

# College of Design Mentor Program April 2008 Newsletter



## Mentor Program Participants-

It is now April, which means the Mentor Program is officially coming to a close. I hope this has been a learning experience for all of you, regardless of whether your mentoring relationship was successful or not as productive as you had hoped. This week, I would like you to take some time to think about your mentoring experience. Are you glad you participated in the program? How could it have been better? What questions do you still have for your mentoring partner? These are just some questions to get you thinking about your experience.

This newsletter focuses on Reflection. If you think back to the Orientation session back in October, we talked about the reflection piece and its importance for any situation. Read on for suggestions on how to reflect and make meaning of your experience both alone and with your mentoring partner to see what you have learned throughout these past six months.

The Mentor Appreciation Reception is this Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see many of you there! If you are unable to attend the event, make sure to set a date to meet with your mentoring partner as a way to close out the program. I also included some suggestions below for how to find closure or make plans for next steps.

Thank you for your participation in the program! I hope you had a great mentoring experience. If you have any success stories you would like to share, let us know. Or if the experience did not go well, we want to know that as well. We want to hear from you! Please send updates and/or feedback to the program office at [cdesmentor@umn.edu](mailto:cdesmentor@umn.edu)

Best wishes,  
-Lucy

## News and Upcoming Events

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Last day of instruction: Friday, May 9, 2008  
Finals for students: Monday, May 12 - 17, 2008

### Roots of the Future - College of Design Senior Show

Friday, May 16, 2008, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Join alumni, students, faculty, and friends of the College of Design to celebrate an exhibition of work by graduating seniors in architecture, clothing design, environmental design, graphic design, housing studies, interior design, and retail merchandising.

Thesis and capstone projects by graduating master of architecture and master of landscape architecture students will also be on view.

Jazz, wine, and light refreshments provided.

Welcome and awards presentation, 7:30 p.m., 100 Rapson Hall.

### CDes Commencement Ceremony

Saturday, May 17, 2008, 3:00 p.m.

Come to celebrate the academic achievements of our graduates!

Kaywin Feldman, Director and President, Minneapolis Institute of Arts (January 2008)

Reception to follow at Rapson Hall.

[design.umn.edu/mentor](http://design.umn.edu/mentor)

## Next Steps

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The mentor program officially concludes this month, but whether you and your mentoring partner end here is up to both of you. Some mentoring pairs may decide to plan a few more activities, keep in touch with periodic e-mails, calls, or a visit over coffee here and there. Others may choose to end the mentoring relationship along with the program. Whatever you choose to do is fine; just as long as you are both in agreement about what happens next. Here are some thoughts and questions to consider when you meet next or for the final time with your mentoring partner.

- Will the closing reception on April 16th mark the end of your regular correspondence? If not and you feel it best to end the relationship, choose a day to meet and wrap up the experience.
- Will you continue to e-mail or talk by phone on occasion? How often?
- Is it ok if the student calls with questions in the future?
- Are there other people the student should meet before you wrap up?
- Are there specific areas the student should consider exploring or developing in the coming months? What about next year? What are they?
- And finally...THANK your mentor for their time and guidance.

## Reflection

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Whether your mentoring relationship was highly productive or less than you'd hoped for, mentoring experiences offer the opportunity to learn, grow as professionals and gain insights about ourselves. The questions below will help you get started with making meaning of your mentoring experience.

Start by thinking back to conversations you had or activities you both did together.

- What did you learn from them?
- Where there pieces of information you took away that you could apply in a different situation?
- What would you do differently next time?

Has this experience confirmed your choice of major and career interest? If it made you change your mind, what path will you choose next?

What are your next steps after this experience? Continue on with goal setting and plan 1 or 2 (or more!) goals for yourself over the summer.

Discuss major ideas and what you have learned with friends or peers.

Plan ways to test or apply new knowledge and skills (next steps), possibly in a new context.

"Follow effective action with quiet reflection. From the quiet reflection will come even more effective action." - James Levin

## Contact Information

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