



## **COLLABORATION: A KEY TO EFFECTIVE LEARNING**

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The goal was to require an integrated team approach to problem solving to better prepare young professionals for today's work-place. Students in two separate classes, representing four disciplines, combined their knowledge, skills, and efforts towards the completion of one common project which involved designing and executing a display of historic fashions at the University Museum.

Students worked collaboratively to successfully satisfy the project requirements. Each team member brought some specialization to the project (knowledge of garments, design and rendering skills, visual display skills, space utilization, or fashion writing). Upon completion of this cross-departmental project, the students presented each group's idea to the class and invited faculty. The most workable, yet creative design was selected for implementation. A university service grant was awarded for this collaborative project and provided the funds necessary to purchase equipment and supplies for the execution of the display. An exhibit of historic hats and garments following the theme of "Picture Perfect Hats," along with design presentation boards, was mounted at the University Museum for six weeks.

This collaborative project between fashion and interior design students working with museum professionals proved to be challenging and exciting. The students had an opportunity to function as a team and apply communication and problem-solving skills as necessary to reach a common goal. The project encouraged students to feel more confident about their own strengths and applying them in a group with members from diverse backgrounds. The students indicated that receiving criticism graciously and accepting others' views was the most difficult aspect of the project.