



1.23.24

Dear Faculty,

I hope the first week of classes has been very good for all of you. I wanted to share the recording of the [Faculty Development Session](#) with Sara Wernick Schonwald and Tyrai Bronson from Listen to Lead on hosting difficult conversations in the classroom.

I wish you all a wonderful and productive spring semester and I look forward to seeing you in the halls.

As always, I invite you to schedule a time for us to connect and talk [here](#) or via email.

Kindly,  
Robert

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*All times listed in Central Time*

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**PRIORITY DEADLINES**

## Class Attendance Verification Forms Due Friday, January 26

This is an additional reminder that Class Attendance Verification Forms are due on Friday, January 26. Please fill out one form for each section you are teaching. These forms are not optional. Information should reflect attendance as of the first class meeting, and you should file these forms ASAP after your first class meeting with the attendance information from that session. These forms are important for Records to verify registrations and follow up promptly on any enrollment discrepancies. You can find the form on [myMCAD](#) on the Faculty Info tab. Please email Records ([records@mcad.edu](mailto:records@mcad.edu)) if you have any questions or issues.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

### MPCC Student Success Forum Hold the Date

The Minnesota Private College Council is again hosting its free Student Success Forum. The focus this year is on supporting neurodivergent students; the forum will be held in person at the University of St. Thomas on May 6th from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. All faculty and staff are invited. For more information, contact Jim Howley at [jhowley135@mcad.edu](mailto:jhowley135@mcad.edu).

### [MCAD Faculty & Staff Book Club Selection January 2024](#)

Join us for the discussion on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. (IRL location TBA).

Anyone can join any book club discussion. You do not need to commit to ongoing participation to attend. They typically convene to read the book between 5:30 and 6:30 at someone's home, and people are invited to arrive by 5:00 p.m. to socialize. People are welcome to Zoom into the session if they are not able to join in person.

If you are not already on the list to receive a calendar invite and the location for future discussions and you would be interested in joining our January book discussion please email Academic Affairs ([academic\\_affairs@mcad.edu](mailto:academic_affairs@mcad.edu)).

January's Book is: [About A Field Guide to Getting Lost](#):

Here is a brief description from the New Yorker.

This meditation on the pleasures and terrors of getting lost is—as befits its subject—less a coherent argument than a series of peregrinations, leading the reader to unexpected vistas. The word “lost,” Solnit informs us, derives from the Old Norse for disbanding an army, and she extrapolates from this the idea of striking “a truce with the wide world.” It’s the wideness of the world that entices: a map of this deceptively slender volume would include hermit crabs, who live in scavenged shells; marauding conquistadors; an immigrant grandmother committed to an asylum; white frontier children kidnapped by Indians; and Hitchcock’s “Vertigo.” Solnit imagines a long-distance runner accumulating moments when neither foot is on the ground, “tiny fragments of levitation,” and argues, by analogy, that in relinquishing certainty we approach, if only fleetingly, the divine.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AND KEY DATES

- **Class Attendance Verification Forms Due**
  - Friday, January 26, [myMCAD](#)
- **Faculty Senate Meeting**
  - Tuesday, January 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- **[How to Write an Artist Resume: 2024 Virtual Lunch & Learn Series](#)**
  - Wednesday, January 31, 12:15-12:45 p.m., online ([Register](#) in advance)
- **MCAD Faculty & Staff Book Club Selection January 2024**
  - Wednesday, January 31, 5:00-6:30 p.m., location TBA
- **Faculty Senate Meeting**
  - Tuesday, February 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- **[Film Screening: Ingmar Bergman — Wild Strawberries](#)**
  - Monday, February 5, 6:30-9:00 p.m., Room 140
- **[Film Screening: Akira Kurosawa — Seven Samurai](#)**
  - Monday, February 12, 6:30-9:00 p.m., Room 140
- **Fall Semester 2023 Incomplete Work Due to Faculty**
  - Friday, February 16
- **Faculty Senate Meeting**

- Tuesday, March 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- **Midterm Week**
  - Monday, March 4-Friday, March 8
- **Spring Break**
  - Monday, March 11-Friday, March 15
- **Midterm Grades Due**
  - Tuesday, March 26, 9:00 p.m.
- **Faculty Senate Meeting**
  - Tuesday, April 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- **Faculty Senate Meeting**
  - Tuesday, April 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- **MPCC Student Success Forum**
  - Wednesday, May 6, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., University of Saint Thomas
- [The Auction at MCAD](#)
  - Thursday, May 16, 7:00-9:30 p.m., Main Gallery

