

commpost

The biannual Graphic Design program communication composition for students, alumni, friends, and supporters.

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GD 308 Students Bring Sustainable Campaigns to Life for London Client



Over the summer of 2025, students put their design skills to use for a real-world client in London. People in GD 308, Sustainable Design, spent the first two weeks of their summer preparing campaign ideas for the Cambridge Growth Company (CGC). The London-based client was established by government in 2024 to address barriers to growth and help unlock Greater Cambridge's full potential.

“ It is hard work, but it is so worth the experience ”

– Ava Brandt

Students spent their first week conducting the research necessary to develop a campaign that would help educate people about the conscientious efforts of the agency to support Cambridge's growth in a responsible and sustainable manner for the coming decades. They worked in groups to present the client with four unique directions for the project.

Students arrived to London after the second week refining their work. During the evenings and weekends in which they were not working on the project, they got to explore the city and enjoy their time together. The main part of the three-week segment in England, however, was filled with client meetings, ideation, mooboard, presentations, on-field research, and, of course, design. Especially in the last week, there were many late nights working and practicing for the final presentation for the client. In

the end, the client was pleased by what the students delivered, which consisted of posters, logos, icons, templates, design assets and messaging strategies. Ava Brandt, a Creative Writing Major who went on the trip, reflected that "it [was] hard work, but it is so worth the experience. No matter what major/minor you are, this class has something for everyone and so does London!".



GD 200 Mercedes-Benz Classic Center Travel Posters

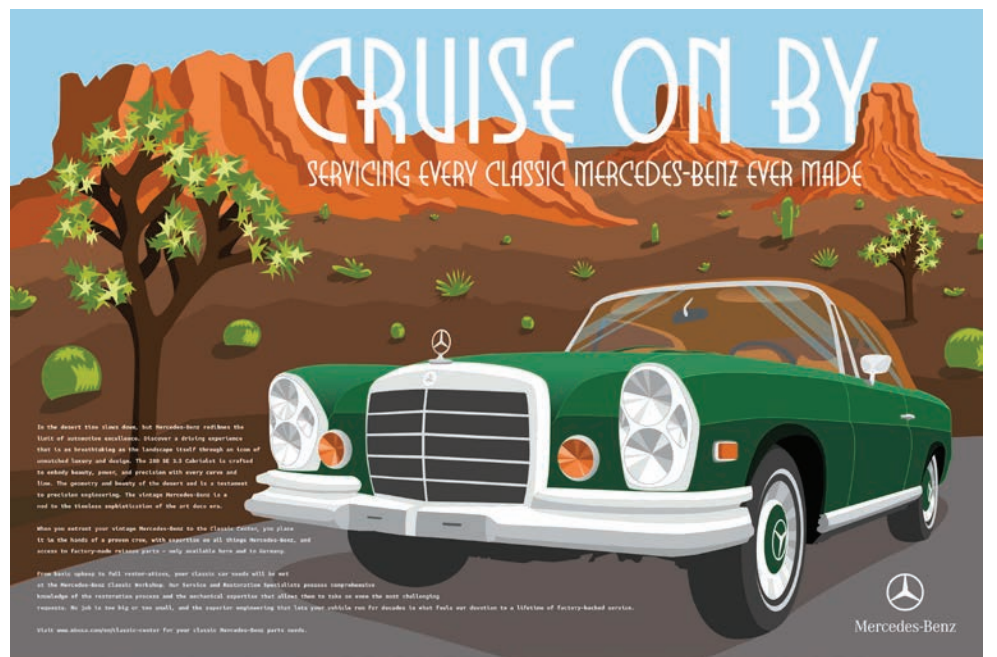
Our Design II students kicked off the semester with a GD program rite of passage: the Mercedes-Benz project. For this assignment, students designed posters to spread awareness of the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center in Long Beach. Students got to

conduct on-field research in a field trip to the Classic Center. In the end, the project was a great opportunity to learn what a real-life project entails in terms of time, research, and persistence.



