Letter From The President

Greetings Great Plains Chapter!

Welcome back! For those of you who don’t know me, my name is Alese Van Holland and I’m so very honored to be your Chapter President this year. A little couple tidbits about myself: I am terrible with names (it’s not you it’s me), I’m an admitted a cat fanatic and I love this Chapter! So far 2015 has featured several exceptional accomplishments for the Great Plains Chapter.

Since last year, our membership base has grown by over 20% with 231 Associate, Industry and Professional members and 113 student members.

Our Partnership Program continues grow and is now, more than ever, the cornerstone of our Chapter. We continue to enhance the partnership program benefits each year and sponsor recognition. If you are interested in knowing more about the benefits of becoming a partner, please contact our VP of Partnership – Leann Pederson at lpederson@rdgusa.com.

The Omaha City Center did a superb job planning and hosting the 2015 Interior Design Excellence Awards (IDEA). It was a fast-paced evening full of food, fun and excellent design. My only concern now is that no IIDA awards event will be complete without lip-sync battles, confetti cannons and Emmy style swagger!

Board members from every Chapter are invited to attend the bi-annual Chapter Leadership Council (CLC), hosted by IIDA’s National Headquarters in Chicago. In past years the Chapter has been able to send two - sometimes four Board members to CLC. This year we were very fortunate to be able to take SIX board members to the June conference. The Great Plains Chapter was well represented at this year’s CLC, which once again proved to be very informative and inspirational.

Our Advocacy Advisor, Jessica Doolittle, attended the first annual Advocacy Symposium in Austin, TX.

The Fall Board Retreat was a smashing success. Our retreat took place in sunny San Francisco and was chock-full of thoughtful discussion – see the article below for more details!

And – most recently - the Des Moines City Center raised the event bar yet again with the resurgence an IIDA classic fundraising event - Montage. Check out the article below for more information about this phenomenally successful event!

Being on the GPC Board for five years, one thing that I have come to realize is that, while we may not be the biggest fish in the pond, there is much to be thankful for in the Great Plains Chapter. I am continuously astonished by the heart and drive demonstrated with our Board of Directors and committee members. Their passion for Interior Design, commitment to the betterment of the chapter and personal connections are a continued source of inspiration to me.

There are a lot of great events planned this year and many more new exciting things to come, so keep your eyes peeled, and we look forward to seeing you at the events!

Alese Van Holland IID, LEED AP ID+C
President, Great Plains Chapter

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President, Great Plains Chapter
IIDA Great Plains Chapter Board

09.2015

Meeting: Fall Board Retreat

San Francisco was the destination of the annual Fall Board Retreat. This year - thanks primarily to the generosity of our retreat sponsors the Mohawk Group, Daltile and Kimball Healthcare - the Board Directors were able to spend three days on the retreat that was jam-packed with meetings, fellowship and good times. Discussion topics included communications, budgets, by-laws, policies and procedures and many other engaging matters.

The final day of our board retreat was spent in intensive brainstorming sessions, generating lots of great ideas on how we can improve our internal processes, tactics for interior design advocacy and how we can bring more value to our members and partnership program. While the retreat location, venues and dining experiences were outstanding, what is truly exceptional is the dedication this group of volunteers has to the advancement of our Chapter and its members. If you are interested in getting more involved in this awesome organization, contact your City Center director!

Contact information can be found here.
New Job Opportunities!

**Architecture & Design**

encompas is looking to add yet another talented interior designer to represent our products to the architectural and design communities of Omaha and Lincoln. If you love the interior design profession and are passionate about office furniture, we think we have a great opportunity for you! Experience level can vary but 1 – 5 years is preferred. Autocad skill is necessary. Come see what the excitement is all about! For further information, click [here](#) to see full listing. If you have any questions regarding the vacancy, please email Herman Weist at herman@encompas.com or call 816.300.1122.

**Interior Designer**

Galvin Design Studio is looking for a talented Interior Designer to work with great clients on rewarding projects. Galvin Design Studio was created nine years ago to provide innovative full service Interior Design to Corporate, Senior Living and Higher Education clients. Part time position with flexible hours. Work/Life Balance is very important. Experience in an architectural firm or furniture background are desired. For further information, click [here](#) to see full listing. If you have any questions regarding the vacancy, please email Michelle Galvin at michelle@galvindesignstudio.net or call 402.492.3268.

