

College of Design Mentor Program

April 2009 Newsletter

Dear Mentors and Students,

I hope you are enjoying the spring weather that has finally arrived! I also hope your mentoring experience has gone well this year. This is the last newsletter for the 2008-09 year as the program officially wraps up tomorrow evening with the Mentor Appreciation Dinner. This doesn't mean, however, that your mentoring relationships with your partner need to end; this is completely up to you to decide. In the section below, I provide suggestions and questions upon which to reflect as you move forward after this formal mentoring program.

Thank you for participating in the CDes Mentor Program this year. If you have stories or feedback from this experience, please let me know! Email me at cdesmentor@umn.edu or call 612-624-1245.

-Lucy

Monthly Mentoring Topic: Next Steps

The next steps after this formal program are up to you and your mentoring partner. Some mentoring pairs may decide to plan a few more activities or keep in touch with periodic e-mails, calls, or visits. 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. Some thoughts and questions you might consider when you meet next or for the final time with your mentoring partner include:

- Will we keep in touch after the formal program?
- Are there other activities we still want to do together? Mentors, do you have other suggestions of colleagues or contacts your student(s) should meet?
- What specific areas should the student consider exploring or developing in the coming months?

Another step to take is **reflecting**. 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?
- Were there pieces of information you took away that you could apply in a different situation?
- What would you do differently next time?
- What are your next steps after this experience?
- Has this experience confirmed your choice of major and career interest? If it made you change your mind, what path will you choose next?

Please take some time to complete these next steps so that you are both aware of the paths you will each take.

Upcoming Events:

College of Design Events

Check out the lectures, exhibits, and College to Career events for the rest of April and May.

design.umn.edu/outreach/events or design.umn.edu/college_to_career

CDes Graduating Student Exhibition

April 25-May 16, 2009 – Work on display in galleries throughout Rapson Hall.

Friday, May 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Join alumni, students, parents, faculty, and friends of the College of Design to celebrate and recognize top work by our graduating students. Awards presentation at 7:30 p.m. Cast your vote for People's Choice Awards. Music and refreshments provided.

CDes Commencement Ceremony

Saturday, May 16, 2009, 3:00-5:00 p.m. – Northrop Auditorium

Come and celebrate the achievements of our graduates! Reception to follow in Rapson Hall.