

Academic Appointments

Chair, Associate Professor, Department of Product Design
College of Design, University of Kentucky | July 2020 - Present

Assistant Professor, Multi-disciplinary Design Program
College of Architecture + Planning, University of Utah | July 2015 - July 2020
Social Impact Coordinator, August 2017 - July 2020
University Sustainability Teaching Scholar, July 2019 - July 2020

Assistant Professor, Industrial + Interaction Design Program
College of Visual and Performing Arts, Syracuse University | July 2010 - May 2015
Program Coordinator, June 2014 - May 2015

Education

Master of Science in Architecture, Concentration in Industrial Design | Virginia Tech | May 2010
Graduate Thesis: Why We Draw: An Exploration Into How and Why Drawing Works; Summa Cum Laude

Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design | Virginia Tech | May 2007
Senior Thesis: "Autonomous Personal Transportation"; Magna Cum Laude

Department of Product Design, University of Kentucky | July 2020 - Present

COURSES TAUGHT

PRD 115 Form Workshop I
PRD 116 Form Workshop II
PRD 120 Form Studio
PRD 121 Product Design Studio I
PRD 160 Design Visualization: Analog

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Department Chair | Fall 2020 - Present

Responsibilities: oversee successful operation of the Department of Product Design, including course time and location scheduling, staffing and hiring of part-time and full-time faculty, budgetary planning and oversight, as well as representing program and faculty needs in College-wide meetings and committees; continued curriculum development and updating of program offerings to respond to changing landscape of design education; articulation of program vision and representation to prospective students; advisement and resolution of student concerns and issues; expansion of program teaching and classroom resources, technology, and equipment.

College of Design Leadership Team | Fall 2020 - Present

Contribute to College-level discussion and decision-making to support progress of College; resolution of inter-and cross-unit issues; development of strategic priority areas and action steps.

Multi-disciplinary Design Program, University of Utah | July 2015 - July 2020

COURSE TAUGHT

DES 1630 Rapid Visualization
DES 2700 Visual Strategy
DES 2820 Design Research Methods
DES 2830 Human Factors
DES 3000 Communications III
DES 3515 Design Research Studio I
DES 3525 Design Research Studio II
DES 3600 Design Studio
DES 3611 Design Studio II
DES 4010 Capstone Studio Minor
DES 4610 Design Studio III
DES 4805 Prototyping Methods
DES Workshops
ARCH 2630 Foundation Workshop: UAC Korea

PUBLICATIONS/SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

VR Plus | University of Utah | December 2019
Panel presentation to National Advisory Committee of the University about campus-wide applications of/projects related to virtual reality technology.

Material Recycling + Disposal Convention | Greater Salt Lake Area | January 2018
Presentation: "Material Ecologies"
invited to share the processes and results of the Spring 2017 DES3611 coursework at the 2018 convening of all Material Recycling Facilities (MRFs), landfills, and municipalities in the Salt Lake Valley, as a way of supporting a State- and Nation-wide discussion on material usage, disposal, and recycling in response to changing global dynamics.

INNOVATION Magazine | Industrial Design Society of America | First Quarter 2018
Article: "Educating Impact"
invited to contribute an article to theme of "Design at the Margins" (Guest Editor: Ann-Marie Conrado, Notre Dame ID); summary: as design shifts to broader contexts, researching ecosystems to understand and legitimize long-term system impacts as immediate design criteria; sharing of "landfill ecosystem" project as case study. digital publication: Educating Impact

TEDxHerndon | Herndon, Virginia | May 2017
Presentation: "Speaking with Images"
invited presentation of research and guiding principles for utilizing drawing and visualization as a means of cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary dialogue and conversational tool to fit within theme of TEDx event: Disparate Voices. video: Speaking With Images

Design Principles and Practices | "Design Transforming Society" | Rio de Janeiro, Brazil | February 2016
Paper and presentation: "The Ingenuity Exchange: Learning in Both Directions"
position paper focusing on interactions with clients or partners in developing contexts allowing for knowledge transfer both to and from the client/partner; isolating the challenges of teaching future designers about social impact design by defining the difficulties inherent in curriculum delivery and transportation to these [specifically global] contexts. site: DPP Final Program

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Social Impact Coordinator | August 2017 - July 2020

tasked with developing and coordinating social impact design efforts from and within the Multi-Disciplinary Design program; sharing past, existing and future community-engaged design projects and partnerships with goal of establishing international links for design students and faculty.

