

NEWH

ICON
of INDUSTRY

2014



BOB THOMAS



NEWH VISION

The Hospitality Industry Network

MISSION STATEMENT

NEWH is the premier networking resource for the hospitality industry, providing scholarships, education, leadership development, recognition of excellence and business development opportunities.

BRIEF HISTORY

Founded in 1984, NEWH is an international non-profit organization with 18 chapters and many regional areas. NEWH brings together professionals from all facets of the hospitality industry providing opportunities for education, professional development and networking. The organization offers unique opportunities including an international membership directory, Career Network, NEWH Magazine and sponsorship of leading industry expositions and conferences. To date, NEWH has given in excess of \$3,400,000.00 USD in scholarships to young people wishing to pursue careers in the hospitality industry.

icon

i·con (ī'kŏn')

–noun

An image; a representation.

An important and enduring symbol.

One who is the object of great attention and devotion; an idol.

Each year NEWH gives out its most prestigious award — the ICON of Industry. The award is presented at the Gold Key Awards for Excellence in Hospitality Design in New York City, held in conjunction with the International Hotel/Motel & Restaurant Show in November and then again at the Platinum Circle Gala during BDwest in March. The award celebrates the leaders of the manufacturing side of hospitality — those who have uniquely impacted the industry through their innovative work. They consistently dedicated their time and efforts to community or industry outreach through education and/or corporate giving, and have been doing business in hospitality for more than 30 years. In addition, each year an international scholarship is given to two exemplary students in the recipient's honor, who have completed at least half of their program toward a degree in the hospitality industry, have a minimum 3.0 GPA, participated in an industry internship, and exemplify the highest standards of professionalism and scholarship.

Welcome to the Gold Key Awards and the Celebration of the 2014 Industry ICON!

On behalf of NEWH, it is an honor to present Bob Thomas with the 2014 NEWH ICON of Industry Award. The ICON of Industry Award is our highest honor, presented to a manufacturer with a minimum of 30 years in the hospitality industry, who has provided the industry with unique and innovative products and has shown outstanding philanthropy. Bob Thomas is a true ICON of Industry, not only in meeting our criteria but as a huge supporter of NEWH and a compassionate friend to many of us in the industry.

With Bob's well rounded past and experience in hospitality sales, design, and purchasing, he was able to enter the manufacturing segment with a perspective of his customer and the end user. Founding Signature Hospitality Carpets and serving the market with the highest level customer service and products is how many of us know Bob. Some may not realize that, in addition to his accomplishments in business, he has found time to support charities like St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Compassion International that make a difference in the lives of children needing clothing, food, education, and medical care. He has touched many with his kindness and generosity. Bob's dedication and commitment to excellence with 45 years of service so far to the industry certainly earns him the honor of ICON of Industry.

With each ICON Award, NEWH presents a special scholarship to a very deserving student. Our scholarship program has enabled students around the world to continue and finish their studies with a hospitality focus. As you will see today, these students are the best and brightest, our future leaders and perhaps future ICONS.

NEWH has awarded over \$3,500,000.00 in scholarships to date. Congratulations to everyone who has worked so hard to get us there. We thank you for your support and look forward to sharing a very bright future.

In the spirit of networking,



Trisha Poole, President, Design Poole, Inc.
International President, NEWH, Inc.

The 2014 NEWH ICON of Industry



Bob Thomas

Bob Thomas is an investor. Throughout his life he has invested in people, ideas, and companies.

Boasting a hospitality career that spans 45 years, Bob has been involved in every facet of the industry. After working as a sales manager with Holiday Inn for more than a decade, and overseeing John Portman's Design & Purchasing firm for six years, Bob moved to the manufacturing side in 1986. He assembled and managed numerous sales forces in fabrics, upholstered furniture, and case goods, among other products.

One of Bob's proudest accomplishments by far, however, is founding Signature Hospitality Carpets along with his two partners, Brenda Smith and Bryan Ownbey. Over the past 16 years, Signature has become a major resource domestically and internationally with major hotels and design firms. As a totally vertical mill, every carpet manufacturing process including yarn extrusion, twisting, heat setting, tufting, primary and secondary backings, and final coatings are owned and controlled in-house. With more than 50 sales representatives worldwide, Signature Hospitality Carpets is prepared to meet and exceed the expectations of the hospitality industry.

