



The Art Institutes  
International  
Minnesota<sup>SM</sup>

# Alumni Newsletter

Alumni Bi-Annual Newsletter

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## *Greetings Alumni,*

I hope this newsletter finds you doing well during this holiday season!

I would like to encourage you to register on the Alumni Connections Website, which is specifically designed to provide Alumni with employment leads, information on upcoming events for networking, and a great place to make new connections with other alumnus. The alumni website is:

<http://www.alumniconnections.com/ArtInstitutes/>

Please contact me if you have a success story to share, would like to announce a featured exhibit, or if you or your company is seeking to fill any open positions or are in need of freelance work. I would love to hear from you with any suggestions you may have for future networking possibilities and alumni gatherings.

Once again, wishing you and yours a very Happy Holiday Season.

*Melinda Wolff*

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## Alumni Mentoring Program

Career Services Announces the new Alumni Mentoring Program!

**Mission:** The Alumni Mentoring Program offers students the opportunity to develop a professional association with an Alumni of The Art Institutes International Minnesota. This partnership provides essential information and feedback designed to assist students in preparation for the professional working world. These skills include; career assessment, job search strategies, industry and market trends, and introductions to professional organizations.

What is the goal of the Mentoring Program?

- To give upper level students the chance to interact with a professional Alumni in their chosen field of study
- Offer an opportunity for The Art Institutes International Minnesota Alumni to reconnect with the college and share experiences with current students in a one-to-one mentoring relationship.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact Melinda Wolff at 612-656-7544 or [mkwolff@aii.edu](mailto:mkwolff@aii.edu).

## Alumni Events

### Graduate Portfolio Shows

#### Culinary Graduate Reception/Portfolio Review

The Culinary Graduate Reception/Portfolio Review took place on Thursday, December 10, 2009 from 6 pm to 7:30 pm in the school's dining lab, the Gourmet Gallery. The Culinary Graduate Reception/Portfolio Review showcased the talents of graduating students from the Culinary Arts and the Culinary Management programs.

#### Design Graduate Portfolio Show & Graduation Friday, December 18, 2009

##### New Venue!

Solera, 900 Hennepin Avenue- 3rd Floor, Minneapolis, MN 55403

The Design Graduate Portfolio Show will be on Friday, December 18, 2009 from 9 am to 12:00 pm at Solera, located at the corner of Hennepin Avenue and 9th Street. The graduates from the Advertising, Fashion & Retail Management, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Media Arts & Animation, Web Design & Interactive Media, Photography, and Visual Effects & Motion Graphics programs will display their work at the Design Graduate Portfolio Show.



The graduation ceremony for the 2009 Summer and Fall Graduates will follow the Portfolio Show and begin at 2:30 pm at the Pantages Theatre- located at 710 N. Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis.



#### Passing Focus

Fall 2009  
Photography  
Program BFA  
Exhibition  
Opening Reception:  
Thursday,  
December 17, 2009  
6:00pm to 8:30pm

#### Artists:

Liz Hardt, Sheri Ledin, Ryan McGoff, Tyler Osborn, Scott Palmer, Jenn Sayavong, Amanda Thoraldson and Sally Zahnle

#### Gallery Exhibition:

December 12-January 14, 2010

The Galleries of The Art Institutes International Minnesota

## Bragging Rights

Did you get a recent promotion, award, or artistic grant that you would like to tell old friends about? How about a recent marriage, a new baby, an upcoming art exhibit, or a career update? The Bragging Rights and Where Are They Now? sections in this newsletter will feature faculty and alumni personal news and information. To forward information, please email Melinda Wolff at [mkwolff@aii.edu](mailto:mkwolff@aii.edu) or call 1-800-777-3643 extension 7544.

## Where Are They Now?

The Art Institutes International Minnesota offers a section for graduates to let us know where they are. This section allows you, as graduates, to stay in touch with your friends. If you have any updates regarding your career, let us know by contacting Melinda Wolff at The Art Institutes International Minnesota at 1-800-777-3643 extension 7544.

### Christopher Koepf - The Art of Cooking (Spring 2004)

As Executive Chef, Christopher runs the day-to-day operations at the Kenai Fjord Wilderness Lodge in the Gulf of Alaska. He creates a five course prix fixe dinner every evening and breakfast for up to 28 guests each day. Christopher maintains a staff of five who do the housekeeping and wait staff duties for the lodge and cabins. He also ensures quality control for the Salmon Bake and Prime Rib Buffet which serves the wildlife tour boat customers, serving up to 800 guests a day. Kenai Fjord Tours is a wildlife tour company located in Seward, Alaska. They run 10 sea vessels out into the Gulf of Alaska every day into the Kenai Fjords National Park to view glaciers, whales and other Alaskan wildlife. Fox Island is a destination lodge that offers guests a remote location to get away from society; with no phones, computers or radio. Christopher stood out in the hiring process because of his experience in traveling the United States and working as a chef in various locations, learning different styles of cooking, and his willingness to work in a remote location. Christopher enjoys meeting people from all over the world and all walks of life. He finds it rewarding that he makes a living doing what he loves.



### Dustin Rients - Media Arts & Animation (Summer 2008)

As an Animator and Game Designer for King Show Games, Dustin works in a small group and creates concepts for new games. He constructs the new game mechanics and the content for the game including animation, rendering, storyboarding, and 2D art. Dustin works through the development of the games, from pre-production to post-production. King Show Games is a local company that brings new and innovative ideas to the advanced video platforms systems industry. Dustin believes his persistence, willingness to learn new skills, and his effort to keep in touch with the company helped him stand out as a candidate for the Animator and Game Designer position. Dustin enjoys the people he works with and seeing his progression and improvement of skills as an artist.



### Lucy Pottebaum - Interior Design (Fall 2008)

Lucy stood out in the interview process at Institutions Services because she established a high level of professionalism in her resume, interview process, and follow up discussion with the company. She also believes her unique portfolio, which includes traveling experiences with ASID and study abroad, helped to land the position as Hospitality Interior Designer. Institutions Services is a hospitality design firm that specializes in food service facility design including hotel restaurants, lobbies, and school lunch rooms. As Hospitality Interior Designer, Lucy is responsible for the materials library and meets with various product representatives. She works with the clients' requests and produces a concept to fit the spatial and budgetary needs. She also selects the furniture and fixtures, helps with ordering materials, and creates the final presentation boards which include renderings to show to the clients. What Lucy enjoys most about her job is being able to take the client's essential needs for a space and creating something they love.



### Jason Craft - Visual Effects & Motion Graphics (Fall 2008)

Jason stood out in the hiring process at Ghost productions because of his compositing skills and his professional website that displayed his demo reels which illustrated his visual effects talents. The main focus at Ghost Productions is to create medical animations that demonstrate the use of new medical surgical tools for training, product demonstration and commercial purposes. As the lead compositor, Jason's responsibilities include incorporating 3D footage, audio files, logos, and 2D elements into final videos for clients. What he enjoys the most at Ghost Productions is working in the friendly and relaxed work environment.



### Bill Matey - Baking & Pastry (Winter 2009)

Bill stood out in the hiring process for the Executive Pastry Chef position at Lake Winds Natural Foods because of his enthusiasm for the job, his education, and his long and solid work history. Lake Winds Natural Foods is one of the Twin Cities largest natural foods coop organizations and currently operates in two locations, Minnetonka and Chanhassen. The primary focus of the business is to offer consumers the opportunity to buy high quality organic, locally grown, or Lake Winds produced products which offer a healthy alternative to what is commonly available. As the Executive Pastry Chef, Bill is responsible for all the pastry products produced for the Minnetonka location. He develops and produces products not only for the general public but also for people with special dietary needs. He works with an ever-changing assortment of products in order to keep up with consumer buying habits and special requests. What Bill enjoys the most is having the opportunity to create new formulas that meet the needs of the customers with special dietary needs and to improve the company's current product offering. He also enjoys the variety of products he makes every day; no two days are ever the same which makes his job very interesting and challenging, and learning something new every day.



