



Dear Faculty,

I want to thank faculty advisors for supporting our students during the spring registration period last week. I am also grateful to our IT team who worked behind the scenes to improve our online system prior to registration in order to avoid some of the issues with speed and access that were encountered last year.

A Celebration of Life event for beloved MCAD faculty member, Jody Williams, will be held at the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis on Dec. 9 from 2 - 4 p.m. There will be an exhibition of Jody's work at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts opening on Jody's birthday, January 26, 2024. Finally, MCAD Fine Arts faculty are working on an exhibition of Jody's student work, including alumni, for this coming summer. I will share more details with you as they become available.

The Faculty Senate President, Ben Moren, brought forward to me the Senate's interest in having MCAD invite individuals with expertise on the Middle East for a 1:00 p.m. talk. I have been in communication with Ben and also Assistant Professor Avigail Manneberg to identify appropriate guests to invite and determine the schedule. I anticipate this coming to fruition soon and the Faculty Senate will discuss this during their meeting on Wednesday evening. I am especially grateful to Avigail for her help identifying exceptional guests to be in dialogue with our community on this complex and important subject.

As we near the end of the term, thank you all for your ongoing dedication and care in all of your work at MCAD.

With gratitude,

Robert

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All times listed in Central Time

PRIORITY DEADLINES

Fall 2023 Course Withdrawals Due Friday, November 10 at 5:00 p.m.

This is a reminder that the deadline to withdraw from Fall Semester 2023 courses is Friday, November 10 at 5:00 p.m. If you know of any students who need to withdraw from your courses, please reach out to them. Student Alerts are also an acceptable way to notify them regarding withdrawal recommendations. Students will submit course withdrawal forms through [myMCAD](#). The course withdrawal form will not be available on [myMCAD](#), and students may no longer withdraw from individual courses, when the deadline passes. For questions, please contact Records (records@mcad.edu).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

MCAD Election/Polling Place Reminders

On Tuesday, November 7, MCAD will again serve as the polling place for Ward 10-Precinct 9 (general election), starting at 7:00 a.m. and running until the work of the election judges is completed (usually by 10:00 p.m.). Polling will take place in the College Center.

Because MCAD is a polling place, please do not wear T-shirts, hats, buttons, etc. that endorse a specific candidate. Please note traffic around campus and the parking lots may be busier than usual, so plan for extra travel time if you will be on campus.

Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) Request

If you would like to request an MFA Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) for one or more of your Spring courses, please fill out this [Google Form](#) by Friday, December 1st, 5:00 p.m. All MCAD full-time and adjunct faculty are welcomed to fill out this request form. This form must be filled out every semester in order to be considered to have a GTA for your course. For GTA Guidelines (including faculty benefits), please click this [link](#)

Faculty who have submitted a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) Request will hear back from the MFA Director as soon as all student matches have been made. In collaboration with Financial Aid, they will work to assign teaching assistantships with faculty within their discipline, and within the student's education/career goals (although we cannot guarantee it).

Open Enrollment

Open enrollment will take place November 6–22 for benefits-eligible faculty and staff. Here are some resources from HR to help navigate you:

Open Enrollment Presentation: This presentation reviews MCAD's benefits for 2024, as well as new rates.

Benefits Guide: This guide gives a detailed deep dive into the benefits that MCAD offers.

Benefits Summary: The benefits summary for [staff](#) and summary for [faculty](#) give a short review of the benefits MCAD offers for 2024.

Q&A sessions: The first Q&A session will be held in person in the Emeritus room on November 8 at 11:00am. A [virtual session](#) will be held on November 16 at 11:00am (Or dial: 1-208-715-5447 PIN: 370 721 630#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to benefits@mcad.edu.

MCAD Faculty & Staff Book Club Selection for November 2023

[Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland](#) by Patrick Radden Keefe. Join the discussion on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. The deadline to register for this discussion has passed, but you may use this form ([link](#)) to signal your interest in joining future discussions.

Book Club Coordinator: MA Creative Leadership Director and Faculty Member, Diane Ragdale.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND KEY DATES

- [Election Day](#)
 - Tuesday, November 7
- [Design Panel with Penguin Random House - Virtual Event](#)
 - Tuesday, November 7, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Online (Register in advance)
- [MCAD Faculty & Staff Book Club for November 2023](#)
 - Wednesday, November 8, 5:00 p.m., [register](#) here for future discussion opportunities
- [Geoff McFetridge: Drawing a Life | MN Premiere Sponsored by Design Department](#)
 - Wednesday, November 8, 6:30 p.m., [Trylon Cinema](#)
- [Faculty Senate Meeting](#)
 - Wednesday, November 8, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Emeritus Conference Room
- [Fall 2023 Course Withdrawals Due](#)
 - Friday, November 10, 5:00 p.m., [myMCAD](#)
- [MCAD Art Sale](#)
 - Thursday, November 16, 5:00 p.m.,–Saturday, November 18, 3:00 p.m., MCAD Main Building
- [Benefits Enrollment Deadline](#)
 - Wednesday, November 22, [Paylocity](#)