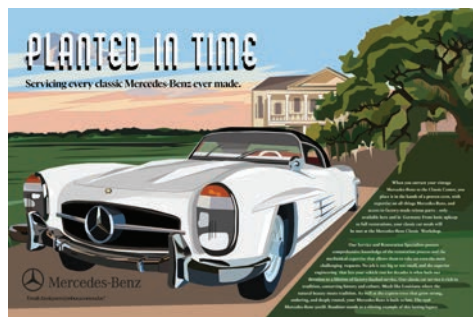
ALEXANDRA HAAHR
Winner

“When I saw the painted car at the Mercedes-Benz Center, I knew immediately that I wanted to create an environment that would match the beauty of the car—and to challenge myself in the process.”



ISABEL GOMEZ
Runner-up

MELISSA MUÑOZ
Runner-up

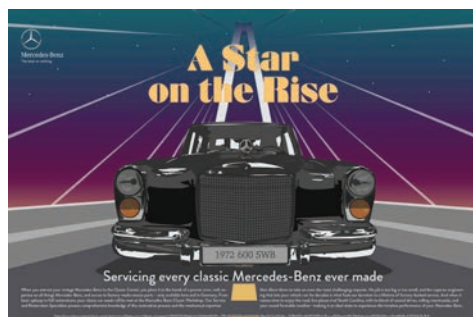
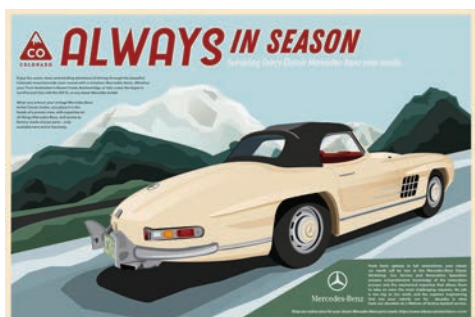


