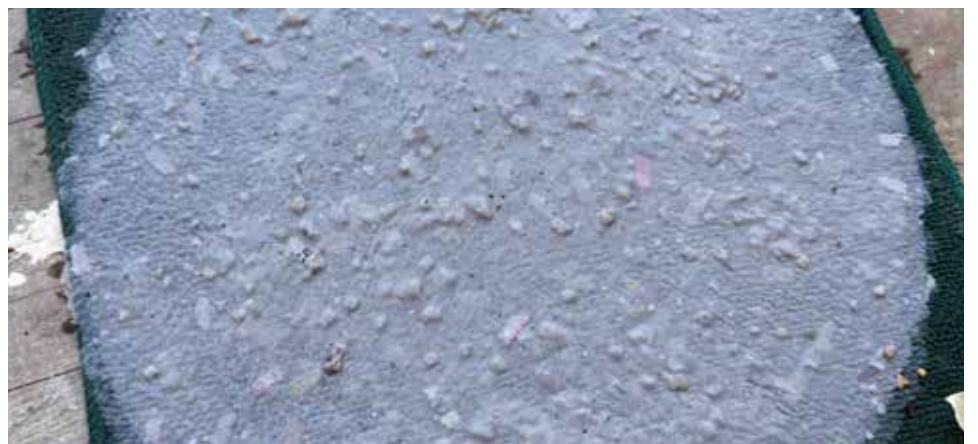




commpost

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

Graphic Design Evolves to DESIGN What Does This Mean for the Program?



INSIDE

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Our Graphic Design program has officially bid farewell to the word “Graphic,” opening the door to new possibilities through our newly updated major: “Design.” Beginning in Fall 2026, Chapman University’s Graphic Design program will officially transition to the Design program. So, what does this shift mean for students and for the future of the program? Chapman’s graphic design program has been working hard since its founding in 1991, and we have continuously evolved alongside changes in technology, media, and the creative industry itself. Software and methods once central to the curriculum when the program first began may no longer appear in today’s classrooms, which reflects the program’s ongoing ability to adapt and practice innovation within the ever-changing world of design.

This transition represents more than just a name change. Expanding from “Graphic Design” to “Design” reflects a broader, more interdisciplinary approach to creative thinking and problem-solving. Contemporary design practice now extends well beyond traditional graphic design, and our program increasingly engages with areas such as user experience (UX), interaction design, human-computer interaction (HCI), and AI-driven research, alongside visual and strategic design. This change is seen directly in student’s work as well, with “Design” better representing the work students do in their classes. It signals to graduate programs and employers that our graduates are versatile designers, equipped to design across digital, physical, and hybrid

environments, and will be prepared for advanced study after their time at Chapman. We ultimately aim to expand our focus with the Design BFA. This update positions our program competitively among peer institutions while setting us apart from programs limited to visual communication alone.

Students currently in the program will graduate with a BFA in Graphic Design. The program students were originally admitted to in their entering year catalog will be what they graduate under. New students will graduate with a BFA in Design! Additionally, GD courses will now be listed under “DSGN” code. When

“Contemporary design practice now extends well beyond traditional graphic design,... It signals to graduate programs and employers that our graduates are versatile designers,...”

registering for classes, Graphic Design courses will appear under the DSGN subject code when searching the schedule.

Chapman's Design program is excited for what's ahead. Just like design itself, we are a program that aims to grow, question, and evolve.

2026 Spring Sophomore Graphic Design Portfolio Show

The Sophomore Graphic Design Portfolio Showcase was held in the Guggenheim Gallery from March 30th to April 3rd, 2026. The theme of the portfolio show was "Family Dinner." The 20 majors who showcased their work are as follows: Allie Haahr, Angela Liu, Anna Letterio, Becca Rodriguez, Chlöe Pauls, Dayma

López Hernández, Dominick Tran, Ewan Cortes, Frankie Manera, Grace Harris, Jack Younger, Kamaira Silva, Luke Duplessis, Lynis Pierre-Louis, Marcus Covalleski, Meslissa Muñoz, Sam Fago, Sophia Lopez, Sophia Young, and Veronica Cely.



1. 2026 Sophomore Portfolio Show Welcome Poster.



2. Visitors and students browsing sophomore portfolios and interacting with designers.

3. Sam Fago, Allie Haahr, Sophia Young, Dayma López Hernández, and Sophia Lopez (Left to Right) sitting at the Guggenheim Gallery portfolio show entrance.





