

A L U M N I
**News
letter**

Fall 2020 Art + Design Alumni Newsletter

Director's Message *Alan T. Mette*



WELCOME

We are pleased to share with you the School of Art + Design's news, activities, and the accomplishments of our alumni, students, faculty, and staff as we begin the 2020–21 academic year.

As alumni, we ask that you keep us abreast of your accomplishments at go.illinois.edu/ARTalumni. Please know that you are always welcome back to campus to participate in our activities.

Note the dates in this newsletter for our virtual Visitors Series and Events during the 2020–21 academic year, which include the faculty exhibition, MFA exhibition, and BFA exhibition. You are very welcome to join us at these events.

I would like to thank our students, faculty, and staff for rising to the occasion to the many and significant challenges in our teaching, research, and operations that were posed by the novel coronavirus pandemic since March 2020. During the summer of 2020, we utilized opportunities to learn about and develop online teaching strategies, including the university's

Online Teaching Academy to assist us in moving forward with a blend of online and hybrid classes. At this point in fall 2020, we continue to move forward with our classes following an online/hybrid format. This has provided the richest experience for our students, while still ensuring safest practices. We will follow this same format for spring 2021.

Below are some examples of the creative ways in which our faculty have shifted to an online learning environment.



Molly Briggs

Assistant Professor, Graphic Design

<https://uofi.box.com/s/mp3td3igsx73s5j6vgzg3yuycy7a06zt>



Rachel Fein-Smolinski

Lecturer, Studio Arts (Photography)

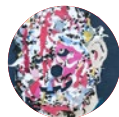
<https://uofi.box.com/s/tqx1m1fu0ethygwb9ibrapzwysz4iwa>



Laurie Hogin

Professor, Studio Arts

https://mediaspace.illinois.edu/media/0_49cokzq0



Paul Kenneth

Graduate Student, Studio Arts

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbxMO4DdCps>



Jorge Lucero

Associate Professor, Art Education

<https://uofi.box.com/s/ifmjrvugb65sznqtqhi01122ifcr9di>



Juan Salamanca

Assistant Professor, Graphic Design

After the 44:00-minute mark, Professor Salamanca explains an exercise about mapping magnitudes for the data-visualization class and then students present their sketches.

https://mediaspace.illinois.edu/media/t/0_q6b7f3dq



Director's Message Continued

ENROLLMENT

There was much concern in spring 2020 about the potential for a serious drop in enrollment in fall 2020 after recording the largest first-year class in the school's history in fall 2019. Through the substantial efforts of faculty and staff, we have developed and retained an undergraduate student body of 602 students, still the largest in memory. With 69 graduate students, our student body is now 671.

The school has been on a steady path during the past ten years to develop a community that represents diversity, equity, and inclusion. Faculty and staff have been engaged in outreach efforts and open house events to create an environment of inclusion. Evidence of this progress is reflected in the numbers of underrepresented students that are now at approximately 24% (162 students) from 14% (75 students) in 2014. rewrite: In addition, 25% of our faculty and staff are from underrepresented populations.

To further develop our efforts in diversity, equity, and inclusion, this fall 2020, the school has established a Committee to Promote Anti-Racism, Inclusion, and Equity, with the following charge:

"The School of Art + Design's Committee to Promote Anti-Racism, Inclusion, and Equity is

charged to give guidance to the school on how to address issues of implicit and unconscious bias, structural white supremacy, misogyny, LGBTQ intolerance, and ableism; to acknowledge where these systems of oppression and exclusion intersect; and to identify and give recommendations for the elimination of all cultural and institutional barriers to genuine equity and inclusion in the school."

Through the College of Fine & Applied Arts we are currently embarking on a college-wide reflection process "Towards Culturally Responsive Excellence and Equity," that will involve the gathering of historical information, development of surveys for students, faculty, and staff, the deliberating of these responses, and a report for action by the end of fall 2020.

CURRICULUM

We are very pleased to share that in fall 2020 the school implemented the new BA in Studio Arts and BFA in Studio Arts with concentrations in New Media, Painting, Printmaking, and Sculpture. We are currently waiting for final approval for the addition of Photography and Fashion as concentrations.

EVENTS

The Center for Advanced Study has developed a mini-series of Zoom events featuring creative and performing artists and staff that feature conversations around the topic of “The Arts in the Time of Pandemic”. The series started on September 23 and runs every Wednesday until October 14. Our colleagues Deke Weaver, Jorge Lucero, Emmy Lingscheit and Ben Grosser were participants in this series.

The Art + Design Visitors Series for 2020-2021 has also been converted to an online format utilizing Zoom. This excellent series includes Margaret Wertheim, Silvia Beltrametti, Rich Pell, Jennifer Van Horn, Michelle Foa, Jennifer Roberts-Smith, Amy Kraehe, Clare Brass, Ricardo Busbaum, Jonathan Jackson.

CAS Center for Advanced Study
Dialogues ILLINOIS

THE ARTS IN THE TIME OF PANDEMIC

SINCE EARLY MARCH, we have all witnessed the cancelation of concerts, festivals and performances locally and world-wide. The creative and performing arts community has been hit hard: artists, performers and crew alike have seen livelihoods evaporate and ensembles, companies and other creative partnerships dispersed. But creativity cannot be stopped. How has the creative and performing arts community adapted to the strictures of social distancing and the apparent need to rely on digital platforms? How do practices that require physical presence and/or contact proceed? In which ways has the pandemic affected the objects focused on? What does performance look like when the audience is no longer contained in the same space?

The Center for Advanced Study invites you to participate in a mini-series of Zoom events featuring creative and performing artists and staff in dialogue with members of the campus and local communities. Conversations will feature video or discussion of works produced or in progress during the pandemic. Questions may be submitted for a dialogue following each conversation.

Registration is required.

Scan or visit
<http://cas.illinois.edu/arts-time-pandemic>

Wednesday, September 23 – 4pm

Genesee Spridco and Aaron Muñoz on *Psh*tter!*
Sara Hook and Endalyn Taylor on *November Dance*
With Catherine Prendergast

Wednesday, September 30 – 4pm

Deke Weaver and Jorge Lucero on performance
With Jane Desmond

Tuesday, October 6 – 4pm

Cynthia Oliver and Abby Zbikowski on dance
Ollie Watts Davis on vocal performance
With Tamara Chaplin

Wednesday, October 14 – 4pm

Jason Finkelman, Rudolf Haken, Cody Jensen and Will Patterson on music
With John Meyers

Monday, October 19 – 4pm

Emmy Lingscheit and Ben Grosser on making art within and about the pandemic
With Amy L. Powell

Sponsored by School of Art + Design, History Department, Miller Center for Advanced Study, George A. Miller Research Center for Advanced Study, Francis P. Taylor History and Art Center, College of Fine & Applied Arts

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KNOWLEDGE THAT ILLUMINATES.
cas.illinois.edu

SCHOOL OF ART+DESIGN

VISITORS SERIES 2020-2021

2020

Thursday, September 17, 5:30 p.m., Online
Margaret Wertheim
The Crochet Coral Reef: Intersections of Math, Science and Art through Hyperbolic Crochet
Sponsored by School of Art + Design, History Department, Miller Center for Advanced Study, George A. Miller Research Center for Advanced Study, Francis P. Taylor History and Art Center, College of Fine & Applied Arts