ANGELA LUI

VERONICA CELY

EWAN CORTES

SOFIA DUARTE



SAM FAGO

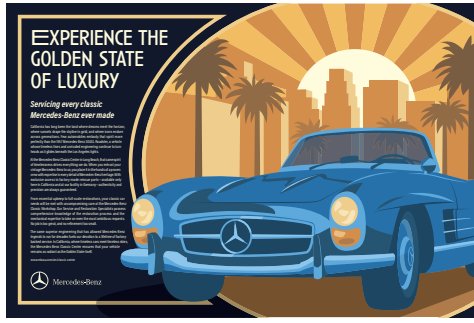
LAUREN HAHM

KAMAIRA SILVA

CASSIE KWAN



SOPHIA LOPEZ



DAYMA LOPEZ HERNANDEZ



LANA MOUSSA



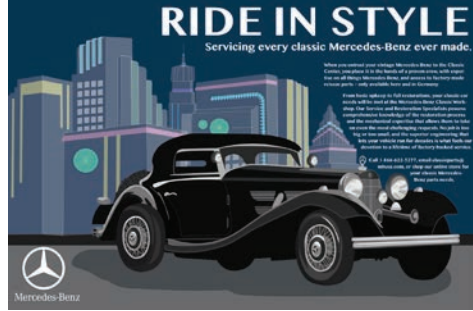
CHLOE PAULS



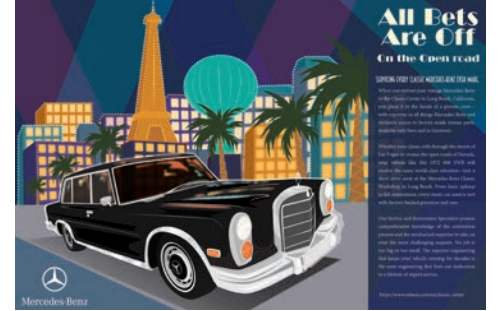
CHLOE ROCHE



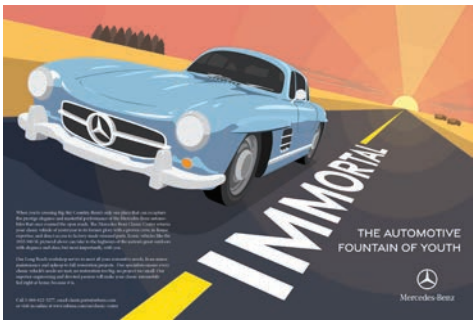
BECCA RODRIGUEZ



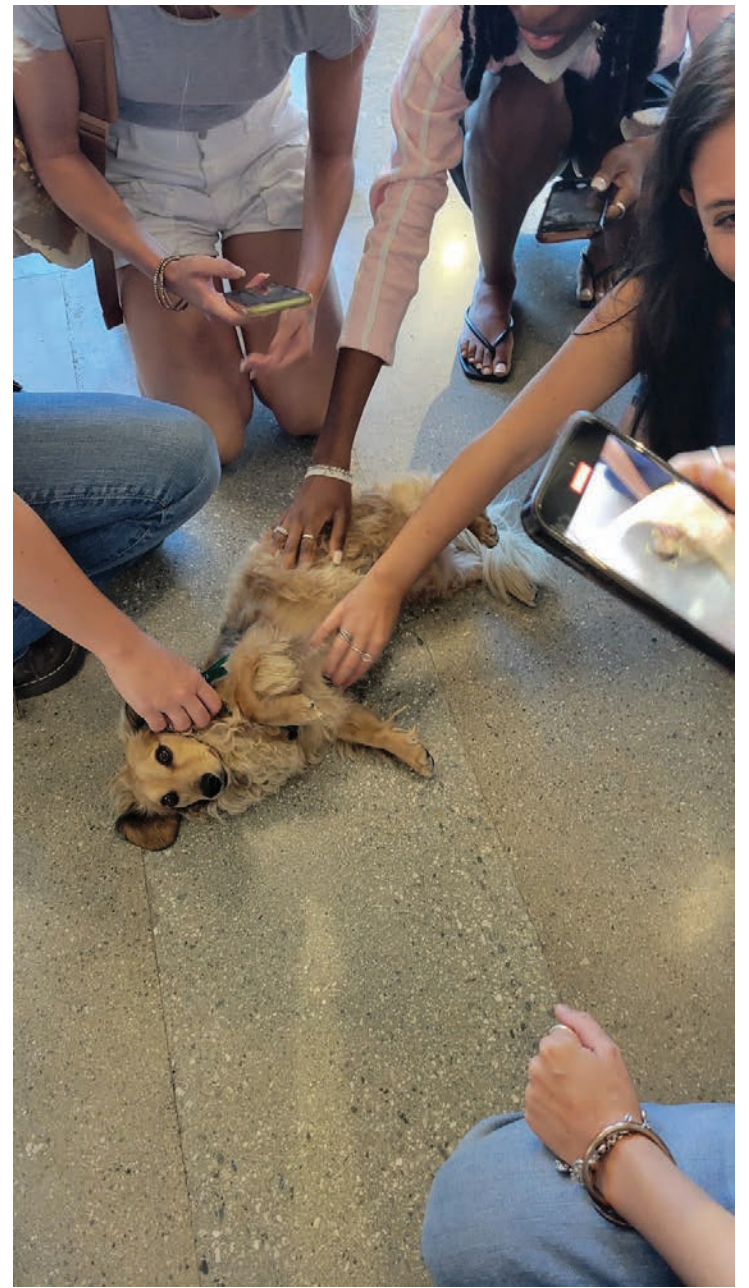
AMALIA SERRANO



SOPHIA YOUNG



JACK YOUNGER



GD 400 COMMEMORATIVE POSTERS

Every year, students in GD 400 Advanced Graphic Design are tasked with designing a commemorative poster for the Chapman University State of the University Address. Our newly appointed president, Matt Parlow, chose "Continue" as this year's theme, which served as a guide for students' designs. Upon completion, he came into the class to announce the winner, who would have their poster handed out at this year's State of the University Address.

