



FROM PAPER TO PIXELS

by David Meyersburg



David Meyersburg (far L) teaching his InDesign Workshop

For 34 years my bread and butter was museum exhibit design. In 1976, when I started, conventional drafting equipment with pen and pencil was used to produce drawings on 24" x 36" Velum. If I wanted to change something, it meant erasing what I had

previously done, and starting the drawing over. Then along came the age of computers, and everything changed. I used desktop publishing software to produce working drawings, as well as production-ready artwork. Not only were changes easily made, but the speed at which the work could be done encouraged the exploration of numerous design approaches.

Working with the currently popular Adobe InDesign software is a creative outlet that I find flexible, accommodating, and satisfying. Wanting to share that with my fellow Academy members, I decided to offer a *Basics of InDesign Wellness Workshop*. The initial effort was an experiment in using Zoom to present my lesson at both Academies. The approach wasn't tenable for this kind of instruction, and with reassuring support from Graphic Design Instructors Jen Page at Glengary and Joanne Campbell at Bradenton, I now enjoy teaching in a small classroom setting, alternating between Bradenton and Sarasota. Students appreciate the attention of hands-on teaching, enabling them to ask questions and get assistance that is tailored to their specific needs. Workshops are open to everyone - no prior experience necessary.

WARM WELCOME TO CHRISTOPHER VAVICH

by Christopher Vavich



I joined the Academy about a month ago. My doctor recommended it because I was isolating at home. I was very bored and knew that I needed stimulation. Still, the application sat on my desk for a year before I got the motivation to join.

I'm glad I finally took the plunge. My first impression was very promising. I loved the commercial kitchen, the industry-standard computers and software. It seemed like an environment where I could be productive and learn new skills. Since joining, I attend most days; I prepare the dining room for service, set out breakfast, help make lunch, and clear tables and restore the dining room to its splendor. I've met a lot of helpful, down-to-earth people who make this feel like a safe community. My goal is to eventually get a job in a restaurant because I worked in many when I was younger, holding nearly every position imaginable. I feel like, with the Academy's help, I will reach this goal.

In my free time, I do abstract encaustic painting, and I love to fish and spend time with my two dogs, Bear, a Papillon, and Sweetie Pie, a Chihuahua, and two birds, a Cockateel and a Dwarf Cormorant.



(L to R) Alicia Velez and Christopher Vavich in culinary at the Academy at Bradenton

FITNESS COMES TO BRADENTON

BREAKING NEWS!



(L to R) Brooke DePuy and Joseph Lewis trying out the brand new exercise equipment at the Academy at Bradenton

Thanks to the Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation that funds our wellness initiative, we now have cardio equipment in our wellness space at the Academy at Bradenton.

This is a giant leap forward for the physical wellness of our Bradenton community. Based on previous wellness committee meeting discussions, we decided to order a treadmill, elliptical, two recumbent exercise bicycles, and an adjustable bench for free weight exercises.

Member Joseph Lewis states, "prior to getting the fitness equipment, I was limited to just basic body weight exercises. But now, I have the opportunity to do cardio twice a week at the Academy! I'm excited to lose weight and show other members how to exercise safely and effectively. This will greatly benefit me because I will feel better about myself, relieve stress, and reduce my risk of heart disease and other health-related conditions."



Vicky Vedl enjoying the brand new exercise equipment

FINDING OUR CALLING



Members and staff participating in the telephone etiquette workshop

We had an informative workshop recently on telephone etiquette, facilitated by member Gerry Zago and Business and Technology Instructor Diana Martes.

The objective was to boost confidence and professionalism when representing the Academy on the phone, as this is often a caller's first impression of who we are.

We discussed the importance of answering promptly with a greeting that identifies both the Academy ("Thank you for calling the Academy") and the person answering ("This is Gerry"), and asking how we can be of service (i.e. "How can I help you?") It's important to speak clearly and listen politely while the caller explains the reason for their call. We also covered how to take a good message that includes the caller's name, phone number, and purpose for calling as well as identifying who the call was intended for. We also learned how to place a call on hold and how to transfer calls, and the importance of asking permission (i.e. "May I place you on a brief hold?") before sending the call to someone else. All in all, this workshop was a confidence booster.

Sometimes it can feel intimidating to pick up a phone when you don't know who will be on the other end. But now, with tools for success, this no longer feels like a hang-up! And, who knows, maybe it will lead to a job as a receptionist!

SARASOTA CAMPUS

1910 Glengary Street
Sarasota, FL 34231
(941) 921-9930



BRADENTON CAMPUS

601 12th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205
(941) 929-2800



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