**Manufacturers Rep**

The Lyons Company (www.lyonscompanyllc.com) will add an individual to its team to represent our diverse, prestigious portfolio of manufactures in the State of Nebraska only. Must be an Omaha or Lincoln resident and have experience in the contract furniture industry. This is an independent contractor, straight commission opportunity, to build on our all ready established base of business in Nebraska. If you have any questions about this opening click [here](#) or contact Michelle Bunn at 319-290-1325 or at mbunn@lyonscompanyllc.com.

**Interior Designer**

OPN is a 100+ person, award-winning architectural firm with multiple studios serving the greater Midwest. Our open studio environment nurtures excellence and rewards professional growth. We are currently seeking a talented Interior Designer to join our dynamic team in our Des Moines office. The ideal candidate will have an interior design degree and a minimum of 2 years’ experience. Experience in an architectural design firm is a plus. Our open studio environment and collaborative approach to architecture and design requires that you work well with others and consistently build strong relationships with teammates and clients. For further information, click [here](#) to see full listing. If you have any questions regarding the vacancy, please email Jen Wasek at jwasek@opnarchitects.com or call 1-319-730-2936.

**Interior Designer**

At Sheppard's Business Interiors (SBI) we feel strongly that Design is a significant part of our industry and a vital part to our success. We are a full-service furniture dealership supporting the Omaha Metro for over 60-years and we continue to keep a focus on the horizon to meet the needs of the ever-changing workplace environment. Our goal – to partner with our clients to develop powerful environments that will showcase their brand and culture while engaging their people, integrating technology, and driving their business objectives. For further information, click [here](#) to see full listing. If you have any questions regarding the vacancy, please email Theresa Witt at Twitt@sbi-omaha.com.

**Interior Designer Professor**

University of Nebraska – Lincoln faculty seeks highly motivated candidates, versed in the discipline of Interior Design and desire to be part of a collaborative team dedicated to the advancement of an emerging interdisciplinary college within a land-grant institution. Excellence in design and a passion for teaching is our highest priority. As part of this vision we are seeking an exceptional designer who is committed to teaching excellence and is able to spearhead teaching design studios across the curriculum. In addition, the candidate will be expected to contribute to core curriculum courses, as well as develop seminar courses in his or her research area. For further information, click [here](#) to see full listing. If you have any questions regarding the vacancy, please email Lori Bennett Baumli at lori.bb@unl.edu.
Professional Development
Crissy Cozad, Industry IIDA

IID Compliant
The current compliance period will be closing at the end of this year, December 31, 2015. Associate and Professional Members (active and inactive, including Educators and Fellows) are required to complete and report 1.0 CEU (10 hours) of Continuing Education prior to December 31, 2015. Those persons with join dates after January 01, 2014 are NOT required to report any CEU during this compliance period. Their first compliance period will begin January 01, 2016-December 31, 2017.

Membership
Kim Buske, IIDA

Renew now for a chance to WIN a $500 AMEX GIFT CARD
Due date Dec. 31, 2015

Renew your membership!

Advocacy
Jennifer Voorhees, IIDA

A New Direction for ‘Telling Our Story’
Jessica Doolittle represented IIDA Great Plains Chapter at IIDA’s first Advocacy Symposium in Austin, Texas. This Symposium provided a new direction for connection with legislative representatives as well as other related contact groups who benefit from the expertise provided by interior design professionals via the approach of ‘Telling Our Story’ to build these relevant connections. Information presented at this event provided inspiration for the submittal of a Grant Proposal to IIDA for Advocacy funding to support the development of a ‘Tell Our Story’ campaign to enhance the communication of our message.

Iowa’s Interior Design Examining Board:
Members of Iowa’s Interior Design Examining Board are committed to supporting the recognition of Registered Interior Designers as Registered Design Professionals in the State of Iowa. As Registered Design Professionals, Registered Interior Designers protect the health safety and well-being of the general public.

