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# IDEC South quarterly

SERVING INTERIOR DESIGN EDUCATORS OF THE SOUTH REGION

On behalf of the South Regional Council, I want to express our gratitude and appreciation to those who helped make the IDEC 2023 South Regional Conference: *Connections and Influences* a success. Special thanks to SCAD Atlanta and all its faculty, staff, students, and administrative leaders who made the experience of this event so special. I would also like to thank Tony Purvis, our Conference Committee Chair, for taking the mantle of organizing and producing the most successful South Regional Conference held in the past ten years.

## ***Hats Off! To SCAD Atlanta for their tireless support of IDEC 2023 South Regional Conference: Connections and Influences...***



As you review the newsletter, detailed information on the conference will be found in our Regional Conference news column. You will also see our spotlighting initiatives featuring winners of the best Faculty and Student Presentations conducted through a blind review process. I would also like to thank Megan Scanlan, CIDA Accreditation Director, for personally attending and allowing us to voice our opinions and suggestions towards the upcoming 2024 Professional Standards.

As we are moving towards an invigorating new future, the Council and I would also like to introduce Daniel Ronderos from Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, Colombia, SA, as the latest member of the Regional Council. He will work with Kelly Gore to vet all new and exciting initiatives as part of our revolutionary IDEAS Committee. Know that as part of the Regional Council's push toward future endeavors, we are actively engaging new faculty members interested in serving in a leadership position. If you see yourself as an enthusiastic individual inspired by teamwork and willing to actively spearhead new and exciting initiatives, know that there is a place for you on our Council. Please get in touch with me at [jerome.gomez@converse.edu](mailto:jerome.gomez@converse.edu) with your contact information, and I will reach out as soon as I am able.

We are also excited about the onboarding of IDEC's new Management Organization, who will work closely with us on a new and exciting Marketing and Social Media presence. We will be streamlining our Quarterly newsletter with a spirited new layout and a more professional delivery method. You will notice a stronger, transparent regional presence providing the information needed to keep our constituents connected and engaged.

[Continued on the following page...](#)

Additionally, we are strategizing exciting new ways to actively interact with the outside community by broadly exposing the stimulating research that our members are involved in. We continue recruiting and promoting our faculty and students through our spotlighting initiative by their personal stories related to the design or teaching profession. As we move toward next year's conference, which has not yet been confirmed, we are strategizing attempts to solidify long-term partnerships that would help subsidize Graduate Student Scholarships. These are just a few of the many other things and ideas the Council is promoting for its membership.

We are now looking ahead to the IDEC Annual National/International Conference, "Designed to THRIVE," being held March 6th - 9th in the city that never sleeps, New York City. We hope to encourage all of you to attend this extraordinary event at the InterContinental New York Times Square Hotel. Early bird registration rates will be available until January 25th for all levels of members and non-members alike. Also, please take a moment to review the Annual Conference Schedule at a Glance to understand how the events are organized and structured.

***We look forward to seeing all of you there!***  
***Thanks so much for your time and attention,***

Jerome Gomez  
IDEC South Regional Chair



*Term: 2022-2024*  
*(Converse College)*

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*Never look back, except for an occasional glance, look ahead and plan for the future. Success is not built on past laurels, but rather on a continuous activity. Keep busy searching out new ideas and, experimentally, keep ahead of the times, or at least up with them.*

**Dorothy Draper**

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# regional conference news



## ***Connections and Influences***

2023 IDEC South Regional Conference Recap

Hosted by SCAD Atlanta

October 20-21, 2023

This past October 20th and 21st, fifty-eight educators, thirty graduate students, and twenty-nine undergraduate student volunteers gathered together for the 2023 IDEC South Regional Conference held at SCAD's midtown Atlanta campus. The energy was palpable among the participants, and the two-day experience was filled with celebration and scholarship as the attendees enjoyed talks, tours, activities, and presentations, thanks in part to sponsorship dollars provided by SCAD, Sherwin-Williams, Illuminations lighting showroom, ALLSEATING, Teknion, and Office Interiors.

The weekend kicked off on the evening prior to the conference with an informal networking happy hour at the newly opened Kimpton Shane host hotel, recently recognized for its innovative interior design. Friends and colleagues old and new had a chance to unwind and catch up in person, many for the first time in years.

The start of the conference on Friday morning featured opening remarks by Conference Chair and IDEC South Region Board Member Tony Purvis, Associate Chair of Interior Design at SCAD Atlanta, and Andrea Johnson, Associate Dean of the Schools of Building Arts and Foundation Studies, who acted as hosts for the weekend. Immediately following, the audience was treated to an insightful and inspiring look at the possibilities for the future of design for an aging population with world-renowned gerontologist Dr. Alexis Abramson. Dr. Abramson's influence on design for the mature adult through her advocacy across the globe underscored the theme of the conference, *Connections and Influences*. She set the tone for a weekend of presentations and conversations that connected the participants together as educators and designers.

