

Ai The Art Institute of Philadelphia[®] **COLLEGE NEWS**

an informational newsletter for students at The Art Institute of Philadelphia
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Visual Effects & Motion Graphics Faculty and Alumni Work On *The Road*

Some familiar names can be found in the credits for *The Road*, opening November 25 and based on the Cormac McCarthy novel of the same name. Visual Effects & Motion Graphics faculty member **Ed Mendez** was the compositing supervisor during the post-production process, overseeing the group of artists who added bleak realism to the post-apocalyptic landscape in the film.



Check out Ryan Leonard's reel at ryanleonard.com to see how much the original landscape was changed to create this scene from *The Road*

2007 graduate **Ryan Leonard** (who has returned to teach Intermediate VFX II this quarter) and Leonard's former classmate **Anton Moss** worked as compositors on the visual effects team. 2008 graduate **Crystle Schrecengost** worked on the film as a paint & roto artist.

Much of *The Road* was filmed in Pennsylvania, so it was

natural that the film's director, **John Hillcoat**, turned to DIVE (www.the-dive.net), the visual effects and film finishing division of Philadelphia's Shooters Post & Transfer, to create the look of a stripped down, ashen and all-but dead world. Ed Mendez and Ryan Leonard both work for DIVE while Anton Moss and Crystle Schrecengost were brought in as freelance artists.

Leonard interned for Shooters Post & Transfer while still a student in the Visual Effects & Motion Graphics program at The Art Institute of Philadelphia. Initially using what he modestly describes as his "lower-level roto and clean-up skills," Leonard pushed himself to learn Nuke compositing software on projects for DIVE, including *The Road*.

With Pennsylvania offering tax benefits to filmmakers who spend a significant portion of a film's budget in-state, local post-production facilities like DIVE hope to get the chance prove that a film's visual effects can be created in Pennsylvania as well.

2300 Market Street Fashion Displays



Michael Jackson Tribute

Fashion Design students **Rafiq Gross, Anjell Middleton** and **Carolina Perez** have contributed garments to a 2nd floor window display recalling the life and music of Michael Jackson.

Assistant Professor **James Morningstar** painted the silhouette of the late singer on the wall behind the students' garments.

Assistant Academic Director for Fashion Design, **Patrick Carrow**, supervised the project.



Above L-R: Dennis Askins and Jason Mouser with the "Black Halo" lamp

Prize In Collab Competition

Industrial Design Technology student **Jason Mouser's** "Black Halo" lamp took third place in *Tabletop Luminaire*, the seventeenth annual student design competition hosted by Collab at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Mouser was presented with his award on November 16 by **Dennis Askins**, Creative Director for Interior Design for Diesel. Askins described the work as "Beautiful and incredibly well-done, it is modern and playful. This is a piece I could see going right into production. I would like to take it home!"



Mouser received a \$500 prize and had his work presented during the Marcel Wander Design Excellence awards event on Saturday, November 21st at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. A selection of the winning projects will be published on the Philadelphia Museum of Art Web site and presented in the *Collab Journal*.

Also contributing projects to the Collab competition were Interior Design students Pongtorn Getsom and Gina Fitzpatrick, and Industrial Design Technology students Avi Ashurov, Andrew Bertison, Nastassja Gardner, Ryan Linso, Zach Luneau, Chris Moffett and Tom Perrone. Industrial Design Technology Senior Instructor **Wendy Byar** and Interior Design faculty member **Sheri Watson** advised the students during the competition.



Special Topics in Fashion Design

Assistant Professor **James Morningstar** directed students in his Fall 2009 Special Topics in Fashion Design class to create garments using non-fabric materials. **Garments Pictured Above Designed By (L-R):** NaTasha Smith (paper clips), Joe Sarfo (playing cards) and Mercedes Cook (paper fans)

It's Not Too Late To Apply For Presidential Scholarships

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR



Each year, The Art Institute of Philadelphia awards **10 scholarships of \$7,500 each** and **10 scholarships of \$5,000 each**. These Presidential scholarship awards are then distributed in equal sums over the winner's remaining quarters. Applications are accepted each fall from students who have attended for at least one year or have earned 48 credits (at least 36 of which must have been earned at The Art Institute of Philadelphia).

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.7 or above are invited to apply. Applicants must not have any record of academic warning, probation, termination, or conduct-related judicial actions. Previous Presidential Scholarship recipients may not apply.

A panel consisting of The Art Institute of Philadelphia staff, academic directors and faculty members considers the applications and makes recommendations to the President. All scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit, record of community service, faculty recommendation and an essay written by the student.

Completed applications must be returned to Nicole McClarence in the Student Affairs office no later than December 18.

Fashion Industry Guest Speakers

Fall 2009 has seen faculty member Emil DeJohn continue to invite fashion industry professionals to share their advice and experiences with Fashion Design and Fashion Marketing students at The Art Institute of Philadelphia.

On October 27, **Megan Stein**, head designer for Anthropologie's new Leifsdottir line, pointed out that the knits collection in any line tends to provide the most high-volume and high-profit items. Leifsdottir will soon be offering sweaters and other woven items as well. Stein advised the Fashion Design students to pay close attention to what a sweater looks like on the inside as well as the outside.



Megan Stein of Anthropologie

Noting the tension that sometimes exists between a firm's creative director and the merchandise manager, Stein told the students, "Keep your creativity going, but realize that your designs have to sell as well."



Handbags by Grace Ann Agostino

Agostino uses vintage frames and often adapts umbrella handles or other vintage materials to craft her handbags. "I think my little bags are like jewels," Agostino said.

Nicole Cashman from Cashman & Associates Public Relations and Special Events visited on November 10.

Crediting "amazing mentors and friends" who have contributed to the success of her business, Cashman said, "I encourage you all to get mentors and form relationships with people you can go to for advice at different points in your career."

Below L-R: Nicole Cashman, Emil DeJohn, Kayce Cashman



Pictured L-R: Academic Affairs Dean Dr. Ray Becker, Elizabeth Starry, Tom Perrone and Brett Mogavero

Summer 2009 Honors Convocation

On November 12, The Art Institute of Philadelphia President **Dr. Bill Larkin** and Dean of Academic Affairs **Dr. Ray Becker** presided over the Summer 2009 Honors Convocation. At the awards ceremony, proud family members and friends looked on as the college honored 63 students for achieving a 4.0 GPA during Summer Quarter along with 143 students chosen to receive Best of Quarter awards. Best of Quarter awards are given to students whose projects are considered to be exceptional by their instructors.

Fall 2004 graduate **Bryan Yurasits** was on hand to share some advice with the students. Now a Web Developer at Comcast Interactive Media, Yurasits encouraged the students at the Honors Convocation to "get to know your future co-workers and competitors" by simply looking at their fellow students sitting next to them. Yurasits said that he has worked with a couple dozen alumni from varied programs of study since he graduated in 2004.

Yurasits also encouraged the students to "overachieve" both in their studies and once they get into the workforce. Today's workers need to take on the responsibilities of the position above their current one in advance of being given the higher title, he said.

The evening saw several students "overachieve" with multiple awards, including Industrial Design Technology students **Tom Perrone** (4 Best of Quarter awards) and **Elizabeth Starry** (3 Best of Quarter awards) as well as Media Arts & Animation student **Brett Mogavero** (4 Best of Quarter awards). Each of these students also received certificates for earning a 4.0 GPA.