### On view:

- [Ramona McKee - Illustrated Storytelling](#)
  - Tuesday, January 16–Tuesday, February 6, MCAD Library
- [2022/23 MCAD–Jerome Fellowship Exhibition](#)
  - Tuesday, January 16–Saturday, March 2, Main Gallery (1st Floor, Main Building, Near North Entrance)
- [Seeing Plants Reception](#)
  - Tuesday, January 16–Saturday, April 13, Concourse Gallery (2nd Floor, Main Building)
- **Exhibition: Jody Williams: Artist, Teacher, Mentor**
  - Tuesday, January 23–Friday, February 23, Suitcase Gallery (4th Floor, Main Building, outside of the Printshop)

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## RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

### [Engagement - Planning the First Weeks](#)

The first week of the semester can bring about an array of emotions for both students and instructors. By intentionally preparing yourself and your students beforehand you can ease those feelings and set everyone up for a successful start. Use this time as an opportunity to learn more about your students and to foster an inclusive classroom community. You should also use this time to communicate specific expectations about the course and to establish your presence. This toolkit will provide practical tips and tricks to use when planning the first week.

### [2025 Jerome Hill Artist Fellowship Application Now Open](#)

Jerome Hill Artist Fellowships support early career Minnesota- and New York City-based generative artists who take creative risks in exploring, expanding, imagining, or re-imagining creative practices and experiences; reclaiming or reviving traditional forms in original ways; and/or questioning, challenging, or disrupting cultural norms.

This Fellowship supports artists working in Dance; Film, Video and Digital Production; Literature; Music; Technology Centered Arts; Theater/Performance/Spoken Word; and Visual Arts, who embrace their roles as part of a larger community of artists and citizens, and consciously work with a sense of service and responsibility. The Foundation embraces and applauds interdisciplinarity and experimentation and supports a wide range of aesthetics, forms, creative practices, artistic lineages, and points of view.

Support is directed to early career artists, which Jerome Foundation defines as within the 2nd–10th year as a generative artist. Fellows receive \$60,000 over three consecutive years (\$20,000 each year) to support time and expenses for the creation of new work, artistic development, and/or professional artistic career development. The Foundation expects to award a total of 45 fellowships across 7 artistic fields.

The application is now open. **The deadline is Monday, April 15 by 4:00 p.m. Central time/5:00 p.m. Eastern time.**

Please read the 2025 [Fellowship guide](#) to learn more about the program, eligibility factors, the application and review process, and resources to support the application process, such as info sessions and appointments with Jerome staff.

### [Spring 2024 College Assembly](#)

If you missed it, you may now view the Spring 2024 College Assembly [online](#).

## Resources from Teaching and Learning Excellence:

- [Connect with Khendum](#): Every Thursday from 1:00-2:00 p.m. on anything related to teaching and learning
- [LxDesign Lab](#): Your hub for everything teaching and learning

## [Resources for Educators and Families to Discuss the Events in Israel and Gaza with Students](#)

### Continuing Education Teaching Opportunities

Interested in additional teaching opportunities? MCAD's Continuing Education program welcomes applications and course proposals for teaching youth and adults, both in person and online, on a range of topics throughout the year. Email [continuing\\_education@mcad.edu](mailto:continuing_education@mcad.edu) for more information.

### Resources from Student Counseling and Wellness Services

The MCAD Student Counseling and Wellness Service provides assistance with the developmental, situational, and adjustment concerns common to many undergraduate and graduate students, as well as with mental health issues students may struggle with. As faculty, you often come into contact with students regularly and thus are in an excellent position to help point students to resources that MCAD provides. Your attention and support as a faculty member will often be enough, but at other times a student may benefit from more specific professional help that is beyond the scope of your role. In these cases, students should be referred to the services provided by the MCAD Counseling and Wellness Staff.

For more information on the [Counseling and Wellness office](#), [referral process](#), mental health [responses](#), and resources, visit the office's [Intranet](#) page in addition to some useful faculty-specific resources.