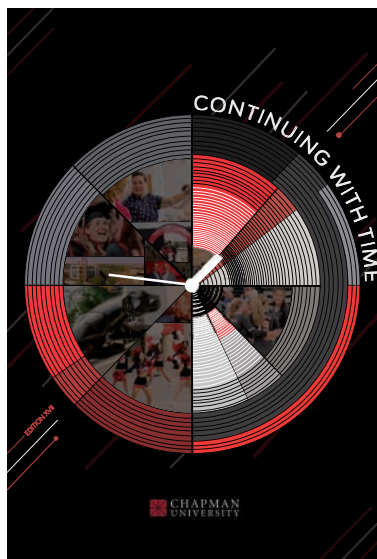


PRESIDENT MATT PARLOW MEETING WITH STUDENTS TO DISCUSS THE POSTER PROJECT

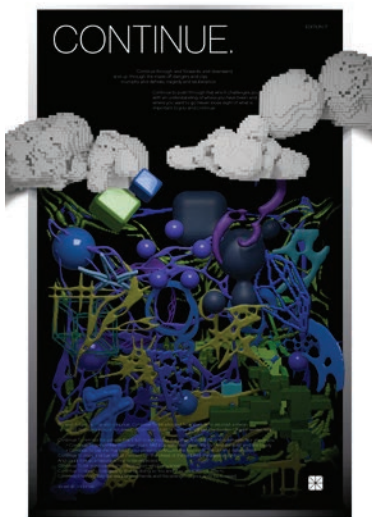


RACHEL NAGASHIMA Winner

“The concept for this poster acts as a symbolic fragment of something larger, designed for interaction, modularity, and endless recombination. Like a puzzle piece, it’s meant to connect, expand, and transform as new pieces come together, reflecting the idea of 'Continue'.”



