Keeping Up with the Accreditations

It's shaping up to be a busy year ahead for Wade College and its administration, faculty and students. We eagerly anticipate visits from our Council of Interior Design Accreditation committee scheduled for November 2018 and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges scheduled for January and October 2019. These visits are designed to push our institution forward, and to encourage every member of the Wade College family to strive for excellence in all that we do. An accreditation visit involves members from a visiting committee, usually from other collegiate, out of state institutions, assessing the academic and operational excellence of our programs. Our institution plans for these visits years in advance.

For Council of Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA), the journey began some five years ago with an institutional self-study which led to numerous revisions and additions to the academic program in Interior Design, including a change from a Merchandising & Design major to Associate & Bachelor of Arts in Interior Design. Coursework was added in Lighting Design, Construction and Detailing, Environmental Systems and Controls, Human Factors and Ergonomics, and Topics in Sustainability. Wade College administrators represented the institution at the Council of Interior Design Workshop during the March 2018 Interior Design Educators Council conference in Boston, MA. Later this year, in preparation for the CIDA visit to Dallas, Wade College and its student body and faculty will organize a comprehensive gallery of work spotlighting our Interior Design students’ mastery of the sixteen Professional Standards set forth by CIDA.

For Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, Wade College will develop a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). This plan is a cross-departmental effort geared at enhancing the educational experience for the student body. Our QEP will center on improving our library facility and research focus across all courses in our programs. Wade College administrators attended the January 2018 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on College’s Leadership Orientation in Atlanta, GA. Over the next year, Wade College will document our excellence in educational program structure and content, faculty, institutional planning and effectiveness, library and learning, and academic and student support services.
Alumnus Drawn to Teach
J. Anthony Newlin grew up and originally attended college in Illinois. After graduating with a double major in Visual Art and Elementary Education, he moved to Dallas to start his teaching career in the elementary art classroom. Although teaching has always been and continues to be very fulfilling, a love for fashion led Newlin to seek admission to Wade College where he studied Fashion Design and Merchandise Marketing. While there, he found his enthusiasm for art to be a perfect match with a newly discovered talent for fashion illustration, which eventually lead to his teaching this course at Wade. “I have loved the creative energy at Wade from the moment I walked through the door. Whether it was as a student, a member of faculty, or a part of the staff, Wade College has always drawn me in!”

In Style Exchange – Manufacturing Capabilities Right in Our Backyard
Wade College fashion design students visited In Style Exchange, a full service apparel manufacturer based in Arlington, TX. Students spent almost two hours talking with In Style Exchange co-founder, Jenny Siede, and learned what it takes to bring a new apparel design from concept to production. Topics included technical specifications, flat sketching, fabric selection, patternmaking, and different types of machinery used in production. Students were impressed with Ms. Siede’s extensive knowledge of the apparel industry and left with a newfound appreciation of all that goes into manufacturing apparel.

Product Lifecycle Management – From Concept to Consumer
Wade College recently incorporated Gerber’s Yunique PLM software (Product Lifecycle Management) into the Fashion Design curriculum. Students and alumni had an opportunity to learn about PLM extensively to communicate about garment specifications, colorways, print and pattern artwork, fitting changes, and more. During the seminar students learned how to upload images, specs, and how to create a tech pack.

Fashion Group International Scholarship Competition – Fifty Years
The Future of Fashion was the theme of this year’s FGI Scholarship Competition, the largest student competition of its kind held in the Dallas Trade Mart Grand Pavilion. In its 50th year, over $60,000 worth of scholarships in the form of cash, experiences and products were awarded to students in several design and merchandising categories. Additional prizes include an opportunity to study at the Paris American Academy and an opportunity to be an apprentice to designer Khanh Nguyen, founder of the clothing label Nha Khanh.

Queen of Prints – London to Dallas
“Trompe-l’œil, ‘deceive the eye,’” says Vogue magazine quoted Mary Katrantzou as saying because of the fan base she has here and for the support she’s been given through the Dallas Contemporary which hosted a lavish gala to open her exhibition, “Mary, Queen of Prints.” The 180 piece show celebrates the designer’s 10th anniversary. To stage the exhibition, the museum removed its interior walls for the first time in almost a decade. The dresses are arranged on mannequins that stand on color-coordinating hexagonal pedestals. Mary Katrantzou is a winner of a British Fashion Council award. Her designs are sold internationally at retailers including Neiman Marcus, Barney’s, Selfridges and Netaporter, collaborating with Topshop, Adidas and Longchamp. She’s known for her Trompe-l’œil, “deceive the eye,” prints. Wade College students attended a private walk-through with a docent who explained many of Mary’s inspirations including Fantasia, the European currency, 90’s culture, wealth and poverty, environmentalism, and nature.