Born in Memphis, Tennessee, Bob has always been a big supporter of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and continues to this day. He has "served time" as an MDA Jailbird to raise money to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and through Signature, he sponsors a team on the Miracle League, which provides children and adults with mental and physical challenges an opportunity to play baseball. Through their financial support the league was able to build a special field and the company has people there to assist the children and adults as they take their turn and bat.

In 2010, Bob became a sponsor for a child in Ethiopia through Compassion International. The young man's name is Grace. Through Compassions International Bob is able to make a difference in this child's life by educating him, clothing him, and seeing that the funds are available so he has medication. This is just one of the many things that Bob has done with no one watching that will make a change in the life of this child, the child's family, the village, the country, and the world.

Bob Thomas is a man that one can truly say is, "A friend to everyone he meets and a true leader. Bob makes a difference in the lives of others, always a kind word, and loves to laugh."

Please join NEWH in honoring Bob Thomas for his contributions through the award of the NEWH ICON of Industry. It is truly a privilege to induct him into our esteemed group of amazing professionals.

**FABRIC INNOVATIONS
CONGRATULATES**

BOB THOMAS

**ON BEING AWARDED
THE 2014 NEWH
ICON OF INDUSTRY**

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INNOVATIONS**



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DDI IS HONORED TO CELEBRATE
BOB THOMAS
AS NEWH'S ICON OF INDUSTRY 2014!
THANK YOU FOR THE YEARS OF LAUGHS
AND SUPPORT THAT YOUR
TRUE PASSION FOR THIS
INDUSTRY BROUGHT US.
CHEERS TO OUR WONDERFUL FRIEND
WHO DID IT ALL WITH A SMILE.
YOU ARE AN ICON
IN OUR HEARTS!

Tara Headley, ICON of Industry 2014 Scholarship Recipient

As a high achiever, I have always set out to accomplish my artistic and academic goals to the best of my ability and I knew that a career in design would be in my future. Not only did I have a strong love of art from a young age, I made sure that I used my talents by pursuing everything art related I could find. Growing up on the small island of Barbados as the daughter of a primary school art teacher and a do-it-yourself father who was always building something in and around the house, one could say I was destined for the arts. I was always entering art competitions, completing crafts projects, and redesigning my bedroom. As I moved on to secondary school, I gravitated towards the art room where I spent the majority of my time, even after school. My friends would have to come there in order to find me. I was meticulous about all my projects and went above and beyond for each assignment. So much so, that I received a distinction in my advanced art course, as well as an incentive award at the National Independence Festival of Creative Arts in Barbados.

Upon graduation, most of my peers went on to the University of the West Indies where they would be able to study locally. This was not an option for me however, because in the one hundred and sixty six square miles that I called home, there was no architecture or interior design program. This meant that I was to take a great step, after graduating at 17, to move to another country to pursue my education. Leaving family, friends, and the only home I have ever known was a difficult step but proved to be extremely rewarding. I quickly fell in love with the city of Savannah, Georgia where I embarked on my undergraduate degree in interior design at the Savannah College of Art and Design. I made the most of my opportunity and ensured that I fully immersed myself in the experience of college, dedicating time to my studies, as well as to the student body where I worked as an orientation assistant. I wanted to make sure that new students felt as welcome as I did when I first travelled to the United States to study.

Another major part of my student life was my devotion to the IIDA and ASID student chapter at SCAD. These organizations helped foster the spirit of camaraderie and volunteering among students in the interior design department. As secretary for two years, and later acting president, I strove to create and execute community service projects and programs to bring students together for networking and professional growth along with other members on the board. I truly believe that good design

can be heightened by peer influences. One of the major service projects I was involved in was the renovation of the staff corridor in Memorial Hospital in Savannah. We felt as though the workers needed a space that would take away from the stress of their jobs; one that could act as a retreat and brighten their day. With the help of student volunteers, we redesigned the corridor and break room with generous

donations from Sherwin Williams. The main feature of the space, which was designed through a charette with the students, was a series of branches that featured photos of smiling patients to remind the staff of all the good they do for people every day. I will never forget the smiles on their faces and words of encouragement as they came by, watching us work to improve their space. We were thrilled when the project was awarded the 'Outstanding Service Project of the Year'.