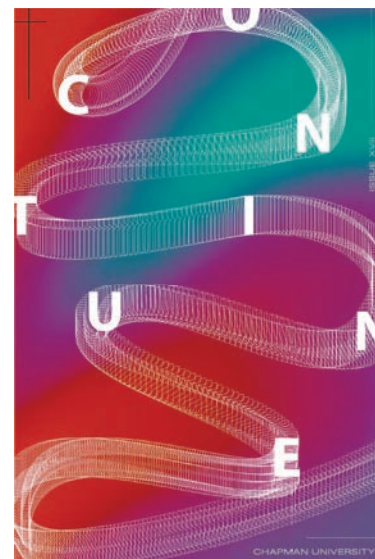
ANISA ABDULKARIEM



STUART AMES



KYM APARICIO



IZZY AU



LIZZIE BORK



FIONA BUMGARNER



NICK BURKE



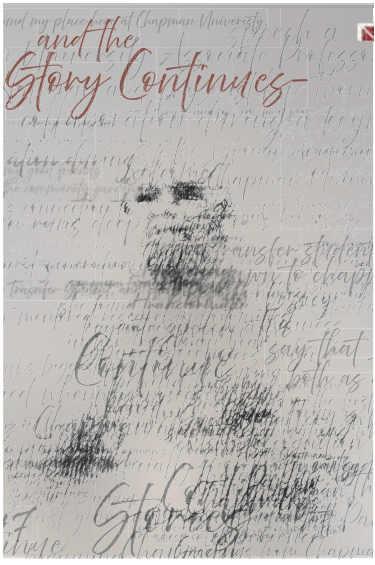
EASTON CLARK



LILY COOPER



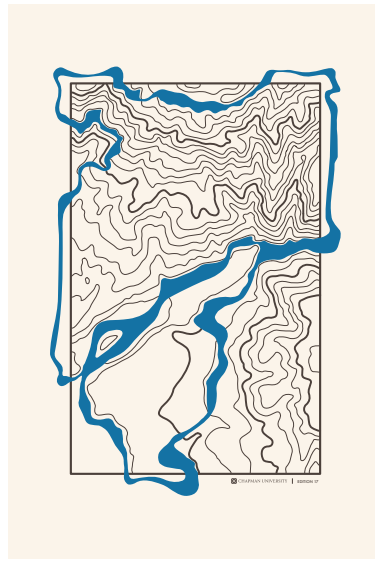
ELLA DOHERTY



SOPHIE DROESE



EVELYN HARDING



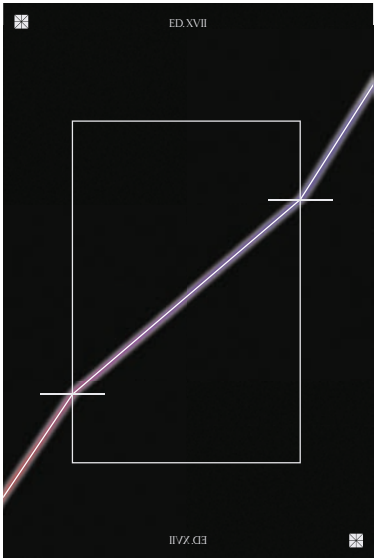
ELIOT HUTCHINSON



GIANNA IANNARILLI



CRISTA KOWITSKI



AZUL LOPEZ



ASHLEY MAR



LUCY PERIALE



JAYDEN RAMIREZ



NAOMI SATO



NINA SHAW



NADIA VASS



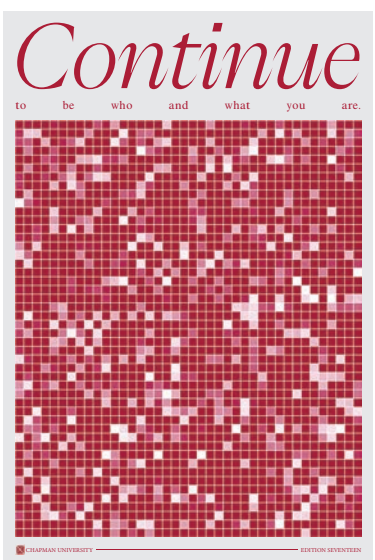
SIMON VLOON



CAILYN WILLIAMS



VIVI YANG



AUSTIN YI



PRESIDENT MATT PARLOW PRESENTING HIS FEEDBACK OF THE COMMEMORATIVE POSTER



GD 312 VISIT FROM JULIAN BLEECKER

This semester, the GD 312 class, Designing Tomorrow, was visited by Julian Bleecker. According to his website, Julian Bleecker, Ph.D. "is an engineer, software developer, hardware product designer, author, artist, researcher, and entrepreneur". It is his second time visiting the graphic design program here at Chapman. This year, he focused his talk on speculative design and

design fiction, which is a critical, forward-looking practice that uses design to explore potential future scenarios, societal consequences, and ethical implications of technology and culture. Bleecker's visit included a workshop with Q&A discussing the role of speculation in visual design and communication. Students earned valuable insights about the realities of a career in this niche of the design industry.



PT FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

SEVERINA W. THOM



Adjunct Professor of Graphic Design

Education:
BFA, Chapman University
MPS, Maryland Institute
College Of Art

Severina is a graphic designer, brand strategist, and design professor whose work centers on thoughtful visual systems, branding, and web design. She studied graphic design at Chapman for her undergraduate degree, and she now teaches here while continuing her professional practice.

Through her studio practice and Thomfoolery Design Co., Severina focuses on brand and web design for businesses that want polished, cohesive identities. Her professional site describes her as a lifelong creative and a graphic designer at Dae Hair.

At Chapman, she teaches GD 401 Business Practices/ Pre-internship in the fall and GD 407 Studio C in the spring. GD 401 introduces students to billing, estimating, quoting, proposals, and RFPs, while GD 407 is an invitation-only studio workshop focused

on producing finished portfolio-quality work in a professional design environment with real clients, budgets, and deadlines.

Her work reflects both creative direction and practical business knowledge, which makes her especially well suited to teach students how to move from classroom projects into professional practice. That combination of branding experience and design instruction gives her students a strong model for what working in the field actually looks like.

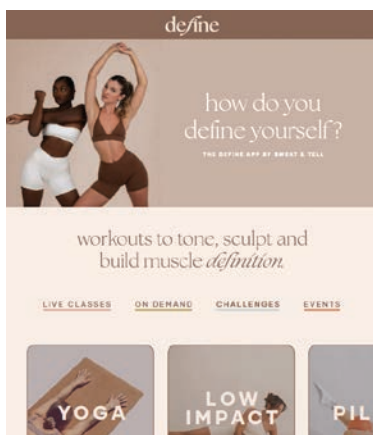
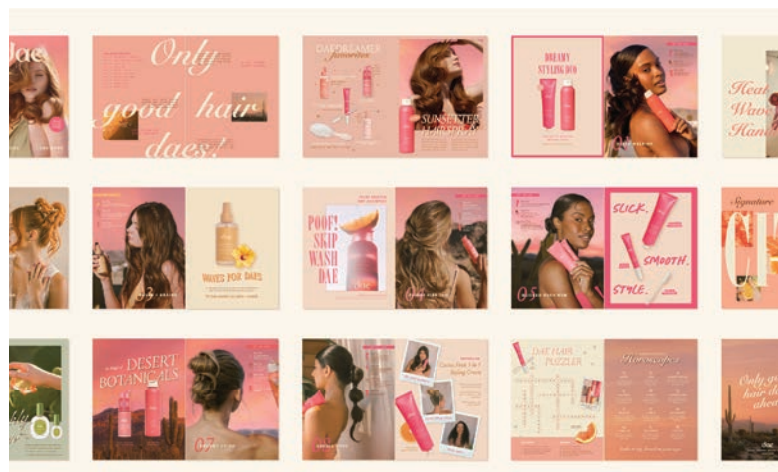
Because she is also an alumna of the university, she brings a full-circle perspective to her teaching. That connection helps students see a path from undergraduate study to professional work, studio leadership, and classroom teaching.