**Kung Meng Xiong - Graphic Design (Summer 2008)**

Kung was hired as a Graphic Designer at Northern Wholesale Supply because of his design qualifications, his determination, and his willingness to work hard and complete any job given to him. As a Graphic Designer, Kung focuses on creating and producing quality print and web designs for the company. Northern Wholesale Supply is a wholesaler and distributor of aftermarket recreational products and accessories. Kung enjoys working through design challenges and being pushed to new limits with his graphic design capabilities.

**Jana Bocklund - Graphic Design (Summer 2007)**

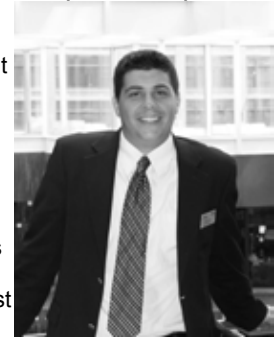
Jana's personality, the variety of work in her portfolio, and her website were all factors that helped her stand out in the hiring process at Norwood Promotional Products for the Graphic Designer position. Norwood Promotional Products is an industry-leading supplier of imprinted promotional products. Jana designs custom calendar mock-ups for a wide range of clients, from big national companies to small independent companies. She also creates calendars for the stock-line promotional products catalogs as well as the marketing brochures and printed materials that are used to sell the promotional calendars. Jana enjoys being able to create a product that can be found in the real marketplace and she is proud that her design abilities and sensibilities are trusted and respected.

**Candy Vogel - Interior Design (Spring 2008)**

According to the Customer Service Manager, the reason Candy was offered the position was her education and the strength and confidence she demonstrated during the interview. She was engaging, good humored, well grounded, and personable and expressed a sincere interest in DirectBuy. Candy's responsibilities include coordinating paint colors, flooring, furniture, window treatments, lighting and anything else needed to complete the member's project. She works on a large variety of projects including updating a bathroom and new construction homes. She also works with kitchen and bath design; coordinating cabinet color, countertops, backsplash and flooring. DirectBuy works with consumers and increases their buying power, providing them with outstanding value and incredible selection. Not only does DirectBuy have over seven hundred brand name manufactures to choose from, but they also have an on-staff interior designer and kitchen designer to help with any needs the members might have. Candy enjoys doing a variety of different things everyday; space & furniture planning, flooring, furniture, window treatments, lighting and paint colors. But the most rewarding part of her job is seeing the members walk away with a smile and loving everything she has designed for them – the end result is always amazing!

**Matthew Aiken - Culinary Management (Fall 2008)**

When looking for an internship, Matthew contacted Career Services, who connected him with the Human Resources Department at the Marquette Hotel. After fulfilling his internship as a Banquet Manager, Matthew was hired as the Food and Beverage Supervisor in the hotel's restaurant, Basil's. The Marquette Hotel is located in the IDS Center in downtown Minneapolis and is known for its hospitality and service. Basil's restaurant offers a modern flare to the casual dining experience and their breakfast and lunch menu features traditional and unique American cuisine. As the Food and Beverage Supervisor, Matthew's responsibilities include managing employees for the restaurant, lounge, banquet, room service, and mini-bar. He also conducts nightly pre-meals and educates the staff on food and wine specifics. He is in charge of creating schedules, conducting payroll, and participating in budget meetings and discussions. He recently had the opportunity to work with the Executive Chef to create new menus for the restaurant, bar, mini bar, and room service.