These Board members include:
Scott Hatfield, West Des Moines, IA – Registered Interior Designer
Serena Zwanziger, Janesville, IA – Registered Interior Designer
Dorothy Fowles, Iowa City, IA – Registered Interior Designer
Jay Reyhons, Ankeny, IA – Registered Interior Designer
Andy Crabb, Ventura, IA – Public Member
Jennifer Brand, Huxley, IA – Public Member

Important Dates
NCIDQ Spring 2016 Exam dates
Practicum – April 2, 2016
IDFX & IDPX – April 14 – 23, 2016

NCIDQ Exam Application Deadlines
December 1st Spring Exam Application for all three test
February 1st – Spring Exam Application deadline for IDFX only

Welcome New Members of IIDA

Alisha King, Assoc. IIDA
Sharissa Stansberry, Student IIDA
Cameron Stanek, Assoc. IIDA
Justin Dembowski, Industry IIDA

Bluestone Project Solutions
Iowa State University
Neumann Monson Architects
Eakes Office Solutions

Learn more Iowa Interior Design Examining Board!
**Student Affairs**

Stacy Spale, IIDA

**Student Mentoring Program**

IIDA Student Mentoring Program (SMP) registration for professionals is open November 2nd – January 25th. Although the Student Mentoring Program is a month-long event, we only ask that you participate for one day. When you register, headquarters will pair you with one or two students in your area and you will be able to contact them to coordinate their job shadow. Anyone is eligible to be a mentor, designers, dealers, reps, industry partners, etc.!

You will be notified of the pairing on or before February 8th so you have at least 2 weeks to coordinate details, directions and additional information.

Mentors & Mentees Register [Here](#).

**Who Should Participate**

Current design professionals, manufacturer representatives, dealers, and educators who want to elevate the education of interior design students through real world experience.

**Pairing**

The Student Mentoring Program (SMP) pairs one or two IIDA Student Members with a mentor. Students will shadow mentors for one day at the mentor’s office. Pairings are random and based on the availability and proximity of mentors and students. If a mentor’s firm would like to mentor additional students, please have each mentor signup individually.

**Share**

Share your experience with IIDA and the world! During your mentoring session, please snap photos and take short videos and send them to IIDA HQ. We will share these on social media, and we will be creating a video recap of the event that we will share in the future. The photos and videos should capture the essence of the experience and can be serious or funny and of course, creative. To be included in the recap, please submit your materials to students@iida.org

**Stay Connected!**

[IIDA Student Blog](#)  [IIDASTUDENTS.WORDPRESS.COM](#)

[Watch us on YouTube](#)  [IIDAHeadquarters](#)

[Friend us on Facebook](#)  [Facebook.com/IIDAGreatPlainsChapter](#)

[Chapter Website](#)  [Http://Iida-Gp.org/Students](#)

**Let Us Know How We Can Help!**

IIDA Great Plains Student Affairs committee members are an available resource to you all year long. If you have questions about your projects, how to get an internship or if you are just starting a new job, please feel free to reach out to our industry professionals. Each of us are happy to offer guidance to make these new opportunities enjoyable!

**Collin Barnes,** IIDA, LEED AP ID+C
Co-VP of Student Affairs, IIDA GP
RDG Planning & Design, Des Moines, IA
cbarnes@rdgusa.com

**Abbey Potthoff,** Assoc. IIDA
Iowa State University Student Liaison
FEH Associates, Inc., Des Moines, IA
abbeyp@fehdm.com

**Sara Wolfe,** Assoc. IIDA
University Nebraska Lincoln Student Liaison
DLR Group Lincoln, NE
SWolfe@drlgroup.com

**Stacy Spale,** IIDA, EDAC, LEED AP
Co-VP of Student Affairs, IIDA GP
Visions in Architecture, Lincoln, NE
Stacy.Spale@unl.edu

**Erika Watson,** Assoc. IIDA
Eastern Iowa Student Liaison
Neumann Monson Architects, Iowa City, IA
ewatson@neumannmonson.com
Professional Development
Crissy Cozad, Industry IIDA

The Great Plains Chapter is proud to announce that we have already met our 2015 donation goal to the Designing for the Future Campaign. This $1,740 donation goal was fulfilled through personal contributions from each member of the Board of Directors as well as a donation from the Great Plains Chapter. To date, 126 IIDA Members from 26 Chapters have received financial assistance from the Foundation upon passing the exam — including our own member Katrina Stoffel! Organized by the Trustees of the IIDA Foundation, this donation will be directed to the NCIDQ Tuition Reimbursement Fund. If you are interested in applying for financial assistance for taking the NCIDQ exam, please contact your VP of Professional Development.