Thursday, September 24, 5:30 p.m., Online
Silvia Beltrametti
Intellectual Property Issues in New Media Art
Sponsored by School of Art + Design, History Department, Miller Center for Advanced Study, George A. Miller Research Center for Advanced Study, Francis P. Taylor History and Art Center, College of Fine & Applied Arts

Thursday, October 1, 5:30 p.m., Online
Rich Pell
Rabbit Holes in the Database: A PostNatural History of Miscellaneous
Sponsored by School of Art + Design, History Department, Miller Center for Advanced Study, George A. Miller Research Center for Advanced Study, Francis P. Taylor History and Art Center, College of Fine & Applied Arts

Thursday, October 8, 5:30 p.m., Online
Jennifer Van Horn
Portraits of Resistance: Activating Art during Slavery
note: this event will be in seminar format—paper available in advance from obrien@illinois.edu
Sponsored by School of Art + Design, History Department, Miller Center for Advanced Study, George A. Miller Research Center for Advanced Study, Francis P. Taylor History and Art Center, College of Fine & Applied Arts

Thursday, October 22, 5:30 p.m., Online
Michelle Foa
Transatlantic Degen: Cotton, Textiles, Paper, and Pictures, between New World and Old
note: this event will be in seminar format—paper available in advance from obrien@illinois.edu
Sponsored by School of Art + Design, History Department, Miller Center for Advanced Study, George A. Miller Research Center for Advanced Study, Francis P. Taylor History and Art Center, College of Fine & Applied Arts

Thursday, October 29, 5:30 p.m., Online
Jennifer Roberts-Smith
Performative Relationality in Design Research
Sponsored by School of Art + Design, History Department, Miller Center for Advanced Study, George A. Miller Research Center for Advanced Study, Francis P. Taylor History and Art Center, College of Fine & Applied Arts

2021

Thursday, February 4, 5:30 p.m., Online
Amy Kraehe
TBD
Sponsored by School of Art + Design, History Department, Miller Center for Advanced Study, George A. Miller Research Center for Advanced Study, Francis P. Taylor History and Art Center, College of Fine & Applied Arts

Thursday, March 4, 12:30 p.m., Online
Clare Brass
Designing for a Circular Food World
Sponsored by School of Art + Design, History Department, Miller Center for Advanced Study, George A. Miller Research Center for Advanced Study, Francis P. Taylor History and Art Center, College of Fine & Applied Arts

TBD (March 2021)
Ricardo Busbaum
From Would you like to participate in an artistic experience? to the collective-conversations: some comments on collaborative projects
Sponsored by School of Art + Design, History Department, Miller Center for Advanced Study, George A. Miller Research Center for Advanced Study, Francis P. Taylor History and Art Center, College of Fine & Applied Arts

Thursday, April 15, 5:30 p.m., Online
Jonathan Jackson
TBD
Sponsored by School of Art + Design, History Department, Miller Center for Advanced Study, George A. Miller Research Center for Advanced Study, Francis P. Taylor History and Art Center, College of Fine & Applied Arts

ILLINOIS
Art + Design
COLLEGE OF FINE & APPLIED ARTS

VISITORS SERIES
The School of Art + Design Visitors Series is designed to give students access to a more immediate network of artists, designers and scholars more closely affiliated with the region or personally/professionally connected to the faculty and staff. Funding for the Visitors Series is provided by the School of Art + Design Visitors Committee.

ED ZAGORSKI VISITORS SERIES
The Ed Zagorski Visitors Series was established by a group of alumni who were mentored by Ed Zagorski, professor emeritus of Industrial Design. The intent of the fund, by Ed's design, is to bring national and internationally known artists, designers, and critics to campus to interact and share their knowledge and experience with all students within the College of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Visit the link below to view at full size:
<https://files.webservices.illinois.edu/9430/cas.png>

For more information:
<http://cas.illinois.edu/arts-time-pandemic>

Visit the link below to view at full size:
<https://files.webservices.illinois.edu/9431/visitorsseries.png>

For more information:
<https://art.illinois.edu/index.php/news/652-watch-the-2020-2021-art-design-visitors-series>

Student Accomplishments

A+D STUDENT AWARDS



View the 2020 Awards program here:

<https://art.illinois.edu/index.php/people/awards>

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN PROGRAM STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. **Curtis Circelli** (Senior ID) was awarded the **Lois Marie Orr Scholarship** for merits in design and elected President of IDSA here at the University of Illinois Chapter
2. **Anya Chen, Noa Villalobos, Kareen Yeung, Annika Sornson** (Sophomore ID) were the finalist of **The White Space Product Development Challenge 2019**, for an App design to help students and restaurants make managing food allergies easier for both parties
3. **Hanyu Zhu** (MFA ID) won the **Red Dot Concept Award 2019** for project “Chenqi”
4. **Hengbo Zhang** (MFA ID) won the following awards:
 - **European Product Design Award 2020** for project “Libra”
 - **A'Design Award & Competition 2019** for project Breaspin Air Freshner. Winner in Home Appliance Design Category
 - **IF Design Talent Award 2019** for project Ayama – Meditation Device
 - **IDA Design Award 2019** for project Adamas – Gold Award
 - **IDesign Award 2020** featured finalist for Ayama – Meditation Device



2020 WINNER
**EUROPEAN
PRODUCT
DESIGN
AWARD**



if DESIGN
TALENT AWARD
2019

IDA
DESIGN
AWARDS
GOLD
WINNER
2019





ID SENIORS RECEIVE SECOND PLACE AT THE WHITE SPACE PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

During the spring 2020 semester, Industrial Design seniors Cheyenne Lam and Pragya Maheshwari competed in the White Space Product Development Challenge hosted by Northwestern University and the Product Development and Management Association.

The students noted: “We took on the challenge of redesigning an essential item of clothing that hasn’t been thought about for decades—the bra. We took a deep dive into why the bra, often overlooked, is not a successful solution for all women. Inspired by OXO’s case study, we designed our concept keeping extreme users at the core of our design choices. It was truly a fantastic learning experience that gave us experience putting product design methodologies and patent research into use.”

The White Space Product Development Challenge is a midwestern interuniversity competition created to strengthen students’ knowledge of design methodologies in product development and provide opportunities to interact with companies and industry professionals. The competition promotes research and product development that identifies a real-world problem to solve.

FRESH PRESS REBRANDING WINS AWARD

Fresh Press Art Director Eric Benson with designer Natalie Smith received a 2019 American Graphic Design award for the rebranding of Fresh Press. <http://contests.gdusa.com/gdusa-contest-winner?cc=agda19&ids=0/1531&iy=&im=>.

RECOGNITION

Professor Deana McDonagh and other UI Faculty Receive NSF Grant

(Co-PI) McDonagh, (PI) Elizabeth Hsiao-Wecksler, and (Co-PI) William Norris received a grant from the National Science Foundation: National Robotics Initiative for their 4-year project entitled “MiaPURE (Modular, Interactive and Adaptive Personalised Unique Rolling Experience).” The amount awarded is \$1,499,539.

This project will establish a modular, interactive, and adaptive collaborative robot to provide a personalized unique rolling experience for each user, which we call MiaPURE. This embodiment creates an ideal ubiquitous collaborative human-robot relationship that seamlessly integrates this co-robot into the user’s everyday life.

Empathic design research is at the heart of this project especially as we are working closely with the Disability Resources and Educational Services (Pat Malik and Jeannette Elliott, and the USA Paralympic track team (Coach Adam Bleakney)).



URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SATELLITE REEF

The School of Art and Design invites students, alumni, community members, and friends of the university to participate in creating a crochet coral reef. This September, we launched the project with an online artist talk by Margaret Wertheim, co-creator of the Crochet Coral Reef. A recording of this talk is available on our project website. We invite participation in this project through watching tutorials and creating a crochet piece for the coral reef. The installation will be an accumulation of all the individual pieces created by participants and displayed at the new Seibel Center for Design in April 2021. Individuals who wish to participate should add a label to their pieces with name and contact information. All participants will be recognized in the display of

the work. If you prefer not to have your name publicly noted, please let us know. The length of the exhibit has not yet been determined, but we would like to return all submissions at the end of the exhibition. Send your finished labeled pieces to UIUC Art & Design Crochet Coral Reef, 408 E Peabody Dr, Champaign, IL 61820. We hope you will consider being a part of our *Urbana-Champaign Satellite Reef*.

Project website: [https://
uiucsatellitecrochetcoralreef.wordpress.com/](https://uiucsatellitecrochetcoralreef.wordpress.com/)

In Memoriam

DAVID HOWARD ATTEBURY

PEARL RIVER, N.Y. — David Howard Attebury, artist, died Tuesday (April 7, 2020) at Friedwald Nursing Home, New City, N.Y.

Born in East St. Louis on March 2, 1923, David attended Southern Illinois State University and was a member of the Kappa Delta fraternity.

After serving in the U.S. Army in New Guinea, the Philippines and Japan, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in advertising design from the University of Illinois. In 1949, he married his college sweetheart, Martha Gruba, a professional singer in New York City, formerly from Peoria. Subsequently, they moved to New York City, where they pursued their individual careers.

David started as an illustrator for *True Detective* magazine, then worked for J.C. Penney and Gimbels while attending Cartoonists and Illustrators School at night on a scholarship. In 1953, after the birth of their daughter, Ellen, the couple relocated to Pearl River. In 1955, they welcomed their second daughter, Diane, now a resident in Rosendale, N.Y.

David continued to expand his career, holding positions with prestigious advertising agencies including McFadden Publications, CW Hoyt, Compton Advertising, Dancer Fitzgerald Sample and Saatchi and Saatchi in positions as head illustrator (“sketch man”) until he retired in 1990.

His illustrations and cartoons appeared in full page advertisements in the New York Times, the New Yorker, Time magazine, Life magazine and many like prestigious publications. David excelled in portraits, exhibiting in the Wally Findlay Gallery and Salmagundi Club. His portrait of John F. Kennedy was also shown at the Greenbrier Country Club in North Carolina and other galleries.

David is survived by his wife, Martha of Pearl River, and two daughters, Ellen and Diane. Ellen worked for 20 years at the Department of Social Services in Pomona, N.Y.; Diane is an artist, graphic designer and adjunct professor at the State University of New York at New Paltz. David is also survived by his sister, Ellen Jane McDowell of Champaign; his brother, Col. John C. Attebury, Lusby, Md.; many nieces and nephews; and his late brother, Fred G. Attebury, in spirit.

Donations in David’s memory may be sent to NAMI-FAMILYA, Rockland County Mental Health Organization, 140 Old Orangeburg Road, 57-1-C102, Orangeburg, NY 10962.

A memorial Mass and celebration of David’s life will be announced at a later date.

ROBERT ERNST MARX

Robert Ernst Marx passed away on September 21. Robert received his BFA in Painting in 1951 and MFA in 1953. A link to a nice interview may be found here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qa_nMFWcYfo, and his biography may be found here: <https://www.roberternstmarx.com/biography>.

Alumni Spotlight
Hussain Almossawi
Graphic Design, BFA 2010



Tell us about yourself—where are you from, prior teaching or professional experience, education, etc

I am a CGI Artist and Product Designer. I am from a tiny island called Bahrain and currently running my own studios, Mossawi Studios, based in Brooklyn, NY. I hold a bachelor's degree in Graphic Design and master's in Industrial Design and have taught design at the University of Alberta in Canada, as well as The New School (Parsons) in New York. Since I graduated from Illinois, I have worked with some amazing companies such as Nike, EA Sports, Ogilvy, and lately, I was a Senior Designer with Adidas. I enjoy all things design and am not a big fan of sticking to one label or wearing one hat, but I like to blur the lines between different disciplines I'm passionate about within design, such as Industrial Design and CGI/VFX.

What brought you here? What attracted you to design/art history/new media (etc.)

I was always in love with design, so it was the natural choice. I wasn't very aware of the different areas of study when I first joined, so I went with Graphic Design, which I no longer label myself with, but it was what kickstarted everything for me in the world of design. Growing up, I would work on Desktop Wallpapers for NBA players and put them on a website I had called SLAM3, where people would download them for free. That passion naturally grew with me, until I did Web Design, then moved on to Industrial Design and found myself in the world of 3D/CGI and Animation.

Continued...

Where are you now, and what are you doing?

I run my own studio since September 2019 and work with amazing clients in the footwear, tech, and automotive industries.

Best memory of your time at UIUC?

CRCE and the Arc, indoor soccer on the weekends was something I would never miss.

Proudest accomplishments? (Professional and/or personal?)

Working with brands like Nike and Adidas was my lifetime goal and dream, and I'm glad I was able to achieve that. I designed the nCycle in 2014 which has since been traveling around the world from one museum to another and been featured countless times. I also am proud of having worked on

projects for super star athletes like James Harden, LeBron James, Kevin Durant, Kobe Bryant, Kyrie Irving, and many more.

Upcoming or current projects that you'd like people to know about?

There are some exciting things in the pipeline, as my studio will also be producing a line of different products and launching a couple of brands in the coming few years. Check out our latest at www.mossawistudios.com, always happy to chat and get to know new talent.

Advice for those about to graduate.

Stay humble and hungry; it's ok to fail. I got rejected many times, but if you have a dream you should stick with it, go after it and make your dreams come true!



Alumni Spotlight
Jordana Moore Saggese
PhD, Art History 2008

I am originally from Nashville, Tennessee, and attended Vanderbilt University for my undergraduate degree. Although I had never been inside an art museum before my time as an undergraduate, the faculty there encouraged me and asked me to think deeply about the stakes of representation and introduced me to a range of objects across multiple continents and chronologies. With their encouragement, I decided to declare a major in art history and apply for graduate school my senior year. This meant that I had to take the two-semester survey course as a senior, which fundamentally shifted the way I think about teaching those courses.

I can still remember my shock, sitting in a huge lecture hall, listening to someone drone on about a mostly white, male, heterosexist art history. I was wholly unprepared to memorize a seemingly endless stream of images. I finished the courses but this was not the art history that I was used to. That experience, of coming in almost backwards to the discipline highlighted two main issues that still impact my teaching and research today.

First, how can we give students the very best introduction to the discipline—one that reflects the deep inquiry and the collaboration that was so intrinsic to my experience in the upper-division courses? And second, whose art history are we teaching? That is, to what extent has a colonialist logic pervaded much of modern art history and what can I do—in my teaching and research—to undo that logic? I have been acutely aware of the ways in which art history has tended to exclude diverse perspectives and histories and much of my own work involves complicating those dominant narratives.

When I came to UIUC I had the opportunity to further expand my understanding of “American Art” which is my area of specialization. In seminars I studied not only with an incredible faculty (including Rachel DeLue, Jonathan Fineberg, and Jordana Mendelson) but also had the chance to interact with visiting artists like Carrie Mae Weems, William Pope.L, and Ralph Lemon and visiting scholars like Robert Farris Thompson and Okwui Enwezor—all people who were thinking, like me, about the politics of Blackness.

