



Ai The Art Institute of California - San Francisco
Alumni Connections

Brought to you by:
careerservices

Volume 1, Issue 3
 Winter 2005

Graduates Honored at Fall 2004 Portfolio Show

On December 16, 2004 The Art Institute of California – San Francisco profiled graduates at its quarterly Portfolio Show held at the Orpheum Lounge, part of the historic Orpheum Theatre on Market Street. Representatives from local companies joined friends, family, and school staff and faculty to review portfolios and demo reels of the designers.

Some strong design work was on display, garnering awards for several students. Graphic Design graduate Anthony Santana received the “Best Portfolio” award for Bachelor of Science students for the fall quarter. Multimedia & Web Design graduate Hoi Ning Lo earned the “Best Portfolio” award for students

graduating at the Associate of Science level. The awards were determined by ballots cast by faculty members and department directors.

In addition to recognizing Fall quarter graduates at the recent events, The Art Institute of California – San Francisco honored students from the Summer quarter for portfolio achievements. Derrick Doo, a Summer graduate in Multimedia & Web Design, received his “Best Portfolio” plaque for Summer graduates at the Associate of Science level. Graphic Design student Teresa Gil earned the “Best Portfolio” award for Summer quarter graduates at the Bachelor of Science level.



Top: President Charles Nagele congratulates Anthony Santana, “Best Portfolio” award winner for Bachelor of Science graduates (Fall quarter). Above: Derrick Doo and Hoi Ning Lo were awarded “Best Portfolio” for the Associate of Science graduates (Summer and Fall quarter).

Inside this issue:

Alumni Shiew Yeu Loh Draws Inspiration From Animation	2
Jumpstart Your Job Search	3
In the Spot Light: Graphic Design Graduate, Chris Courter	3
Belle Epoch Fashion Show Spotlights Student Designers	3
2005 Industry Conferences	4
Stay Connected with Alumni Connections Online!	4

End of Summer Alumni Mixer - September 2004



Dylan Edwards, The Art Institute of California—San Francisco President, Chuck Nagele, and Rashad Redic enjoy the atmosphere at the mixer.



Shadi Moussa and Derrick Doo stay connected with each other at the event.



Aaron Spjut and Yuyan Chan are both grads from the Summer 2004 class.



Daniel Chen catches up with Dean of Academic Affairs, Caren Meghreblian and Associate Dean, Mary Clarke-Miller.

Events

Please join us for our **Winter 2005 Portfolio Show**.

Participate in judging graduate portfolios for the “Best Portfolio” award. This event will be held Thursday, **March 24, from 4-7pm** at the **Ramada Plaza Hotel, Whitcomb Ballroom** located at 1231 Market Street at 8th. Please RSVP to kdiaz@aii.edu or at 415.276.4005.



Alumni Shiew Yeu Loh Draws Inspiration from Animation

Shiew Yeu Loh had a job overseeing the graphics, web and printing in a marketing department during the height of the dot-com boom. As immense as her responsibilities were, however, she was feeling creatively deprived.

"After I was laid off during the dot-com crash, I went to study animation and fell in love with it," Shiew Yeu said. "In Media Arts & Animation, you're expected to be a director, artist, producer and even musician, as well as an efficient troubleshooter. You have to be good in human relations and get connected to the people in the industry, while also updating your skills so you won't get outdated."

Shiew Yeu learned to love animation after enrolling at The Art Institute of California – San Francisco's Media Arts & Animation program. She graduated in the March of 2004 and is now working full time in the field as a 3D Artist at Fat Box Inc., an animation studio based in Redwood City, California.

Shiew Yeu sees a direct link between her education at The Art Institute and her success on the job.