In addition to the organizations I was a part of, I also excelled academically. Although the program could be very stressful at times, I was forever grateful for the opportunity to be studying something I loved which made it easier to get through the long, five-hour studio classes at times. It seemed like most of my days I was in the school building where I would spend hours at a time designing or studying, making sure that I was giving it my all. The most trying time was during my senior year when I was tirelessly working on my senior project, a Caribbean cultural center for second generation immigrants to the United States. This topic was chosen because it really hit home for me as a native of a Caribbean island who was struggling to stay in touch with my roots. The center was to be a place where people could read about their culture in the library, purchase a bit of culture in the retail shop, see the culture through the eyes of artists in the museum, and taste the culture in the food court

...continued on page 29



Tara Headley

Congratulations Bob Thomas

You're a true ICON
in our industry.



MANDY LI
C O L L E C T I O N

The illusion expensive...the reality affordable.

Katherine Timmerman, ICON of Industry 2014 Runner Up

I knew from a young age that I wanted to do something meaningful with my life, but if you had asked me then what it was I wanted to do, I wouldn't have had an answer for you. To be completely honest, it took some soul searching before I realized what my calling was, and finding my passion for design was an exciting process. I am so easily inspired by everything in my surroundings, and I wanted to positively inspire and impact the people and world around me, no matter how small that influence may be. As I grew up I became more aware of my creative side, and developed an affinity for architecture and the built environment. I found myself deeply immersed in every space and building that I walked into and had immense appreciation for my surroundings—I still do. I have finally found the intersection of creativity and meaningful expression, and it led me to the path of design. I strongly believe that for the amount of passion and effort that I put into this career, I have only gained exponentially. Every event in my life has shaped who I am and the decisions I have made have only strengthened my steadfast passion for design. A career in interior design gives me the opportunity to inspire others and make the positive impact that I have strived for over the years.

I currently attend Florida State University, seeking a Masters of Fine Arts in Interior Design. In August of 2013, I completed my Bachelors of Science degree in Interiors from the same program, and immediately went on to pursue my Graduate degree. While in school, I work as a Graduate Teaching Assistant. As a TA, my goal is to help students understand what they are learning in classes and assist them in applying that knowledge to their projects and assignments. I see an unwavering importance of being available to help students whenever they need it. I feel as though it is my duty to give back to my students, and I wish to be a mentor for every student in my classes—to be someone who can guide and encourage them to see their potential as students, and as designers.

As a designer, I am interested in the user experience and how spaces can support a persons needs, personally and socially. I am currently studying the Millennial generation, and how the design of a mixed use housing environment can provide a sense of community to this generation to meet their social needs. My research of designing for social needs nurtures my interest in hospitality design; specifically, social spaces in hospitality interiors that support a user's experience within the space.

These spaces include, hotel lobbies, restaurants, entertainment spaces and other gathering places.

This summer I had the opportunity to intern in the hospitality studio at Gensler in Los Angeles, California. This experience allowed me to enhance my skills by working on various hospitality projects and gaining experience in several different aspects of this growing design sector. I developed a new passion for the hospitality design industry because I found it synergistic with my passion of designing for human's needs and the user experience. All in all, this internship experience has further developed my skills in leadership, collaboration, and communication, and I am excited to continue to improve upon these skills as I complete my final year of graduate school.

Prior to beginning my internship, I became a LEED® Green Associate, and I am determined to soon become a LEED AP, ID+C. Along with furthering my knowledge and certification in sustainability, I hope to become a licensed Interior Designer, soon after graduation and entering the field. I see an extreme importance in becoming licensed, and I hope to begin the first steps of the NCIDQ exam prior to my graduation next August. After graduation, it is my goal to return to Los Angeles, and become an Interior Design professional in a studio focused on Hospitality Interiors. My experience in Los Angeles this summer has not only allowed me to gain new knowledge and skills as a design professional, but it has given me new personal growth that will guide me in my future.

The NEWH Icon of Industry Scholarship would play an important role in achieving all of my prospective goals. If I were to be selected as the scholarship recipient, I would be honored and immensely grateful because it would alleviate some of the financial burden that I am faced with as a graduate student. ...

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Katherine Timmerman



Congratulations Bob!

The award is well deserved.

You have helped shape the hospitality design industry into what it is today.

Thank you for your dedication and the great service and product you have always provided our company.



PURCHASING MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL, L.P.

WORLDWIDE SOURCING AND PROCUREMENT

"A TRIBUTE TO A GOOD FRIEND"
CONGRATULATIONS BOB!

