What was your college major?
My undergraduate major was in Interior Design from the College of Human and Environmental Sciences at the University of Missouri and Master’s degree is in Liberal Art with an emphasis in Education from Baker University.

Did this major lead you to your current career?
I initially considered studying art education or interior design. I did not plan to become a full time educator, but the opportunity was a good fit. I am a third generation of educators in my family so education is something I’ve always known.
What are the characteristics that your most successful students possess?
The best students want to learn for the sake of learning and not just to achieve a grade. Students need to be motivated, engaged, and organized. Students need to develop communication and collaboration skills. The best students show a willingness to learn from critique and to evaluate multiple possibilities.

Name three things a student should know when exploring this career.
1. While interior design is perceived as a glamorous career it is also a business. Design decisions are based on research and evidence.
2. HGTV creates an excitement for interior design but the staged situations are contrived, rehearsed, and only show small parts of the totality of interior design.
3. I am motivated to make the world a better place and the career of interior design creates the final interface between the built environment and the people who live or work in the space. Good interior design has a significant impact on quality of life.

What skills will a student learn when pursuing this career?
Drafting & computer drafting
Space planning
Principles and elements of design including color theory
Design communication
Code compliance
Materials and resources used in interior design, including textiles and lighting
Sustainable design
Universal design
Evidence based design
Historical context of interior design

For a student needing part-time employment while in college, what types of jobs provide the best experiential learning opportunities?
The Interior Design Program maintains a job placement bulletin board with many local job listings. These employers are looking for students to complete internships and students to hire upon graduation. Many students work part-time or full-time while completing their education.

If a college student is unable to find related work experience in this career field, how do you suggest he/she prepare for the workplace?
The Interior Design program AAS degrees require two internships that often lead to full time employment. In addition, in the Interior Design Capstone class, students prepare resumes and portfolios that help the focus their job search to successfully find employment within the career of interior design.

Is there a selection process for entering this program?
Interior Design is not a selective admission program. Interior Design faculty members are confident that interested students will have an opportunity to be successful in one of our certificate or associate degree offerings.