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## FACULTY ACTIVITIES

### [Alexis Schramel Publishes Article in The International Journal of Lifelong Learning in Art Education](#)

Alexis Schramel has published the article entitled "The Ritual of Therapeutic Artmaking in Long-Term Care" in The International Journal of Lifelong Learning in Art Education Volume 6 (2023). Schramel's research has been part of multi-year art programming in long-term care facilities with former professors Elissa Cox Wenthe and Melinda Heinz both of Upper Iowa University. The transition to long-term care settings can be difficult for residents and feelings of loneliness, depression, and anxiety are not uncommon in these environments. However, participating in therapeutic artmaking rituals creates opportunities for residents to process their feelings, experience states of flow and mindfulness, engage with others, and focus on their psychological growth. In long-term care, the physical needs of residents are often prioritized, but psychosocial needs also require attention. For this project, therapeutic artmaking rituals were created at a long-term care facility in three levels of care over 12 months. Older adults engaged with clay, paint, raw fiber, and wood. Reflections and recommendations for artists interested in creating similar programming are discussed. Suggestions for future research on therapeutic artmaking rituals are also included, such as the consideration of artist-in-residence programs within long-term care settings and assessing how the ritual of engaging in therapeutic artmaking could improve person-centered care and resident and staff dynamics.

### [Jessica Dandona Publishes Chapter in Rethinking the Public Fetus: Historical Perspectives on the Visual Culture of Pregnancy \(2024\)](#)

Dr. Dandona's chapter appeared in the volume Rethinking the Public Fetus: Historical Perspectives on the Visual Culture of Pregnancy, ed. Elisabet Björklund and Solveig Jülich and published by Rochester University Press (January 2024).

### [Sam Gould's New Essay Collection](#)

Sam Gould has released a collection of essays. [America Composes Itself](#) is the title of the book containing their writings throughout the 2010s decade. A recipient of a [2014 McKnight Foundation Visual Arts Fellowship](#) and a 2017 McKnight Foundation Mid-Career grant, Gould's writings examine topics and histories challenging our political, psychological, and physical terrains.

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## ACADEMIC CABINET AND CURRICULUM MEETINGS

## Cabinet 1-11-24

We began with a check-in around the room. We then reflected on Faculty Preparation Week and Faculty Development Day. This included sharing information from department meetings where it was noted that attendance continues to present challenges in many areas and the efforts Chairs are taking to support faculty consistency across the institution. People expressed gratitude for the Listen to Lead Session on difficult conversations in the classroom. We approved the Distinguished Adjunct Faculty policy. River Gordon and Melissa Rands walked through the course planning schedule for the fall 2024 semester. Jim led a discussion focused on our current policy limiting undergraduate students from taking more than six graduate credits in preparation for the proposed 4+1 degree that leads to a BS in Creative Entrepreneurship and an MA in Sustainable Design. We had a discussion focused on implementing the Academic Year Appointments for adjunct faculty. We discussed MCAD's Equity and Inclusion statement and a subset of the group agreed to make suggested edits to be brought back to the committee for further discussion. Finally, there was a reminder to share the Fraternization statement with faculty for input.

## Curriculum 1-17-24

We began with a check-in around the room. We collectively reflected on the loss of our colleague, Diane Ragsdale. Jim Howley led a discussion focused on Institutional Learning Outcomes and approaches for how to assess them. This was a rich conversation that we will revisit at the next Curriculum meeting.

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## For Your Students

### [MPCC Announces Phillips Scholars Program](#)

[Phillips Scholars](#) create and test innovative ideas that address community problems by running their own summer projects. Students come together in their cohort to develop their leadership skills and prepare for their projects. Scholars receive more than \$9000 in scholarships and stipends. More information is found [here](#). Applications are due February 23, 2024.

### [17th Annual MCBA Collegiate Fellowship](#)

The MCBA Collegiate Fellowship facilitates an opportunity for a graduating senior or a second-year graduate student to complete an ambitious project utilizing the [Minnesota Center for Book Arts](#) facility. Eligible students must be proficient in the printmaking, papermaking or bookmaking techniques they wish to employ. Please see the [guidelines](#) for specific details. Applications are due March 20, 2023.

This opportunity includes a \$1000 stipend, an 8-week summer studio residency, tuition for one MCBA class up to \$300, a year-long membership to MCBA, among other benefits.

Any questions can be forwarded to faculty member, Natasha Pestich at [npestich@mcad.edu](mailto:npestich@mcad.edu). There will be an information session held on Monday, February 5 over the noon hour. Specific details about this session will be forthcoming.

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**Have something to contribute?** [Submit content for Faculty Focus](#)

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Find more resources on our [Intranet page](#)

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