In a few days, a few miles away, celebrities rip open envelopes to find out who is the best. So without further ado, let me present the winners we can boast of during the last three months.

Jessica Turner, Rania Salibi and Mardell Becerra, Fashion Design Students. Won first, second, and third place prizes at Textile Association of Los Angeles’ annual scholarship awards ceremony honoring Southern California’s outstanding student designers.

Stuart Mills, Interior Architecture Student. Won the IDA scholarship for Design Innovation, overcoming entries from Art Center, Otis, USC, and all the major Southern California programs.

Reem Habib, 4th year Architecture Student. Won the Jean Roth Driskell AIA Scholarship. She competed against other undergraduate architecture students from Southern California including USC, SCI-Arc, Cal Poly Pomona and others.

Natalie Popik, 4th year Architecture Student. Won the first-ever 'runner-up' award in the Jean Roth Driskell AIA Scholarship, a gesture of recognition for her accomplishments.

Carolina Elias, Architecture Student. Won the 2006 Student AIA Design Award. Elias created her project for architecture studio 5A, taught by architecture faculty member Jeanine Centuori and business faculty member Bud Walker. Studio 5A was combined with a business class to create a real estate development studio where students proposed the best possible use for a given site. Elias’ project envisioned eight, 5-story mixed-use towers to revitalize the fashion district in response to current housing demands in downtown LA.

Jennifer Siegal, Julius Schulman Institute Fellow and head/founder of the Office of Mobile Design; Paulette Singley, Professor of Architecture; Roland Wahlroos-Ritter, Adjunct Professor of Architecture and several current architecture students. Won the Infiniti Design Excellence Award, which was presented by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, at the History Channel’s LA City of the Future competition. Allison Arieff, founder of Dwell and one of the judges, wrote in the New York Times that the OMD/Woodbury design was “the most inspiring of the eight submissions.” Displaying a bioengineered future in which buildings made of “biomatter” — hydrated with ample available desalinated water fed through a grid of aqueducts — the city was envisioned as a living thing that adapts like plants to changes in climate and time of day.

Also featured in the National Building Museum’s exhibition “Reinventing the Globe: A Shakespearean Theater for the 21st Century” was Jennifer Siegal’s “GlobeTrotter,” an expandable theater carefully packed like an accordion with attachable balloons into a tractor-trailer. Siegal was one of only five designers asked to create a 21st-century Shakespearean theatre. The Washington Post called the design “the best” in the show.

Gerard Smulevich, Associate Professor of Architecture, and his students. Chosen, along with faculty and students from Cooper Union and the Rhode Island School of Design, as one of 14 schools of architecture in the US and Mexico, for an invitation-only competition that carries a first prize of $10,000 for a student travel grant plus other prizes. On January 19 and through that weekend, he led a team of six students on a blitz visit to Mexico City to study the actual project site and get a feel for civic and consumer culture in a city of 20+ million people. The project is called “Hybrid Market for Mexico City,” a kind of futuristic version of what would be today’s open public farmer’s market.

Also Gerard Smulevich was chosen to participate in “The Reconfigured Eye” Conference on Urban Photography at the William Jefferson Clinton Institute in Dublin.

Jeanine Centuori, Professor of Architecture. Chosen to participate in the Other Pleasure exhibition at the Center for Architecture, San Francisco. The exhibition, presented by AIA San Francisco and Center for Architecture + Design Gallery, explored the relationship between pleasure and design and featured works by international talents, such as Shigeru Ban, David Adjaye, and Predock Frane.

Randy Stauffer, Chair, Interior Design. Chosen to present a paper entitled “The Poche: The Intersection between D-ethics and Design” at the Interior Design Educators Council in Austin, Texas.

Brandon Kurtz, Graphic Design Student. Chosen designer for the University of Judaism’s gallery advertising and fliers.

Bill Matthews, Adjunct Professor of Animation. Honored with a special award at the 34th Annual Annie Awards.

Helena Jubany, Adjunct Professor of Architecture. Chosen to be a commissioner of the City of Los Angeles Board of Building and Safety. Jubany served as President of the Asian American Architects/Engineers Association for two years and is a current Board Member for AIA/LA.

