
THE AVANT-GARDE NOW HAS A NEW ELECTRONIC COUSIN, STORIES FROM THE AVANT-GARDE. STORIES, A BEEFY YET ETHEREAL, SUSTAINABLE AND GREEN PUBLICATION, CONCENTRATES ON THE ACTIVITIES OF OUR ALUMNI, PROVIDING IN DEPTH ACCOUNTS OF THEIR ACTIVITIES, ALONG WITH REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF OUR FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND PROGRAMS. AS AN E-NEWSLETTER, IT PROVIDES US MORE ROOM FOR MORE STORIES AND MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO QUICKLY INFORM YOU OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CVAD FAMILY. IT PROVIDES YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO TELL US WHAT YOU ARE DOING AND FOR US TO SHARE THE INFORMATION WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND OUR SUPPORTERS. YOU HAVE TO SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE IT THOUGH, BECAUSE WE DON’T WANT TO BURDEN YOUR EMAIL ACCOUNTS ANY MORE THAN YOUR MAILBOX. SO GO TO ART.UNT.EDU AND SUBSCRIBE TO STAY INFORMED AND CONNECTED! SINCERELY,

— Robert Milnes, Dean

The image in the background is of a travel bus designed by UNT CVAD Interior Design alumna, Julie Mandrell, B.F.A. 1997.
ALUMNA JULIE MANDRELL DESIGNS DREAM PLANES, YACHTS & BUSES

JULIE MANDRELL never dreamed she would someday be crew on a high-speed jetliner or a yacht on an ocean summer vacation with movie stars including Demi Moore and John Travolta. As founder and CEO, Julie Mandrell said she was surprised when she received word from the Middle Eastern royal family that they were interested in her interior design business. She had been working with them for the past seven years. "I was the only woman," Mandrell said. "My entire life has changed due to my education. I didn't even think about college until my last year of high school. It wasn't until then that I realized all the women I knew and that made a huge impact on my self-confidence as a designer," she said.

After graduating from Georgetown University, and then left to start her own company, Viaggio Lux — named in honor of a movie in Italy — two years ago. Her company specializes in custom boats, private aircraft, and yacht design.

Since graduating she has gone on to design several boats for NIKON, designer, Kiley Kubler and Dale Earnhardt Jr., and the President of Airbus, Marc Bolen. She was featured in the November issue of Design Trade magazine for her interior design on Kiley Kubler's private jet bus.

She has also designed two Gulfstream jets for the royal family of Abu Dhabi specifically for His Excellence Sheikh Hamad Bin Tariq Al Nahayan — a member of the Executive Council of Abu Dhabi and part of the Al Nahyan Royal Family.

"During the first visit, His Highness (a traditional Muslim man) invited me to sit next to him in the dinner room because full of life, I was the only woman," Mandrell said. "After that initial visit, I was asked to return to design the second aircraft and was invited into his palace to lunch with his wife, the Princess, and their 18 year old daughter." Julie attributes a lot of her success to UNT, "I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for my instruction and the friends I made there. My circle of friends is all from UNT and my success is due to my education and (professor) Al Marzio."

A small town girl who grew up from a high school with 1,000 people, Mandrell came to Denton in 1991 to attend UNT. "I struggled even with my art classes," said Mandrell. "I probably went through as many Majors before I came back to my first degree. Interior Design. I didn't even think about it as an art. All the other students were fantastic artists. I was surrounded by talent. I struggled through all my art classes as well as my interior design classes. When Ali came on board, my passion in interior design changed. He saw something in me that I didn't believe in me and that made a huge impact on my self-confidence as a designer," she said.

She went on to say, "My entire life has changed due to my education. I didn't even think about college until my last year of high school. It wasn't until then that I realized all the women I knew and that made a huge impact on my self-confidence as a designer," she said.

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Julie Mandrell, an alumna of the College of Visual Arts and Design at UNT, is one of the most successful interior designers in the world and has been named to the list of the top 100 most influential people in the design industry. Her firm, Julie Mandrell Interior Design, is one of the most successful interior design firms in the world and has been named to the list of the top 100 most influential people in the design industry.

The Design Research Center will support graduate students pursuing MFA and PhD degrees in Interior Design.