Student Does RAW Dallas
Wade College Fashion Design student, Aliyah Day, was selected to present her collection, “Season Two,” during the RAW Dallas Showcase on April 5th. RAW is a worldwide organization that promotes the work of local artists and designers through fashion shows and exhibits in hundreds of cities. Aliyah’s collection is inspired by a flirty and fun aesthetic which we are so excited to see walking down the runway this spring!

Spotlight on Lindsey West, BA in Fashion Design 2017
Lindsey is a Design Request Manager at Varsity Brands. She says, “Wade College skyrocketed my career! It’s a community of caring professors that want you to succeed and will push you to your potential so you can be the best at what you do. I learned so much from the fashion design program that I use on a daily basis from creating sketches in Adobe Illustrator to making sure the garments are constructed correctly according to the company standards. Take advantage of all of the connections professors create for you and of all opportunities in the industry!
Student at Atlanta Market
Unity Herrera started working with YMI Jeans in Dallas as a market week intern in their World Trade Center showroom. YMI has evolved into a nationally recognized lifestyle brand producing the best in junior/young contemporary denim, fashion bottoms, and outerwear; in addition, YMI offers kids and missy denim and fashion bottoms. Since her first market, Unity has had the unique opportunity to travel with this wholesaler to other markets including MAGIC in Las Vegas and to the Americas Mart in Atlanta.

Pin Show 10.0
The Pin Show is an annual fashion show that showcases emerging and established designers, mostly from the South West Region. Executive Director and Founder, Julie McCullough, has been curating this awesome production for 10 years now, with the first show taking place in 2007 at The Door in Deep Ellum. The Pin Show was birthed from McCullough’s need for a platform where independent designers could showcase their work. This year, The Pin Show held a 10th Annual event at The Bomb Factory, and it was nothing less than magical, featuring over 160 walks from more than 20 designers to musical selections by Zhora and Friends. Many of the attendees would discover several designers for the first time. From bridal to swimwear, streetwear to evening looks, ready-to-wear to leisure – every aspect of fashion was highlighted.

Professor of Trends
Virginia Wygal teaches Trend Forecasting and Product Development & Manufacturing at Wade College. She has a BA in Fashion Design from the University of North Texas and an MBA in Management from LeTourneau University. She has been a production director, design director, sourcing director and designer for J Suzzette and Co, Circle T Westernwear, and Jerrel. Virginia teaches from her unique perspective – mastering the product lifecycle from design concept through to the ultimate consumer.

Stars Go Up at Rising Star Awards
Fashion Group International of Dallas held their annual Rising Star Awards gala at Seven for Parties in the Dallas Design District where nominee categories included Women’s Fashion, Men’s Fashion, Photography, Makeup Artistry, Fashion Blogging, and Art. This year’s Women’s Fashion design winner was none other than our own esteemed Fashion Design graduate, Venny Etienne! Of course, without the support of our own student volunteers, the show would never have been as spectacular as it was. This year’s student volunteers included Desi Small, Andrea Simmons, Breana Jackson, McKinis Bonner, Messlie Rodriguez, Raven Hood, Jasmine Douglas, Christina Clawson, Lakrisha Hayes, Bryana Jones, and the most talented illustrator, Taylor Sharper.

Alumna Makes Good in Sweden
Who doesn’t love a story about alumni living their dream lives? Shaundra Qvarsell makes her career in Visual Merchandising consulting, with a team to manage. She is also the Director of Marketing and Product Development for Linda Hallberg Cosmetics (https://shop.lindahallberg.com). Linda is Scandinavia’s top influencer, makeup artist, and blogger, with over 900K Instagram followers and YouTube subscribers. The company is 100% vegan and cruelty free. This is a dream job for Shaundra because she is doing all the things she loves. Based in Sweden, she travels to Italy, Spain, Germany, and occasionally back home to the US. She heads all marketing campaigns and PR projects, internal and external, creates the brand’s identity, and is building the product development organization.