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BOB THOMAS
ICONS OF INDUSTRY



Bob,

I am forever grateful for the guidance you provided me as a young man, just entering the Hospitality Industry in 1985. Your mentorship early on, and continued friendship through the years have been invaluable to me, both personally and professionally. Congratulations on your Icon award. It is most deservedly earned.

— Lee Blair



DURKAN

icon noun \ 'ī-īkän \

: a person who is very successful and admired

Bob, you fit the definition perfectly. Congratulations on being named the NEWH Icon of the Year.



Bob Thomas, Signature Hospitality Carpets

Your friends at **hospitality**design

CONGRATULATIONS!



Recognizing 2014 Gold Key Award Finalists — “ICONS of Design”

Finalists were selected by a panel of nine judges considered more than 280 entries for the awards, which recognize outstanding design world-wide for hospitality projects that were completed or renovated from March 1, 2013 through March 1, 2014.

BEST ECO-CONSCIOUS OR SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS HOTEL

- COMMUNE (Los Angeles): American Trade Hotel & Hall, Casco Viejo, Panama
- Natalie Sheedy Interiors (Chicago); DelaRosa Studio (Chicago); Legat Architects (Chicago): Hyatt Place Chicago-South/University Medical Center, Chicago

BEST GUEST ROOM LUXURY

- HDC Interior Architecture + Design (Los Angeles): St. Regis New York, New York
- Richmond International (London): The Langham, Chicago

BEST GUEST ROOM MIDSCALE/BUDGET/FOCUSED SERVICE

- White Jacket (Singapore): The Daulat (Singapore)
- Stonehill & Taylor (New York, NY): The Refinery Hotel (New York, NY)

BEST HOTEL BUDGET/FOCUSED SERVICE

- Bill Rooney Studio, Inc. (New York): Residence Inn by Marriott Manhattan/Central Park, New York
- EoA, Inc. (Coral Gables, Fla.): Lord Balfour Hotel, Miami Beach
- Daroff Design (Philadelphia): Universal's Cabana Bay Beach Resort, Orlando, Fla.

BEST GUEST ROOM UPSCALE

- HBA/Hirsch Bedner Associates (Singapore): Grand Hyatt Shenyang, Liaoning, China
- CBT (Boston): Hotel George, Washington, D.C.

BEST HOTEL BUDGET/FOCUSED SERVICE

- Ester Bruzkus Architekten (Berlin) with DesignAgency (Toronto) and WAF Architects [Berlin]: Generator Berlin Mitte
- DesignAgency (Toronto): Generator Venice

BEST HOTEL LUXURY

- HOK (New York): Rosewood Abu Dhabi
- HBA/Hirsch Bedner Associates (Atlanta): The St. Regis Abu Dhabi
- Metex Design Group (Istanbul): Waldorf Astoria Jerusalem

BEST HOTEL MIDSCALE

- COMMUNE (Los Angeles): Ace Hotel Downtown Los Angeles
- Stonehill & Taylor Architects (New York): NYLO New York City
- Group One Partners (Boston): Residence Inn Downtown/Seaport, Boston

BEST HOTEL UPSCALE

- G A Design International (London): Hilton Istanbul Bomonti Hotel & Conference Center, Istanbul
- Looney & Associates (Dallas): Omni Nashville, Tennessee
- White Jacket Pte. (Singapore): Naumi Hotel, Singapore

BEST LOBBY LUXURY

- concrete (Amsterdam): Hotel W Verbier, Switzerland
- concrete (Amsterdam); citizenM Times Square, New York

- Tara Bernerd & Partners (London): Thompson Chicago
- Meyer Davis Studio (New York): Paramount Hotel, New York

BEST LOBBY MIDSCALE/BUDGET/FOCUSED SERVICE

- Universal Design Studio (London): Ace Hotel London Shoreditch
- Design (Philadelphia): Universal's Cabana Bay Beach Resort, Orlando, Fla.

