Please visit the galleries and explore the exceptional creative and scholarly work produced by our seniors and graduate students in studio art and design:

nd-art-design.com

AAHD supports PPE production for area hospitals

AAHD participated in a Personal Protective Equipment project in April sponsored by ND’s Innovation Park. Several of the department’s 3D printers from the sculpture and industrial design shops were loaded to Innovation Park to produce component parts for medical face shields. The face shields were used in Franciscan Health System’s area hospitals. The department also donated nitrile gloves from it’s inventory to the local medical community. See the full story here.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Student Award Winners

The Department presented the Emil Jacques Gold and Silver Medals for Excellence to two undergraduate senior BFA students. These awards are the oldest and most prestigious award given by our department. It is given in memory of one of our earliest faculty members, Professor Emil Jacques who was a painter and chair of the Department from 1929 to 1937. The gold and silver medals are awarded by the faculty to the two most outstanding undergraduate senior BFA students. Criteria includes academic excellence, studio achievement, leadership and citizenship in the department.

Paige Smith (design) was the recipient of the Gold Medal. Smith’s thesis project, “Maya Rocker: Sustainability through Imaginative Use,” is an adaptable and innovative furniture project that provides a
sustainable alternative to several children’s early development products.

Stella Moon (studio art) received the Silver Medal. Her paper sculpture thesis project, “Gradualism and Subitism,” emphasizes tessellating relationships through the investigation and creation of repetition, a repetition found in religion and mathematics, both spiritually and logically. By repeating geometric patterns in her art, Moon creates moments in which these interactions become transparent, and the repetition becomes the viewer’s main focus.

Please see our website for a complete list of the 2020 award winners.

Undergraduate student receives Fulbright Scholarship

Senior Art History major Laura Richter was awarded a Fulbright Study/Research grant to study in Turkey next year. Her project includes traveling to, photographing, and writing on the cave churches of Cappadocia. Laura is interested in photogrammetry as a method to create 3-dimensional models of the structures, particularly to document the frescoes covering their walls. These models will allow viewers to walk through the sites virtually, exploring the layout and small details across the surface, important to recording degrading frescoes as well as understanding each image in the context of its architectural space, an aspect hard to capture through traditional photography. Dating to the 11th and 12th centuries, these remote and so-called “forgotten cave churches” nonetheless highlight the rich artistic tradition of the region, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site last century. Laura’s Fulbright award is affiliated with the Nevşehir HBV University within Cappadocia. She is dedicated to preserving cultural heritage and will pursue a career in art conservation, specializing in paintings.

MFA student accepts tenure-track industrial design faculty position

Carly Hagins accepted a position as an assistant, tenure-track professor of product design at the Richmond Institute for Design and Innovation at Western Michigan University. Her start date is
scheduled for August 15, 2020, and she will have the privilege of teaching the first group of students who will graduate from the program (it started three years ago.) Hagins will teach a variety of classes including an introduction to design thinking, studio courses, drawing, and advising thesis projects.

MFA student wins award from Kaneb Center for Teaching & Learning

Katie Neece, third-year MFA student, has been awarded an Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award for 2020. The Outstanding Graduate Student TA or Instructor Award, instituted in 1999, recognizes graduate student instructors and TAs who demonstrate excellence in the classroom or laboratory.

FACULTY NEWS

Design faculty conduct research for social good

Assistant Professor, James Rudolph served as Lead Industrial Designer for a cross-disciplinary team working to develop a novel imaging system for evaluating breast cancer response and outcomes throughout chemotherapy. The NearWave imaging research is overseen by Dr. Thomas O'Sullivan, Assistant Professor in Notre Dame’s department of electrical engineering. The development team is led by Roy Stillwell, a PhD candidate in electrical engineering. The project, including the design, engineering, and business plan, was awarded several prizes this past weekend in the McCloskey New Venture Competition, including the McCloskey Grand Prize. Additional awards included the Marshall County Prize for Greatest Social Impact and the IrishAngels Award. The funding, which totaled $100,000 in all, will be used to support additional development efforts, including technology research, prototyping, user research, and further business plan development. Additional information regarding the McCloskey New Venture Competition and 2020 results can be found here.
Associate Professor, Ann-Marie Conrado received the Jessie Ball DuPont Foundation Grant Award as Co-Primary Investigator on a seed grant award for the Care Network project to build access to the social services network in St Joseph County. Conrado will partner with faculty and grad students in Design and Computer Science to build and test a pilot with recently incarcerated individuals reentering into society. The initial seed funding is approximately $80,000.

The Care Network grew out of Conrado's Design Research Practices, a course where students tackle challenging problems using ethnographic research methods that inform the development of potential solutions. Students engaged with a variety of South Bend residents and discovered, not just an opportunity to help those victimized, but disadvantaged individuals across the spectrum who struggled to access the vast social services available to them. The Care Network was developed with local community partnerships including Indiana 211, a free service that connects Hoosiers with help and answers from thousands of health and human service agencies and resources in their community. Design students Lauren Weldon BA ’19, Shreejan Shrestha MFA ’19 and Jacob Rush BA ’20, along with peers in Computer Science have been integral to the continuing progress of the project.

ALUMNI STORIES

Adrian Duran, BA ‘98

Adrian R Duran graduated from Notre Dame in 1998 with a BA in Art History, within which he studied Italian Renaissance and Baroque art with Dr. Randy Coleman and worked in the Education Department of the Snite with Curator Gina Costa. After ND, he went on to get an MA and PhD from the University of Delaware. During graduate school, Duran spent the summers of 2000 and 2001 as an intern at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection and the Venice Architecture Biennale.

In 2005, Duran was an Assistant Professor at the Memphis College of Art, where he worked until a 2012, moving to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where he is currently an Associate Professor. He served as Department Chair from 2016-19. Duran has published widely on mid-20th century Italian painting and sculpture, including his 2014/18 book Painting, Politics and the New Front of Cold War Italy.
Alex Lobos, MFA ‘05: Exploring the future of learning

Alex Lobos received his MFA in Design from Notre Dame in 2005 and is currently a Visiting Fellow at software company Autodesk. As part of the Strategic Foresight team, Alex helps to explore how technology will transform the way that people work and learn in a 5 to 10-year timeframe. Alex is developing projects that could transform Computer Aided Design (CAD) from a productivity tool into a system that offers continuous and intuitive learning experiences. Alex is also exploring how the key elements of experiential learning apply to digital tools and remote working situations. Alex is doing this work during a year-long sabbatical from Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), where he is Professor and Graduate Director in Industrial Design.

Alex’s design work uses advanced technology such as generative design and digital fabrication while maintaining a strong connection with physical interaction, sustainability and user experience. At RIT, Alex leads a top-ranking design graduate program, heavily immersed in interdisciplinary collaboration and applied research. His work has been sponsored by companies such as Autodesk, AT&T, Colgate-Palmolive, General Electric, Kraft, Makerbot, Staples, Stryker, Sun Products, Unilever and Wegmans. In 2018, Alex was the recipient of the prestigious Richard and Virginia Eisenhart Award, RIT’s highest recognition for teaching excellence. Alex is also a member of Autodesk University’s Advisory Council and has been a juror for the International Design Excellence Awards (IDEA) and the Ibero-American Design Biennial.

Alex notes that the future of education involves moving from static teaching models to dynamic learning experiences, where students learn by doing and by collaborating with other disciplines, whether they are in the same room or across the globe.

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