Global Faculty Council | September 2015 - July 2020

University committee for development of global initiatives (curricular and administrative) across the university campus; review of University-led proposals for integration of international students, study abroad programs, risk assessment, etc. site: Office of Global Engagement

Design Futures Public Interest Design Student Leadership Forum Chair | May 2019

Chair of committee for hosting national conference focusing on social and racial justice at University of Utah; personal responsibilities: venue and lodging, extracurricular activities, transportation, food, budgeting, liaison between host institute, organizing body (Design Futures), and funding entity (Center for Urban Pedagogy). site: Design Futures Student Leadership Forum

National Conference on the Beginning Design Student (NCBDS) Co-Chair | Fall 2016 - Spring 2017

College of Architecture + Planning committee charged with planning and organizing national conference for March 2017 hosted by CA+P; personal responsibilities: development of conference website, web graphics, initial call for submission proposals, organization of submissions, reviewers and reviews, final publication materials, organization/formatting of conference proceedings.

Shop Committee | Fall 2016 - July 2020

College of Architecture + Planning committee focused on effective communication between shop management and various programs/departments in the college; overview of shop use policies, equipment/material needs.

Digital Fabrication Task Force | Fall 2016

College of Architecture + Planning committee focused on future of digital fabrication technologies and equipment needs in curriculum development within the college; articulation of computer requirement for incoming students to college.

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Digital Matters Faculty Fellow | Fall 2019

Recipient of university faculty grant for Fall semester, proposal: "Inhabitable Research". Studio-embedded investigation of virtual reality technology as applied to construction of systems-level representation and understanding; immersive environments to communicate environmental quality issues and opportunities for the Salt Lake Valley region. site: Digital Matters Fellows

Global Learning Across Disciplines (GLAD) Grant | Fall 2016-Spring 2017

Grant author/PI: Mimi Locher, Transcending Borders: Embedding Global Citizenship within Architecture & Design Curricula; grant awarded by Office of Global Engagement to develop opportunities and curricular structures within CA+P to integrate global learning opportunities.

ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS

MDD + University of Utah Global Public Health | Spring 2019

Eight-week, junior-level research and strategy project examining the role of design in the global public health sphere; interaction with GPH medical experts for review and final project jury.

MDD + Trans-Jordan Landfill | Spring 2017

Nine-week, junior-level project focusing on material ecologies in partnership with local landfill serving seven municipalities in the Salt Lake Valley; facilitated site meetings to tour and observe landfill operations; support from executive director and director for education.

MDD + University of Utah AirMed Service | Spring 2016

Nine-week, junior-level project in partnership with Univ. of Utah's AirMed service focusing on physical, digital, and platform product solutions for enhancing AirMed's mission and objectives; facilitated multiple site visits to bases, tours of fixed- and rotor-wing aircraft. Final presentations to AirMed team members with support from executive director.

MDD + University of Utah Spinal Cord Injury Program + TRAILS | Fall 2015

Semester-length, senior-level project in partnership with adaptive sports experts focusing on product designs for adaptive skiing and kayaking activities. Multiple interaction sessions with adaptive athletes, coaches, clinical technicians, and spinal cord medical professionals. Final product design presentations in conjunction with Mechanical Engineering program working on similar prompts.

Industrial + Interaction Design Program, Syracuse University | July 2010 - May 2015

COURSES TAUGHT

IND 204 Technical Graphics
 IND 272 Principles of Industrial Design II
 IND 273 Principles of Industrial Form I
 IND 276 Visualization & Representation
 IND 375 Human Factors for Designers
 IND 376 Digital Surface Modeling
 IND 476 Environmental Practicum
 IND 571 Product Practicum
 IND 574 Industrial & Interaction Design Thesis
 DES 100 Visualization Techniques
 DES 648 Design Communications

PUBLICATIONS/SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Guest Lecturer | Industrial Design Program, Emily Carr University | Spring 2012

Lecture: “Synthesis” asked to describe the skills necessary for the next generation of designers; focus on the ability to weave together disparate bits of information, observation, technology, and design methods to provide knowledgeable, actionable design solutions; discussion of future issues (global, local, technological, educational, etc.)