2026 Spring Junior Graphic Design Portfolio Show

The Junior Graphic Design Portfolio Showcase was held in the Guggenheim Gallery from April 6th to April 10th, 2026. The theme of the portfolio show was "Designers in the Making." The 20 majors who showcased their work are as follows: Alejandra Boscan, Sienna Cano, Amelia Chou, Xenia Diaz Castillo, Jamie Elkern, Olivia Greenberg,

Lauren Hahm, Jewel Han, Juliet Holmboe, Evan Kelly, Eunice Kim, Susanna Klatt, Hannah Koo, Matthew Marchese, Alex Mattias, Gigi Miller, Katherine Moreno, Shelly Netz, Nicole Nguyen, Emma Prado, Jane Sacon, Hilina'i Schnek, Elerie Sheirbon, Casey Shimazu, Gunhee Sin, Anya Spiers, and Chaz Tsang.



junior portfolio show spring 2026

ALEJANDRA BOSCAN IS! ALL GROWN UP!

PERSONALITY

- who/has
- where/when
- what/how

TYPE TO 3 VALUES

- curious
- hold
- imaginative

WAYBACK THEN vs. LIVING IN THE NOW

WAYBACK THEN

LIVING IN THE NOW

junior portfolio show spring 2026

SIENNA CANO IS! ALL GROWN UP!

PERSONALITY

- who/has
- where/when
- what/how

TYPE TO 3 VALUES

- curious
- hold
- imaginative

WAYBACK THEN vs. LIVING IN THE NOW

WAYBACK THEN

LIVING IN THE NOW

junior portfolio show spring 2026

AMELIA CHOU IS! ALL GROWN UP!

PERSONALITY

- who/has
- where/when
- what/how

TYPE TO 3 VALUES

- curious
- hold
- imaginative

WAYBACK THEN vs. LIVING IN THE NOW

WAYBACK THEN

LIVING IN THE NOW

junior portfolio show spring 2026

XENIA SOFIA DIAZ IS! ALL GROWN UP!

PERSONALITY

- who/has
- where/when
- what/how

TYPE TO 3 VALUES

- curious
- hold
- imaginative

WAYBACK THEN vs. LIVING IN THE NOW

WAYBACK THEN

LIVING IN THE NOW

junior portfolio show spring 2026

JAMIE ELKERN IS! ALL GROWN UP!

PERSONALITY

- who/has
- where/when
- what/how

TYPE TO 3 VALUES

- curious
- hold
- imaginative

WAYBACK THEN vs. LIVING IN THE NOW

WAYBACK THEN

LIVING IN THE NOW

junior portfolio show spring 2026

OLIVIA GREENBERG IS! ALL GROWN UP!

PERSONALITY

- who/has
- where/when
- what/how

TYPE TO 3 VALUES

- curious
- hold
- imaginative

WAYBACK THEN vs. LIVING IN THE NOW

WAYBACK THEN

LIVING IN THE NOW

junior portfolio show spring 2026

LAUREN HAHM IS! ALL GROWN UP!

PERSONALITY

- who/has
- where/when
- what/how

TYPE TO 3 VALUES

- curious
- hold
- imaginative

WAYBACK THEN vs. LIVING IN THE NOW

WAYBACK THEN

LIVING IN THE NOW

junior portfolio show spring 2026

JEWEL HAN IS! ALL GROWN UP!

PERSONALITY

- who/has
- where/when
- what/how

TYPE TO 3 VALUES

- curious
- hold
- imaginative

WAYBACK THEN vs. LIVING IN THE NOW

WAYBACK THEN

LIVING IN THE NOW

junior portfolio show spring 2026

JULIET HOLMBOE IS! ALL GROWN UP!

PERSONALITY

- who/has
- where/when
- what/how

TYPE TO 3 VALUES

- curious
- hold
- imaginative

WAYBACK THEN vs. LIVING IN THE NOW

WAYBACK THEN

LIVING IN THE NOW

junior portfolio show spring 2026

EVAN KELLY IS! ALL GROWN UP!

PERSONALITY

- who/has
- where/when
- what/how

TYPE TO 3 VALUES

- curious
- hold
- imaginative

WAYBACK THEN vs. LIVING IN THE NOW

WAYBACK THEN

LIVING IN THE NOW



1. Matthew Marchese, Gigi Miller, Shelly Netz, Nicole Nguyen, Jane Sacon, Jewel Han, Gunhee Sin, and Chaz Tsang (Left to Right) displaying their portfolio covers in the Guggenheim Gallery.



DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS GO 3D!