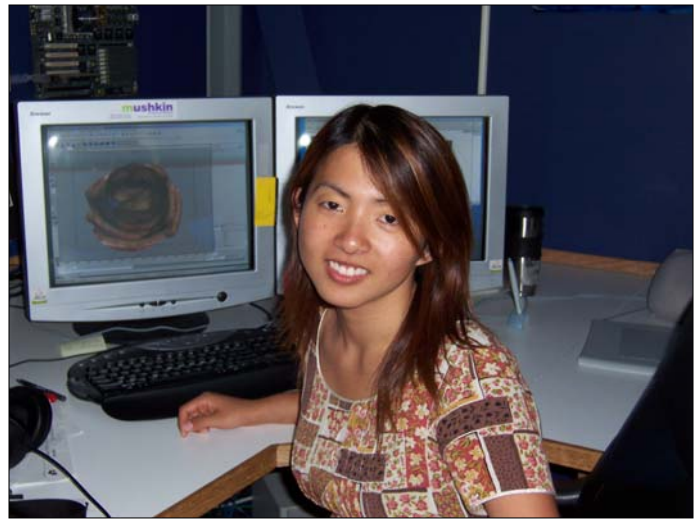
"I've always cherished my relationships with all of my instructors," she explains. "I work hard to prove my determination and motivation. My first reward came a week after graduation.

My storyboarding instructor, Julia Tortolani, hired me for my first job at LeapFrog Enterprises, creating games such as Spiderman for their Leapster console. Three months later, my production class instructor, Michelle Meeker helped me land my job at Fat Box."

The classroom was just one part of the learning experience, however. Learning how to critique artwork, meeting people in the industry through special events and using your knowledge to find jobs and make connections all goes into a successful career path in animation.

Shiew Yeu made sure to augment her classroom activities with other learning opportunities. She completed an internship at M5Industries, a visual effects studio in San Francisco that was making a series for Discovery Channel. There, she learned 3D scanning technology and even helped make props for a Yahoo! commercial. While in school she gained experience working as a freelance 3D artist for S3Graphics, a competitor of Nvidia and ATI. She modeled 3D characters, created motion graphics, and designed posters and marketing materials used at industry conferences such as E3 ad GDC.

During school, Shiew Yeu stayed busy by serving as the



Shiew Yeu enjoys a day in the office with Ken Russell, CEO/Creative Director at Fat Box, Inc.



Top: Shiew Yeu Loh, Winter 2004 Animation graduate is now a 3D artist at Fat Box, Inc.

Above: Fat Box, Inc. is an animation studio based in Redwood City, California. Visit their website at www.fatbox.com.

Special Events Coordinator for the school's ACM SIGGRAPH Student Chapter, the first ACM SIGGRAPH student chapter formed in the state of California. She organized events such as a tour to PDI/DreamWorks, helped volunteer at a Halloween party for ILM, organized an industry panel on "Breaking into Animation, Games and Visual Effects," and helped arrange speakers at the school from ESC, Wild Brain and other high-profile animation and VFX companies.

As a result of her efforts in school, she was honored with the "Best Portfolio" award at the school's quarterly Portfolio Show. Her work also was featured in the Student Gallery section of *Computer Graphics World* magazine and online in

the Gamasutra.com Student Gallery.

Shiew Yeu hopes to be working on a feature film in one of the big animation studios in the Bay Area someday. "My ultimate dream is to be a director on a movie that gives hope and inspiration to others," she said. "I enrolled at The Art Institute of California – San Francisco after watching *The Lord of the Rings* because that movie reminded me that even the smallest person has the ability to change the course of the world."

"After I was laid off during the dot-com crash, I went to study animation and fell in love with it."

"I enrolled at The Art Institute of California - San Francisco after watching The Lord of the Rings because the movie reminded me that even the smallest person has the ability to change the course of the world."



In The Spotlight: Graphic Design Graduate Chris Courter

Chris Courter, 2004 Graphic Design graduate, is putting the design skills he learned in school in to action as a Production Artist at AllPosters.com in Emeryville, California.