Stir Symposium | Ohio State University | October 2011

Paper and presentation: “Live Local. Learn Local. Improve Local: A Possible Future for Secondary Education in Developing Countries” (co-authored with Jane Mills)
 position paper focusing on rethinking the western-influenced model of education in rural East Africa (applicable to other developing regions) and proposing a more adaptive, hands-on, regionally-pertinent educational system; based on research conducted in Kenya during the summer 2011/2007/2006. Full-day workshop consultant: Future of Learning, section 2

National Conference on the Beginning Design Student (NCBDS) | University of Nebraska, Lincoln | April, 2011

Paper and presentation: “Digging Up Ideas: Visually Exposing New Directions”
 article describing the importance of teaching drawing as a thinking tool rather than merely a technical skill, focusing on the importance of our visual system’s ability to make meaning from visual information and the methods of creating that visual information.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Foundations Task Force | Spring 2013

member of committee tasked with evaluating current situation within the Foundations Department as it relates to Art and Design departments; development of recommendations for how to best situate Foundations and how to address needs of Art and Design departments.

Portfolio Committee | Spring 2011

contributed to development of new entry portfolio framework and review process for students applying to programs within Department of Design, Syracuse University, including Fashion, Industrial & Interaction, Interior, and Communications design disciplines.

Guest Lecturer | Design Odyssey, Syracuse University | Spring 2011

Lecture: "Ideation" presentation of mechanics of visual systems and why humans are hardwired to better understand visual information, how to frame problems within a wide range of disciplines using visual techniques; given to 150+ Syracuse University students of mixed disciplines (including business, design, engineering).

IDSA Faculty Representative | Fall 2010 - Spring 2011

organized and maintained relations between IDSA National and Syracuse University student chapter, as well as student trip to 2011 Regional Conference at RISD.

Academic Advisor | August 2010 - May 2015

guide and advise 14-18 students per semester on course registration, future career development, letters of recommendation resulting in internships and summer programs.

ACADEMIC AWARDS**Faculty Research and Development Grant | College of Visual and Performing Arts | Fall 2011**

awarded development grant to fund fabrication of 5th-year student-designed educational furniture and tools in northwest Kenya at one primary and one secondary school (ongoing).

ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS**SU IID + Three Birds Foundation | Fall 2013**

semester-long project resulting in renewable energy demonstration unit and product family proposal for client (The Three Birds Foundation); collaboration with University of Maryland's MESA Lab (electrical and computer engineering) to develop and execute design concepts and final deliverables.

SU IID + HHC | Spring 2013

8-week project with the Housing and Homeless Coalition of Syracuse (representatives from VA Housing and VA Justice Outreach) to address factors and impacts of homelessness in the Central New York area; student-led research into community, state, nation, and international implications of homelessness, development of strategies and products to alleviate and educate homeless individuals and communities and resolve gaps in understanding of available services.

SU IID + WelchAllyn | Fall 2011

nine-week partnership with medical products company WelchAllyn rethinking/redesigning the ambulatory care experience; organized and facilitated several trips to WelchAllyn's main headquarters and production facility in Skaneateles, NY for project launch and reviews; teams of students designed and prototyped new experiences, culminating in presentation to WelchAllyn executive staff and delivery of final project books. (team presentation boards displayed in WelchAllyn's Skaneateles facility)

SU IID + ARISE | Fall 2010

partnered with Syracuse city-based community organized by and dedicated to human rights of individuals with disabilities; within the context of the Human Factors for Designers course, directed ongoing meetings with community and identified individuals with whom to design; teams of students analyzed, ideated, and prototyped designs for their specific ARISE partner, culminating in final presentation to ARISE members and delivery of project book.

Design Experience

Visualization Consulting | Spring 2019

Development and teaching of customized curriculum for corporate/private business to aid in interdepartmental visual communication and design iteration.

Salt Market + Pepper Market | Fall/Winter 2013

Development of promotional materials (visual identity, poster, banner, postcards) for locally organized art, craft, and design market in downtown Syracuse (w/ Jane Mills); introduction of collaborative design process to client, ECHO. see: www.saltmarketsyracuse.com

Salt Works | Fall 2013

Development of identity and branding materials for reclaimed furniture start-up company (w/ Jane Mills) to specifications and satisfaction of three leadership/funding organizations: Syracuse Near Westside Initiative, Northside UP, and Syracuse University.