BEST LOBBY UPSCALE

- dash design (New York): The Lexington Hotel, New York
- nemaworkshop (New York): W Mexico City
- HBA/Hirsch Bedner Associates (Singapore): Grand Hyatt Hotel Shenyang, Liaoning, China

BEST NIGHTCLUB/LOUNGE

- YWS Design & Architecture (Las Vegas): Hakkasan, Las Vegas
- Jeffrey Beers International (New York): Moon Club, Paradise Island, Bahamas
- Ramsgard Architectural Design (Skaneateles, New York): The Gig, Verona, New York
- Rockwell Group (New York): TAO Downtown, New York

BEST RESORT

- BLINK Design Group (Singapore and regional offices): Regent Bali, Indonesia
- YANG/Yangbangsheng & Associates Group (Shenzhen, China): Haitang Bay No. 9 Resort, Sanya, Hainan, China
- Wilson Associates (Singapore): Sofitel Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia

BEST RESTAURANT CASUAL DINING

- AvroKO [New York]: General Assembly, New York
- Rockwell Group (New York): Five50 Pizza Bar, Las Vegas
- Aria Group Architects (Oak Park, Ill.): Nando's Flame-Grilled Chicken, Toronto
- Schoos Design (West Hollywood, Calif.): Puesto, San Diego, Calif.

BEST RESTAURANT FINE DINING

- Meyer Davis Studio (New York): St. Cecilia, Atlanta
- Mapos LLC (New York): Sopra, New York
- Meyer Davis Studio (New York): The Wayfarer, New York

BEST SPA

- HBA/Hirsch Bedner Associates (Singapore): Grand Hyatt Hotel Shenyang, Liaoning, China
- Rockwell Group (New York): Awii Spa at Andaz Maui at Wailea, Hawaii
- HBA/Hirsch Bedner Associates (Atlanta): Baku Flame Towers Fairmont Hotel, ESPA, Azerbaijan

BEST SUITE

- HOK (New York): The Jewel Suite by Martin Katz, The New York Palace, New York
- Robert Angell Design International (London): Lime Wood, Lyndhurst, New Forest, UK
- TAL Studio (Las Vegas): Four Seasons Resort Lana'i at Manele Bay, Hawaii
- Il by IV Design (Toronto): Crystal Serenity Penthouse, Crystal Cruises, Los Angeles

BEST TIMESHARE/FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP

- Indidesign (Los Angeles): Hokulani Waikiki by Hilton Grand Vacations Club, Honolulu
- Studio Gaia (New York): Ritz-Carlton Herzliya, Israel

JUDGES' "SO COOL" AWARD

- Meg Sharpe Interior Designs (New York); Stonehill & Taylor Architects (New York): Diamond Horseshoe at the Paramount Hotel, New York
- JOI-Design Interior Architects (Hamburg): Hotel-Kompetenz-Zentrum, Oberschleißheim, Germany
- Stonehill & Taylor Architects (New York): The Nomad Hotel Rooftop Event Spaces, New York
- Marriott Global Design Strategies (Bethesda, Md.): Marriott Hotels Design Strategy, Marriott International, Bethesda, Md.



Hill and Associates is thrilled to congratulate a member of our family, life long friend and now NEWH ICON, Bob Thomas!

NEWH ICONS OF INDUSTRY



2004 Thomas Durkan



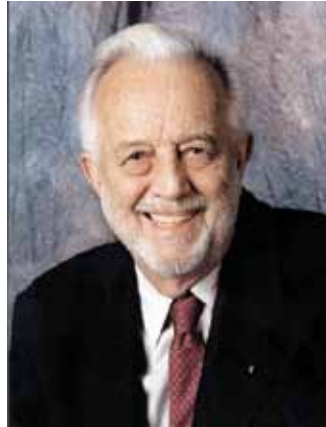
2006 Maya Romanoff



2007 Manfred Steinfeld



2008 Roger Milliken



2009 Jerry Hruby-Holly



2010 Judy Dobin



2011 Harvey Nudelman



2012 Herbert V. Kohler, Jr.



2013 Ray Anderson

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

2004

Anna Perryman;
Harrington School of Design

2006

Stacey Schield; University of
Cincinnati

Ashley Taylor Anderson; Georgia
Southern College

2007

Kandice Pierce; Savannah College of
Art & Design, SCAD

Alisa Biel; Boston University

2008

Jacyln Livelli; Savannah College of
Art & Design, SCAD

Alysce Lee Slagg; Colorado State
University

2009

Saray Gill; Savannah College of Art
and Design, SCAD

Kayla Hirsch; Colorado State
University

2010

Andrea Vasquez; Savannah
College of Art and Design

Chelsea Lawrence; Colorado State
University

2011

Santiago Arcila; Kwantlen
Polytechnic University

Kyi Gyaw; Cornell University

2012

Stacey Sefcik; Savannah College of
Art and Design, SCAD

Ashley Sarazen; School of
Architecture and Design at NYIT

2013

Amanda Krueger; Florida State
University

Alexandra Kern; Savannah College
of Art and Design, SCAD

Congratulations Bob
on receiving this very prestigious honor!
You are not only an icon in our industry
but truly one of the best people anywhere
and an inspiration to us all.