Even though our donation goal is met, the opportunity to exceed our expectation is still open this year until November 30th. Click here to make a tax-deductible contribution to support this worthy cause today!

click here to donate

Website Update
Alese Van Holland, IIDA

Check it out!!! The IIDA Great Plains Chapter website has a fresh new look! This first stage of re-design targeted streamlining the site navigation and providing versatility for desktop, tablet and mobile viewing. The next big step we’ll be focusing on for this will be to implement a easily referenced / easily updateable Calendar of Events. While there is still work to be done, we anticipate 100% completion to be achieved before 2016. Thank you to our website designers, Flock DSM, for their work in getting this website up and running. This is yet another exciting stride forward to exemplify our growth and professional presence in the Great Plains Chapter.

click here
Upcoming Events

Omaha City Center

12.10.2015: Holiday Party
01.21.2016: CEU – Teknion/Office Interiors and Design
02.26.2016: Student Advocacy Day
03.XX.2016: CEU Event
04.XX.2016: IDEA Awards!
05.XX.2016: End of the Year Social

Des Moines City Center

01.14.2016: Holiday Party- Dinner and a Show
01.27.2016: Student / Professional Mingling: ISU Portfolio Reviews @ ISU
02.XX.2016: CEUs - Acoustics - 2 credit hours
03.XX.2016: Tour
03.30.2016: Student / Professional Mingling: ISU Career Paths Presentations
04.XX.2016: IDEA Awards!
04.XX.2016: Spring Social
05.XX.2016: CEU
05.XX.2016: Student / Professional Mingling: ISU Walking Tours at Firms
06.XX.2016: Service Event

Eastern Iowa City Center

12.10.2015: Christmas Party
01.XX.2016: Tour and Talk
02.XX.2016: Student Event - panel discussion and head shots
03.XX.2016: CEU - Lighting as a Design Element
04.XX.2016: IDEA Awards
05.XX.2016: Tour- Great America Building
Design Montage

Design Montage was a TREMENDOUS success! The World Food Prize Hall of Laureates was the backdrop for a night full of live music, cocktails, appetizers and friendly bidding competition. In attendance were over 200 of Iowa and Nebraska’s finest designers and friends. With the funds that were raised the Great Plains Chapter is able donated $5,000 to the After School Arts Program.

THANK YOU to all who donated silent/ live auction items and to everyone who donated their time and energy to make this great event successful once again!

Click here to see more photos from Montage!
encompas is a Haworth-Preferred, full-service dealership that believes great workspaces inspire employees, increase productivity, and contribute to the success of an organization. We partner with you to develop adaptable, innovative, and impactful solutions that are tailored to support a company’s goals and culture. Through our relationships with some of the best lines on the market, we have the capability to provide a complete interiors package - from systems furniture and collaborative areas to moveable walls and raised-access flooring. Our Principals, Project Managers, and Project Leads are all degreed interior designers or architects who combine their years of design experience with workplace knowledge, research, and trends to be your trusted advisor.

We are located in downtown Omaha, Kansas City, and Wichita and are excited to be a part of your project. If you are interested in working with us, feel free to call, email, or stop by one of our showrooms for a tour!
Additional Information

Audrey Dobbe, IIDA and husband Scott along with daughter Cora, welcomed Brandt Thomas Dobbe into the world. He made an early appearance at 30 weeks, born on July 11th. He was born at 3lbs 8oz. He spent 60 days in the NICU, growing and maturing into a healthy young baby. Brandt has been home since September and is nearly 10lbs.