Chris explains, "Graphic Design is something I knew I would never get bored doing. Every day it seems like I am learning new tools either on or off the job. I don't feel like I am "stuck" doing the same thing over and over again. Every day is new and different, which is very enjoyable."

As a Production Artist at AllPosters.com, Chris' duties include scanning and color correcting images for the website, and cropping and sizing images to be framed. He is also responsible for all of

the digital photography for the site. When asked what the best part of his job is, Chris says, "The best part of my job is waking up every morning knowing that I will be doing something I love and getting paid for it."

Part of Chris' success at AllPosters.com comes from being a graduate of The Art Institute of California—San Francisco. Chris

describes, "The Career Services department at The Art Institute of California—San Francisco was a huge part of my success. They sent out my resume to AllPosters.com and I received a call from Allposters.com within a matter of days for an interview. The person I interviewed with was very glad to hear that I graduated from The Art Institute of California-San Francisco, because he had graduated from The Art Institute of Seattle. Besides my portfolio, this was a huge part of me being hired."

Chris enjoys his job at AllPosters.com and is excited about his future with the company. He would like to eventually pursue his Masters degree in Graphic Design and have time to paint for himself.

Jumpstart Your Job Search

Are you stalled in your job search? Do you need some fresh ideas, enthusiasm and energy? You are not alone.

Why not join other alumni from The Art Institute of California—San Francisco and other Art Institutes as well as upcoming grads who are seeking jobs in their fields?

Share leads, ideas, frustrations and stories about your job search.

Next Jumpstart your Job Search to be held **February 23, 2005 at 5pm in Career Services located at 1145 Market Street in San Francisco. This event will be hosted by Career Advisors, Darche Smith and Kim Diaz.**



Donna Dessart, Director of Career Services, gives an introduction to the attendees at the first "Jumpstart Your Job Search" meeting held in the Career Center.

Belle Epoch Fashion Show Spotlights Student Designers

Hot new fashion designs and budding fashion talent took center stage at the recent "Belle Epoch" student fashion show produced by The Art Institute of California – San Francisco. More than 800 students, families, friends and members of the Bay Area fashion community came together to celebrate a new generation of designers during the October 23rd event at The Regency Center in San Francisco.



Jade Monfils, Mariela Ramos, Kaysie Schreiner, Taylor Taylor, Evana Vasilj and Megan Hinsdale (Prophecy) and Chia-Yin Wu. Students in the school's Fashion Marketing and Fashion Marketing & Management also participated backstage and volunteered to make the show a success.

Fashion Design student Chia-yin Wu earned accolades for her collection, which received the Best Construction and Best Formal Wear awards. Kristyn Jordan received the award for Best Daywear, while Helen Fulkerson received the award for Most Marketable and Lauren Jacobs received the award for



Best Concept. The collections were judged by industry professionals working in the Bay Area fashion world. Guest judges were Erica Varize of Evarize Designs, Anya Broenink of ANYA SF, David Romero from Dromero Designs, Priya Saraswati from Saffron Rare Threads and Zulfie Hai of SAAZ Designs.

"Belle Epoch" offered local fashion industry professionals, employers and designers from all fields the chance to connect with new talent. The event included a Fashion Networking Lounge for industry professionals, refreshments, video presentations about each student designer and displays of student designs. Local cabaret favorite John McCul-



Garment by fashion student Chia-Yin Wu.
Photo by: Jason Bennett
Model: Ally Beran

lough and dancers from Fascinating Rhythm Productions also provided special entertainment at the event.