I teach now at the University of Maryland College Park, where I am an Associate Professor of

American Art. My scholarship and my teaching focuses on representations and theorizations of Blackness within the American frame. My research at UIUC centered on the American artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, arguably one of the most famous artists of the late twentieth century, but someone who fell out of the critical discourse due to the implicit, racist biases of art history. I published my first book (based on my dissertation) on his work, *Reading Basquiat: Exploring Ambivalence in American Art* in 2014. My second book, *The Jean-Michel Basquiat Reader: Writings, Interviews, and Critical Responses* will be published in February. It is the first comprehensive collection of the words and works of this artist, who by the way is the highest selling American artist of all time.

My current book project *Game On: Boxing, Race, and Masculinity 1810–1910* maps the visual terrain of racist ideology in the United States, paying particular attention to the intersecting discourses of blackness, masculinity, and sport. Through a close comparison of twentieth-century representations of black male athletes in the popular press, on television, and in modern and contemporary art, this project asks: How do images of athletes help to produce racist and gendered stereotypes of the black male body and simultaneously to shore up the ideology of whiteness? *Game On* uniquely brings together a unique social history of the white middle class in the nineteenth century, combining a history of boxing in the United States with a visual history of images and objects from this period to produce an analysis of the racist and gendered stereotypes these representations produce. This book shows how images of black male athletes play a key role in building, modifying, and even naturalizing constructs of race and gender for twentieth- and twenty-first-century audiences. I am also Editor-in-Chief of the College Art Association’s *Art Journal*.

I have always loved art history because it was a discipline that required me to study across a variety of fields. In my work I draw upon philosophy, history, musicology, sports, literature, and even popular culture studies. Being at UIUC allowed for me to draw upon not only the strengths of my individual department but to study across campus. I found a rich network of mentors and colleagues. I even found my husband on the other side of Green Street.

Alumni and Student Accomplishments

John Bach

(BFA Graphic Design 1987). Senior Creative Director, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston



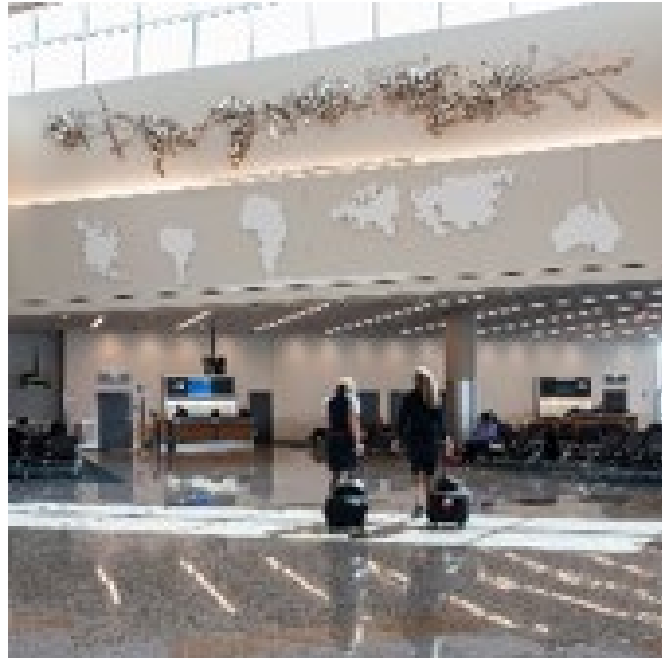
Kyle Bauer

(BFA Sculpture 2007). Along with artists Brian Dunn and Patrick Harkin, exhibited at the PULSE Art Fair, Miami Beach, FL on December 3-8, 2019. Material Tension is a presentation of three artists who explore material and medium utilizing humor and a high level of craft.

<https://www.kylejbauer.com/resume>

Thomas Byerly

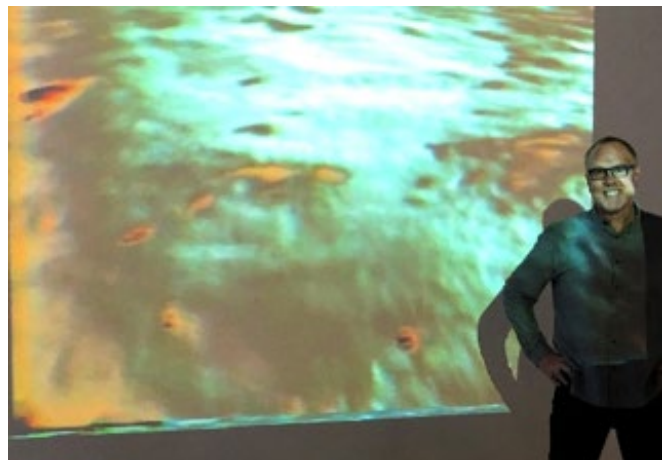
(MFA Graphic Design 1987). Creative Lead, JPMorgan Chase, Columbus, Ohio.



Kevin Cole

(MA Art Education 1983). Commission for Hartsfield Jackson International Airport.

artistkcole.com



Clark Dodsworth

(BFA Graphic Design 1974). Video art piece, "Cetacean" presented at Ars Electronica 2019, Linz, Austria. Osage.ai.



Michael P. Eckert

(BFA Industrial Design 1984). Eckert created DP medproducts and creator of a custom-built face shield, called the DP Defender, which is made of lightweight recyclable materials designed for complete protection against spray, splatter, droplets, dust, oil, and smoke that is suitable to wear in any environment.

<https://www.dp-medproducts.com>



Kendall Hill

(BFA New Media 2019). Invited to create a custom flag for the Chicago gallery, Chicago Manual of Style, based on his thoughts of what “flag” means to him. The flag is a collage made of old Jet Magazine covers. His flag is on view now at Chicago Manual Style, 1927 W Superior, Chicago (from the outside only, of course). It also traveled to Belgium over the summer at Netwerk Aalst, Kunsthal Gent, Be-Part, AAIR, Cultuurcentrum Strombeek Grimbergen, KIOSK Gallery, La Loge, CIAP_kunstverein.

<https://www.kendall-hill.com/>



Ron Laboray

(BFA Painting 1996).

“Topographical view near the original Ferris wheel, Green Arrow and the first Lone Ranger watch the colors of the most recent triple crown winner run.” Auto enamel on high density urethane routed by CNC. Dimensions: 30 x 24 x 2 2019.

www.ronlaboray.com

Patricia León Quecán

(MA Art Education 2020). Awarded the Dr. Ruth Nicole Brown Coalition Award from the Women’s Resources Center as part of its Strive Awards. In honor of Womxn’s History Month 2020, the Women’s Resources Center launched the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign’s inaugural Strive Awards. The Strive Awards are a celebration of the gender equity work and activism being done by students, faculty, and staff on the Illinois campus. Learn more about the awards. <https://oir.illinois.edu/womens-center/womxns-history-month/strive-awards>

Alumni and Student Accomplishments Continued

Veronica Pham

(BFA Painting 2015). Recently in the news at http://www.smilepolitely.com/arts/artist_veronica_pham_strives_to_maintain_a_sustainable_practice_and_lifesty/; <https://veronicapham.com/>



Chitra Ramanathan

(BFA Painting 1993, MBA Human Resources & Art Museum Administration 1997). Recently recruited as Painting faculty at the Quinlan Art Center, Gainesville, GA (Atlanta area) from January 2020. <https://www.chitrafineart.com/>