Robert Schultz, Chair, Information Technology. Chosen to present a paper at the 2007 Information Resources Management Association’s International Conference in Vancouver in May. The paper will be in the conference proceedings. “Trust Issues in Supply Chain Management” was chosen by a double blind, peer-reviewed review process, in which it was described as “a catalyst for future study and research in the area of ethical issues.”
Allison Arieff speaking of the OMD/Woodbury Carolina Elias Award member, Bill Matthews, was honored at the 2007 Annie’s.

Woodbury Animation faculty

“The most inspiring” -- Allison Arieff, founder of Dwell, speaking of the OMD/Woodbury entry in City of the Future

Douglas Cremer, Director, Institute of Transdisciplinary Studies. Chosen to present “Teaching Portfolios: A Transdisciplinary Learning Community Model for Decision Making” by the International Alliance of Teacher Scholars at the 19th Annual Lilly Conference on College & University Teaching – West.

Emily White, Adjunct Professor of Architecture. Chosen to participate in Skin + Bones : Parallel Practices in Fashion and Architecture at MOCA. White’s project, developed in collaboration with Peter Testa and Devyn Weiser, consists of a tower of woven strands of carbon fiber; part of “extensive research to develop buildings utilizing synthetic textiles, which can be constructed with traditional textile techniques such as braiding, weaving, and knitting.”

Angela Diamos, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design. Featured in Photo-Chimera: Ten California Photographers at the Brand Library Art Galleries in Glendale, January 27 - February 23. Curated by Gloria Williams Sander of the Norton Simon Museum, the exhibit features works that challenge the popular expectations of photography. Each artist in the exhibit actively tries to change and expand the medium, by combining advances in technology with new and expressive ways of seeing.


Edward Landler, Adjunct Professor of Film History. Chosen to screen his feature-length documentary “I Build the Tower” at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City as part of the museum’s annual documentary festival. The film depicts the life of the immigrant Italian artisan who single-handedly created the monumental mosaic-covered spires of reinforced cement known as the Watts Towers in South Central Los Angeles. Directed, written and produced by Landler and Brad Byer Rodia, the great-nephew of the towers’ creator, Sam Rodia, the film has been praised by Ken Burns as “wonderful, lyrical and compelling” and by Leonard Maltin as “heartfelt and fascinating.”

Louise Coffey-Webb, Assistant Professor of Fashion Design. Lectured on “Art Deco & Costume Design in Film” as part of the Art Deco Festival held on the Queen Mary in September 2006.

Lloyd Russell, Faculty in M. Arch in Real Estate Development. Cover spread in the Home section of the LA Times, showing his wedge-shaped M3 house under the landing path for San Diego’s Airport.

Joan Marques, Participating Adjunct in Business. Appointed to the editorial board of “Recruitment and Retention in Higher Education.” Marques will contribute articles and help define the focus for future issues. The December 2007 issue included her article “Ten Retention Tools for Academic Advisors.”

ALSO published in Personal Excellence “Cycle of Awakening” (Sept 2006) and “Success and Failure: Find greater contentment and personal balance” (October 2006).

Zelda Gilbert, Professor of Psychology and Director of the Title V Cooperative Grant. Chosen to present at the American Education Research Association meeting this spring in Chicago. Papers submitted for this meeting are peer reviewed and only a limited percentage are accepted.

Ted Smith, Director of M. Arch. in Real Estate Development. Presented “Inhabiting the Border / Habitando la Frontera” at OTRA/ANOTHER 06 at the Instituto de Cultura de Baja California in Tijuana Mexico.

Ramón Ramirez, Adjunct Professor of Architecture. Exhibited at the Latino Art Museum Main Gallery in Pomona his silkscreen project called Postmodern Aztlan Workshop.


Rao Chekuri, Chair, Mathematics and Natural Sciences; Eugene Allevato, adjunct professor of mathematics and physics, and Edmundo Hernandez, Business and Management student. Selected to present their innovative course on water at the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement Capital Hill Symposium. ALSO Chekuri was selected as a reviewer for the Journal of Research in Science Teaching and the Journal of Science and Technology Education.

Stan Bertheaud, Professor of Architecture. Presented at Architecture, Film + Digital Media Focus of University of New Mexico Symposium. A working architect who teaches at Woodbury, Bertheaud is a screenwriter who wrote the script for Dwight Yoakam’s surrealistic western, South of Heaven, West of Hell.