STUDIO C STUDENT WORK



RECENT PROFESSIONAL WORK



UNDERGRADUATE CLASS OF 2017



FT FACULTY UPDATE



ERIC CHIMENTI

Teaching:

Professor Chimenti taught GD 308 Summer London Travel Course and then in Fall GD 103, GD 200, and also oversaw 15 internships, 2 independent studies.

Service:

Professor Chimenti continued his service in the Ideation Lab helping students, faculty, and University community with their design needs. He reviewed prospective students Slate Applications, and helped oversee curriculum and course scheduling. His official advising load was 61. He served as a Wilkinson faculty senator in the Fall and will continue in the Spring, filling the seat vacated by Julye Bidmead.

Creative Scholarly Activity:

Currently a co-PI on the Botanical Literacy Project with my former colleague, Dr. Maliheh Ghajargar.

**Associate Professor of Art
Graphic Design Program Head
Ideation Lab Head**

Education:
BS, Biola University
MFA, Savannah College of
Art and Design

This project has been awarded a \$10K grant from Keck. The project includes two senior design students - Lucy Periale '26 and Lizzie Bork '26. The work is set to finish in July and will be prepped for publication in late summer 2026.

Currently working on next project with Dr. Morales - "Joy of Torah". It is still TBD which publisher will pick up the book project. Currently it is between Crossway and IVP Academic (US). Dr. Morales has been asked to write an in depth overview of the Torah, showing the literary structure, interconnectedness, and design patterns for a learned/academic audience. He's read through the half of the manuscript (all that is written to date) and proposed illustrations and visualizations. The scope of the project is still in flux while the publisher is secured.



3D MOCKUPS OF AI-POWERED BOTANICAL LITERACY DEVICES BY LIZZY BORK



CLAUDINE JAENICHEN

This semester, Professor Claudine taught GD 307 - Advanced Type and GD 310 - Sustainable and More than Human Design.

She is also under contract with MIT Press and finished the manuscript on the topic of design, safety culture, and evacuation equity in America, which is forthcoming in 2027.

Claudine continues her work with the California Governor's Office on designing public-facing Tsunami risk campaigns, and local agencies on Wildfire risk campaigns.

Additionally, she gave two talks on her creative scholarship talk at the AIGA National Conference in Los Angeles and Bay Area UASI Public Safety Preparedness Summit in San Francisco.

Professor of Art

Education:
BFA, California Institute of the Arts
MFA, University of Reading in
the UK





KATHLEEN KAISER

Teaching:

In Spring, Professor Kaiser taught GD 201 Typography, GD 300 Design III, and GD 304 History of Graphic Design. In Fall, she taught GD 201 Typography I, GD 302 Brand Design, and GD 307 Typography II.

Service:

Kathleen collaborated with the Graphic Design faculty to lead curriculum revisions and the program's transition from Graphic Design to Design, officially launching in Fall 2026. She continued organizing the Margo Pawell Symposium, updated the Art

Department website, and is currently overseeing brand updates for the department.

Creative and Scholarly Activity:

During this reporting period, Professor Kaiser continued her professional design practice at Pencilbox Studio, where she serves as a principal partner. Her work includes branding initiatives, retail projects, and design support for educational institutions and nonprofit organizations.

Assistant Professor of Graphic Design

Education:
BA, California State University, Fullerton
MFA, Savannah College of Art and Design



JILLIAN WARREN



Over the past year, Professor Warren's work has focused on exploring how design education can better support young people in engaging with sustainability, emerging technologies, and future-facing challenges. She's been interested in how we move beyond abstract conversations and instead create tangible entry points for students to think critically, creatively, and responsibly about the world they are designing into.