Julie Rodrigues Widholm

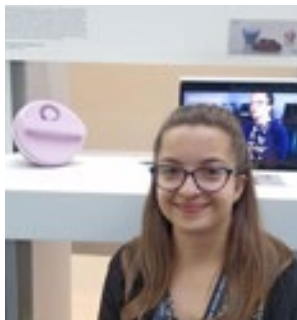
(BA Art History 1997). In addition to being named the 2020 Art + Design Convocation speaker, she was recently honored as a Chicago Tribune Chicagoan of the Year. She is currently the director and chief curator at the DePaul Art Museum. <https://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/museums/ct-ent-coty-julie-rodrigues-widholm-depaul-museums-1229-20191224-2atvzrfvevaxzmjxccztdnfvzm-story.html>
<https://resources.depaul.edu/art-museum/Pages/default.aspx>

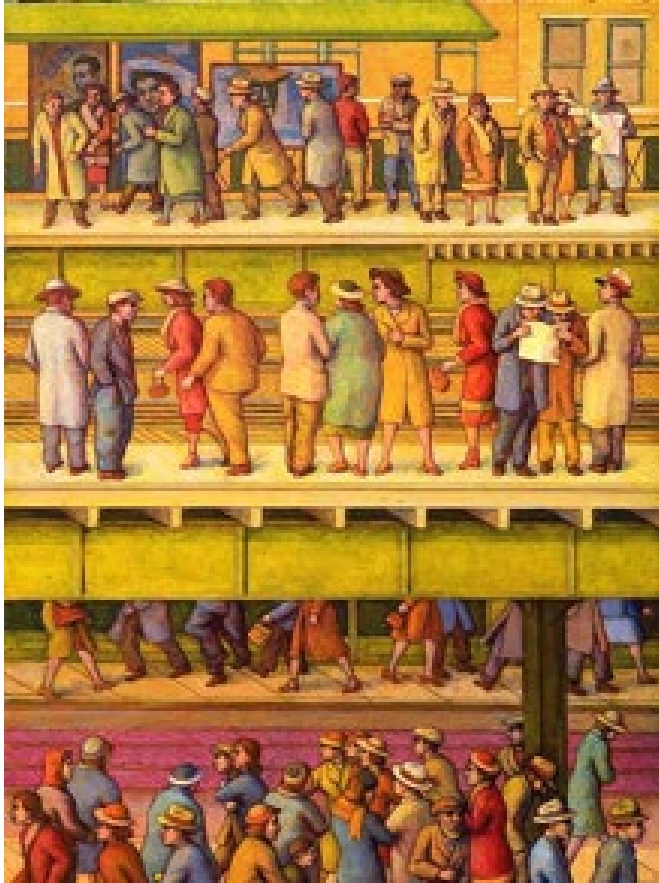
Adele Rehkemper

Adele Rehkemper's senior project, Vask, was selected by Global Grad Show 2019 and exhibited at the Dubai Design Center in November 2019 during Dubai Design Week.

Allen Samuels

(BFA Industrial Design 1988). 50 years in practice as an Industrial Designer, 34 years professor of art and design, University of Michigan, retired in 2008, continued nonprofit design work dealing with poverty, disasters, the elderly and the disabled. art-design.umich.edu/people/detail/allen_samuels





Leopold Segedin

(BFA 1948, MFA 1950, Painting). Segedin was the School of Art + Design's first Alumni Exhibition Artist in 2019. Available now, a 500-piece, 18 x 24 inch jigsaw puzzle of Rush Hour is the first one ever made of a Leopold Segedin painting. Constructed of high-quality cardboard, this puzzle can provide hours of entertainment while you explore the exquisite details of this fascinating urban painting.

<http://www.leopoldsegedin.com/>

Andrea Slusarski

(BFA Art Education 2011). Assistant Professor, Art Education, Rocky Mountain College of Art & Design.

andrea-slusarski-art.com

Albert Stabler

(PhD Art Education 2018). Recently hired as an Assistant Professor of Art Education at Illinois State University. He also published "Race and 'Disability Passing' in a Chicago Public School Classroom" in the International Journal of Art & Design Education, 38(4).

Zach Tucker

(MFA Graphic Design 2019). Assistant Professor of Communication Design in the Department of Art at Miami University, zackwtucker@icloud.com

Vivian Zapata

(BFA Painting & Sculpture 2008). Recently featured in Latino Art Beat's 3rd informational video.

<https://youtu.be/sIXIvM5nsZE>

<http://vivianzapata.com/>

Selina Chang-Yi Zawacki

(BFA New Media 2013). Software engineer on the Research Application Development Team at the John Paul Getty Museum. To help make the museum's art collective accessible during COVID-19, she co-developed an interface that allows players of the popular "Animal Crossing" game to virtually access works of art in the Getty's collection. Zawacki was interviewed by Time Magazine as part of an article that featured the project this June.

Xinyu Zhang

(Senior in Industrial Design). Received a Taiwan International Student Design Competition award for her work Bove, a wearable device to promote a shared pregnancy experience. The work was developed in the senior studio (spring 2019) with Professor Suresh Sethi.

New Faces

NEW FACULTY

Molly Catherine Briggs, Assistant Professor in Graphic Design, is a design theorist, landscape scholar, and studio practitioner whose research bridges scholarship and creative practice. She teaches design theory, methods, and history with an emphasis on reading, representing, and reimagining the shape of built space. She holds an MFA in Art Theory and Practice from Northwestern University and a PhD in Landscape Architecture History and Theory from Illinois. She has been represented by Zg Gallery in Chicago since 2004. Dr. Briggs teaches the MFA Design Laboratory.

NEW SPECIALIZED FACULTY

Guido E. Alvarez is a New Media Arts and Design Educator whose work revolves around the notion of a hybridreality procured by electronic technology. His artistic work is the result of an interdisciplinary approach between traditional art practices and new media technology. His professional teaching focus is in on the implementation of progressive education within the liberal arts education with an emphasis in media studies and creative development. Dr. Alvarez teaches Graphic Design Toolbox and Design Methods.

Noël Anderson, Lecturer, is a New York/New Orleans-based motion designer and educator, focused on branded content, video art, mixed media installation, and motion theory. She has an MFA in Motion Media from Savannah College of Art and Design, and extensive experience in fine art, arts education and design. Noël teaches Design Thinking, Typographic Practice, and Graphic Design Practicum. Her research areas of

interest include studying the pregnant moment, experimental split screen, design support for New Orleans based nonprofit organizations that support the local black community.

Jess Fügler is an American designer whose work explores ideas of narrative, process, and value in domestic objects. Weaving together craft and industrial processes, Jess' designs possess a poetic playfulness that derive from her hands-on approach to making alongside inspiration from past and current cultures. Internationally trained, Jess holds a MA in Design Products from the Royal College of Art in London, with a Bachelor of Industrial Design from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, alongside additional studies in the Gestaltung program at Bauhaus Universität in Weimar, Germany.

Jess lives and works in New York as Design Director for Matter Made and Co-Founder of Other Kingdom.