Amber LaFrance, Style Maker
Amber LaFrance works passionately with personalities and brands through her Dallas-based firm, CultureHype and has served at the helm of DFW Style Daily for the last two years. As the Publisher/Editor-in-Chief of DFW Style Daily, she loves supporting local designers, brands and Dallas’ movers-and-shakers. The fashionable “girl boss” is also recognized locally for restoring Dallas music landmark the Longhorn Ballroom. Her firm’s clients include vitaminwater, Red Bull, Hilton Anatole and Ducati. In addition to being a reoccurring guest at Wade College, both as a speaker in the classroom and a recruiter at Job Fairs, she has also had the honor of serving as keynote speaker and recipient of the 2018 Wade College Distinguished Achievement Award.
Students Learn Loads at IIDA Conference

Interior Design students participated in the International Interior Design Association Student Conference 2018. Students said over and over again that they had a wonderful experience! There were over 200 students at the conference split up into multiple bus routes that toured showrooms, manufacturing companies, and other venues. Designers for Koroseal Interior Products, LLC were one set of bus tour guides. Wade students visited NATIONAL (a part of Kimball International) Showroom and Perkins+Will, which Fast Company magazine called one of the world’s most innovative companies in architecture. All sites were very interesting, to say the least! Students gained so much insight as far as professional practices are concerned. Dallas being chosen as the host city for IIDA Student Conference was a great reminder that we live in a city of exponential growth and opportunity.

New Chairperson for Interior Design

Dr. Nathaniel Walker IV is the chairperson of the Interior Design department at Wade College. Dr. Walker is a creative, practical, talented and results driven architect and educator with a strong passion and appreciation for design and detail. His track record of achievement in managing architectural and construction projects from inception to completion including planning, estimating and client/contractor interactions is conveyed to students daily in the classroom. He has expertise in commercial, residential, healthcare, educational and public projects and is knowledgeable in sustainable design techniques and applications. We are thrilled to welcome him to Wade College!

Field Trip to Chambers USA

Founded in 1899 to provide the finest painting and decorative finishing in Baltimore, the underlying philosophy of the H. Chambers Company has always been: to be and provide the best. Through the years, Chambers has grown, evolving with the interior design industry to design hotels around the world, luxury cruise ships, fine residences, clubs and commercial spaces, and even spaces within the White House. Wade College Interior Design students got to learn about the architecture, interior design, purchasing and installation services offered by Chambers USA in their Dallas Design District space. Nicole Chaco led the conversation. Chaco is an interior design graduate from SCAD and started her work at Chambers as a Junior Interior Designer.

CIDA Conference 2018

A cold and snowy Boston was the host to this year’s Interior Design Educators Conference, with its theme of human-centered design. A keynote speaker addressed the need for diversity and inclusiveness in the Interior Design classroom, as it benefits the industry as a whole. A highlight of the conference was the Council of Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA)’s workshop for colleges around the world that are nearing their accreditation years. Wade College will host its CIDA visit this coming November. Speakers from University of Southern Mississippi, Kent State University, Marymount University and many other institutions presented successful best-practices for programs that seek CIDA accreditation. CIDA publishes 16 professional standards that give guidance to Interior Design programs’ curriculum content, faculty and administration, and learning environment and resources. Curriculum must address global content, collaboration, business practices, human-centered design, design process, communication, history, design elements and principles, light and color, products and materials, environmental systems and comfort, construction and regulations and guidelines. Presentations on program self-study process and the set-up and presentation of the student work display gallery were addressed.

Bungalow 5

The Bungalow 5 collections are designed and produced by a group of architects and designers who are based in New York City but who work on projects throughout the world. Working with in-house cabinetmakers and finishers, the Bungalow 5 team produces unique and stylish pieces often using unusual materials sourced from distant places. Interior Design students got a chance to visit with Tyler Sweatman, Regional Sales and Showroom Manager at Bungalow 5 to learn about the operations of the company.

Spotlight on Taylor Pitts, AA in Interior Design 2015

Taylor is a Design Consultant at Grenadier Homes. “Wade College was dedicated to my future and helped me from the time I finished high school up until the time I landed my first job as a design assistant. Every step of the way, these wonderful educators have opened their doors and prepared me for a wonderful career as an interior designer. Not many institutions offer the experience Wade College was able to provide for me.”
Program Launch & Tuition Rebate

The launch of the Information Technology degree programs at Wade College is the exciting result of over two years of collaboration between college administration, subject matter experts, and a program advisory committee of industry professionals. Wade College’s School of Information Technology is unique in how it combines education, certification, and experience to prepare graduates for mid-level positions in the field. For the spring 2018 term, Wade College offered our inaugural class a $4,000 tuition rebate for the Associates of Science program and an $8,000 tuition rebate for the Bachelor’s of Science program. This rebate was awarded to full-time enrollments for 4 or 8 consecutive trimesters to complete an AS or BS degree, respectively.