On view:

- [Make Your Voice Heard: Raising Awareness of Current Issues through Historic Printing](#)
 - Thursday, October 19–Thursday, November 16, Suitcase Gallery
- [Lynae Russom - As Fast As You Can](#)
 - Wednesday, November 1–Saturday, November 18, MCAD Library

RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

[Artist-in-Residence Program at the CBS Conservatory](#)

The College of Biological Sciences at the University of Minnesota, through the CBS Conservatory & Botanical Collection and Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, offers a diversity of plant and animal communities and a wealth of long-term ecological and botanical research. In a new partnership, Cedar Creek and the Conservatory are teaming up to provide a unique opportunity for artists to investigate the intersection of science, nature, and humanity. We invite artists working in any genre (including but not limited to photography, painting, music, creative writing...) to bring their unique ideas and perspectives to Cedar Creek and/or the Conservatory to help us build a long-term, diverse body of work exploring these spaces and their science.

Artists in residence are provided with:

- Access to a world-renowned research site and/or botanical collection and the diverse habitats, biomes, and experiments they contains for up to one year
- Opportunities to interact with researchers and students working onsite, including formal meetings, opportunities to observe and/or participate in field work, horticulture, etc
- Space to promote your project on the Cedar Creek and/or CBS Conservatory website and social media platforms as well as in the Cedar Creek main visitors building or the Plant Growth Facilities in St. Paul
- Access to a private one-bedroom house on the property for overnight stays, if desired (for Cedar Creek residencies only)
- A one-time \$1000 honorarium, to be paid in two installments during the residency

Submit your proposal [here](#). Applications will be accepted until 17 January 2024. Applicants will be notified of their status by early February.

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 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 on a regular basis 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.

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

[Ben Moren to Talk at SVA in New York](#)

Ben Moren will be hosting an upcoming talk at the School of Visual Arts in New York. The talk, which is a part of the art school's MFA Fine Arts Talks program, will be expected to feature themes of reframing the environment through film, performance, sound, and technology.

ACADEMIC CABINET AND CURRICULUM MEETINGS

Curriculum 10-25-23

We began with a check-in around the room. Keisha Williams, Director and Curator of the MCAD Galleries and Exhibitions, shared reflections on the current Visiting Artists committee and process, soliciting feedback on things that might be done to improve attendance and how to make the series increasingly more robust and intentional. She and the committee will work on ideas and come back once they have finished their work. We discussed the passing of Jody Williams and things we might do to honor her legacy as a beloved adjunct faculty member at MCAD. Details are still in the works, but will be announced to the community soon. Jim presented on accreditation, specifically related to learning outcomes online not always matching the program learning outcomes. Jim also presented a refresher on approaches to writing strong learning outcomes.

Cabinet 11-1-23

We began with a check-in around the room. We were joined by new staff members Paula Anderson, Associate Vice President of Operations, and Pam Hoffmann, Director of Campus Safety. Everyone introduced themselves and Paula and Pam shared a bit about their backgrounds with the group. A question-and-answer period followed. Matthew Hoban, the new AVP in Technology joined to introduce himself and to invite feedback on how the online system functioned during registration. Matthew and the IT team made adjustments to our servers to improve responsiveness and issues that have been encountered during past advising and registration – and all academic leaders confirmed these changes greatly improved the process. Updates were made by the VPAA including that the Director of Online Teaching and Learning search was not successful due to top candidates withdrawing – one due to accepting a position elsewhere and the other due to shifting professional goals. We will update the position description and relaunch the search in November. Lafe Smith will continue as Interim Director until the search concludes. All academic program leaders were reminded of the significant challenges presented when faculty do not submit midterm grades on time and to encourage faculty who have still not submitted to do so ASAP. The group reviewed edits to the proposed statement on fraternization among faculty and students. Once the draft is finalized, department Chairs and Directors will bring the statement to their faculty for input. A new proposal in response to the Faculty Senate request for acknowledgement of longstanding adjunct faculty was presented. Feedback and editorial suggestions were made on the proposal for adding an honorific title of Distinguished Adjunct Faculty to our current practice. Once a final draft has been approved; this will be shared with the Faculty Senate for their review.

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 found [here](#). Applications are due February 23, 2024.

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

Refer to the [archive](#) of Faculty Focus

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

Looking to stay up-to-date on all events?

***[Subscribe](#) to the “What’s Up at MCAD” Calendar
and [customize your notifications](#) to never miss a beat.***