Christopher Robert Jones is an interdisciplinary artist and writer based in Illinois. Their research is centered around the 'failure' or 'malfunctioning' of the body and how those experiences are situated at points of intersection between Queer and Crip discourses. Using sculpture, installation, textual, and performance strategies, their work aims to create ruptures in the layers of cultural/political/historical sediment through which compulsory normativity and compulsory able-bodiedness are disseminated. Christopher received BAs in Art Studio and Technocultural Studies from UC Davis and an MFA from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Sara Kramer has a BA in Fine Arts from Purdue University and an MFA in Studio Art from the University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign. She has taught art to students of all ages, including school-aged campers and university students. In addition to teaching Advanced Drawing at UIUC this semester, Sara is the Drawing, Painting, Photography, and Printmaking Technician at the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University in western New York. Sara works primarily in crochet, quilting, drawing, and soft sculpture.



Miriam Salah. Driven by her training and experience as a graphic designer and a chef, Miriam’s research interests lie at the intersection of design and food. Particularly, she seeks to redress the under-emphasis on creativity among chefs by exploring how design research methods can unlock the potential of culinary imagination and possibilities. During her time in the Graphic Design MFA program at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Miriam has been developing a toolkit and running workshops with and for Hospitality Management students working in food service. Providing students with the necessary design research knowledge, the toolkit and workshops prompt students to engage more critically and holistically about the dining experiences they are creating, to think about food as a medium for communication, and to challenge the status-quo by questioning the norms around food.

Natalie F. Smith received her MFA from the University of Illinois. Before heading back to school, she was a book designer for Duke

University Press. Her cover for *Beautiful Data* was recognized as one of the best examples of design at the 2015 Book, Jacket, and Journal Show, hosted by the Association of American University Presses. Natalie teaches Typographic Practice.

Elliott Stokes (MFA Painting 2020). After studying at Southeastern Louisiana University, he graduated in 2015 with a BA in Studio Art. During this time, he began researching and investigating the detritus of industry in southeastern Louisiana, locating his studio in a former oil distribution warehouse. He then spent time as a continuing graduate student, studying foreign policy and history across Europe. He received his MFA in Painting from UIUC in 2020. He has exhibited nationally, including Wet Paint MFA Biennial and Visions of Venus with Zhou B. Arts Center in Chicago and Constructing the Break at New Orleans Contemporary Arts Center. Elliott teaches Observational Drawing.

New Faces Continued

NEW STAFF

Jenell Hardy joined the school as Assistant Director, Business Services in April 2020. Jenell comes to us from the Office of Audit and Compliance as Senior Coordinator.

She provides leadership for the business office that provides business, human resources, payroll, and research support and manages the business office staff to provide a high level of customer service, teamwork, efficiency, and effectiveness.

She will also act as the primary liaison for the school to units within the Office of Business and Financial Services, Internal Audits, the Office of Sponsored Programs, and Grants and Contracts.

FACULTY PROMOTION

Deke Weaver, Studio Arts, has been promoted to full professor.



FACULTY RETIREMENT

William Bullock retired from the School of Art & Design on June 1, 2020. William joined the school in 2000 as Professor and for many years has served as Chair of the Industrial Design Program and Director of the Product Interaction Research Laboratory (PIRL).

Throughout his career he has been an active member in the Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA), and in 1992 he was elected to the IDSA Academy of Fellows (FIDSA). In 2015 William was selected by the IDSA membership as one of 50 Notable IDSA Members from the past 50 years.

We thank William for his many contributions to the school and the Industrial Design program.

Faculty & Staff Accomplishments

Conrad Bakker has been awarded a \$15,000 Artists Fellowship Award from the Illinois Arts Council Agency (IACA). The 2020 Artist Fellowship Program “recognizes exceptional artists who have created a substantial body of work throughout their career by providing awards to support continued artistic growth.” <https://arts.illinois.gov/news/iaca-announces-2020-artist-fellowship-award-recipients>

Eric Benson. “I am a Climate Designer: Creating in the Climate Crisis,” University of Florida Visiting Artist Lecture Series, Gainesville, FL (February 25, 2020).

Molly Catherine Briggs, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design and co-representative of the new MFA in Design for Responsible Innovation, presented her paper “Panorama of London: Virtuality and Presence in Nineteenth-Century Spectacle Culture” at the annual conference of the International Panorama Council at the Atlanta History Center in Atlanta, Georgia, in September 2019.

Anne Burkus-Chasson, “Chen Hongshou’s Laments,” *Journal of Chinese Literature and Culture* 6, no. 1 (April 2019): 96-136.

Rachel Fein-Smolinski was a 2020 Artist in Residence at LATITUDE, Chicago, IL.

Jamie Forde’s recent article, “Broken Flowers: Christian Spolia in a Colonial Mixtec Household” was published in the summer issue of the journal *Colonial Latin American Review* (vol. 29[2]: 195-222).

Ryan Griffis. Ryan was commissioned to produce a number of contributions to

“Mississippi. An Anthropocene River,” a 2-year initiative (2018-2020) led by the Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW) and the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (both in Berlin). These contributions included co-organizing a five-day, mobile seminar on the themes of climate change and settler-indigenous relationships to land in the upper-Midwest; several presentations and lectures at the University of Minnesota and Tulane University; the production of original writing and creative art works.

Ben Grosser’s film ORDER OF MAGNITUDE will be part of Commiserate Chicago, a new media art festival opening this week at the University of Chicago. His work Go Rando is discussed in the new MIT Press book *Critical Code Studies* by Mark Marino. Additional discussions of his artworks appeared in the journals *Social Media + Society* and *APRJA* (A Peer Reviewed Journal About ... Machine Feeling), and the proceedings of the CHI 2020 Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems. Finally, Grosser was quoted in a story by WIRED about the new video-sharing app Byte.

Patrick Hammie “Men of Change: Power. Triumph. Truth.” (Traveling Exhibition) The Smithsonian Institution commissioned me for a portrait of Romare Bearden to include in this ten-city national touring exhibition. This exhibition tells a narrative of America through the profiles of 25 African-American men who are icons in the country’s historical and cultural landscape, including Muhammad Ali, James Baldwin, Ta-Nehisi Coates, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Kendrick Lamar. Each biography is paired with original artwork that accentuates the subjects’ individual legacies and weaves a collective tapestry of black male identity and contribution. Some artists include Nina Chanel Abney, Derrick Adams, Robert Pruitt, Devan Shimoyama, and Hank Willis Thomas. Venues: Smithsonian Institution National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati, OH, August 17-December 1, 2019. Washington State Historical Society, Tacoma, WA, December 21, 2019-March 15, 2020. California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA, (FORTHCOMING).



Faculty & Staff Accomplishments Continued

Laura Hetrick published an article with MA graduate advisee Emma Jebe. Jebe, E. K. & Hetrick, L. J. (2020). Building a Case for Complexity Theory in the Construction of Art Education Curricula, *Visual Arts Research*, 46(2), pp 1-10.

Karin Hodgkin Jones served as juror for the recently announced 2020 Illinois Arts Council Agency awards for works in Interdisciplinary / Computer-based Arts. One of her textile collaborations with Kimberly Kwee was on exhibit at Fenix Art Collective March–May 2020, <https://www.fenixfayettevilleart.com/exhibitions>, 16 W. Center St., Fayetteville, AR.

Steven Hudson. Solo exhibition “Adaptations” at Western Illinois University’s University Art Gallery, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL. Tuesday Oct. 6, 2020–Friday Nov. 13, 2020; Reception: Thursday, Oct. 8, 2020 from 4:30–6:00 pm.

Emmy Lingscheit. Invited artist and lecturer at Arizona State University, Tucson, AZ, and East Carolina University, Greenville, NC.