Class of 2026 Graphic Design Seniors Anisa Abdulkariem, Lizzie Bork, Fiona Bumgarner, Nicholas Burke, Ella Doherty, Evelyn Harding, Gianna Iannarilli, Crista Kowitski, Lucy Periale, Jayden Ramirez, Naomi Sato, Nina Shaw, Simon Vloon, and Cailyn Williams, with Professor Eric Chimenti, Dr. Jillian Warren, Professor Kathleen Kaiser, and Professor Claudine Jaenichen after receiving their awards.

The Art Department Awards; Purcell Award, Margo Pawell Award, Honors Awards, and Legacy Award, are a tradition within the Art Department, recognizing students for academic and artistic excellence. Students receiving recognition have always been given only paper certificates, but nothing 3d to display. The class of 2026, however, marks the first class to receive dimensional awards; designed, produced, and assembled by our Ideation Lab workers. Starting in September 2025, Evelyn Bodok '29 and Liliana Iacono '29 began ideating potential award designs, collaborating on thumbnails, process decks, material needs,

color palettes, and typography. After several months of designing and brainstorming, the Art Department faculty reviewed the student's final process deck to decide which final designs would be taken to production. With their feedback, Evelyn and Lily collaborated to create a consistent design strategy, slightly altered for each individual award and major. The X-Tool and Glowforge machines were used to cut and engrave clear and colored acrylic along with wood pieces, which were then assembled with super glue and lots of love before being handed to the talented and deserving senior class at their award ceremony!



Purcell Awards, received by Studio Art Major Amanda Stein-Sigal and Art History Major Forest Delaney.



Honors awards for Studio Art, Graphic Design, and Art History majors.



Margo Pawell Award, received by Fiona Bumgarner.



Legacy Awards, received by Anisa Abdulkariem, Lizzie Bork, and Nicholas Burke.

OC PORTFOLIO REVIEW 2026



The 23nd annual portfolio review was held in person on Saturday, May 9th, 2026. A total of 59 students in our Graphic Design Program, mainly juniors and seniors, presented their portfolios to industry professionals. During the event, 272 reviews and one-on-one interviews were conducted by our 43 industry professionals. Each reviewer, coming from a background in various specialities, provided Graphic Design Majors and Minors valuable insight into how they can improve their craft and what they are currently

doing well in their portfolios, building connections that will help students once they leave Chapman. The OC Portfolio Review gave students valuable practice to confidently share their portfolios with professionals from various creative industries in the Orange County area. Of the 48 design professionals invited, it was wonderful having the 43 professional designers who were able to join us connect and talk with our students. We are so excited for the future of this event as it continues to grow yearly, and would like to thank our reviewers for taking the time to meet with students, and the students for putting their best foot forward.

- 1. Easton Clark receiving portfolio feedback from an industry professional.**
- 2. Professor Eric Chimenti and Professor Kathleen Kaiser assisting Casey Shimazu while signing up for reviews.**
- 3. Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Design students discussing their portfolios with invited industry professionals.**
- 4. Juliet Holmboe interacting with industry professional Alexander Kohnke.**



FT FACULTY UPDATE



Associate Professor of Art
Graphic Design Program Head
Ideation Lab Head

Education:
BS, Biola University
MFA, Savannah College of

ERIC CHIMENTI

Teaching:
Professor Chimenti taught DSGN 306 4d Design for the last time – as it will be transitioning and being replaced by DSGN 310 Spring 2027, along with DSGN 309 Illustration. He oversaw 3 independent/individual study courses and 12 internships.

Service:
Professor Chimenti finished up his one year appointment as a Wilkinson College faculty senator. Served as co-head of the GD program. Directed and oversaw the Ideation Lab student designers, equipment, and jobs. And worked with

his 60 official major and minor advisees along with advising prospective students and other students who come to him instead of their assigned advisor.

Creative Scholarly Activity:
Professor Chimenti should be finishing the his Co-Pi (primary investigator) role with Dr. Ghajargar and graduating BFA in Design seniors, Lizzie Bork and Lucy Periale on the project looking at Botanical Literacy using AI. He also is continuing his work with Dr. Michael Morales and visualizations related to the Old Testament, specifically the first 5 books, also known as the Torah.



Assistant Professor of Graphic Design

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

KATHLEEN KAISER

Teaching:
In the spring, Professor Kaiser taught two sections of GD 304: History of Graphic Design and GD 300: Graphic Design.

Service:
Professor Kaiser has been working on the Chapman University Art Department website, updating text and imagery to better reflect the evolution of the department, its three programs, and creative spaces.