Kathy Erion, IIDA along with her husband Matthew Erion, welcomed their first child on October 1st. Evelyn Lorraine Erion was born at 8 lbs 10 oz, 21 inches long and with lots of hair! Kathy currently serves on the IIDA Great Plains Chapter Board as a Co-VP of Communications and is an interior designer for Cannon Moss Brygger Architects (CMBA) in Sioux City, Iowa.

Justina Georgesen, IIDA (Momentum Group Contract Textiles) welcomed her third daughter with Daniel into the world this summer. Sweet baby Louisa was born on July 15th, 2015 and weighed 9 lbs, 0 oz and was 21 ½” Long. She joins older sisters Olivia (5) and Eleanora (18 Months). It has been decided these sisters could not be any sweeter!

Collin R. Barnes, IIDA welcomed baby Darby Jean Barnes on September 22, 2015 at 2:40 AM. Darby was 9 lbs. 4 oz. and 20.7 ” long.

Stonepeak Ceramics Plane is available in five modular sizes, including an astounding 5’ X 10’ slab. Plane has the features of an engineered porcelain, along with amazing flexibility. It is crack resistant, mold resistant, heat and frost proof, with no artificial binders or VOC emissions. Available in twenty-two beautiful colors, Plane is ideal for interiors, exteriors, countertops, veneers, and much more.
Kaitlyn De Vries, now Kaitlyn Heidesch married Gerard Heidesch August 22, 2015 at Sugar Grove Vineyards. They traveled to St. Lucia for their honeymoon and will reside in their acreage in the Johnston Grimes area.

Hannah Kline, IIDA started working for Allsteel as Workplace Designer. She is a part of the Design Applications team that assists on projects ranging from a workstation typical audit to large conceptual projects for major companies. Hannah and her team work with dealerships, design firms, and team with other departments in Allsteel. They bring specialized knowledge and thoughtful, adaptive workplace settings to the design community through projects and by giving input on new product development and applications.

Abby Scott, IIDA, NCIDQ, LEED AP, joined HDR this spring as a Senior Interior Designer. She has over 12 years in the industry and has had the opportunity to work on a broad range of projects including salons, retail, higher education, healthcare and commercial office interiors. Her diverse background has given her a unique perspective and has gained her extensive knowledge of furniture, fixtures and budget analysis. She truly enjoys the transformative power of design and sharing it with people, their businesses, and communities. As a graduate of Iowa State University and participating in the Rome Italy Design Studio program she has always had a passion for travel and gaining inspiration from people and places. Actively involved in the interior design community locally, she has served on the board of directors of the Interior Design Coalition of Nebraska (IDCN), Past President of the Great Plains Chapter, Past Omaha City Center Director, and currently serves on the IIDA National Advisory Council.

IIDA Members – if you have a personal or professional event happen that is worth celebrating let us know so we can celebrate with you!
Member Spotlight - Des Moines City Center

Siri Fliehler, IIDA
Shive-Hattery A&E - West Des Moines, IA

1 What is your favorite part of being an interior designer?
I love that every day is different, with a new challenge of its’ own. I like figuring out how to meet each client’s needs and wants, while creating the best designed and most efficient spaces I can. I also like being involved in the design community – it’s fun to get involved with the many opportunities available and connect with others.

2 Rules or philosophies that steer you in design and/or career?
To me, impressive designs have clear concepts and brand identity, driven by the client’s needs and vision; these values give meaning to the built environment and inspire those who use the space. I need reasoning for why the design is what it is – inside and out. That’s why working at an A/E firm is a good fit for me – it allows me to be involved in all the design steps and learn from the client, architects, and engineers.

3 What words of advice?
Get involved at work and in the community; it’s rewarding to be engaged in something that you are passionate about! However, passion won’t get you far without a lot of hard work, dedication, and thoughtfulness behind your decisions. Second, be confident and share your ideas – and also keep in mind that NO ONE is perfect! (and no one expects you to be perfect… except you, so let it go). Lastly, be able to admit when you don’t know something, ask for help, and learn from others with more experience!

Homemade Chocolate Milk

Ingredients
3 cups milk
2 tablespoons cocoa powder
2 tablespoons powder sugar
1/2 tsp vanilla

6 3 things you can’t live without?
Chocolate milk; I’m not a morning person, but this is a necessity for me to get going in the morning (along with coffee, of course).