Industry Professional Heads Up IT Department

Students are fortunate to learn Information Technology from industry professionals like Gary Shuman. As a computer and network engineer by trade, Mr. Shuman began his career in the Data Acquisition and Controls engineering field within the Nuclear Power and Telecommunications sectors. In 2001, a move to the Education sector leveraged an MBA and PMP certification along with the technical background to manage large scale technology projects. Recently completing a full rebuild of an aging Dallas ISD network, Shuman led a team over many hurdles and challenges to the betterment of students across Dallas. As a result, Dallas ISD can boast one of the nation’s finest and most cost effective networks and wireless infrastructures in all of K-12 education.

First Information Technology Class

The Information Technology program has begun preparing students to be able to explain real-world concepts and apply skills related to information technology. Courses are project-based and simulate real-world experience with relevant software applications and hands-on labs. Students benefit from learning from highly-qualified faculty who have practical, in-field experience. The majority of courses are also aligned to in-demand certifications from CompTIA, Cisco, Microsoft, and others. For their first term, students Israel Gonzalez, Joseph Hernandez and Eduardo Perez are learning PC Operating Systems and PC Hardware. Israel is currently employed at City Electric Supply, a leading worldwide electrical distributor, at the IT helpdesk. He says, “Technology has always been my passion because of how it can resolve our greatest obstacles and connect us from great distances. Therefore, what I would like to do in information technology is become a network engineer as I believe it is a great challenge but will definitely push me to my full potential”. Joseph currently works for Amazon and is actively seeking work as IT helpdesk support. His career goal is to get into Information Security.

Breaking Things With Purpose

In their PC Hardware class, students in the IT lab completely disassemble a Dell Desktop PC computer and tested selected components for proper operation. As part of the lab, the class worked as a team to verify sufficient power was provided by the power supply. Before the end of the class, students completely re-assembled the PC and confirmed that it still worked, thus proving proper technique. Fun was had by all.

Sneak Peek at IT Profession

Anthony Klinkert, an award winning engineering leader, visited Wade College recently to present to IT students his work assisting companies with strategy, plans, designs and deployments of wireless networks. He is an IBM-trained senior managing consultant and Open Group Certified Master Architect. His focus is on RF engineering of communications networks, with a special focus on network topology mathematical optimization. He is a registered professional engineer, book author, public speaker and advisor to IT CxOs in enterprises, government organizations, and entrepreneurial ventures. His wireless experience includes cellular RAN/BWA/DAS, microwave point to point, Wi-Fi, VSAT and land mobile radio. He has a BSEE from The University of Texas at Austin, an MSEE and an MS Telecommunications from Southern Methodist University Dallas, and is completing his Doctor of Engineering in Engineering Management (May 2018), with a Praxis focused on electric-utility smart-meter IoT networks. He lives in Plano with his wife and two children.
Sculpting Big Things
Several Wade College students joined Professor Reynaga in a docent guided tour of the new Ron Mueck exhibit at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. It has been 10 or more years since the DFW Metroplex has seen this artist’s work. His process alone boggles the mind! Mueck begins sculpting in clay, studying the human form at length through multiple studies. He then makes a mold of his clay positive. He then uses polyester resins and other synthetic polymers to cast his new positive. The hyper-realism achieved by this artist requires a significant amount of time and attention to detail, as he meticulously recreates his subjects. Highlighted by our docent was the artist’s conceptual exploration of the human condition through a psychological use of scale. It’s safe to say that our students AND our Professor of Art were absolutely amazed!

Art Meets Tech
As a component of Drawing I curriculum, Wade College students are learning to use traditional drawing techniques to create iPad-made self-portraits! Digital technologies are frequently used by today’s industry professionals to illustrate their concepts. Professor Reynaga believes that learning multiple tools and platforms helps to instill creative confidence and prepare students for any creative challenge ahead!

3D Design
As a component of Design II course, Wade College students learn to create geometric, template-based, polyhedral forms using free heavy weight paper from Clampitt Paper Company! The goal is to learn the basics and build confidence, and then eventually, students use this experience to create a unique paper form! Three dimensional problem-solving furthers creative development and teaches students that are capable of more than they ever imagined!

Material Girls (and Boys)
At Wade College students learn a variety of traditional Drawing media and techniques that may be applied in any number of the courses students are taking. From dry to liquid media, charcoal to watercolor, Professor Reynaga helps students to develop new skill sets that may be applied to their own professional and creative goals!

Pen, Ink, Wash
When drawn skillfully, a great ink drawing carries a certain evocative power that stems from early Renaissance master’s use of the liquid medium. At Wade College, Drawing II students are taught the very same technique of “Pen, Ink & Wash” that artist’s like Leonardo Da Vinci used to produce breathtaking illustrations and figurative studies!

