

**IIT INSTITUTE OF DESIGN
ACADEMIC UNIT CEREMONY**

Saturday, May 15, 2021
11:00 am CT



**ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Dear freshly-minted ID graduates,

On behalf of the faculty and staff of IIT Institute of Design, I want to congratulate you on your graduation. You join a group of alumni that has a phenomenal history. Going back to the first people who entered ID 84 years ago in 1937, consistent among ID graduates is a passion for applying new ways of doing design—ways always adapted to the particular social, cultural, economic, and technological forces of their time.

Your experience as the class of 2021 has been unique, shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to recognize how well you have dealt with this challenge. You persevered, you adapted, you connected and supported each other, and you achieved your learning objectives with good work—as your End of Year Show demonstrates so clearly. In ID's first commencement in May 1942, which was also during the global crisis of WWII, our founder László Moholy-Nagy contended that in a time of crisis, where many people lost their work or suffered from illness, it was a great privilege to be allowed the exercise of one's skill in design—a privilege granted by society, made for its future benefit, and bringing with it an obligation to use one's creative skills for the “productive and harmonious existence of a new generation.”*

One of the main contributors to making ID a remarkable experience is our community: our students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Please know that wherever your career may take you, you will always remain a member of the ID community. We encourage you to stay in touch with the school, your peers, and new generations. Network with alumni from across ID's history and its international footprint. Find fellow alumni working in the same sector. And make sure to let us know how you are doing—visit us at Kaplan and through ID events, which are increasingly available to you no matter where you are.

We applaud you on your achievement, particularly in this difficult time, and look forward to hearing about and celebrating your impact and contributions.

Best regards,



Denis Weil (MDes 2001)

Dean

*Schuldenfrei, R. (2012). 'Assimilating Unease: Moholy-Nagy and the Wartime/Postwar Bauhaus in Chicago'. In R. Schuldenfrei (Ed.), *Atomic Dwelling: Anxiety, Domesticity, and Postwar Architecture* (pp. 87-126). Routledge.

INSTITUTE OF DESIGN FACULTY AND STAFF

FULL TIME FACULTY

Jeremy Alexis*
Weslynn Ashton
Laura Forlano
Tomoko Ichikawa*
Mark Jones
Tom MacTavish
Matt Mayfield*
Zach Pino
Christopher Rudd
Ruth Schmidt*
Carlos Teixeira*
Martin Thaler
Denis Weil*

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Smiljana Antonijevic
Santosh Basapur
Bruce Bendix
John Cain
Jody Campbell
Brian Casario
Daniel Chichester
Sarah Kelly Costello*
John Dominski
Jereme Dumm*
Sari Gluckin*
Eric Hausman
Yuli Patrick Hsieh
Ben Jacobson
Sara Johnson*
Adam Kallish
JoEllen Kames
Ali Karbassi
Larry Keeley
Jennifer Levin
Mark Micheli
Ruben Ocampo*
Mike Oren
Mo Sook Park
Charlie Smith
Susan Stirling*
Brianna Sylver-Galvao*
Peter Zapf*

STAFF

Rachel Dean
Kristin Gecan
Brandon Kinports
Sha'Ronda Lewis
Rashaan Meador
Krista Roble

* ID alum

GRADUATES

MASTER OF DESIGN

Harini Balasubramanian*
Justin Bartkus**
Vaaibhav Bhardwaj
Xuanyu Chen*
Kanal Dinesh Chhajed
Tommie Albert Collins III**
M. Todd Toland Cooke***
Mridula Dasari
Jessica Brinkley DeMeester*
Kaitlyn O. Forsythe
Mrinali Rajesh Gokani
Audrey Elizabeth Gordon*
Grace C. Hanford***
Yuqing He*
Yuanyuan Hu*
Kie Ichikawa*
Zhengyi Jin*
Lavanya Julaniya***
Yuta Katsuyama
Mithila Kedambadi Prasanna
Esther H. Lee
Haiping Liao
Sike Liu
Anand Umesh Nagapurkar
Jessica Aba Natsewa Nelson***
Luisa Parlow Siliprandi*
Catalina Prada Valderrama***
Alexandria Rengifo*
Jason Romano*
Jiani F. Spathy***