Jorge Lucero. Co-edited *The Compound Yellow Manual of Prompts, Provocations, Permissions, & Parameters for Everyday Practices* with Laura Shaeffer as part of Compound Yellow’s inclusion in the Hyde Park Art Center’s exhibition *Artists Run Chicago 2.0*.

Ian Meares was recently invited to collaborate on the Engineering Coral Reef Recovery project, a National Science Foundation funded interdisciplinary research project.

Lisa Mercer. Co-facilitating a conversation with Teresa Moses for the 2020 Participatory Design Conference called *Racialized Design: Developing a vocabulary of Shared Intention in Design*.

In 2019 **Guen Montgomery** completed a Vermont Studio Center Residency and exhibited work in a two-person show at *Unrequited Leisure* in Nashville, TN. Guen has a two-person show this September at the Center for Visual Arts in Wausau, WI, and is a featured artist in *Threads Laid Bare*, curated by Emily Newman at Drake University, opening August 27.

David O’Brien. Published “Peinture murale et atelier du peintre” in the exhibition catalogue *Dans l’atelier: la création à l’oeuvre*, published by the Louvre and held at the Musée Delacroix in 2019. He also taught at Wuhan Technological University during the summer of 2019. He is currently the President of the UIUC Chapter of the Association of American University Professors and the book reviews editor for *Nineteenth-Century Art Worldwide*.

Erin Reitz advanced the manuscript of her current book project on the image-making of the Black Panthers.

Kristin Romberg contributed to the exhibition and exhibition catalogue for *Engineer, Agitator, Constructor: The Artist Reinvented* at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (2020).

Lisa Rosenthal, Associate Professor of Art History, was an invited speaker in November at a public symposium at the Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University held in conjunction with the exhibition “Through a Glass Darkly: Allegory and Faith in Netherlandish Prints.” Her lecture on images depicting the story of the tower of Babel from the Old Testament Book of Genesis, analyzed the emergence around 1600 of a new interpretation of the story’s account of linguistic (and cultural) differences not as divine punishment for human pride, but as the foundation for productive invention and exchange in the realms of human knowledge, commerce, and the arts.

Stan Ruecker. In June 2020, Stan Ruecker co-taught a two-day workshop called *Design and the Digital Humanities* for a group of professors and graduate students across the US and Canada. His co-authored book with the same title will be published by Intellect Press in 2021.

Suresh Sethi had an article published “The Role of Narratives in Visualizing Product Form” In: Fukuda, S. (eds.), *Advances in Affective and Pleasurable Design*, AHFE 2019. *Advances in Intelligent Systems and Computing*, vol 952. Springer, pp. 289–299. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-20441-9_31. He received an award for Excellence in PhD Research for the year 2017–2019 for outstanding research contributions for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay.

Cliff Shin was selected as a jury member for 2020 Asia Design award. https://asiadesignprize.com/index.php?mid=jury&ckattempt=1&document_srl=72017

Billie Theide delivered a keynote address at the “Wuhan International Symposium on Gems and Jewelry” at the Gemological Institute of the China University of Geosciences, November 2-3, 2019, in Wuhan, Hubei, China.

Sarah Travis published an article in the *Journal of Cultural Research in Art Education*.

Oscar E. Vázquez was awarded an Ailsa Mellon Bruce Senior Fellowship for the 2020–2021 academic year at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery, Washington, DC.

Chiara Vincenzi. 2020–21 Levenick iSEE Teaching Sustainability Fellow, named by the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment at UIUC. The Levenick funding will be used for the developing of the ARTS 321: Sustainable Fashion Development & Branding course. The course will provide the tools to make conscious and ethical choices during the development of a sustainable fashion collection, from design to production and promotion. The ARTS 321 Sustainable Fashion Development & Branding course will be taught in spring 2021. <https://sustainability.illinois.edu/about/partnerships/levenick-isee-fellows-program/>

Deke Weaver presented TIGER, the 5th performance from The Unreliable Bestiary series, in living rooms, barns, garages, museums, school auditoriums, and theaters—from Bemidji to New Orleans to NYC. Collaborators included Melissa Pokorny and Susan Becker.

Terri Weissman's book *Global Photography: A Critical History* (co-authored with Erina Duganne and Heather Diack) was published by Routledge in July 2020.

Guanyu Xu. Solo Exhibition, *Temporarily Censored Home*, Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, NY.

Staying Connected *Brenda Nardi*



Brenda Nardi, Senior Director of Advancement, Visual Arts, College of Fine and Applied Arts

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES

Who knew, when we shared all of the positive news last fall about the uptick in enrollment and all of the progressive curriculum modifications the School of Art + Design was implementing in the fall of 2019, that seven months later, life as we know it would be altered in such dramatic fashion?

The 2019 freshman class came in strong. Along with the rest of the undergrad and grad students, they had a successful and gratifying first semester. Second semester started off the same way with all the seniors putting finishing touches on their portfolios and, along with the grad students, were thinking about the exhibition of their work at Krannert Art Museum at the end of semester. Plans were being made by the freshman class to “takeover” the A+D building as they prepared for “TAKEOVER II: First Year Exhibition Opening + Reception.” This was their opportunity to proudly display their work in every available inch of space in A+D and to celebrate a successful and productive freshman year.

Career Fairs took place, internships were lined up, job offers made and accepted, and then...COVID-19.

- Students left for spring break and were not able to return to campus except to retrieve their things.
- Faculty pivoted to remote learning and delivered content and support as effectively as possible.
- Students made the necessary adjustments and the semester eventually came to an end, remotely.
- Convocation was via Zoom and the senior class photo is a composite of photos submitted from afar.

Did we love it? No. Was it ideal? No. Did we kill it? Yes!

We pride ourselves on being able to solve problems creatively. That is what we do! Deserving students still received their scholarships and awards. The MFA and BFA exhibitions happened virtually. Our convocation speaker, Alumna Julie Rodrigues Widholm (BA Art History 1997), delivered her message virtually, and we saw a series of the most creative walks “across the stage” that you can imagine, complete with the moving of the tassel when all was said and done. All of this done with creative brilliance, because that is what students and alumni in the School of Art + Design are capable of. Under the guidance of the creatively talented faculty with

whom they have the pleasure to work, and all the perseverance everyone could muster, the semester came to a successful close.

The downside involved the disappointment in the loss of “normalcy” and of the camaraderie that being together on campus brings. This was followed by canceled job offers, internships put on hold, and overall uncertainty. It will undoubtedly change the trajectory of some students’ lives and careers.

LOOKING AHEAD

As alumni of the School of Art + Design, you, no doubt, experienced your own series of ups and downs while on campus. In a perfect world, each experience made you stronger, more savvy, and ready for the next challenge. This challenge, a global pandemic, a politically polarizing, all-consuming, life-changing crisis...is a CHALLENGE. The world is further from perfect than it has been in a very long time. It will take true grit and steadfast commitment on the part of our students, faculty, and administration to survive it and come out intact.

