**HIGHLIGHTS FROM INTERIOR DESIGN**

**Interiors Design was just her style**

You can change your life through education and alum Gayle Jones is living proof. At age 52, having had a variety of jobs from administrator to waitress, Gayle knew something was missing. “The church I attended was being remodeled, I was amazed and in awe of what transpired over the next few months,” she said. “This was my first personal experience with an interior designer. At that point I knew Interior Design was what I wanted to do.” She also knew where she wanted to get the education she would need.

**Interior Design Institute was a perfect fit**

Gayle enrolled in the Louisville Technical Institute and attended classes of small sizes, saying, “I didn’t want to go to a large university where I’d just be another face in the crowd.” Her student experience was “such an adventure for me. I loved every minute.” When I learned to appreciate all aspects of design: all the different styles, art history, design history.

She also learned a lot about herself. “When Gayle first met with Graduate Employment Services (GES), she was a little shy and unsure of her skills,” recalled Barbara Moore, GES Director. “But after a few interviews, her confidence increased. Gayle remained proactive in her job search while GES was working to market her skills. She maintained a positive attitude throughout the interviewing process which led her to career success,” stated Mrs. Moore.

**A great job she enjoys**

Today, Gayle is a designer at Fabulous Floors. “The church I attended liked the idea of having an interior designer,” on staff,” Gayle said, adding, “Having more in-depth education in color and design helps me to better serve the customer.” She enjoys her new career. “After greeting customers, I find out what their needs are and determine what products will best suit those needs.” She sets an appointment to have their spaces measured, then “I do a computer drawing, work up a proposal bid for the job, call all the customer and close the sale. It doesn’t always happen that fast or that easily, though. Sometimes a customer will make more than one trip to the store to look at products and colors, etc. Before it’s all said and done I can spend two or three hours with one customer. I’m proud to say that I do close most of my bids.”

Gayle has advice for others who may also be unfulfilled. “Follow your dream. Find something you have a passion for and pursue it,” she said. “Many individuals can’t afford to hire an Interior Designer; however, they can pursue it when they learn a product company has an Interior Designer available to work with them. And, that makes me feel good about the service Interior Design. Whatever you pursue in life, both professional and personal, gauge it by how you feel when you put your head down on your pillow at the end of the day.” Gayle Jones sleeps pretty well.

**Students learn to think green**

Interior Design students recently had an unique opportunity to showcase their skills, thanks to Emma Kuhl and Energy Pros, a non-profit organization that focuses on energy efficiency in the home. The company routinely exhibits at the Kentucky Home, Garden & Remodeling Show and Ms. Kuhl wanted Interior Design students to select and design two vignettes in the exhibit.

Instructor Melissa Miller’s Environmental Psychology class took on the green challenge to design bedrooms for an adult and a female child. Under Ms. Miller’s guidance, students researched appropriate materials, found local vendors willing to donate the materials, and installed the products, including:

- Fabulous Floors. “The company liked out the interviewing process which led her to career success,” stated Mrs. Moore.

**Techniques**

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**TECHNIQUES**

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**Way to go, LTI Interior Design students!**

Gayle Jones

**Great learning experience**

While in Chicago, students also visited IKEA, a Swedish furniture and design store, and the renowned Art Institute, Millennium Park, and other local sites. Students wore out their shoe soles on the Industry and Commercial Road trip. “The walking tour was very helpful. She said that the best part was being “able to see things first hand that we have discussed in class.” Alex recommends the Chicago tour to all LTI Interior Design students.

For Gayle, the opportunity to utilize their design skills while increasing their knowledge of green concepts. Students used second-hand carpet, bamboo bedding, paint with reduced odor and toxins, and energy-efficient lighting in their rooms. Melisa Miller stated that the child’s bedroom her students created earned a second place award as a People’s Choice exhibit. Way to go, LTI Interior Design students!

**Their kind of town!**

**Interior Design students attend national trade show in Chicago**

More than 40 Interior Design students, with instructors Nancy Menz and Butch Sager, recently traveled to Chicago, to tour the national Kitchen and Bath Industry Show (KBIS). This event showcases the latest products and most innovative design ideas in the industry. Features include product displays, professional design presentations, educational sessions, interactive round table events, and opportunities to network with thousands of design professionals from all over the United States.

Instructor Butch Sager called the Chicago trip “an extraordinary experience for LTI’s Interior Design students,” adding “I had a lot of fun out until a few years ago, anyone who wanted this kind of opportunity had to travel to Las Vegas, where the KBIS show was traditionally held.” Educators who wanted to offer such a trip found it impossible. I looked forward to continuing yearly study trips which are marvelous opportunities for students to observe parts of the Interior Design industry that do not exist in Louisville. These experiences open up the world to our students.”

Taking a break at the show are, left to right, Alex Hornbuckle, Tiffany Clark, Alex Weigner, and Kelly Kennedy.

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**She’s the first!**

David Winkler, Executive Director of Louisville Tech and Bill Noel, Executive Vice President of The Sullivan University System posed with Samantha Greene, the first postgraduate of the Bachelor of Interior Design program in Interior Design. Read more about the Spring 2008 commencement on page 6.

**Furniture and lighting. While at the show, the students discussed the energy efficiency processes they utilized in creating each of their vignettes. Interior Design students Kayla Dittmer, James Foster, Lauren French, Elizabeth Friedich, Lyndsey Roberts, Connie Rogers, Bri Swearingen and Meredith Stice participated and enjoyed the opportunity to utilize their design skills while increasing their knowledge of green concepts. Students used second-hand carpet, bamboo bedding, paint with reduced odor and toxins, and energy-efficient lighting in their rooms.**

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