A grand opening for the Design Research Center is being planned for the spring. Student researchers are expected to present preliminary results of some of their studies at that time.
ONSTEAD FELLOWS FUND SUPPORTS GRADUATE ART EDUCATION STUDENTS

Selected graduate art education students in the College of Visual Arts and Design at UNT are granted full tuition and fees, as well as other educational expenses, thanks to an initial donation of $200,000 from Dr. Charles Onstead to establish the Jody and Charles Onstead Master Fellows Fund.

Charles and Jo Ann "Jody" Onstead met at UNT, where Jody earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education. They married after graduation and then Charles began serving in World War II. After the war, Charles returned to UNT to complete a bachelor's degree in political science, while Jody taught elementary art in the Dallas public school system. They moved to San Antonio, where Charles went on to work at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, serving as a radiologist for the military for nearly 20 years before opening a private practice. The couple was married for 57 years before Jody's death in 2003.

"Through this fellowship, we are able to support excellent students who are planning to dedicate their careers to working with North Texas children as professional art educators," said Kelly Dorahue-Wallace, Associate Professor of Art History in the College of Visual Arts and Design.

The fellowship provides a selected student with full-time tuition and fees and other costs associated with attending college—a total of $81,000 a year.

The first selected student, Dallas native Jennifer Hartman, taught middle school art for three years in the Plano Independent School District before coming to UNT for a master's degree which she earned in December 2009. She is currently working toward her doctorate and teaching an undergraduate class at CVAD. Once she earns her doctoral degree, she plans on returning to teaching in the public schools.

"Receiving this fellowship is a great honor, and has helped me to pursue my own, personal academic objectives by removing the financial barriers to my education in becoming a more effective teacher, curriculum leader, and arts advocate," Hartman said.

The second group of students awarded fellowships includes: Laura Maxwell (see Carmack) is completing coursework and is scheduled to complete her student teaching and graduate in Fall 2011. Also receiving a fellowship is Allison Davidson. She recently presented at the Texas Association of Art Education, and at the National Art Education Association over Spring Break. She is the President of the UNT Graduate Student Art Education Association.

ONLINE NEWSLETTER “STORIES FROM THE AVANT-GARDE”

CVAD is excited to now have an online newsletter that comes out monthly. Stories from the Avant-Garde captures information regarding our alumni, faculty and current students. Each month we highlight the big stories happening at CVAD and tell you about job opportunities and gallery openings that showcase our students, faculty and alumni. The only way you can receive this informative newsletter is to subscribe which only takes a few seconds. So please go to: http://unt.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=71694b681e4133d4eb7278219&id=b5b446981b to subscribe.

SUPPORT CVAD

Gifts to the College of Visual Arts and Design at UNT enable the College to pursue excellence in many ways. These gifts ensure that CVAD can attract top graduate and undergraduate students through scholarships, make possible CVAD's Visiting Artist/Scholarship programs, provide faculty enrichment opportunities, and support outstanding national treasures such as North Texas Institute for Educators on the Visual Arts (NTEVA), the Print Research Institute of North Texas (PRINT), and the Texas Fashion Collection, all housed within CVAD. Supporting CVAD through endowments and the Annual Fund helps secure the arts for the future generations.

Please take a moment to join us in the pursuit of excellence. We sincerely value your gifts as they are an endorsement of the University of North Texas and the College of Visual Arts and Design. If you have any questions or would like more information on how you can help, please contact Dean Robert Milnes at 940-565-4003 or email him at Robert.Milnes@unt.edu. You may use the enclosed pledge card or contribute online at "Support CVAD" on our website at http://art.unt.edu.
THANK YOU!

We appreciate your gift of support to the College of Visual Arts and Design Annual Campaign at the University of North Texas.

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Questions? Please contact Dean Robert Milnes, at 940.565.4003.

If you have already made a gift, thank you! We would still love to hear from you.

Alumni/Friends notes:

“My entire life has changed due to my education. UNT shaped everything ... my taste in music, art, culture, etc. ...”

—JULIE MANDRELL
Interior Design alumna, B.F.A. 1997

Did you know when you make a donation to the university, you may direct that donation? In CVAD, you have many options:

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