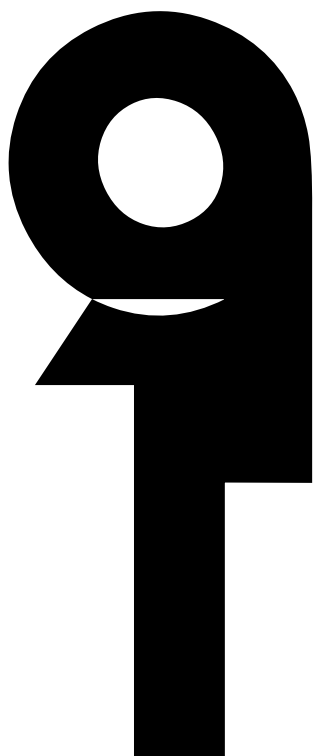
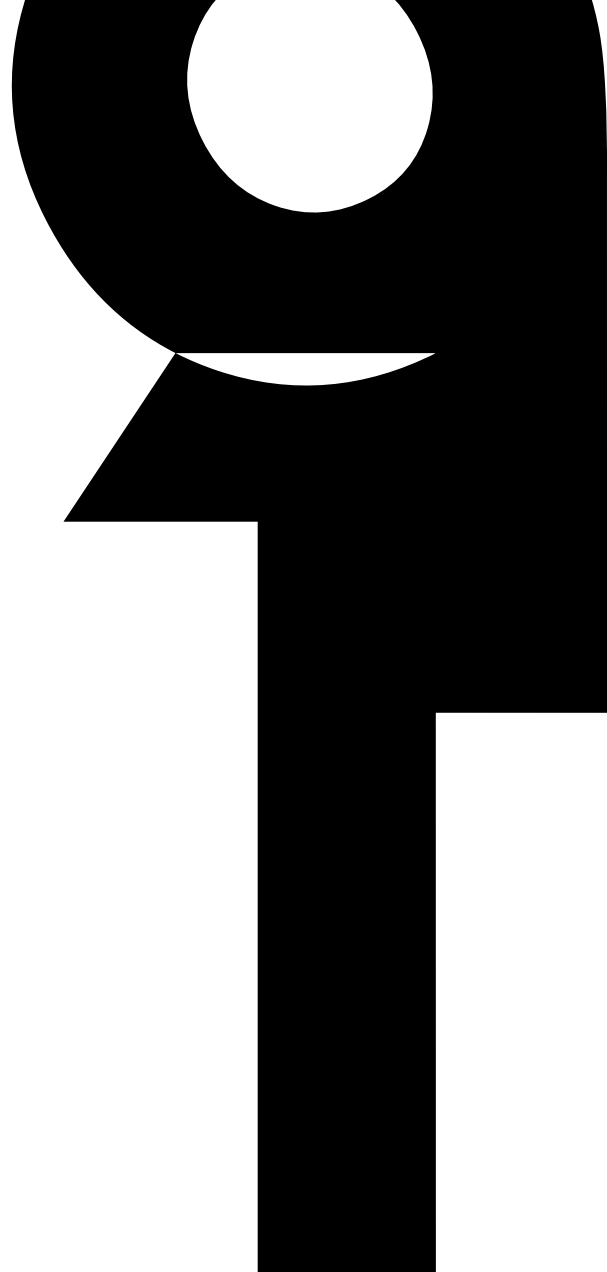


nineteen to one



To Dr. Daniel A. Wubah, who is responsible for the vision for undergraduate education at Virginia Tech.



Designed by

Gregory Mitchell

Edited by

Gregory Mitchell and Helene Renard

Written by

2011 Design Thinking Class,
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

contents

introduction	11
goof CAITLIN MULLIGAN	12-13
not a jeopardy contestant JADE WOMACK	14
what children teach us AMBER JURGENSEN	15
band of brothers CONNOR BROWN	16-17
maximum advantage JOANNE NG	18-19
do it for you JASON ANDRADE	20
uniqueness CONNOR PHIEL	21
simplicity MITCHELL HARRIS	22-23
share JOY CUNNINGHAM	24
family matters SEAN BILARDELLO	25
moving on RAJKOMAL CHOWDHURY	26-27
love MOLLY VAUGHAN	28-29
enjoy life NATHAN STROTHER	30
the choice is yours JOSH SCHIEMANN	31
failure is my drive ADE JOY-HOGG	32-33
love that bonds create KATHERINE ROUSE	34-35
the pursuit of pleasure GREGORY MITCHELL	36-37
goggles are a girl's best friend HELENE RENARD	38-39
faces of believing KATHRYN ALBRIGHT	40-41

nineteen to one

introduction

Nineteen to One is a composition of short essays, photographs and diagrams designed by the students and professors of the 2011 Design Thinking class. Dr. Daniel A. Wubah (VP and Dean for Undergraduate Education at Virginia Tech) challenged the class participants to write a personal response to the book *This I Believe II*.