The school hosted its student show for the first time in the Grand Ballroom of The Regency Center, one of San Francisco's landmark event venues.



careerservices



**The Art Institute
of California™-San Francisco**

The Art Institute of California-San Francisco
1170 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

Phone: 888-493-3261
Fax: 415-276-4020

Career Services Team

Donna J. Dessart

Director of Career Services
ddessart@aii.edu 415-276-4002

Darchele Smith

Career Advisor
ismith@aii.edu 415-276-4004

Kim Diaz

Career Advisor/Alumni Coordinator
kdiaz@aii.edu 415-276-4005

Andrea Lytton

Student Employment Advisor
alytton@aii.edu 415-276-4003

2005 Industry Conferences

FEBRUARY

Feb. 14-17, **MAGIC**, Las Vegas

Feb. 18-20, **WonderCon**,
San Francisco

MARCH

March 7-11, **Game Developers
Conference**, San Francisco

March 8-10, **Photoshop World**,
Las Vegas

March 21-23, **Web Design World**,
San Francisco

APRIL

April 6-8, **Flash Forward**,
San Francisco

April 7-8, **Undressing Fashion—
Redressing Global Disconnect**,
UC Davis

April 9-10, **Alternative Press Expo**,
San Francisco

April 16-21, **National Association of
Broadcasters**, Las Vegas

MAY

May 4-7, **Hospitality Design Expo**,
Las Vegas

May 18-20, **Electronic Entertainment
Expo (E3)**, Los Angeles

JUNE

June 11-14, **How Design Conference**,
Chicago

JULY

July 11-14, **MacWorld**, Boston

July 14-17, **Comic-Con**, San Diego

July 31-August 4, **SIGGRAPH**,
Los Angeles

AUGUST

August 24-28, **San Francisco
Fashion Week Expo**, San Francisco

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FOR THESE EVENTS!**

Stay Connected with Alumni Connections Online!

By: Paula Chapman, Alumni Coordinator,
The Art Institute of California—San Diego

The most efficient way to stay
connected to The Art Institutes is
via the Alumni Connections
Online Community at:

[http://
www.alumniconnections.com/
ArtInstitutes](http://www.alumniconnections.com/ArtInstitutes)

Easy-to-follow registration steps
are listed on the main page. To
access the website all you need
to provide is your name and
graduation year. Alumni can ac-
cess the website 30-45 days after
their graduation date.

Features of the website include :

Online Directory

Search for classmates by name or
by graduation year.

MyContacts

Bookmark classmates you have
found with the directory search.

View/Update Online Directory Listing

Update your personal contact
information, upload photos, hide/
unhide personal information and
preview your directory listing.

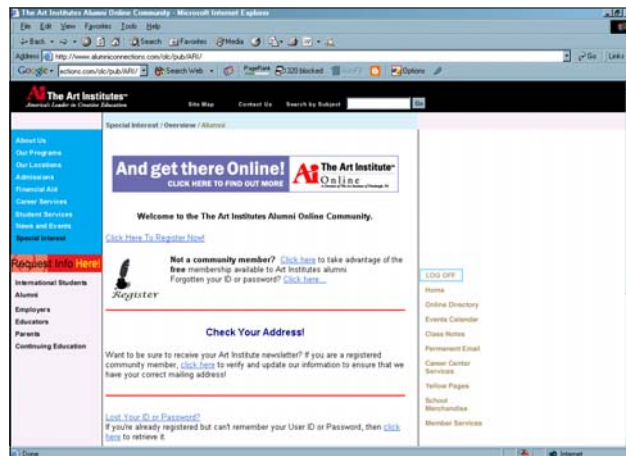
Events Calendar

Lists all events occurring at The
Art Institutes nation-wide. Click on
the event name and it will give
more detailed information such as
time, location and event descrip-
tion.

Class Notes

Allows you to share the latest and
greatest news about your life!
Give new news on your career,
family, accomplishments and
other successes you'd like to
share! Enables you to search
class notes for old friends

There are many great features on
the site so register today!



Visit the Alumni Connections Website at:

**[www.alumniconnections.com/
ArtInstitutes](http://www.alumniconnections.com/ArtInstitutes)**

We want to hear from you!

We are always looking for news from our gradu-
ates. If you would like to share your story, or
know of other alumni we should hear about, send
an email to Kim Diaz, Alumni Coordinator at

kdiaz@aii.edu or 415.276.4005