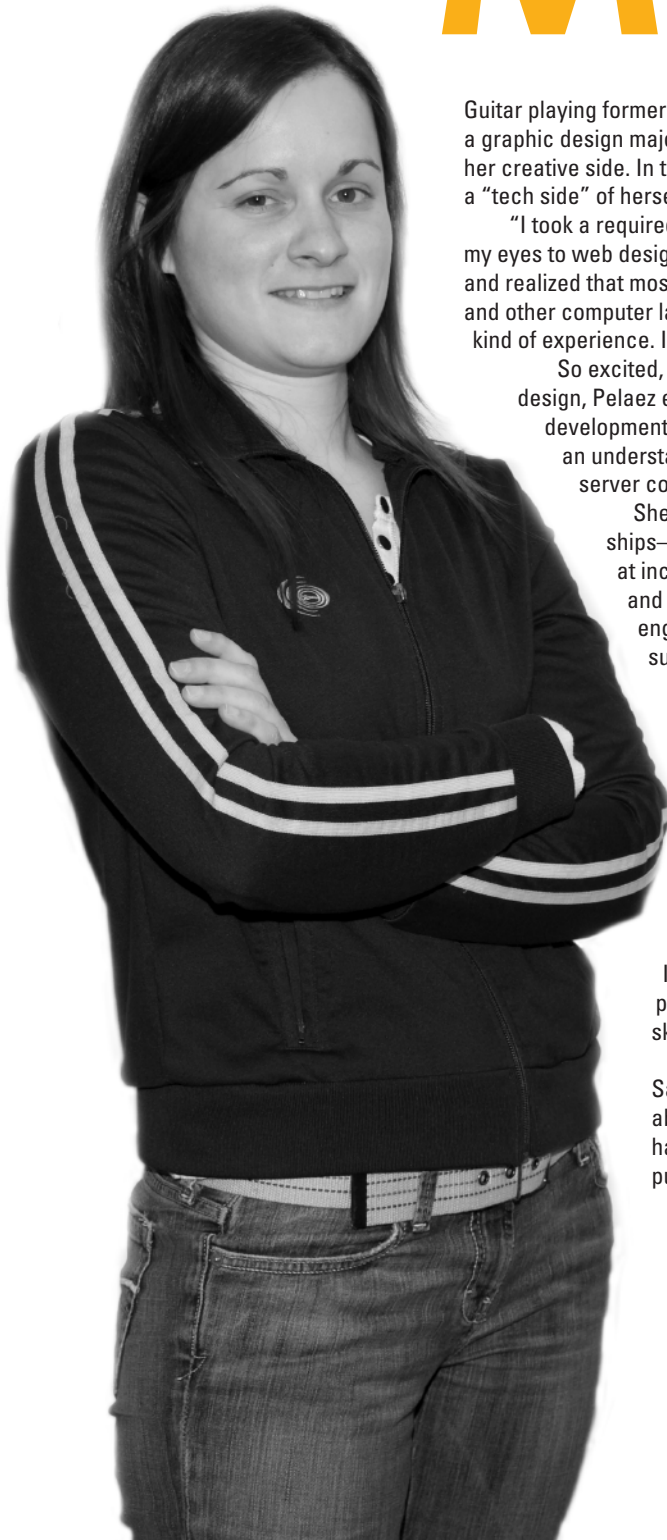


Sage College of Albany makes it easy for students to pursue multiple areas of interest, change directions easily if desired, and develop the interdisciplinary competencies that are critical in today's workforce. Jennifer Peleaz '10, is designing her future out of dual degrees, in graphic design and web development.

Mixed Media:



Guitar playing former chef Jennifer Peleaz entered Sage College of Albany as a graphic design major in anticipation of a career that would let her indulge her creative side. In the interdisciplinary environment at SCA, she discovered a “tech side” of herself that she didn’t know was there.

“I took a required course called Interactive Design which really opened my eyes to web design,” she said. “I had been looking at jobs and realized that most employers wanted graphic designers who knew HTML and other computer languages. This was the beginning of me getting that kind of experience. I was really excited.”

So excited, in fact, that after earning an associate degree in graphic design, Peleaz enrolled in SCA’s bachelor’s program in web development, where she is balancing her design background with an understanding of computer programming, databases, and web server configuration.

She also received one of Sage’s new S-STEM scholarships—funded by the National Science Foundation—aimed at increasing the number of students, especially women and minorities, pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (known as the STEM subjects).

S-STEM scholarship recipients receive mentoring and participate in site visits to area research facilities and businesses, and Peleaz works part-time on web projects in Sage’s Office of Communications—helping her to build the professional portfolio and network that will complement her education as she builds her career. And what does she have in mind for her dream job?

“One day I’d love to work for myself, but just starting out I’d really like to work for a design firm where I could learn the ropes and work on a variety of different projects,” she said. Her creative sense and technical skills should make it easy for her.

In the meantime, Peleaz is getting the most out of Sage. “I am really new to all of this but the more I learn about the tech side, the more I want to learn. I’m really happy that I made the choice to return to Sage and pursue a degree in web development,” she said.