Creative and Scholarly Activity:
During this reporting period, Professor Kaiser continued her professional practice as a principal partner at Pencilbox Studios. She contributed to several notable projects, including the annual report for the Immaculate Heart Community, preserving the legacy of the artist Corita Kent, and the development of a new brand identity for a family farm. She also advanced personal creative projects, including the development of a typeface inspired by her grandfather's butcher shop in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, and an ongoing body of collage work.





Professor of Art

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

CLAUDINE JAENICHEN

Teaching:
This semester, Professor Claudine taught GD 203 Color, GD 303 Information Design, and GD 311 Disability Design.

Service:
Professor Claudine is 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.

Creative Scholarly Activity:
In April 2026, Professor Claudine co-created the last word, the culminating volume of Tab Journal, a fourteen-year interdisciplinary collaboration between

poetry and design at Chapman University’s Tabula Poetica: The Poetry Center. Inspired by Tracy K. Smith’s “Declaration,” the issue reimaged erasure poetry through nine visual installations based on foundational texts including the Declaration of Independence and Common Sense. As both a creative publication and scholarly activity, the project challenged conventional notions of the literary page and explored how space, visual form, accessibility, and ways of reading shape literary experience. The exhibition represents the culmination of an evolving practice of “space before text” and demonstrates how creative collaboration can expand the possibilities of literary cultural production.



Assistant Professor of Graphic Design

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

JILLIAN WARREN

This semester has been especially exciting both in Dr. Warren's research and teaching. One recent highlight was the conditional acceptance of her pedagogy paper, Responding to Children’s Futures: Using the IDC Design Competition to Bridge Gaps in Child-Computer Interaction Design Education, in the International Journal of Child-Computer Interaction (IJCCI). The paper reflects on her GD 312 class: Designing Tomorrow course and explores how speculative design, design research, and children’s future-oriented ideas can help introduce students to Child-Computer Interaction (CCI) and ethical technology design practices. Dr. Warren would especially like to thank the Fall 2024 GD 312 students for their incredible creativity, hard work, and willingness to reflect on their experiences in the course. She is also very grateful to the students who chose to provide additional feedback and allow aspects of their work to contribute to the publication.

Dr. Warren was also excited to have a hands-on workshop accepted for the 2025 Play Make Learn Conference this summer. The workshop focuses on biomaterial making practices and sustainable imagination through accessible material experimentation. Participants will engage with hands-on bio-material exploration activities while discussing sustainability, material futures, and creative learning practices.

Building on her previous Faculty Grant for Research and Scholarly/Creative Activity (FGRSC) work, collaborations with Samueli Academy students and teachers, and a previous Play Make Learn workshop, Dr. Warren was also recently awarded a Jeffrey Griffith ’11 Junior Faculty Research Award through Wilkinson College’s Scholarly/Creative Activity Faculty Internal Grant program. The \$5,000 award will support a new two-year project titled Making Futures Tangible: Youth Biomaterial Toolkits for Sustainability, Agency, and Futures Thinking. The project focuses on developing, evaluating, and deploying youth-centered biomaterial making toolkits that encourage sustainability-focused learning, creative experimentation, and futures thinking through hands-on material engagement.

In teaching, one of the most exciting developments this semester has been new work in GD 105: Prototyping centered around sustainability and material experimentation. Students have been exploring recycled plastics, handmade paper, and bio-material samples through hands-on making activities as part of their final projects. This work is helping kick off the development of a communal sustainable/bio-materials library for the Design program, where future students will be able to contribute to and learn from a growing collection of experimental material samples, recipes, and processes.

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 larger industries with in-house design departments. Check out where students are interning during their time in the Art Department.

Here's what some 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."



CHAPMAN ALUMNI



MANEESH SIDHU '15 — APPLE
ROSARIO RODRIGUEZ SIGARI '09 — UBER
KIRSTEN MISHAY '17 — GIRL SCOUTS
ASHELYN TABLAU '25 — GUESS
RACHEL NAGASHIMA '26 — WARNER BROS

LINDSEY MESSENGER '10 — IKEA
ARIEL ROTH '13 — AUDIBLE
VINAY BAKSHI '25 — SONY PICTURES
SPENCER WIERWILLE '15 — BLENDERS
EVA HUZELLA '21 — HARVEY

FAREWELL TO THE IDEATION LAB CLASS OF 2026 SENIOR!



“The Ideation Lab has been a big part of my college experience, full of collaboration, creativity, and great people I’ve been lucky to work with.”

– Gianna Iannarilli

GIANNA IANNARILLI

Check Us Out



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[www.chapman.edu/wilkinson/art/graphic-design/](#)

[@chapmangraphicdesign](#)

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/



CHAPMAN
UNIVERSITY

Graphic Design Program

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