Congratulations Bob, a true leader and NEWH ICON of Industry

NEWH
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President **Trisha Poole**, Design Poole, Inc.
President Elect **Philip Byrne**, Wool Solutions, Inc.
Secretary **Andrea Sims**, Contract Alliance, Ltd.
Vice President/Finance **Fernando Diaz**, Fernando Diaz and Associates
Vice President/Education **Andrea Thomas**, Thomas Design Source
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and
Executive Director **Shelia Lohmiller**, NEWH, Inc.

Congratulations,

BOB THOMAS



INTEGRITY

CHARACTER

FRIENDSHIP

A true leader by example!
Your friends,

Degen & Degen
architecture and interior design

2014 ICON
of the
INDUSTRY



We at Evan Shatz Sales Associates, are thrilled to
join the hospitality community in honoring
Bob Thomas.

It is a great privilege to know and work with such
a knowledgeable and dedicated professional.



Congratulations, Bob !!

Evan, Joan, Elissa, Jes, Ryan

CONGRATULATIONS BOB THOMAS ICON OF INDUSTRY 2014

Glad to have the opportunity to thank Bob Thomas for taking me under his wing at the 1989 Ramada Inn Show in Dallas TX as a newbie to the Hospitality Industry. Our booths were next to each other and he was kind enough to show me the ropes. We also played golf one day before the show in the pouring down rain. This was a sign to come as I soon was included in Bob's Confexion Golf Group. This was a group of hospitality folks that met each year to foster hospitality business, fellowship and create too many stories to tell. The group played for 15+ years under Bob's organization and still tries to get together at times. Bob has been a mentor, friend, confidant, golfing partner, golfing opponent as well as carpet supplier for my personal homes. Congratulations Bob on this great award, "NEWH Icon of the Year".

YOU DESERVE IT....you are our ICON!

Kelley Knox
The Product Source, Inc.



CONFEXION GOLF 15+ YEARS FRIENDS FUN SCRAMBLE BILOXI PHOENIX
CALCUTTA RULES STORIES SCORECARD MYRTLE BEACH POKER SAWGRASS
DINNER CHOICES 19th HOLE PALM COAST PAIRINGS PARTY HOSPITALITY
CALLAWAY GARDENS ANTE UP DINNER SELECTIONS SAWGRASS INVERNESS
SHIRTS SCRATCH SANDESTIN TEAM MATE OPPONENT FRIENDS FOR LIFE

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BOB THOMAS

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I had the honor and pleasure of working with Bob Thomas at Peachtree Purchasing Company in the 1970s.

After we went our separate way, I had the additional pleasure of buying Signature Carpet, where Bob made his mark in our industry.

And then, nine years ago, Bob sold me his boat. Instead of the horror stories usually associated with buying a used boat, Bob's boat was immaculate and exceptionally well maintained.

He had cared for it like he did his customers, his associates, and his friends.


Congratulations, Bob. Your conduct and your career easily qualify you as an icon in our industry.

—Larry E. Carver

BOB THOMAS
NEWH
ICON OF INDUSTRY
AWARD

“An easily qualified Icon”

 ***Carver & Associates***



Bob,

Congratulations on this well deserved award. You truly are an icon of the industry!

From your Signature Carpet sales team family,

James Allen

Katy Athay

Gary Burket

Tripp Costas

Cowan Industries, Ron, Mike, Ralph & Dee

Alan Duff

Debbie Kroodsma & Wendy Mohr

Larry Mithelman

Brenda Patterson

Tode Rubenstein

Rob Satkowiak

Ben Swain

Waldo Tejedor

Janine Thomas

Randall Thorne

Carol Tovar



and teaching kitchen. Interior design for me is about the ability to influence people's lives and have a great impact on everything from emotional connections to quality of life simply through good design. I was able to explore this thoroughly with the project. As a result, I won the Chair's award for the most outstanding senior project while graduating with a major GPA of 4.0

and Summa Cum Laude honors.


