

# FACULTY STORIES

**LEARNING FROM THE BEST** FIDM instructors are working professionals with dazzling résumés and invaluable industry connections. We'd like to introduce you to a few of the members of our incredible team of over 375 educators. To meet more of FIDM's amazing faculty, go to [www.fidm.edu](http://www.fidm.edu).

## STORE DESIGNER KIM HEGELSON

FIDM Instructor Kim Helgeson has had an exciting career in Store Design. It includes transforming a building on the Universal Studios lot into a "Tomb Treasures" theme store for Universal Studios inspired by the film *The Mummy*. The award-winning FIDM Merchandise Marketing Grad has also designed a high-end shop in New York at 5th Avenue & Madison Avenue, created the "styled by me"® Barbie® boutique in New York's toy mecca F.A.O. Schwarz, and run corporate visual programs for haute couture clients, including Romeo Gigli & Moschino.

“ FIDM does an amazing job of hiring professors who have life experience. They all know what it really takes to survive in this highly competitive industry. Taking advantage of my professors' knowledge is what really led me to where I am today.” *Vani Kumar, Apparel Manufacturing Management Grad and Owner of The Suit Closet*

## HOLLYWOOD COSTUME DESIGNER MARIA SCHICKER

As a Style Consultant, Hollywood Costume Designer, and Designer of her own brand of apparel, FIDM Instructor Maria Schicker is an industry veteran who is educating future talent. "Passing on my knowledge to these talented, young students is an exciting challenge to me," Maria says of her Advanced Film & TV Costume Design classes. "It always amazes me to see the students discover their own style."



Instructors work one-on-one with students



Instructor and Student / Class Project

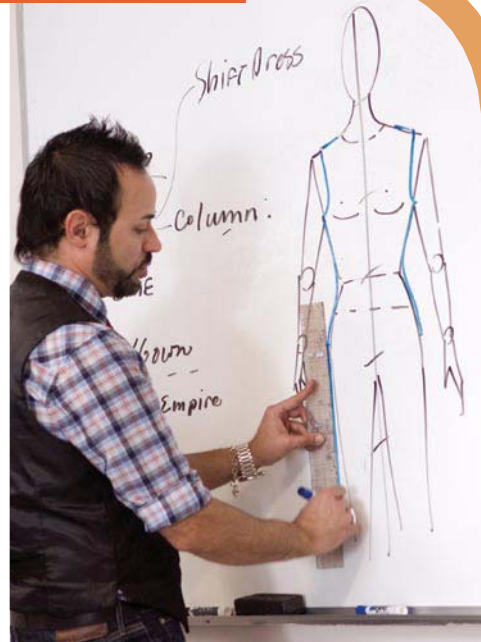
“Teaching is the greatest act of optimism.” Colleen Wilcox, Writer/Educator



I love fashion illustration; it’s part of being a designer. My instructor Nancy Riegelman epitomizes what a fashion illustrator should be, she’s an extraordinary teacher.” *Travis Mullenix, Fashion Design Student*

#### DIGITAL MEDIA DIRECTOR GENE LEBROCK

The Director of Digital Media at FIDM, Gene Lebrock has spearheaded high-profile projects at NBC, ABC, HBO, Dreamworks, Miramax, MGM, and 20th Century Fox. His experience and connections within the Entertainment Industry ensure that students in the program are exposed to real-world projects and clients. “Among other things, Digital Media Students get to work on footage from hit television shows and blockbuster movies,” explains Gene. “One of the most exciting aspects of the program is utilizing the studio to work on these types of real world projects.”



Nick Verreos, FIDM Alumnus / Instructor and “Project Runway” star

#### FASHION DESIGNER NICK VERREOS

Though popular FIDM Instructor and Alumnus Nick Verreos rose to fame as a semi-finalist on *Project Runway: Season 2*, he’s been a favorite FIDM Instructor for over four years. Outside the classroom, Nick finds time to write for publications including *People*, *People.com*, *Bravo.com*, and *Frontiers* magazine; act as a Fashion Commentator for NBC, E! Entertainment television, and TV Guide channel; and design his signature line, *Nikolaki*, sold exclusively in high-end boutiques around the country.

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“A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.”

Henry B. Adams, Writer and Historian



Petrol teaches at FIDM

## PETROL AD AGENCY

Whether it's for movies such as *United 93*, *See No Evil*, and *The Longest Yard* or games like *BLACK* and *Resident Evil 4*, Los Angeles-based agency Petrol has consistently been on the bleeding edge of advertising and marketing for entertainment companies. Petrol's top execs bring their full-throttle approach to creativity into the classroom for an Entertainment Marketing course available exclusively to students in FIDM's Graphic Design Program.



What sets FIDM apart from other schools is its involvement in the industry, the skilled instructors, and a fantastic research library and job placement department.” *Susan Bauer, FIDM Textile Design Grad*

## FASHION & COSTUME DESIGNER SARAH-JANE OWEN

FIDM Instructor Sarah-Jane Owen has designed a collection that landed on the front pages of *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar*; played guitar for and toured the world with two all-girl British rock bands; became an internationally-certified yoga instructor; and hung out with musical legends such as David Bowie, Joni Mitchell, and Sting—all before she started teaching Film & TV Costume Illustration, Portfolio Preparation and Presentation, and Knitwear Line Development at FIDM.

Students learn about different types of leather





Jewelry Design Demonstration



The teachers have a lot of background—they have jobs that support what they're teaching. Their actual life experience goes along with the topic of the class." *Leah Kenny, FIDM Bachelor of Science in Business Management Grad*

### BUSINESS EXECUTIVE GEORGE SIMS

George Sims brings a wealth of talent, business acumen, and insight into his role as Chair of the Business Management Department. A former biochemist, he climbed the corporate ladder working in medical and venture capital startups. Three years ago he was brought on board to create the Bachelor's Degree Program and ensure that it received the proper national accreditation. Since then he has developed thirty courses and hired the instructors to teach them. "One of our graduates is now in the London School of Economics, while others have started their own businesses or are pursuing Masters and PhDs.," he says proudly.

### INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EXPERT & AUTHOR LANIE DENSWLOW

FIDM's International Director Lanie Denslow is an expert on international communication and business practices. She has written several books on the subject, including *World Wise: What to Know Before You Go*, and she coaches senior management in cross-cultural communication. Her global expertise is a highly valuable commodity as she develops and manages FIDM's international Study Tours to major design and manufacturing centers around the world including Tokyo, Paris, and Milan.



Lanie Denslow