

catherine thacker

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honors & activities:

- Member Chicago Print Production Club (2008)
- Freelance Design Editor for non-profit magazine distributed throughout the southeast (2004–2007)
- AIGA – Atlanta Volunteer: Relationship Rep (2004)
- Dean's List (2001–2004)
- PICA Special Judge's Award for 2-Color Offset (2002)
- Fall for Leadership 2003 Conference Participant
- NACA First Place for Full Color Poster (2003)
- Member Calhoun Honors College
- Gamma Epsilon Tau Charter Member (2002)
- Palmetto Fellows Scholar
- Graphic Communications High Academic Achievement (2002–2004)
- IPTAY Academic Scholar

experience

Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc.

Production Manager - Direct Mail

Chicago, IL
05/2007–Present

- Developed and implemented “green” purchasing policies for print production, transitioning nearly 100% of direct mail and collateral pieces to meet the building's LEED certification requirements by utilizing strictly FSC-certified papers and vendors
- Reengineered the process for proof routing by installing a soft-proofing system in partnership with a valued supplier, which in turn saved over \$100K annually in proofing costs and contributed to the company's overall effort to reduce its ecological footprint
- Negotiated a directed-buy paper program with a dedicated mill and merchant to streamline paper purchases and establish brand equity, ultimately saving \$25K+ per quarter
- Responsible for purchasing print and mail services for \$2M+ annual communications budget

Leo Burnett USA

Production Manager - Quality Group

Chicago, IL
02/2005–05/2007

- Ensured printed materials met color and finishing production standards by attending press checks for all jobs
- Served as a liaison between creative department and print vendors to achieve highest quality piece within production limitations, timeline, and budget
- In cooperation with print vendors, identified potential production challenges and generated viable alternatives
- Kept abreast of current printing trends and technologies, presenting new and innovative production solutions to art directors

Leader Enterprises

Production Artist

Roswell, GA
01/2005–02/2005

- Prepared agency artwork for print production, including making proper revisions and file adjustments to ensure quality reproduction upon final output
- Responsible for design and maintenance of Flash website for pro bono client

Bennett Graphics

Customer Service Intern / Account Executive

Tucker, GA
Summer 2004, 05/2004–11/2004

- Facilitated workflow of print production jobs in commercial offset, from order entry and prepress through finishing and delivery
- Developed new shipping procedures to maximize productivity for print fulfillment and delivery
- Researched and contacted target prospective accounts to grow commercial offset sales
- Managed commercial offset house accounts in an effort to increase their potential yield

Messer Industries

Art Department Intern

Greer, SC
01/2002–05/2002

- Redesigned film output procedures for screenprint prepress production, transitioning to digital workflow through proper calibration and implementation of SOPs
- Produced original designs to fit customer specifications for glass and mirror screenprint production

education

Clemson University

Bachelor of Science—Graphic Communications, Cum Laude with Honors

Clemson, SC
May 2004

- Minor in Business Administration
- Major GPR: 3.88 / Overall GPR: 3.67