Pop-Up Adventure Play | Spring 2011

creation of logo and identity materials for not-for-profit, US & UK-based group; organization's focus on unscripted play in open, public spaces led to whimsical, playful, and encouraging attitude of visual materials. see: www.popupadventureplay.org

Contributing Designer | Ideation | Fall 2008 - Spring 2010

contributed artwork and provided editing capabilities for ideation sketching book consisting of drawing techniques exemplified by student-created examples and step-by-step instructions; compilation of book under supervision by Prof. Akshay Sharma.

Society of Environmental Journalists Conference Exhibitor | Autonomous Personal Transport | October 2008

represented College of Architecture and Urban Studies at regional conference in Roanoke, Virginia, presented lobby exhibit to express importance of evaluating the way we currently travel and its effects on natural resources, the environment, and climate change.

Graduate Research Assistant | Autonomous Personal Transport | Spring/Fall 2008

grant-funded research project devoted to rethinking the daily urban commute and human interaction with vehicular travel; funded by the Institute of Critical Technology and Applied Science (January - August; \$47,000) and the Institute for Society, Culture and Environment (August - December; \$22,000); included collaborative course with Mechanical Engineering students and faculty (Prof. Al Wicks) to produce vehicle prototype.

Grant Proposal Co-Author | Autonomous Personal Transport (w/ Howard Chen) | Fall 2007

employed by School of Architecture + Design to compose prospectus document for seeking University grants and funding for continuation of senior thesis transportation system project.

Travel Book Co-Author | Maji Safi: Mbara Water Projects 2007 (w/ Howard Chen) | September 2007

compilation photo book and journal of post-graduation volunteer aid work in Kenya, produced with the intention of sharing our experiences and those of the people we encountered during nine weeks of living and working in rural Kenya.

Design-Build Team Member | P.L.U.G. Project (with Prof. Matt Lutz) | Spring 2007

Portable Laboratory on Uncommon Ground; interdisciplinary project between College of Architecture and Urban Studies and Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine to design and produce a portable, minimal-impact, rapidly-deployable research station for studying chimpanzee populations in Mahale Mountains National Park, Tanzania. http://www.vt.edu/spotlight/innovation/2007-01-15_structure/2007-01-15_structure.html

Advertising Production Graphic Artist | Collegiate Times | Spring 2006 - Fall 2006

produced newsprint content for local and national clients for student-run newspaper in Blacksburg, Virginia; created Flash-based online news ads, assisted newspaper layout design, and liaised between clients and sales representatives.

International Contemporary Furniture Fair | Summer 2005

exhibited rolled-steel rod and canvas sling chair as part of the Virginia Tech School of Architecture + Design's display, themed "Material Presence"; explored the intersection of rough, untreated materials through a sparse steel frame and a one-piece suspended canvas sling.

Professional Associations

Member | Industrial Design Society of America (IDSA) | Fall 2005 - Fall 2016; Spring 2018-Fall 2019
member of professional organization to promote design across America and abroad; attendance and participation in several IDSA Regional Conference; served as IDSA Student Chapter Co-Chair, 2006-2007.

Member, Board of Directors | The Three Birds Foundation | September 2011 - June 2013
US-based, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to improve education, energy use, and the environment through creative renewable energy initiatives at public schools in low-income communities.

Volunteer Work

Kenya Water Project Volunteer | Mbara Communities | Summer 2006 and Summer 2007
Joined Terry Hummerston (UK) and John Ywalasiwa (Kenya) as part of a team to repair and extend pipeline systems to provide clean, potable, localized water sources; creation of new water catchment basins and filtering tanks, donation of clothing and provisions for local families and children.

Military Service

United States Air Force | Virginia Air National Guard | Staff Sergeant (E5) | Jet Engine Mechanic | Sep 2002 - Dec 2009
Based at Richmond IAP and Langley AFB, and Spangdahlem AFB, Germany; provide reactive and preventive maintenance, troubleshooting, and Quality Assurance and inspection for GE F110-100 and GE F110-129 turbofan propulsion systems for F-16 aircraft, including backshop maintenance and flightline duties, management of parts supply and stocking; Honorable Discharge. Basic Training Honor Graduate, Lackland AFB, July 2003: top 10% of all graduates; Technical School Airmen Leader, Sheppard AFB, Fall 2003: organize, lead, and manage 200+ technical trainees at squadron level. *DD Form 214 paperwork available upon request.