The decision to return to school to obtain a master's degree after a year proved to be wise one. There is something to be said about realizing exactly how much you don't know that motivates you and makes you eager to learn. For me, graduate school has been about new discoveries about theories, the world of design, and myself as a designer. Through the design of a hotel based in Cairo, Egypt for my studio 1 class, I came to realize my love for hospitality design. This field encompasses all that I enjoy about design. It allows for designing with cultural influences and impacts a variety of people in many situations. You get to truly explore creativity for the masses in public spaces while providing unique individual retreats in guestrooms. After this class, I truly had my sights set on a career in the hospitality industry.

Since starting my graduate career, I have made certain to immerse myself in the design industry in Atlanta. Along with being a student member of NEWH, ASID and IIDA, I volunteer at events and serve as a committee member in the organizations. It is invaluable to be able to learn from people with varying degrees of experience in design. NEWH has definitely helped me strengthen my involvement in hospitality. I have recently accepted the position of student liaison with the NEWH Atlanta chapter where I hope to continue to bridge the gap between the student body and professionals in the industry.

After graduation, I plan pursue hospitality design as a career. My internship at Hirsch Bedner this summer has confirmed that I have made the right choice in this regard. I was able to fully immerse myself in the world of hospitality design while learning

from the best in the industry. I was treated as a junior designer on my team and given responsibilities throughout all phases of the process and was able to learn how design is done in a large firm setting. With this knowledge, I am certain I have the ability to excel in this field. In addition, while at HBA, I have been earning hours that I will put towards my NCIDQ certification to become a registered interior designer which I feel is a necessary step, along with becoming LEED certified.

It would be remiss of me not to mention my wonderful parents. It is with their assistance that I can pursue my passions to the best of my ability. They wanted to make sure that I was afforded all the opportunities they never had growing up. My father, one of my greatest influences, had to leave school to support his family. Since then, he has made it his goal that I would be able to follow my own path. Being an international student carries additional burdens and financial constraints. Travelling home is not simply a car ride away and currency exchange rates are not in our favor. My parents, both retired, remortgaged our family home in order to meet tuition fees for my bachelors degree. This loan is being repaid from their pensions. However, the cost of my masters degree is being funded by my father who, in order to facilitate this, has taken up two jobs as a chef and bookkeeper to supplement his pension. The funding and fees for my education account for 75% of my parents' pensions at the moment. In addition, there has been a recent economic downturn in Barbados and job opportunities are becoming more challenging while cost of living has significantly increased. My parents strongly believe in rewarding my excellence and consider the sacrifices they've made as an investment in my future. Apart from work-study programs and the mandatory internships for credit, visa restrictions mean that I am not able to work while I am in school. If not awarded the scholarship, I plan to take a work-study position as a tutor for the interior design department. This way I can gain income while helping other students improve their skills. This NEWH scholarship would mean a great deal to me and my family. It would mean that I could ease the burden on my parents well before I can start officially working to pay off the debt. I thank you for considering me for this scholarship.

An aerial photograph of three women in white dresses walking in a line on a large, patterned carpet. The carpet features a repeating floral or damask design in shades of green and brown. The women are moving from the top of the frame towards the bottom. The woman in the middle is slightly ahead of the other two. The lighting is soft and even.

Congratulations, Bob



DESIGN
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CLOTH & STONE

shaw hospitality group™

Katherine Timmerman, ICON of Industry 2014 Runner Up...continued from page 11



These funds would be extremely helpful in the final months of my graduate career, allowing me to flourish as a designer, and lessen the worry about financial security. Along with aiding to minimize the debt that I will have following my graduation, this scholarship will allow me to pay for important things such as: study materials and exam fees to pursue a higher LEED

Certification, membership fees to professional organizations, and entry fees and travel expenses for design conferences and

presentations that I will partake in this year. If my application for this scholarship is not accepted, I will continue to apply for additional loans, and search for other scholarship opportunities to help lessen the stress of finances as I continue my education.

It has been a long, amazing journey to get where I am today. Every class, project, presentation, and design experience has shaped my place in this field. I face inspiration on a daily basis; it confirms my path in this industry, and pushes me harder to succeed every day. I truly feel as though with interior design, through practice and teaching, I am doing something meaningful, and I hope to use this scholarship to inspire and influence others through hospitality design.