**Kate Vincent- Graphic Design (Fall 2008)**

Kate believes the experience she gained from her internships and previous contract work demonstrated her ability to work in the medical marketing field. Vascular Solutions is a medical device company that manufactures and sells their products to doctors and hospitals around the world. As the Graphic Designer for Vascular Solutions, Kate works in the marketing communications department and is responsible for the marketing print material, which includes mailers, brochures, posters, web design and a variety of other product branding. Kate enjoys designing custom pieces for customers, learning about the medical field, and interacting with doctors on an everyday basis.

**Ashley Gaarder - Interior Design (Winter 2008)**

Ashley was sought out by Sublime Solutions specifically because of her education in interior design. Her experience working closely with architects and designers and her understanding of design drawings, terminology, and the LEED program were essential attributes in the hiring process. As an Independent Manufacturers Representative, Ashley is responsible for educating and providing informative presentations to the architectural and designers firms in MN, WI, ND, SD territories. Sublime Solutions represents numerous manufacturers of future friendly design products, providing designers with eco-preferable options for their projects from floor to ceiling. Sublime Solutions was developed at the forefront of the 'green' movement, with a mission to provide beautiful, future friendly interior products to the architectural and design communities. The aspect of her job that Ashley enjoys the most is that there is nothing routine about her days in the field. Ashley is constantly traveling to new firms and networking with an evolving list of clientele. It is exciting for Ashley to see the diversity of the design community by being exposed to every niche of design, from residential to commercial design, and everything in-between.





# Alumni Spotlight

**Shelli Henrickson**  
 Summer 2007  
 Interior Design  
 Limelight Interiors  
 Designer, Sole Proprietor



As the sole proprietor and designer for Limelight Interiors, Shelli is heavily involved in the design process, including CAD drawings, material selections, research, and board layouts. Shelli also acts as contractor, and hires subcontractors so that she may be involved in the installation and finishing stages of her projects.



The main focus of Shelli's business started out in residential design, but after attending a seminar held by a consultant who works with interior design firms, Shelli was challenged to pursue more specialized fields such as commercial design. She has designed for companies such as 3M, the University of Minnesota, and for residences of mayors and CEO's. Shelli has also had the opportunity to host an interior design TV show called "Welcome Home" and is shown in the Park Rapids, Minnesota area.

The greatest joy for Shelli is seeing her drawings come to fruition. Shelli states, "it is so exciting to walk into a room and see your efforts come to life. I also enjoy presenting the project. You can finally relax, and show off your work. That's when it finally hits you that you are an interior designer."



**Ryan Kaplan**  
 Summer 2008  
 Visual Effects & Motion Graphics  
 Motion Graphics Designer/Animator  
 The Famous Group, Los Angeles, California

Shortly after graduation, Ryan received a call from Buster Design in Los Angeles, California asking if he could start working immediately! After confirming important details about freelance work, compensation, and relocating, he packed his bags and flew to Los Angeles, California and began working for Buster Design as a Motion Graphics Designer. A few months later, Ryan learned about and applied for the Motion Graphics Designer/Animator position at The Famous Group. What made Ryan stand out in the hiring process at The Famous Group was his presentation of himself and his portfolio.

The Famous Group, founded in 2007, focuses on high end commercial animation and live action with a wide range of clients including Gatorade, Cisco, Toyota and Target. In the last few years, The Famous Group has also started to do the graphics and animation for over 20 professional sports teams including football, baseball, hockey, basketball teams. Ryan works directly with his producer, who is the middle person between the client, designers, and animators. His position involves multiple tasks throughout the day from keying to tracking to AE animation/compositing to 3D modeling/animation. Ryan believes his success derives from working hard and efficiently on projects as well as networking and communicating with co-workers, producers and creative directors. Ryan honestly enjoys everything about his job- he likes working in motion graphics because it involves using multiple programs and software. He also admits he enjoys the free time at the office to play some games of pool, video games, pinball, foosball, Atari and countless other games.