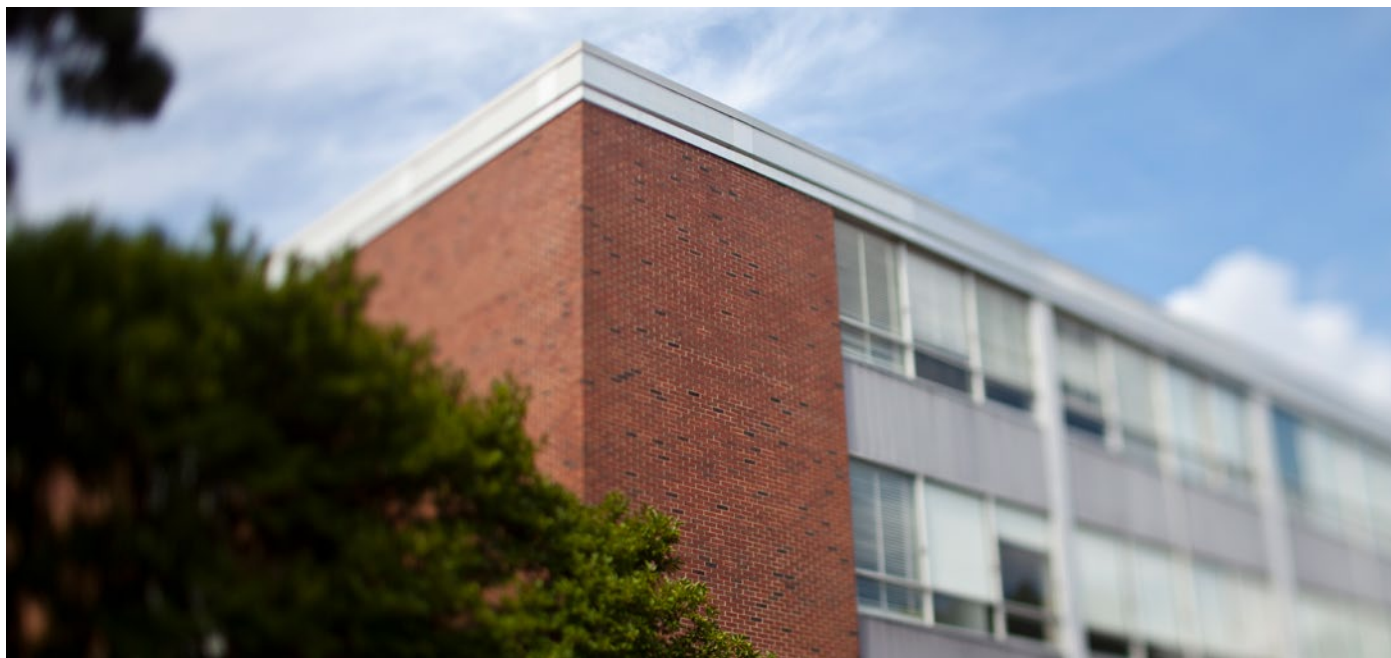
It will also require new levels of support from those of us who experienced a fully developed, “normal” higher education experience that led us to the places we are now. This is my focus.

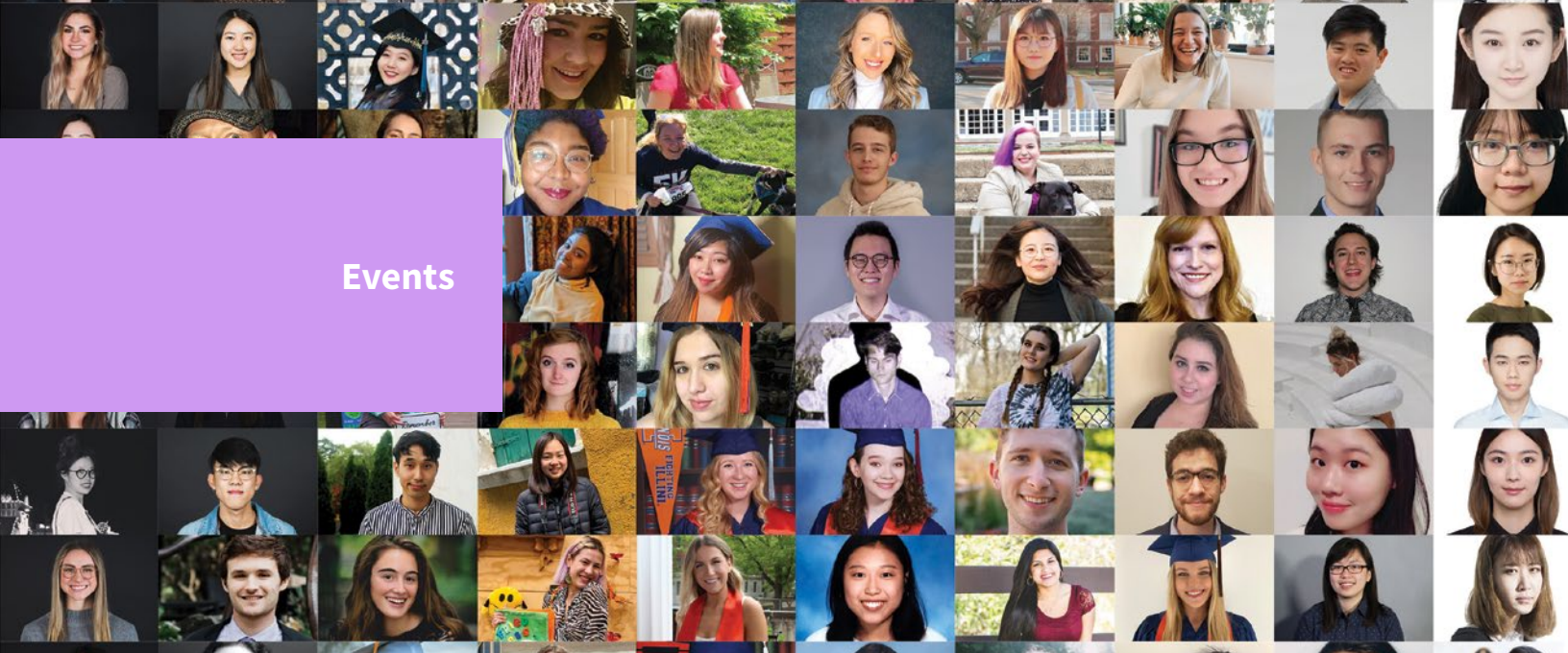
While my primary responsibility is to secure monetary resources to support the school, I urge you to consider not only monetary support, but also other ways to connect with us. You may wish to become an advocate, a mentor, or simply a well-informed ambassador. Communication is the key to any productive relationship, and I invite you to join the conversation.

I will continue to reach out to you individually to explore all the possibilities. We’ve recently started a series of Zoom events by region, which have proven to be very successful. We share campus updates of interest to our alumni and in turn gain perspective from your experiences and work in the field.

If you don’t hear from me soon, please reach out. I look forward to the conversations, the opportunity to make connections and to keep you, or get you, reconnected to the School of Art + Design.

We learn and gain so much from our interactions with you. YOU make US stronger.





Events

Thursday, February 4, 2021

5:30 pm, online

Visitors Series: Amy Kraehe

Thursday, March 4, 2021

12:30 pm, online

Visitors Series: Clare Brass,
“Designing for a Circular Food World”

March 2021

Visitors Series: Ricardo Busbaum

Saturday, April 3, 2021

MFA Exhibition Opening

Thursday, April 15, 2021

5:30 pm online

Visitors Series: Jonathan Jackson,
“Artist Talk”

Friday, May 7, 2021

Art + Design Awards Ceremony

Saturday, May 8, 2021

BFA Exhibition Opening

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Tentative date for the School of Art + Design
Convocation Ceremony

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art.illinois.edu

CALENDAR

<http://illinois.edu/calendar/list/1447>

ALUMNI KEEP IN TOUCH

go.illinois.edu/ARTalumni

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