2014 ICON of Industry Student Winner Tara Headley's Speech

I would like to first and foremost thank NEWH for the honor and privilege to stand here before you all as this year's ICON of Industry scholarship recipient. I am truly humbled and stand in awe of the many inspirational design professionals in attendance here tonight. Coming from the small Caribbean island of Barbados, I am grateful for the opportunities I've been afforded in my life. Moving to the US to pursue my education was a major step for me but one that I am thankful I took. Throughout my years at the Savannah College of Art and Design I have made sure to immerse myself in the full college experience, dedicating time to my studies, as well as to the student body and professional community through my participation either as a board member, volunteer or committee member in ASID, IIDA, and NEWH. The NEWH Atlanta chapter has become an important part of my professional journey. The board members truly believe in and support me and I am happy to be working with them as their student liaison next year.

Before I go, I must thank the following people for getting me to this extraordinary point in my life. The hardworking, dedicated (and I cannot stress that enough), caring, compassionate and inspiring professors of the Savannah College of Art and Design, both at the Savannah campus where I received my

undergraduate degree and the Atlanta campus where I am currently completing my thesis towards a masters in interior design; two of them are here tonight – Margo Jones and Khoi Vo. I would also like to thank Sandra Cortner, principal of Hirsch Bedner Associates in Atlanta and her team, which I was honored to be a part of during my internship over the summer. They taught me the benefit of true teamwork and workplace comradery and what designers can truly achieve under great leadership. Lastly, it would be remise of me not to thank my wonderful parents for all they have done to support me through my many years of studies. My mother, a now retired art teacher who instilled my passion for everything art related from the time I could pick up a crayon, has shown me that there is no limit to what you can accomplish with a creative mind. My father, who to this day is my greatest inspiration, has made it his goal to ensure that his only daughter is able to have all the opportunities he wasn't able to have growing up. It is through their continued love and belief in me that I am able to continue to pursue my dream and realize the potential of being the best designer I could possibly be.

It is my goal to join the industry after graduation as a force of positive impact in the design community, where I can utilize my talents for the betterment of people's lives. I know that with my professors, mentors, family and NEWH behind me, I can make this a reality. Thank you.



Well done, Bob!
Congrats!

CONGRATS!

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE
FOR OUR INDUSTRY, COMPANY & ME.

Tim Greeson

SIGNATURE 

BOB THOMAS

THE *Signature* OF

INTEGRITY

RESPECT

HONESTY



THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE
TO DESERVE THE HONOR OF
ICON OF THE INDUSTRY.
YOUR LEADERSHIP, GENEROSITY, FRIENDSHIP,
(and did we mention your smile!)
TO SO MANY, CONTINUES TO BE
AN IMPORTANT PART OF WHAT
MAKES OUR INDUSTRY SO SPECIAL.

You are, indeed, a man to be admired and celebrated.

van dresser.COMPANY
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Thank you for being a great mentor and friend.
Congratulations Bob, you deserve it!!

Thank you,
David M Rosen
DMR Contract Sales, Inc.

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CONGRATULATIONS

BOB!

NEWH ICON

CONFIRMING WHAT WE'VE KNOWN ALL ALONG.
YOU ARE LOVED AND RESPECTED NOT

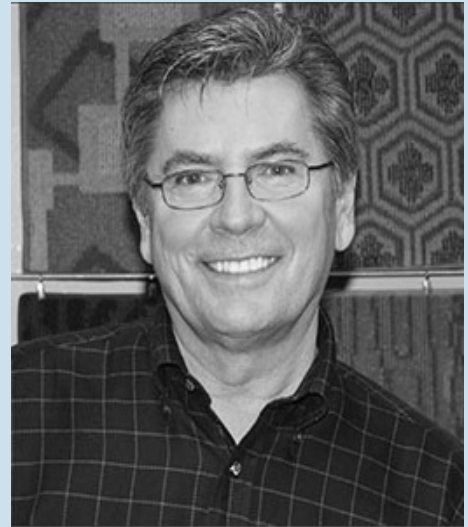
“ONLY IN CHICAGO”

BUT, INDUSTRY WIDE!

ALL OUR BEST,

JOE & MARY

DARNELL
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Congratulations Bob



for being recognized by the **NEWH** as an ICON of the Industry
The Hospitality Industry Network

from your friends at **Hotel Business** **Hotel Business**
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CONGRATULATIONS BOB

You are a tremendous leader and an amazing friend —
You deserve it!

Thank you for showing us how to roll!

sk assoc.

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