In total, there were twenty-five scholarship presentations, four panel discussions, six poster presentations, two keynote addresses, one business meeting, and one special CIDA session, along with campus tours, a visit to the SCAD FASH Museum of Film and Fashion, a reception hosted by the Atlanta Design Festival, and a special student-only concept and materiality workshop packed into two full, eight-hour days. Highlights included a talk by guest speaker and Miami-based interior designer Bea Pila, founder of the *Design Enlightenment* method, which highlighted the need for "soul" in human-centric design; an interactive virtual and augmented reality primer with IA Interior Architects VR/AR Team which related how the profession is using VR/AR with clients and how design students can be prepared to join this new wave; an update on national IDEC Board activities by President-Elect Steve Webber of Florida State University; and the best scholarship presentations by an educator and a graduate student.

Christine Wacta and Katie Snyder of Georgia Southern University were awarded "Best Presentation by an Educator(s)" for their panel *HCD-Mapping MATRIX-4-INTERIOR DESIGN*, which introduced the development of an application that facilitates analysis of human space through an intersection of AI, machine learning, and the spatialization of emotion to support human centered design and wayfinding. Graduate student Campbell Shepherdson was awarded "Best Presentation by a Graduate Student" for her topic *Early Grade School Classroom Design and the Prevention of Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD)*.

Ultimately, the conference was a resounding success. When wrapping up, student attendees shared how eye-opening and stimulating it was to see first-hand the robust and inspiring research being explored by the IDEC interior design educator community, and educator participants expressed their enthusiasm for the opportunity to *Connect* with and *Influence* each other once again. The IDEC South Region Board wants to thank all of the sponsors, hosts, and volunteers who made the conference a spectacular success, and invites all IDEC South Region members to attend next fall's conference and connect with one another!

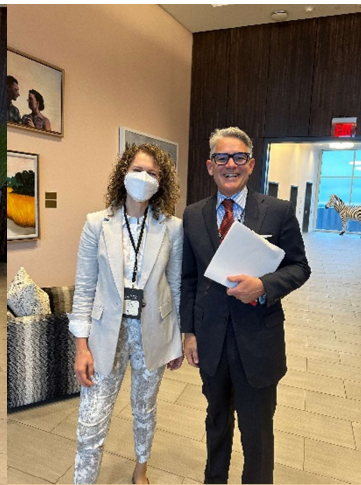


**Tony Purvis**

IDEC South Regional  
Conference Chair 2023



# Conference Photos



**Connections and Influences**  
2023 IDEC South Regional Conference  
Hosted by SCAD Atlanta  
October 20-21, 2023

# Member Spotlights



**Campbell Shepherdson**

Design Associate, Ivy Lane Living, Alexandria, VA  
2023 South Region, Student Award

Her PhD is in Architecture, Urban design, Heritage, and Landscape from "Sorbonne-university" in Paris. Her global background and training enable her to successfully implement diverse skillsets on cross-disciplinary platforms. Her work encompasses geospatial methods for advanced analytics, human habitus, and citizen science integration into Design. Wacta's research focuses on reconciling Urban-Ecology with Human-Ecology to restore human's innate connection with their environments; this includes geoscience and Artificial Intelligence's integration into design education via gamified mechanisms. She founded Geo-EduGAMING, Inc, along with others geospatial companies that develop initiatives in Geoscience + Game + Design education. She is currently leading a multi-disciplinary, cross-curricular learning activities through the involvement of multiple fields to varying degrees within the undergraduate Start-up research group at GSU in Statesboro GA.

"I can say that many great humanists and designers have inspired me over the years. Two of those are Jane Jacobs, and Jan Gehl, whom I met twice in ... My admiration for Jane Jacobs comes from the fact that she was an autodidact and did not need to have a terminal degree in urban or sociology to understand that a city can only function if all people are an integrated part of its function. Jan Gehl is fascinating to me because of his ability to understand urban sociology and human geography."

**WEB:** [www.geoedugamin.fr](http://www.geoedugamin.fr)

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**Geospatial:** <https://arcg.is/1bbvHL2>

For as long as she can remember, Shepherdson has been drawn to this field due to her passion for creativity, love for art, design, and ever-growing interest in improving the functionality and aesthetics of living spaces. y. From fine art, fashion design, a Bachelor's degree in Art History and Visual Culture, and finally, an MFA in Interior Design from SCAD, Savannah - her "meandering path" encouraged her to embrace unique experiences, personal growth, and diverse skillsets. She says, "Each twist and turn contributed to my overall development and perspective as a designer, today".

When her research began, she assumed that it would lead her into the design of a rehab center or sober housing for those who have already gone through rehab. However, she soon realized that her passion for this topic was not actually about recovery - rather it was about prevention, or protection. "As a child of an alcoholic(s), also referred to as a COA, I experienced unique challenges, and in addition to the role that genetics play in the development of AUD, COA's inherit additional, non-genetic factors from their parent(s) which may play a role in increasing the risk of addiction (Woititz, 2002). Psychological distress experienced by a parent with AUD or a similar drinking problem can often impact that parent's child in a variety of detrimental ways (Woititz, 2002). As a potential AUD-prevention practice, creative arts, particularly as they relate to self-regulation, coping, self-control, problem solving skills, delayed-gratification, and healthy reward processes, is a critical finding and warrants further investigation..."



**Christine Wakta, PhD**

Assistant Professor, Georgia State University  
2023 South Region, Professional Award

*To submit a professional or student member for spotlighting:*

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/2/folders/1dtB289TRiFgqg6NpKsnA8LwnL3FfzHV4>