Warm clothing / heaters; I CAN NOT stand being cold!

My family; they’re the best.

4 What are some of your favorite design related blogs and/or mobile apps?
I don’t read a lot of blogs, but I like “Facebook creeping” on the South Dakota State University Interior Design Facebook page. It’s fun to see the program grow and evolve since I graduated a few years ago! And the students’ skills and creativity inspire me.

5 When needing a break from it all, what helps create your escape?
Being outside! After working at a computer, or being inside all day, I love enjoying the outdoors and fresh air! My husband and I explore the bike trails around Des Moines because it’s a neat way to see the city, hang out with friends, and see what the local towns nearby have to offer. I also like being active, running, walking, kayaking… I like watching football and some other selective sports… I like trying new foods… I’m really not too picky and usually have a good time doing whatever!
BLENDART, the new porcelain collection signed Sant’Agostino, conveys a raw flavor of the metropolitan spirit. This porcelain recreates the charming veining of wood in a new version: the extraordinary “paint effect” overlaps with the original knotty nature of the wooden material before any further processing, as if time had wanted to leave an indelible mark. The mix of these elements results in an artistic wood with a modern mood, ideal for floor and wall coverings.
Member Spotlight - Eastern Iowa City Center

Karly Evans, Associate IIDA
Paragon Commercial Interiors - Davenport IA

1. What is your favorite part of being an interior designer?
   The problem solving and creative outlet, often these two elements blend together when a creative solution needs to be found.

2. What sources do you look to for drive and inspiration?
   Magazines (Interior Design & Architectural Digest), Office Snapshots, and of course Pinterest where I follow a lot of furniture and fabric companies.

3. What are some of your favorite design related blogs or apps?
   Anthology for the unique products and Little Green Notebook for DIY projects and room inspiration.

4. Dream Collaboration...
   Mary McDonald, her Schumacher collection is beautiful!

5. What would be considered amongst your favorite travels?
   San Diego, I have family that lives there and they know so many off the beaten path places to eat and see!

6. What is a most treasured possession?
   My Great Grandmother’s wedding ring, she was a true inspiration given her dedication to provide for her family as a single parent of

Did You Know?
Mary McDonald is an award winning, internationally published Los Angeles-based interior designer. She is the one of the stars of Bravo TV’s “Million Dollar Decorators” & “Property Envy” series and is consistently ranked as one of House Beautiful’s Top 100 Designers. She is the author of “Interiors: The Allure of Style” from Rizzoli publishing and has been honored as one of the top 25 designers by Veranda Magazine. Her licensed product lines include an acclaimed fabric collection for F. Schumacher & Company, lighting for Robert Abbey, rugs for Patterson, Flynn and Martin, and furniture for Chaddock Home.
Member Spotlight - Campus Centers

Sierra Penas, Student IIDA
University of Nebraska at Lincoln - Lincoln, NE

1 What inspired you to go into design?
Expressing creativity has always been a part of my hobbies. Dance, art and CAD classes were some of my favorites. I think my interest in interior design grew as I became more aware of what the profession actually was. Learning about how interior design allows designers to create spaces that will affect the lives of others interested me. I think that connection to the world is a special benefit of our profession's contribution that generally goes unnoticed. This connection excites me and I decided I wanted to be apart of it and make interior design my career!

2 Most Treasured Possession:
My Harry Potter collection. The magic of Hogwarts was always a favorite part of my childhood reading! And honestly re-reading as an adult was just as great!

Did You Know?
As of May 2015, the books have sold more than 450 million copies worldwide, making the series the best-selling book series in history, and have been translated into 73 languages.

3 Inspiring Sources:
My go to is ArchDaily! They have great news articles and projects. I can always find new and inspirational ideas.

4 Dream Collaboration:
I would love to collaborate with Frank Gehry. After visiting his Louis Vuitton Foundation in Paris, I think he has a wonderful sense of adding artistic abilities into magnificent buildings!

5 Design Philosophies:
One important piece of my design style I learned over these past three years is my passion for sustainable design. Learning about how we as designers can help impact the world through positive, environmentally responsible ways has become a huge aspect of design that I admire and hope to apply in my future career.
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