

FACULTY FOCUS

Dear Faculty,

As we finish up the semester, I want to thank you all for your dedication and hard work as we've navigated the COVID-19 pandemic. With your help, we've kept our community safe while serving our students, fostering creativity and upholding academic excellence. As a new member of this community, I am also grateful for the warm and generous welcome you have shown me. The conversations that I have had with many of you, including in my faculty forums, during office hours and, in some cases, the halls of MCAD, have been inspiring and helped me learn more about you and your work at the college and beyond.

Please keep an eye out later this week for the Spring Welcome Letter. This will include the schedule for the Faculty Prep Weeks and what you can expect for the Spring semester.

May you all have a restful and restorative break and a very happy holiday season.

Warmly,

Robert

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Announcements

MCAD Website Redesign and Identity Review

As the college moves into the next stage of the MCAD Website Redesign Project, Marketing and Communications wants to hear from you! Join the Communications team on Friday, December 18 from 12:30-1pm for a conversation about the design process behind the latest version of the new MCAD identity. Hop on the [Zoom](#) call to share your thoughts. There is also a survey specifically about your vision for the next mcad.edu, and how best to keep you informed and get your input throughout the development of the

site in Spring 2021. Please take this quick [five minute survey](#). It will be open through January 18, 2021.

Upcoming Events & Key Dates

December Commencement

This December's Commencement will be pre-recorded ceremony and streamed online at 6 pm this Friday, December 11. Students were asked to submit their creative work, videos, and photos to be included in the ceremony. Many of the faculty were also asked to participate by reading the student names. We hope to have family and friends from around the world join us for the viewing! More info will be posted [here](#).

Small Group Gatherings with MCAD President, Sanjit Sethi

Upon arriving at MCAD, President Sethi started a series of small informal group meetings with all faculty and staff meant to build relationships and hear the hopes, concerns and aspirations people have about MCAD. As we round the arc of the Fall 2020 semester, he would like to continue these conversations with all of you. There's one last opportunity this semester on December 15 from 12-1pm. If you're interested in attending, please email [Sarah Harding](#). If that date doesn't work for you, there will be additional opportunities scheduled during the Spring 2021 semester.

PitchFest 2021

Do you know a student who has a great idea for a creative business or an active business they'd like to grow? Encourage them to submit to [PitchFest!](#) This competition provides MCAD undergraduates with mentorship and tools for launching creative ventures. By participating, students will hone their skills in developing and pitching a creative venture that creates a positive impact in the world and gives them the chance to win some award money. Be sure to let your students know about this opportunity!

Resources

Winter Break Reading List

As we head into winter break, let's light the darkness with some reading that is illuminating, thought-provoking, empowering, or just plain fun! The Library is compiling a list of suggested readings to share with students, faculty, and staff. Please send a couple of your current or long-term favorites to Library Director [Amy Naughton Becker](#) by Wednesday, December 9.

“Let’s Talk” for Students

To help students who are struggling with burn out, feeling sidetracked, or are looking to share their goals and successes, the Student Counseling and Wellness Office has launched its Let’s Talk initiative. These brief, informal virtual consultations with a counselor are available for FREE to all MCAD students. These informal sessions are not a replacement for counseling, but rather a chance for students to have a positive experience by sharing with another person. Slots are available every weekday through December 11. Please let your students know about this and that can choose an appointment time on the [Let’s Talk Appointment Calendar](#). For counseling services or urgent concerns, please contact [Beth Stockinger](#).

Reminders

Archive Student Work

Be sure to save representative samples of student work from your fall classes to the CourseWork Server. This could be samples of one assignment to several to the whole kit and kaboodle. If you’re not familiar with how to do this, check out this [Knowledge Base article](#). Instructions for [PC users](#) are also available.

Course Evals and Exit Surveys are Open

Fall course evaluations are open for all students and the Exit Surveys are open for those slated to graduate this December. These are important ways for all of us to learn about students’ satisfaction in their classes and at MCAD as a whole. Please encourage your students to participate!

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

MINNEAPOLIS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN