



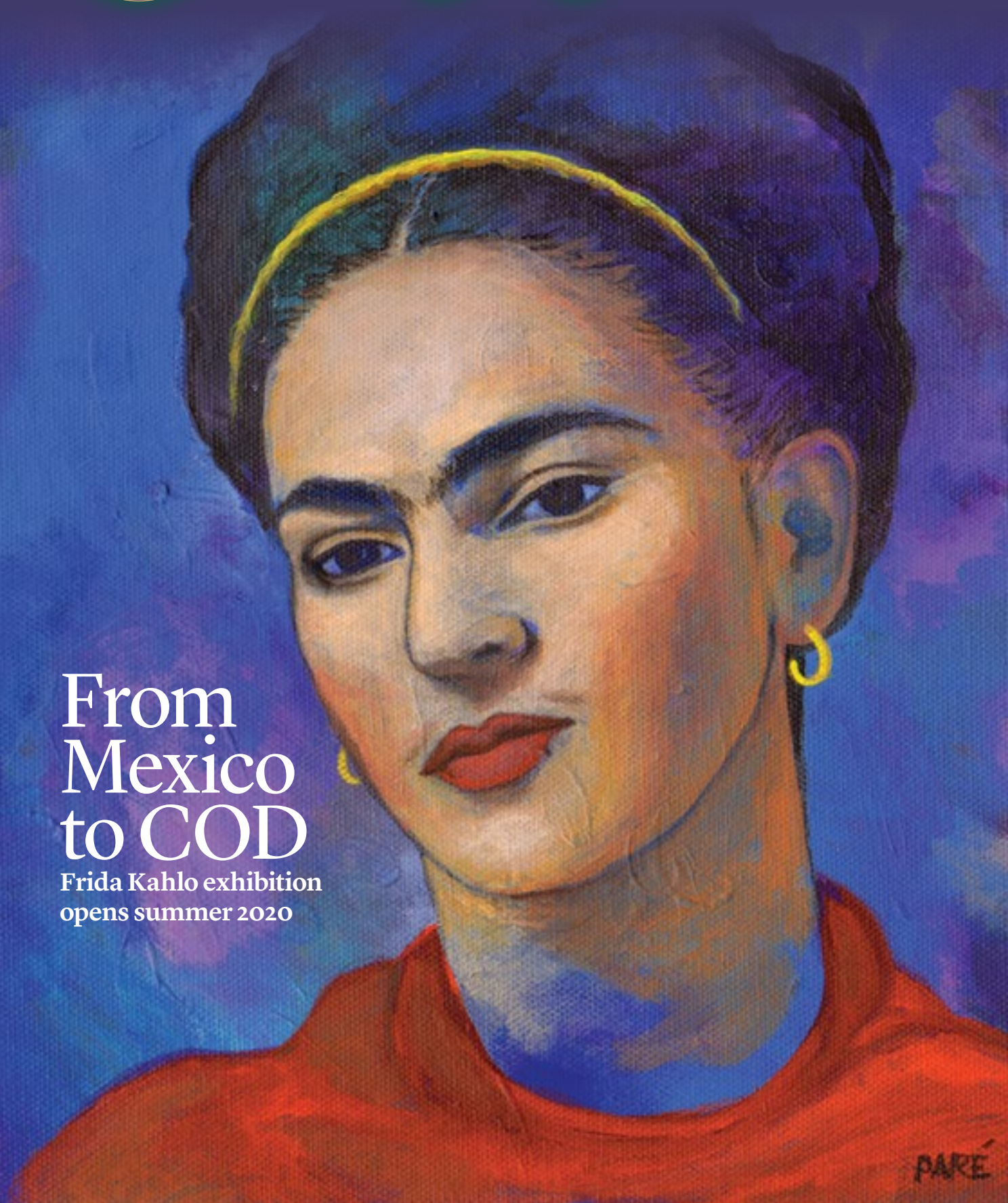
Engage

College of DuPage—
your community college

Vol. 2, No. 2

From Mexico to COD

Frida Kahlo exhibition
opens summer 2020



PARE



A Message from the President

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Cover painting of Frida Kahlo by College of DuPage alumna Mariam Paré, courtesy of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists Worldwide

College of DuPage is a center for art and culture in the western suburbs. In this issue of *Engage*, we look at the College's rich tradition of supporting the arts.

For more than 30 years, the McAninch Arts Center, affectionately known as the MAC and named in honor of the College's second president, Dr. Harold D. McAninch, has been an active home to both touring shows and educational programs dedicated to the arts. The many classrooms, studios, labs and performance spaces are filled with students who learn by doing as they perfect their crafts.

It is with great excitement that in summer 2020, the largest private collection of works by Frida Kahlo is coming to the MAC's Cleve Carney Museum of Art. The museum is currently being enlarged in order to accommodate this major exhibit as well as future ones. Exhibits on this scale give us opportunities to partner with local communities and organizations as well as our own academic programs to provide a rich and immersive cultural experience.

The arts also extend beyond the walls of the MAC into programs that allow students to unleash their creativity.

College of DuPage was saddened by the passing of former COD President Dr. Michael T. Murphy on July 2, 2019.

Dr. Murphy became the College's third President in 1994 and served until 2003. During his tenure, he helped to develop new programs and strengthen existing ones while planning for the future. The College launched its first online curriculum in 1997, using the Internet and email to deliver courses.

Voters also approved a \$183 million bond issue in 2002 that provided funds for the renovation and rebuilding of the Glen Ellyn campus.

The College community remembers Dr. Murphy for his leadership, warmth and ability to connect with students. His positive impact continues to be felt on campus.

The power of art and education can be found in the inspiring story of COD alumna Mariam Paré. Struck by random gunfire that left her a quadriplegic, she is an artist pursuing her passion to the fullest extent. It is her painting of Frida Kahlo that graces the cover of this magazine.

I also want to take a moment to talk finances. On the surface, this may be unrelated to the arts. But the College could not offer any programming without the financial support of the community.

I invite you to take a look at the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. The PAFR provides selected information on the College's financial condition in an easily understandable format.

The PAFR is becoming a tradition at the College for one simple reason: It meets the needs of our stakeholders for clear and concise financial information. The PAFR and other financial reports can be found at cod.edu/financials.

—Dr. Brian W. Caputo is president of College of DuPage.



In Remembrance
Dr. Michael T. Murphy

For the Community...



A book editor as well as a jazz and blues maven, Leslie Keros is a popular midday host on WDCB.



WDCB: Chicago's Home for Jazz—And More

Known as “Chicago’s Home for Jazz,” WDCB 90.9FM is Chicago’s premier jazz radio station based at College of DuPage.

WDCB is a listener-supported, public radio station that broadcasts more than 130 hours of jazz each week as well as blues, swing, folk, Americana, mambo, Celtic, new-age, big band, rock and old-time radio shows. Weekend scheduling highlights local art, theater, music, dance and visual arts events throughout District 502 and beyond.

“We are an outreach wing of the College for arts and culture,” WDCB Station Manager Dan Bindert said. “While we are not a physical classroom, there are nearly 150,000 listeners tuning in each week from across 35 states and more than 10 countries to learn about this great form of American culture.”

WDCB partners with the community on a variety of events that are free and open to the public. These include “Jammin’ in the Stacks,” a monthly afternoon of jazz at suburban Chicago libraries; a weekly jazz

series at Adelle’s in Wheaton and Parkers’ in Downers Grove; and a quarterly jazz series at Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook featuring top-level Chicago artists.

During the summer, WDCB partners with the McAninch Arts Center at COD for concerts at Lakeside Pavilion. WDCB also presents the “Encore Film Series,” which showcases documentaries on iconic musicians. Screenings are held quarterly on campus.

Because the station has a large presence in Chicago, WDCB offers live broadcasts each year from the Chicago Jazz Festival and the Chicago Blues Festival, hosted at Millennium Park and the Chicago Cultural Center.

“District 502 is WDCB’s home base but because we reach the whole Chicago area, that means we have an important role to play,” Bindert said. “A considerable part of jazz music’s history can be traced back to Chicago. Jazz is considered America’s greatest cultural gift to the world and that’s at the core of why WDCB exists.”

For more information on programming and to find an event near you, visit WDCB.org



From Mexico to COD

Collection of iconic Frida Kahlo works will transform the MAC in summer of 2020

A collection of iconic works by Frida Kahlo, considered one of Mexico's greatest artists, will find a temporary home at the McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage this summer.

Beginning June 1, "Frida Kahlo 2020" will be the first exhibition of original Kahlo artwork in the Chicago area in the last 40 years. The 26 pieces, on loan from the Dolores Olmedo Museum, come from the largest private collection of her work and features an array of works on paper and paintings spanning Kahlo's career.

Best known for self-portraits highlighting themes of identity, politics, sexuality and death, Kahlo channeled her childhood and personal struggles into her art and became an icon of feminism, activism and Mexican heritage.

"This collection is deeply tied to Kahlo's personal narrative," said Justin Witte, Cleve Carney Museum of Art Director and exhibition curator. "These pivotal works cover the period from the bus accident that led her to becoming an artist to the final year of her life."

In preparation for this iconic exhibition, the MAC's Cleve Carney Art Gallery closed earlier this fall for a major renovation that will transform the space into the Cleve Carney Museum of Art. It will gain 1,000 square feet, museum-quality lighting, climate controls and security as well as other improvements.

MAC Director Diana Martinez said the three-month exhibition about one of the most important painters of the 20th century will provide an immersive museum experience, including a poetry garden, children's area and photography exhibit featuring more than 100 reprinted photos spanning the artist's life.

"Frida had this magnetic personality that just draws people to her art and to her projects," she said. "We want patrons of the arts, students, faculty and community members to walk away from this one-of-a-kind experience with a clearer understanding not only of Frida's work but also her life and the time in which she lived."



"Frida had this magnetic personality that just draws people to her art and to her projects."

—MAC Director Diana Martinez

The excitement surrounding the exhibition is resulting in multiple partnerships within the College and the community. Molly Junokas, "Frida Kahlo 2020" Project Coordinator, said they are working on dedicating a digital display that will highlight Frida-inspired artwork by local students.

"Our vision is to involve children around the community to share in the excitement of the exhibit while also using this as a unique educational opportunity," she said. "We are working to create a family guide for the exhibition that will present the complex themes and historical significance of Frida's work in a way that works well for visitors of all ages."

At COD, curricula across multiple academic fields will tie in lessons about the Mexican artist and the time period in which she lived.

The exhibit includes numerous opportunities for educational engagement through performances, activities and events. Several COD professors already are planning to incorporate the life of Kahlo and Mexican history into their curriculum, including creative writing, visual arts, fashion, history, health care, Spanish language, women's studies, culinary, art and horticulture.

In this spirit, the College-wide celebration to announce the exhibit last year included floral

Left: *Frida on White Bench*, photo by Nickolas Muray; © Nickolas Muray Photo Archives; above: *Frida Kahlo, Self-Portrait with Small Monkey*, 1945 (Oil on masonite). Collection Museo Dolores Olmedo, Xochimilco, Mexico. © 2019 Banco de México, Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo Museums Trust, Mexico City, Mexico.

(continued on page 4)

Clockwise from below: A Frida cake specially designed by COD Culinary Arts students; Frida mural letters by artist Juan Chawuk in the MAC lobby; attendees enjoying Frida Fest; and a replica of one of Kahlo's most iconic dresses, which appeared in a 1930s issue of Vogue, re-created by Fashion Studies students.



arrangements created by Horticulture students; a cake specially designed for the occasion by Culinary Arts students; and a replica of one of Kahlo's most iconic dresses, which appeared in a 1930s issue of Vogue, re-created by the Fashion Studies program.

COD Fashion Studies Coordinator Eva Stevens said her students jumped at the opportunity to re-create such an iconic piece of clothing.

"Because we were under a really tight timeframe, students worked independently and passed off their garments to the next person," she said. "Students were inspired by the layers in Kahlo's dress, which reflects her life."

"Our community is uniting in a yearlong celebration of Frida's life and works."

—Glen Ellyn Village President Diane McGinley

Upcoming involvement includes students from the COD Horticulture program assisting with the exhibition's Frida Poetry Garden. Once the garden is installed, Martinez said students from the COD Theater program will build a pyramid covered in foliage and floral-shaped notecards with inspirational quotes from Kahlo.

"Our hope is that after people walk through the exhibit and see this gorgeous garden with Frida's words of inspiration throughout, they will write their own note and inspire someone else," she said. "We want the garden to be always evolving and changing with inspirational thoughts and sentiments."

"Frida Kahlo 2020" has attracted multiple corporate sponsors and community partners. The exhibition is presented by Bank of America; Lead Sponsor Ball Horticulture, which will also design and install the Frida Poetry Garden; and Elevate Sponsor Wight & Company, which is supporting the installation of the photography.

Supporting partners include Arts DuPage, College of DuPage Foundation, DuPage Foundation, DuPage Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Village of Glen Ellyn, Glen Ellyn Public Library, Glen Ellyn Chamber of Commerce, Mexican Cultural Center of DuPage,



National Museum of Mexican Art, WDCB 90.9FM, and Wheaton Chamber of Commerce. In addition, 22 community leaders have joined the Host Committee to invest in and champion the “Frida Kahlo 2020” exhibition and future projects at the Cleve Carney Museum of Art.

Earlier in the fall, Glen Ellyn Village President Diane McGinley declared this “The Year of Frida.”

“The Village is honored for Glen Ellyn to host this exhibition following its appearance in such culturally significant cities including Milan, Budapest and Moscow,” she said. “Our community is uniting in a yearlong celebration of Frida’s life and works. Glen Ellyn businesses are engaged and look forward to showcasing both Frida and Glen Ellyn during this exciting time.”

McGinley said this will set the tone for local school districts to make curriculum connections to Kahlo and the time period in which she lived.

In addition to educational and community benefits, the exhibit is expected to boost tourism, which will have a positive impact on the local economy. According to Beth Marchetti, Executive Director of the DuPage Convention and Visitors Bureau, the exhibition has the potential to attract 150,000 visitors, with 25 percent traveling from out of town, and more than \$8 million in estimated economic impact to the area.

Martinez hopes the Cleve Carney Museum of Art can host a world-class art show each year.

“One of the best things about this project is how many doors it has opened in the community,” she said. “We now have strong partnerships with the National Mexican Museum of Art in Chicago, the Mexican Cultural Center DuPage and The Art Institute of Chicago. All of our partners have been supporting ‘Frida Kahlo 2020.’ There is truly strength in numbers. The relationships this has built in the community are just phenomenal.”

“Frida Kahlo 2020,” as presented by Bank of America, will run June 1 to Aug. 31. It is made possible through support from the College of DuPage Foundation and the generous spirit of Milly and Alan Peterson, founding community members of College of DuPage and lifetime patrons of the McAninch Arts Center. For more information, ticket prices and culminating community events, visit Frida2020.org.

‘FRIDA KAHLO 2020’ PROGRAMMING

Friday, Feb. 14

**“For the Love of Frida” Gala Benefit
Featuring Rick Bayless**

Sunday, Feb. 16

Ballet Fólclórico Nacional de México

Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19

New Philharmonic Concert, “Salute to Frida”

June 1 to Aug. 31

“Frida Kahlo 2020”

The exhibit includes lectures, special events and the Frida Film Fest.

Monday, July 6

Frida’s Birthday Celebration

The Cleve Carney Museum of Art hosts an outdoor, day-long festival.

August (Specific Date TBD)

Closing Event

**Visit Frida2020.org and atthemac.org or call
(630) 942-4000 for information and tickets.**



Photo of Mariam Paré by Tori Soper/special to College of DuPage

Persevering With Passion

COD Alumna Mariam Paré uses her love for art to turn tragedy into triumph

Art has always been at the center of Mariam Paré's life.

"I don't remember a time when I wasn't a creative person," she said. "Crayons and pencils were always my favorite toys as a kid. Art was a way for me to entertain myself and process things during my childhood."

Paré enrolled at College of DuPage for one quarter at the age of 19 and then moved to San Francisco, hoping to attend art school there.

However, life changed in an instant for Paré while visiting friends in Richmond, Va. She was in a car when gunfire erupted on the sidewalk. A bullet entered the car and struck her neck, leaving her a quadriplegic. After five months in the hospital, she returned to Chicago for rehab and then home, where it took several years to regroup.

"As an able-bodied person, I had big plans for the future. After my injury occurred, I basically thought my life was over. I could not imagine leading any semblance of a life that was similar to what I had before."

Paré eventually gained motivation from watching other people with similar disabilities find new ways to live quality lives.

"I began to think, 'If other people can do this, then I can too,'" she said. "There was a glimmer of possibility. I didn't want to live a life of solitude. I wanted art back in my life because I didn't think that I could live my life without it."

After learning how to write her name using her mouth, Paré realized that she could still draw. This allowed her to return to what she has always been most passionate about.

"I was so happy. Art gave me a purpose and helped me cope with the disability better."

In 1999, Paré re-enrolled at College of DuPage and discovered that the campus community was accommodating and willing to assist her in any way possible.

"Everyone was so helpful. There were people who went to my classes with me, carried my books and set up my art materials. For my art degree, I had to fulfill a sculpture requirement. I was assigned someone who I could tell what I wanted, and that person did the sculpting. COD taught me that even if I can't physically do it, it was still my art if I can direct someone to do it."

Paré spent years at COD, completing her prerequisites and core art classes on her way to a degree. It took her about 10 years to become as good of an artist using her mouth as she was with her hands.

Now a member of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists, Paré has experienced numerous high points throughout her career, including solo art exhibitions and an appearance on the "Today" show.

She is currently involved in the Tres Fridas Project, a collaboration with artists Reveca Torres and Tara

Ahern. The project, inspired by iconic Mexican artist Frida Kahlo's "Dos Fridas" painting, recreates notable images of art and history that substitute the subjects with people with disabilities.

Kahlo, who contracted polio and later suffered serious injuries during a tragic bus accident, has long served as an idol of Paré's.

"Frida was a pioneer for artists with disabilities," she said. "She was one of the first artists who painted

her challenges in such a bold and unapologetic way. I relate to that."

Paré is looking forward to returning to COD for the Frida Kahlo 2020 exhibit.

"I'm so thrilled to be able to come back and see Frida's work on the walls that my work once hung on. That is amazing and I'll definitely be there."

Paré said that her journey has taught her that the possibilities for her future are endless.

"At one point I didn't know if I could pursue art anymore. Now I realize there are no limits."



"I wanted art back in my life because I didn't think that I could live my life without it," said COD alumna Mariam Paré. (Photo courtesy of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists Worldwide)



Designing

Graphic Design students combine art, skill and technology for diverse opportunities

Above left: Pete Surges turned his love of cars into a career as a graphic designer for Billet Specialties, a manufacturer of aftermarket automobile parts. (Photo by Tori Soper/special to College of DuPage)

Above right: Assistant Professor Gautam Wadhwa (far right) discusses design principles with a student. (Photo by Art Carrillo/special to College of DuPage)

As a boy, Pete Surges liked to draw—and most of the time, cars were his favorite subject.

After high school his fascination turned to fixing cars. Surges worked as an auto mechanic for six years before a health issue forced him to switch gears and make a career shift. He tapped into his artistic skills and enrolled in the College of DuPage Graphic Design program. Surges found a new direction, and yes, cars are still his driving force.

Surges works as a graphic designer for Billet Specialties, a manufacturer of aftermarket automotive parts, wheels and accessories for certain high-performance automobiles. He landed the job in 2014, right after finishing the program at COD. His work includes creating magazine ads, maintaining the company website and handling the photography for all the products and vehicles.

“I get to work with a lot of hotrods and muscle cars, and that’s awesome. I stuck with the automotive industry and now I’ve got a job doing what I love to do,” said Surges. “It’s a lot of work, but it’s a lot of fun. I couldn’t wish for anything better.”

COD’s Graphic Design program attracts diverse students, according to Assistant Professor Gautam Wadhwa, who serves as program coordinator. Some students come directly from high school with an interest in the field, while others simply want to explore



Your Career



their options. Like Surges, those entering the program with previous degrees or work experience are looking to retrain.

COD offers two Associate in Applied Science degrees, Graphic Design and Interactive Media, the latter a collaborative offering involving two other disciplines, Computer Information Systems and Motion Picture/Television. The program also offers two certificates, Web Design and Graphic Design Level I.

“Students create interactive design solutions for a variety of media, such as websites, digital interfaces, emerging media and applications.”

—Gautam Wadhwa, Assistant Professor and program coordinator of Graphic Design

“Interactive media includes products and services that respond to the user’s actions, like apps and websites. It is an interdisciplinary program that provides theoretical and application knowledge in the design, development and production of interactive media. Students create interactive design solutions for a variety of media, such as websites, digital interfaces, emerging media and applications. These students aim

to be a ‘unicorn’—rare, sought-after, hybrid or designer-developer combo. Developers who can design and designers who can code are one-stop shops and hot commodities, especially in the startup and tech world,” said Wadhwa, adding that degrees combining elements from different programs are happening more and more in education.

For students looking to transfer and complete their bachelor’s degree in graphic design, COD has 2+2 articulation agreements with Columbia College Chicago, Northern Illinois University and the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design. COD also offers capstone courses that give students hands-on experiences building their portfolios and working with real clients.

The professor knows firsthand what it takes to succeed in the graphic design field.

“You need the ability to keep learning because this field changes so much,” he said. “When I graduated, there were no smart phones. When they came in, it changed the whole industry. Right now, we have lots of interactive stuff—wearable technologies, Apple watches and other things. We finish talking and in an hour, there’s an announcement of a new device, and that changes the landscape. We are always foreseeing and changing the future in a way which keeps our program interesting and challenging at the same time.”



Above: Photo by Art Carrillo/special to College of DuPage; at right: artwork created by Kathy Baum

Getting Your Hands Dirty

Art professor helps students believe in their creative passions

Metalwork found Kathy Baum at a time when she needed a change. The College of DuPage Art professor was inspired by the hands-on aspect of making jewelry, connecting her to the earth.

“Creating beautiful things in the real world fulfills our basic human longing to touch and create,” she explained. “Forming something in your hands connects you to something deep and balancing.”

Baum started teaching at College of DuPage in 1994 after finishing her Master in Fine Arts degree at Indiana University. Although she jokes that her alternative career as a nightclub singer might not have worked out too well, Baum loves spending time with her students.

“One of the reasons I’ve been at COD for more than 25 years is the diverse nature of our students,” she said. “There are beginners and those seasoned in the field. Some students want to learn a skill for employment while others are there to grow for their own enjoyment. When a student is proud of what they have accomplished, especially since jewelry objects can be so different and magical, it’s a fabulous moment! Why would I do anything else?”

Baum said she is obsessed with the history of jewelry and adornment. She continues to gain as much information as possible on gemstones and why humans have always worn jewelry.

“After discovering metalwork, I realized almost immediately that I loved the material and dedicated my life to the craft,” she said. “My years of study in art history made me observe how little the academic world regarded the history of jewelry. I continue to grow in the history and knowledge of my craft and am grateful to share what I learn with others.”

It’s that combination of her vast information base and hands-on skills that Baum uses to reach her students.

“I hope my students believe their own creativity is stronger than they thought possible,” she said. “The studio environment is really responsible for that. The myth of the artist all alone being brilliant in his garret is simply nonsense. Creative people do spend an inordinate amount of time on their skill, perhaps alone, but to make something useful and meaningful, you need support. The broad spectrum of people in COD art studios enriches the experience of education.”

While Baum is inspired by the way technology positively affects people, she also sees the importance of continuing such ancient crafts as working with metal, which involves fire and beating it with a hammer.

“Our technological revolution is moving so fast but it’s imperceptible to younger students because they are riding the rocket, so to speak,” she said. “Students don’t ‘need’ to know how to pierce a piece of metal with a hand saw because laser cutters can do the job. But hand cutting is real, and the experience is real. You watch your work progress. You feel the piece get lighter and make a different sound as you put it on the workbench. It’s deeper understanding for the foundation of your education.”

As one of only a few community colleges with full National Association of Schools of Art and Design accreditation, COD offers a vast array of art classes that provides an in-depth study for students majoring in art or pursuing their own

creative passions. Classes offered include art history, ceramics, design, drawing, metalworking, painting, printmaking and sculpture.

“We are fortunate to offer a wide range of art classes and well-equipped studios. If you think of an art form, I bet we offer a class in it!” Baum said. “The faculty are working artists who care deeply about the success of their students.”



“You watch your work progress. You feel the piece get lighter and make a different sound as you put it on the workbench. It’s deeper understanding for the foundation of your education.”

—Professor Kathy Baum, Jewelry

The Art of Involvement

COD's McAninch Arts Center inspires student success

The ability to learn is shaped by people and spaces.

The McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage, which opened in 1986 and was renovated in 2013, encourages immersive learning and student involvement by offering a unique combination of arts, performance and academics under one roof.

The center, named after the College's second president, Dr. Harold D. McAninch, is home to such academic programs as Animation, Art, Dance, Graphic Design, Motion Picture/Television (MPTV), Music, Photography and Theater. The center also houses labs, studios and performance spaces designed to provide hands-on experiences in all facets of the arts.

Chuck Boone, Dean of Arts, Communication and Hospitality, said the blend of performance and education is what makes the facility unique and creates a variety of opportunities for students.

"It goes back to a vision cast by Dr. McAninch and the late Arts Center Director Jack Weisman," Boone said. "Our students gain professional experiences in the arts from their first day forward. They leave here with the confidence gained in 'doing and presenting' rather than only 'experiencing and observing' the arts."

The Theater program is home to a vibrant community of students from diverse backgrounds who work with professional faculty and staff to create a cohesive learning environment. Students build their skills at the MAC's performance spaces—the 800-seat Belushi Performance Hall, the 186-seat Playhouse Theatre and the "black box" Studio Theatre as well as the outside venue, Lakeside Pavilion.

"The program celebrates, explores and seeks to advance the idea of live expression," said Professor Connie Canaday Howard, Theater program chair. "Students can prepare for a career as a working artist, enrich their experience as an audience member and explore the arts under the guidance of active, professional faculty who practice what they teach and are committed to the growth and development of their students."

Each semester, College Theater stages two student productions and offers a variety of courses in areas including acting, auditioning and directing. Buffalo Theater Ensemble, the professional theater company in residence at the MAC, also enhances the training of students as they develop their talents alongside working artists in the industry.

"These opportunities provide students with valuable real-life experiences that inform them and encourage them to go after their dreams," Canaday Howard said.

The program has served as the foundation for many successful careers. One in particular is Lamorne Morris—actor, comedian and television personality best

known for playing the role of Winston in the Fox sitcom "New Girl."

"The program helped me immensely," Morris said. "It not only taught me the skills needed to become a successful actor, but it also taught me proper acting etiquette, such as how to prepare for a scene and how to rehearse. I still hold all of those things with me to this day."



COD Theater alumnus Lamorne Morris (right) during a rehearsal of 'True Confessions of the Wolf' from 2004.

The MPTV program is bolstered by passionate faculty members with award-winning national production credits who involve their students from the moment they enter the program. Students have access to a film and television studio with a multi-camera control room, professional high definition/standard definition digital video cameras and computer labs with the latest software.

"On the first day of taking 'Introduction to Motion Pictures and Television,' students start shooting assignments with professional equipment," said Glenn Glinke, Program Support Specialist for Graphic Design, Mass Communication, MPTV and Theater.

Outside of the classroom, students learn through internship opportunities and involvement in organizations such as Courier TV, the student-run, on-campus television broadcast. The MPTV program and Courier TV have amassed many student and industry awards during the past few years alone,

(continued on page 15)



COD student Trevor Frueh stars in the title role of Shakespeare's 'Macbeth,' recently presented by College Theater at the McAninch Arts Center. Each semester, College Theater stages two shows that involve students in all areas of production. (Photo by Press Photography Network/special to College of DuPage)



Motion Picture/Television student Vircell Dayap (right) tapes a segment of Courier TV, a student-run, on-campus television broadcast. Students won eight 2019 Illinois Broadcast Association Silver Dome Awards, including first place for Dayap. (Photo by Art Carrillo/special to College of DuPage)

A blend of performance and education is what makes the McAninch Arts Center unique and creates a variety of opportunities for students. (Right) Stop-motion animation is digitized for a student project in COD's Animation program. (Below, center) Ben Wahlund, Director of Percussion at COD, is surrounded by students during a rehearsal in one of the MAC's studio spaces. (Bottom) A COD student in a ceramics class turns his creative vision into a work of art.



Photo by Press Photography Network/special to College of DuPage



Photo by Art Carrillo/special to College of DuPage

“Our students gain professional experiences in the arts from their first day forward.”

Chuck Boone, Dean of Arts, Communication and Hospitality

including Illinois Broadcast Association Silver Dome Awards and Crystal Pillar Awards, presented by the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences’ Chicago/Midwest Chapter.

Second-year student Vircell Dayap is a recipient of two 2019 Silver Dome Awards, winning first place for Best TV Photojournalism and second place for Best TV Newscast.

“The most important part of the program has been the hands-on experience,” Dayap said. “It’s helped me improve my skills in editing and filming, and I’ve been able to learn from my mistakes.”

One highlight of the MPTV program is the associate degree offered in Animation, which is designed to prepare students interested in animation or motion graphics for gaming, film or TV. They use a high-tech computer lab with the latest software to explore a wide range of styles.

“Almost every course teaches through doing,” said Animation Professor Tony Venezia. “We present the techniques and principles to students. The students are the ones who take those concepts and turn them into completed projects.”

The capstone project is Animation Night, where advanced students showcase works they have completed throughout their time in the program.

Animation program alumnus and working animator Bob Blevins credits Venezia with inspiring him during his time as a student.

“At COD, I felt like the focus was on propelling students forward,” Blevins said. “Tony made sure you had access to whatever facilities and equipment you needed to go forward. He was excited that we were excited.”

The Art program at COD serves as the first step toward a career in freelance art work, art teaching, art criticism, curating, art gallery direction, museum work, or design and illustration. Hands-on learning spaces include ceramics, pottery, jewelry and sculpture studios, as well as multiple drawing rooms and spaces to display classroom projects.

“Program outcomes are twofold—thinking about art and making art,” said Assistant Professor David

Ouellette. “It is studio-heavy, meaning that art students will spend many hours outside of class to improve their art-making skills. This is paired with a series of art history courses, in which students learn how to draw on historical sources of art and to contextualize their art within contemporary experiences.

“Several institutions that receive our transfer students have commented that they come into the program better prepared to succeed than their own native students, which is a huge compliment for us.”

The Music program at COD is an immersive experience that prepares students for a wide range of careers in the arts, including music education, music therapy, arts administration, recording production and music business.

In addition to instructional classrooms, the MAC features a state-of-the-art recording studio, a piano room and two large rehearsal spaces. Students also participate in a variety of music ensembles and groups, including Chamber Singers, Chamber Orchestra and Percussion Ensemble.

“COD music students have access to top-of-the-line recording equipment and software that is updated regularly,” said Music Professor Lee Kesselman. “The greatest

strength of the Music program at COD is its first-rate faculty, all of whom are committed to supporting music students in their endeavors as musicians and professionals within the arts world.”

Music program alumna Amy Beth Kirsten has received many accolades during her career, including being one of 180 people from 3,000 applicants to receive a John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship during its 87th annual competition.

“I was lucky to have experiences early on in my development, which gave me the confidence to keep going,” she said. “When you find something that makes you so happy and stimulates your intellect—and you feel you have something to contribute—it’s impossible to resist.”



Students in the Dance program perform works by COD faculty, guest choreographers and selected student choreographers.

Creating Art Inside and Out

Alumni find inspiration in stormy skies and at the White House

David Mayhew has made a career of capturing stunning images of severe weather.

His interest in the weather developed when he was a child growing up on his father's farm in rural Suffolk, England.

"Us Brits always talk about the weather," he said. "It's how we start conversations in general as the weather in England changes quite rapidly and we love to moan about it. I was always paying attention to the weather, especially as I spent my summers on a tractor during harvest or doing late-night work under the stars to get crops in before the next rain."

Despite his interest, photographing weather wasn't his first career track. Mayhew earned a bachelor's degree and went to work as an engineer in the nine-to-five corporate world, where a job brought him to the Chicago area.

But a new inspiration would soon beckon to him.

"Photography had never crossed my mind until digital photography came to my attention," he said. "I have always been visual and my art classes led me into design engineering. The switch from AutoCAD to Photoshop was a natural progression."

Around that time, College of DuPage's storm chasing classes caught his eye.

"After a few years of storm chasing, my interest grew and I enrolled in the College's severe weather forecasting classes," he said. "I soon spotted the photography classes in the McAninch Arts Center. The program covered everything from legal practices, shooting and editing to gallery exhibitions. No leaf was left unturned."

Like Mayhew, COD alumna Sheri Bolton spent several years working in corporate America after earning a bachelor's degree in Marketing and Communications and an MBA.

Then everything changed: She married, started a family and became a stay-at-home mom. The change made her realize that she had a deep desire to pursue a career about which she was truly passionate.

Bolton enrolled at COD and earned her associate degree in Interior Design. She since has opened Bolton Designs and Interiors LLC in Chicago and created

Design From Within®, a comprehensive system to help people navigate home projects.

While she loves her work, one experience stands out above the rest.

"My most memorable project was being selected by First Lady Michelle Obama and her team to decorate the White House during the 2015 holiday season. It was the experience of a lifetime," she said.

During the project, she met the First Lady and worked with the world-renowned Rafanelli Group—by whom she was deemed the "tree-skirt magician"—and the London-based fashion designer Duro Olowu. Her creations included adorning the lower cross hallway and decorating the Vermeil Room.

While Bolton's marketing, business and corporate background served her well in opening her business,

she said COD provided a great foundation with which to follow her passion.

"College of DuPage prepared me well with technical knowledge and cutting-edge CAD techniques," she said.

"I learned how to be meticulous in the drafting of 2D and 3D drawings that

give customers a true perspective of how their space will look. That level of precision has been so valuable in helping my clients visualize their spaces before commencing any construction."

Mayhew's award-winning photography has been featured in a multitude of publications, broadcasts and exhibitions nationally. In 2017, he published "Stormchaser: A Visual Guide to Severe Weather," which became Amazon's choice for Best New Photography Book of the Week.

He said COD helped him find a niche to frame his career.

"The most important thing I learned at COD was to either do what everyone else is doing and do it better, or do something completely original," he said. "One of my photography lecturers said I needed to find something to hone in on so when folks mention David Mayhew Photography, they would say, 'Oh yeah, he's the guy who does X.' The storms provided unique opportunities, so I literally focused on that, which became my 'X' factor."

"College of DuPage prepared me well with technical knowledge. That level of precision has been so valuable in helping my clients visualize their spaces before commencing any construction."

—COD alumna and interior designer Sheri Bolton



David Mayhew discovered College of DuPage and Meteorology Professor Paul Sirvatka's storm-chasing courses, where he traveled up to 1,000 miles a day searching for supercell storms—often the cause of tornadoes—from Mexico to South Dakota. He enrolled in the COD Photography program and has made weather photography his career. (Photo by Magnus Barber)



After earning her associate degree in Interior Design, Sheri Bolton opened Bolton Designs and Interiors LLC and created Design From Within®, a comprehensive system to help people navigate home projects. In 2015, she was selected as one of nearly 100 volunteers from 35 states to help decorate the White House for the holidays. (Photo by Tori Soper/special to College of DuPage)

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Pete Surges turned to College of DuPage because he felt it had the best Graphic Design program in the Chicago area. His decision proved to be on target, and he has flourished in his role as a designer at Billet Specialties in LaGrange Park. See page 8 to read more about COD's Graphic Design program.

Engage

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Direct all comments and questions to the editor at kleeman@cod.edu.

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