Gallery Representation
In addition to teaching full time, Professor Reynaga also maintains gallery representation and a competitive exhibition record, with an average of 6-8 exhibitions per year. Our Wade College students are always invited to attend his exhibition receptions and/or openings for extra credit, and to experience contemporary art practices by other creatives as well!

Campus Installation
A paper installation comprised of dozens of hand-made, template-based, geometric paper forms was created by our Design II class! Students were given complete control over every decision, including what forms and colors would be used, quantity, scale and composition, and worked together as a well-oiled team in every step of the process! Well done everyone! We are SUPER proud of your accomplishment!
From Industry to Campus: Job Fair

Each trimester, Wade College hosts an on-campus job fair. Wade College attracts wholesale, retail, and corporate recruiters and executives to recruit on campus, review resumes and portfolios, and interview students. Through on-campus recruiting interviews, employers are able to select students to fill full-time and part-time positions, market positions, and internships. This term 15 companies recruited on-campus. Among them were 24 industry professionals, a 50% increase of employers on-campus over last year. Two representatives were Wade College alumni. A majority of the companies interviewed students on-the-spot.

ABI FERRIN: www.abiferrin.com a fashion design studio and flagship boutique recruited for design interns, studio interns and boutique retail interns.

A+ STUDENT STAFFING: www.apluspeople.com, a staffing agency that places college students in part-time work recruited for part-time positions (events, office, admin, brand ambassador, etc.).

BANANA REPUBLIC: www.bananarepublic.com, a retailer of contemporary classics for men and women, recruited for sales associates, visual associates and stock associates.

CLOTHESHORSE ANONYMOUS: www.clotheshorasanonymous.com, a luxury and designer consignment boutique, recruited for part-time sales and inventory specialists.

CROSSMARK: www.crossmark.com, a sales and marketing services agency, recruited for part-time product demonstrators and retail merchandisers.

CULTUREHYPE / DFW STYLE DAILY: www.culturehype.com / www.dfwstyle-daily.com, PR, creative marketing, brand management, event coordination, recruited for marketing / account executive interns and creative writing interns.

FASHION FOR GLOBE: www.fashionforglobe.com, a staffing agency for creative fashion talent, connecting them with retailers, fashion brands, and manufacturers, recruited for product development, full-time, merchandising, full-time and marketing/sales, full-time.

HOUSE OF DASHA: www.houseofdasha.com, a clothing, accessories, cosmetics brand, recruited for sales associates and a personal assistant.

KIMBERLY ANN’S DESIGNS: www.kimberlyannsdesigns.com, a design studio of visual and online marketing services recruited for graphic design interns.

MARGO BRIDAL ALTERATIONS: www.margobridalalterations.com, a wedding-gown alterations business in the Dallas Design District, which also provides services in restyling, restoration & resizing recruited for seamstress interns and fashion design assistant interns.

MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL: www.marriott.com, an American multinational diversified hospitality company with a broad portfolio of hotels, recruited for guest services representatives, hosts, restaurant positions, and tailoring services for the Renaissance Hotel location within walking distance of Wade College.

POLK APPAREL: www.polkapparel.com, a designer of fashion-forward athletic apparel recruited for design interns.

SWEET STOP INC.: a new company focusing on the beauty industry, specializing in salons and spas, recruited for apparel design interns and a part-time designer.

THINK THREE MEDIA: www.thinkthreemedia.com, a branding, content/social media marketing and PR agency recruited for fashion marketing & media specialist interns.

TRESKA, INC: www.treska.com, fashion jewelry & accessories corporate office in Ft Worth, Texas, recruited for showroom interns, a full-time permanent designer, and a full-time merchandising / sales / product development manager.

Meet Our Director of Career Services

She’s the one that facilitates the magic that happens between college students, alumni and their dream employers. Jennifer Magee has been Director of Career Services at Wade College since 2013. In nearly 6 years, Jennifer has been responsible for overseeing hundreds of successful student and alumni placements in merchandising, fashion design, interior design, graphic design, and now information technology. Jennifer has her Master’s Degree in Human Relations and Business and Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work. Our career services office can celebrate impressive employment figures with 93% of both associate’s degree and bachelor’s degree graduates for the FY 2015-2016 year reported being employed or continuing their education. Jennifer is one of the greatest assets at Wade College – and one of the biggest reasons students choose to enroll. As alumni, Magee is a big part of the reason graduates choose to return when it’s time to make successful career moves. We’re grateful to Jennifer and the Career Services office for the invaluable role they play at Wade College.