R. McKinley Sherrod*
Jonathan Craig Smyk*
Yutian Sun
Justin Walker*
Catherine Wieczorek
Sze Wing Alpha Wong
Wanshan Wu*
Shiya Xiao*
Nanxi Yu
Yifei Yu*
Siyan Zhou

MASTER OF DESIGN METHODS

Scott J. Benbrook*
Hongpyo Kim*
Wendy Manning*
Lana McClure
Anna Olsztynska
Katherine A. Petersen*

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Santosh Basapur*
Roberto da Rosa Faller*

*Degree awarded Fall 2020

**Awarded degrees in both Design + MBA

***Awarded degrees in both Design + MPPA

HISTORY

Over eighty years of innovation and design education

In 1937, László Moholy-Nagy left Europe to found The New Bauhaus in Chicago as a school that experimented with new materials and media. Over the years, this experimental spirit has taken many forms.

Today, the methods pioneered at ID are finding a wider audience. Many leading corporations, consultancies, and schools are adopting our methods into everyday work processes. Other organizations seek stronger bonds with ID, choosing to recruit our graduates and sponsor our work. *BusinessWeek* has described ID as “a leader in developing innovation metrics and design strategy curricula.” Students come from around the world to be a part of this school, and they leave as alumni ready to make life better and more meaningful.

1937

German Bauhaus luminary László Moholy-Nagy arrives in Chicago to head a new school he named The New Bauhaus

1944

The school is renamed the Institute of Design

1949

The Institute of Design becomes part of IIT

1955

Director Jay Doblin introduces design theory into curriculum

1965

Systems and systematic design introduced into curriculum

1993

Design planning and ethnographic methods introduced into curriculum

ID creates America's first PhD program in design and introduces MDes degree

2003

ID launches Master of Design Methods degree for mid-career designers and product managers

2006

ID introduces the first MDes+MBA dual-degree program

COMMENCEMENT EVENTS

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2020

End of year show opening

[Register](#)

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2020

Opening ceremony live-stream

10:00 am

[Click here](#)

ID virtual commencement ceremony

11:00 am

[Register](#)

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

WELCOME

Rachel Dean
*Director, Graduate Admission
and Student Engagement*

DEAN'S ADDRESS

Denis Weil
Dean

PRESENTATION OF DEGREES

Denis Weil
Dean

AFTER ID: AN ALUMNI CONVERSATION

Akilah Halley
MDes 2005

Tommie Collins
MDes + MBA 2021

Sze Wing Alpha Wong
MDes + MBA 2021

STUDENT SPEAKER

Justin Bartkus
MDes 2021

WELL WISHES

ID Community

About the speakers

Akilah Halley (MDes 2005) has spent 15 years focused on equitable approaches to helping make Chicago a better place for all people to thrive through art, education, and philanthropy. A Chicago native inspired by the city's vibrancy, currently Akilah is the Executive Director of Marwen, a nonprofit inspiring young people to nurture their growth and build their futures through art and community. She previously led communications with Crown Family Philanthropies, marketing with Urban Gateways, and community engagement with Chicago Public Schools.

Tommie Collins (MDes + MBA 2021) considers himself a storyteller with a designer's toolkit. His passionate work exists at the intersection of civic systems, collaborative design, communications, and strategy. He desires to share undiscovered and sometimes overlooked stories, create experiences, and, most of all, impact lives.

Sze Wing Alpha Wong (MDes + MBA 2021) goes by Alpha. She came to ID seeking answers for design, the world, and our future. During her time at ID, every conversation expanded her boundaries. Now she is departing, with some questions answered, more questions asked. Design is not about finding the solutions but the right questions. That's what Alpha has been doing and will continue to do.

Justin Bartkus (MDes 2021) is a theologian-turned-designer originally hailing from South Bend, Indiana. He is looking forward to a career in healthcare equity and transformation, though he daydreams about one day being Pope Francis' chief innovation officer.