

**Division of Interior Architecture  
College of Professional Studies  
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point**

## **ANNUAL REPORT : 2006-07**

### **1. Program Highlights**

The Division of Interior Architecture continued to maintain its tradition of excellence during the academic year of 2006-07. The Division matriculated 54 students in Interior Architecture, while 26 students graduated with a bachelor degree in Interior Architecture within the year. The quality of creative work and the level of professionalism of IA graduates have continued to improve. Professionals in the field consider the UWSP Interior Architecture program as one with excellent and outstanding reputation, and frequently report that our graduates are some of the most sought-after young professionals in the interior design field. This high-level standard of excellence of the Interior Architecture program is a result of exceptional students we attract, our skilled and dedicated faculty, and the strong commitment of the Division to generate creative, competent, and well-prepared entry-level professionals.

#### **(a) Assessment**

##### **Admission and Senior Portfolio Assessment Reviews**

The Division of Interior Architecture continued to assess student work at sophomore and senior levels during the 2006-07 academic year. The Admission Portfolio Review was conducted in Fall 2006, coordinated by Nisha Fernando. A total of 32 students participated in the review. Twenty nine students successfully continued on to the professional program. Additionally, two students were placed on probationary status at the time of the review and one of them successfully completed the probationary review in Spring 2007 and continued on to the professional program.

The Senior Portfolio Review was conducted in at the end of Spring 2007, coordinated by Jane Kangas. A total of 28 students participated in the review. The Senior Portfolio Show was held at the Noel Fine Arts Center in collaboration with the Department of Art and Design, College of Fine Arts. Several prospective employers in the area attended the show.

##### **Accreditation**

The Division of Interior Architecture participated in the NASAD (National Association of Schools of Art and Design) visit in Fall 2006 for the accreditation renewal for UWSP (which includes Art and Interior Architecture programs). The visiting team representing the NASAD Commission on Accreditation evaluated the IA self-study report and selected student work displayed in the Agnes Jones gallery. They also met with the Interim Division Head and some IA faculty to discuss the BA degree program and to discuss the potential of a future BFA program. The NASAD institutional accreditation for UWSP was approved and renewed in Spring 2007. The Division also continues to maintain the accreditation status of CIDA (Council for Interior Design Accreditation).

## **(b) Faculty/Staff Professional Development**

### **Juried and Invited Presentations**

**Tom Brown**, “Green Building Practices: Pathway To A Healthy Home, Workplace, and Planet,” Governor’s High School Environmental Conference, Stevens Point, WI. November 2006.

**Tom Brown**, “Healthy Homes,” “Mead DNR Facility,” and “Alternative Home Tour.” Midwest Renewable Energy Fair, Custer, WI. June 2007.

**Nisha Fernando**, “Worldviews and Sustainable Environments: Some Cross-Cultural Comparisons”, Environmental Design Research Association, Sacramento, CA. May 2007.

**Kathe Julin**, “Site Visit Case Studies: Managing the Site Visit,” Council for Interior Design Accreditation International Workshop presentation, Phoenix, AZ, March 2006.

**Kathe Julin**, Invited Workshop moderator for UW-System Conference on The Teaching Commons Approach to Engaged Teaching and Learning, UWSP. December 2006.

**Katja Marquart**, “Edward Hopper in Virtual Reality: A Student Project in Advanced Computer Applications”, Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC), Midwest Regional Conference, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, October 2006.

**Patricia Williams**, “Art of the Chinese Fan” Exhibit at the New Visions Gallery, Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, WI, July 17 – August 19, 2006. Presentation on interpretation of symbolism in 63 paintings on July 19<sup>th</sup> 2006.

**Patricia Williams**, “Feng Shui: The Way to Health, Wealth, and Happiness,” UWSP Continuing Education LIFE (Learning Is For Ever) Program (affiliated with Elderhostel Institute Network). April 2007.

**Donna Zimmerman**, “Share Your Story: Design a Building that Reflects the Essence of Site and Story” (Co-presenter: Ron Zimmerman), National Association for Interpretation Conference, Albuquerque, NM. November 2006.

**Donna Zimmerman**, “Go on Safari in East Africa,” Invited presenter for IIDSA Student Chapter to speak on East Africa. December 2006.

### **Publications**

**Nisha Fernando**, 2006. “Open-Ended Space: Urban Streets in Different Cultural Contexts”. In Karen A. Franck & Quentin Stevens (Eds.), Loose Space: Diversity and Possibility in Urban Life. New York: Routledge (Book chapter).

**Nisha Fernando**, 2006. “Design as exploration: An integrative model”. Open House International. U.K. (Special Issue: ‘Design Teaching Practices’).

### **Grants**

**Nisha Fernando**, \$3000, Continuing Education Development (PDN) Grant, to develop a collaborative course between IA and School of Architecture at UW-Milwaukee

**Patricia Williams**, \$1557, UPDC Faculty Development Grant, to conduct work on “Internal and External Forces for Change in Chinese Traditional Painting”

### **Awards**

**Tom Brown**, Governor’s Award of Excellence, Div. of State Facilities, Madison, WI (Sustainable Design and Construction) and Governor's Award for Service, Div. of State Facilities, Madison, WI, (Friends of Mead McMillan Association)

**Tom Brown**, National Award of Honor, Association of Conservation Engineers, Erie, PA

**Tom Brown**, Sustainability and Energy Efficiency (SE2) Award, Madison, WI

**Donna Zimmerman**, University Leadership Mentor Award, UWSP, 2007

### **Notable Professional Activities**

**Jane Kangas** designed the Timothy and Rebecca Bevers Residence, Stevens Point, in June 2006 (included in the Parade of Homes)

## **2. Focus on Teaching/Active Learning**

Several activities related to active learning took place during the 2006-07 year. Sixteen students completed internships working with certified professionals in the field. The internships involved a large variety of professional experiences, including residential, office, retail, and facility planning.

Students also participated in several study tours related to their course work. They included trips to the Annual Design Expo in Minneapolis, the Art Institute in Chicago, the Merchandise Mart in Chicago, and Juno Lighting Group in Chicago. The Division also maintained the tradition of inviting several design professionals to give guest lectures on various topics, to conduct presentation techniques workshops, and to jury upper level studio presentations.

## **3. Student-centered Excellence**

Nineteen students received Annual Interior Architecture Division Scholarships to the sum of \$5100.00.

*Jane Wright Abrahamsen Home Economics Scholarship*

Hannah Dieringer

*Agnes Jones Scholarship*

Paula Buntin

*Mary Ann Baird IA Scholarship for International Study*

Tiffany Petrie

*Bessie May Allen Scholarship*

Jean Anderson, Julia Ausloos, and Liesl Vogt

*Interior Architecture Alumni Scholarship*

Michelle Bong, Samantha Longshore, Lauren Martin, Margaret Schermerhorn

*Natalie and Paul Ciulla Interior Architecture Scholarship*

Monica Wierzba

*University Scholarship (Anonymous Donor)*

Krista Bruso

*CPS Outstanding Students, Dean's Award*

Freshman: Samantha Longshore

Sophomore: Veta Traxler

Junior: Paula Buntin

Senior: Jennifer Hunt

*Division Awards for Academic Excellence*

1<sup>st</sup> Year: Laura Field

2<sup>nd</sup> Year: Ashley Huebner

3<sup>rd</sup> Year: Terri Shurts

4<sup>th</sup> Year: Sarah Koeser

*Chancellor's Leadership Award: Jennifer Hunt*

Several Interior Architecture students participated at two UW-System events on research and creativity. Jennifer Hunt, Crystal Mansfield, and Michelle Niepow each presented a paper at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual UW-System Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity at UW-Stout. Jennifer Hunt also presented a poster at the same venue. Nisha Fernando and Donna Zimmerman mentored the above students respectively. Christine Janssen and Cara Riederer presented individual posters at the Posters in the Rotunda 2007 (organized by UW-System) in Madison, WI. Nisha Fernando mentored the two students.

Terri Shurts won the ASID Wisconsin State Bronze Medal for Student Design in 2007 for her sophomore year design project on a residential care facility for elderly with dementia. The ASID student chapter also won the national award for the student chapter of the year and received an honorable mention for their newsletter.

Several Interior Architecture students displayed their work at the Foundation Show at the Agnes Jones Gallery, which was organized by the Department of Art and Design. Two students won monetary awards for their work.

#### **4. Technology**

The use of laptops in professional program sequence continues to be an important teaching and learning tool. Through the laptop program, the Interior Architecture students gain the state of the art technological skills that prove to be vital and critical to their career development in the professional field.

The classroom remodeling project is underway to provide a larger space for lectures. This classroom and two other existing studio spaces will be finished with instructor stations with computer and elmo equipment.

#### **5. Diversity and International Experiences**

The Interior Architecture program continues to attract international students. Several international students from Japan, Taiwan, and China are currently enrolled in the program.

The Division maintains its strong connection with the UWSP International Programs in facilitating the London Internship program. Nick Fendt and Sarah Jones completed their respective second internship in London in Fall 2006, while Jeff Albergo and Lisa Berenschot incorporated their first internship with a semester abroad program in London in Spring 2007. Nick Fendt was subsequently employed in a design firm in London. Additionally, five students (Whitney Brewster, Amanda Hildebrand, Karen O'Neill, Terri Shurts, and Angela Voelker) are currently completing their summer internships in London.

The Division offered another Summer Short Term program this year, focusing on art and architecture of Spain with Donna Zimmerman and Katja Marquart as faculty instructors and Jane Kangas as a participant.

The general degree courses within the curriculum focusing on minority cultures in the U.S. and non-Western aspects of design continue to create a deeper understanding of diversity and open students' minds to wider horizons.

## **5. Partnerships**

The Division, in collaboration with the CPS Continuing Education programs, developed two courses to establish partnerships with institutions and professionals. Patricia Kluetz continues to provide instruction in the NCIDQ exam preparation course which attracts many IA graduates. Nisha Fernando developed a course that will collaborate with the School of Architecture at UW-Milwaukee to teach a graduate level course that will include both architecture and interior architecture students.

The Division is also currently in discussion with the Residential Design program coordinator at the Northcentral Technical College in Wausau to seek future degree program opportunities for NTC students at the Division.

## **6. Individual, Family, and Community Wellness**

The Division, both through its curriculum and extra curricular activities, has developed a strong focus on designing for sustainability and healthy environments. In studio courses, students constantly engage in learning, promoting, and applying sustainable issues related to livable spaces they design with the large community in mind.

## **7. Life and Look of Campus**

The Division main office suite moved to the third floor from its previous location on the first floor following a small renovation project. The new office proves to function more efficiently.

Patricia Kluetz served in the Campus Master Plan Steering Committee, which looks at redesigning the campus premises. Nisha Fernando and Kathe Julin served in the UWSP Historic Preservation Subcommittee, which is currently focusing on preservation efforts of the Nelson Hall. As the campus moves towards being a model sustainable institute, it is hoped that the Division will be able to contribute towards achieving that goal.

## **8. Community Service**

The Historic Preservation Student Society was actively engaged in providing advice to the Stevens Point Downtown Business Association. Jennifer Hunt worked closely the Main Street Manager, Jami Gebert, to conduct extensive research and design the Walking Tour brochure. Students and faculty were also involved in the Annual Relay for Life Cancer Fundraiser in Stevens Point.