She's going to continue designing and testing these kits in both classroom and public-facing environments to support young people in understanding material life cycles, exploring alternative material practices, and developing a more grounded, experiential approach to imagining sustainable futures. As this project expands, she will likely be looking for a design or research assistant this summer—reach out if you're interested in being involved.

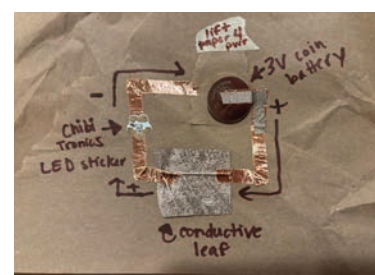
Over the summer, she acted as a reviewer, associate chair, and moderator for the ACM Interaction Design and Children conference in Iceland.

Professor Warren taught GD 312: Designing Tomorrow, GD 105 Prototyping. She is developing a new course, GD 212: Research Methods II, our program's transition from Graphic Design to Design, with an emphasis on building students' skills in design research, systems thinking, and interdisciplinary practice.

She's collaborated in the development of the *FutureCraft* card deck, to support student engagement with sustainability, ethics, and material thinking. The deck was later adapted for a broader audience, and shared at Play Make Learn 2025.

Assistant Professor of Graphic Design

Education:
BA, College of Charleston
MA, Maastricht University
Ph.D./MSc, Simon Fraser University



CHAPMAN INTERNSHIPS

Graphic Design majors are required to complete one internship during their time at Chapman. Partnering with the Career Development Center and a Graphic Design faculty member, students are given a variety of options to suit the specific area of study they feel is most important to them, ranging from design firms to advertising agencies to bigger industries with in-house design departments. Check out where students are interning during their time in the Art Department.

Here's what their employers have expressed about Chapman: "Chapman is our go-to resource for young, intelligent talents. As a local company, we value our relationships with Chapman to help us fill our staffing needs as they have consistently provided high-quality candidates to meet our needs."

"Here at Idea Hall we have found the Chapman students that join us for our internship program to prepared for professional careers."

ali&ariel



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HOT TOPIC®

TILLYS



saie

nextdoor

ANTHROPOLOGIE

IVANNA TJITRA '25 — SEGERSTROM CENTER OF THE ARTS

RYANNE DOHERTY '24 — TILLY'S

SOPHIE GUTTWAN '24 — SAN JOSE SHARKS

JULIE TRABERT '23 — SAIE

KATIE BAILIE '16 — ANTRHROPOLOGIE

ARYANNA DIAZN '22 — HOT TOPIC

NATALIE BARONS '21 —NEXTDOOR

WELCOME NEW IDEATION LAB WORKERS!

Meet the people who joined the Ideation Lab team this fall! These freshman have been taking on project such as book covers, Wacky Wednesdays, print jobs, signs, award design, posters, Commpost, and much more. Come by any Friday or during our posted hours to get to know us, ask for help, and learn how to make the most out of our lab resources!



EVELYN BODOK '29



ALEJANDRA BOSCAN '27



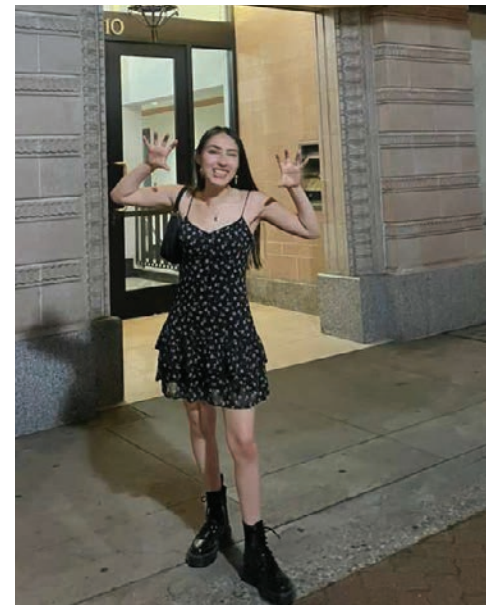
NORA GRUBE '28



ALLIE HAAHR '28



LILY IACONO '29



DAYMA LOPEZ HERNANDEZ '28

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Graphic Design Program, Department of Art
Chapman University
 send an email to chimenti@chapman.edu

For further details and more events, check our website
chapman.edu/wilkinson/art/graphic-design/

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