Each creative work aims to describe a core principle that guides life. The responses identify a singular belief or object that motivates them to get out of bed each morning.

While the book *This I Believe II* is more concerned with the individual than the aggregate, *Nineteen to One* aims to challenge default ways of thinking and communicating ideas within a collective work.

Nineteen to One is a truly one of a kind work that challenges seeing and communicating the everyday differently.

1 goof

Caitlin Mulligan, Architecture

Richmond, VA

The word "goof" has various meanings in the English language. For example, goof can be used as a verb meaning to blunder; make an error, mis-judgment; or to waste or kill time; evade work or responsibility (often followed by off or around). It can also be used as a noun meaning a foolish or stupid person; a mistake or blunder, especially one due to carelessness; a source of fun or cause of amusement. In all of these definitions the word "goof" is given a negative connotation; however, the word "goof" has always resonated with me as positive.

At 4:45 in the morning my best friend and I really couldn't think of much until George, our swim team coach, ground into our minds the idea that we are at practice only to be focused on competition and winning. When two teenage girls get together that early in the morning and only focus on competition nothing good comes out of it. My best friend Mary and I bickered about trivial things like who should lead the lane for the set or if I was not giving her enough time and swimming too close "up her butt", as she liked to call it. Nothing came out of these horrific practices except for frustration.

After a stretch of disappointing practices and meets where neither of us dropped time, we realized this was not the way to go about things. Instead, we started goofing off in practice. We didn't slack off or waste time, we just made things more amusing by joking around and having a little fun. During cool

down swims we would grab onto each other and she would be the arms while I would be the legs to make one super long swimmer. Even on the way to practice in the morning we had to goof off just to stay awake. Driving down 301 we had music blasting and the windows down so the cold air would shock us into staying awake for the drive. Eventually we actually wanted to go to practice in the morning because we were having so much fun. By taking the sets less seriously and more lightheartedly and making a little fun out of our situation we managed to do better in practice and meets since there was less pressure to perform perfectly.

Even the most successful artists can attest that being "perfect" isn't the way to achieve success. For example, photographer Sally Mann states, "All the mistakes I make turn out to be good in the end. Anyone can set up a camera and take a straight forward photo but it's the imperfections that catch our attention and make the photo a memorable one." Maybe Sally Mann isn't goofing off the way everyone thinks of goofing off, but by not sticking to a traditional outlook on photography, by accepting errors and mistakes, and maybe even acting a little foolish in the process, Mann sets herself apart as an individual. I believe in goofing off. Goofing off has the power to transcend perfection and lead to discoveries.

2 not a jeopardy contestant

Elizabeth “Jade” Womack, Landscape Architecture

Ruther Glen, VA

I have made it my goal in life to be able to talk to anyone about anything at anytime, anywhere in the world. This mammoth goal of mine is what makes me tick and inspires me to live my life with a dash of curiosity.

In short, I know a lot of random facts.

I'm fascinated with what's out there. If I can, I want to learn everything about the universe and beyond. I enjoy the time I interact with people that I don't know. I've talked to homeless people outside of Five Guys, school girls in a park in Cairo, and had juice spilled on me by a Senator. In all of these small instances, I have learned something. Moreover, I talked to someone I wouldn't have otherwise, a step closer towards my goal.

Why exactly do I want to know a lot of odd facts you may ask? I know I'm not going to be on Jeopardy anytime soon. However, I believe that in the end, we all are connected by an invisible string called mankind. I wish to one day tie myself to as many individuals as I can.

Knowledge is the key to understanding people. People make change. Change, microscopic or worldly, makes society continue onwards.

So yes, it might seem strange that I can tell you about bleaching coral reefs, Abraham Lincoln's favorite pastime, homemade batteries, or F. Scott Fitzgerald's favorite snacks—which were canned meat and apples. However, those facts could change the world.

3 what children teach us

Amber Jurgensen, Architecture

Garnet Valley, PA

I believe in reverse mentoring. Paige, one of my after school students at the arts center, had a brilliant idea one day. She took a plastic cup, tore and folded it into a flower. Likewise, Xavier decided he would make a giant origami canoe. Derek created a new board game. The beauty of these creative acts was the chain effect on others. Every other student was interested in learning how to make a flower from a cup. These students tapped into their imaginations.

For a year I worked with children every day after school. Each day I was amazed at each new game they would engineer, each outlandish story they would tell, and each artwork they would create. These children inspired me to believe in using one's imagination.

Children and adults alike have the ability to imagine.

Pablo Picasso once said, “Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.” As an architecture student I embrace my imagination instead of pushing it away. I relish every opportunity to drift off into a daydream; to take a pause and fantasize.

This is how we solve design problems. Using my imagination is essential to brainstorming new ideas, whether it is for an art project or an essay. Imagination drives our curiosity to create and reach our dreams. So allow yourself to take a few extra moments in your busy schedule to find a new way to make a flower out of a cup.

4 band of brothers

Connor Brown, Industrial Design

Blacksburg, VA

I believe in soldiers.

I don't believe in war, or the use to which soldiers are now put.

But I believe in soldiers.

As unfortunate as war is, forcing young, innocent men into these hellish situations brings out the best in them and reveals the purest form of the human spirit. Especially in situations where there is an ultimate decision between what is right and what is easy.

In war, all enmity, jealousy, judgment, and scorn is pushed aside to be replaced by their inexplicably valuable counterparts; trust, respect, courage, humility, and compassion. These traits may never be as cultivated and emphasized as they are in war time. Granted, it is arguable that the emotional scarring and psychological burdens that accompany combat experience are far from worthwhile; yet there is one characteristic only war can bring forth.

I am talking about the bond that these young men form with each other. It is found nowhere else on the planet under any other circumstances. The unspeakable connection these men share is one of the most remarkable things.

To have shared such vivid experiences, endured such traumatic and difficult situations, and consequently develop the highest level of comradeship, is something I would die to achieve.

It is what I believe in.

I believe in soldiers.

To quote Shakespeare: "From this day until the ending of the world, we shall be remembered. We few, we happy few, we band of brothers. For he today who sheds his blood with me shall be my brother."

5 maximum advantage

Joanne NG, Architecture

Temple City, CA

I believe in taking maximum advantage of the opportunities we are given. Although we are all granted different freedoms, it is important that we not feel guilty for those less fortunate than ourselves, instead embrace the blessings that we have. As a young child I was guilt ridden, believing I didn't deserve all that I had—that the children in Africa should have what we Americans believe to be “basics”—food, shelter, education—that North Korean children deserve the right of awareness, and that my Grandmother should have received proper schooling.

As a female, my grandmother was forbidden from receiving an education. Never having graduated from elementary school, she despised being a girl and envied her brothers who were allowed to attend school each morning while she stayed at home with her mother to do housekeeping work. My grandmother, however, did not raise her eight children the way she was raised; she let them go to school regardless of their gender and treated each one of them equally despite the traditional Chinese belief that males are dominant, because she knew that allowing her children to take the most advantage of their opportunities is vital.

My mother and father married at the young age of twenty-two, and at twenty-five had their first child, myself. Not wanting to raise their children in the fashion they were raised, my parents decided to take the maximum advantage.

They were given the opportunity from my uncle's citizenship to leave their family, friends, and memories in Hong Kong and move to the United States in search of greater opportunities for my younger brother and myself.

Now, I no longer depress myself with the thoughts of the unjust world. Instead, I take the most out of what I am given. I am supporting a child, Lainford, in Malawi because I am capable of doing so; I am attending Virginia Tech to become an architect because my parents worked hard to allow me to do so; I am partaking in leadership roles to organize greater events to help others, one by one. The reason I do what I do the way I do it is that I believe in taking maximum advantage of the opportunities we are given, and by doing so, bringing new opportunities to those without.

6 do it for you

Jason Andrade, Architecture

Arlington, VA

"Don't do it for me. Do it for you." I don't quite exactly remember where or when I heard this line and so far I've been told its origin is either from a Japanese ninja movie or maybe even from the Bryan Adam's songs. As obscure as its origin may be, its one of the single quotes I've remembered throughout most of my life.

The quote conjures many attributes, such as leadership, courage, and strength. As much as I believe in these words and wish they applied to me, they just don't. I've always been the eldest, the provider, the one others had to use to support themselves. If a few people and I were given the task of building a human pyramid I guarantee that at least ninety nine percent of the time I would be the one in the first bottom row. The one a lot of people relied on to be strong, stable, and well, yeah, supportive.

Don't get me wrong, I love what I do. I couldn't trust anyone else with such a job you know? But I've realized these people I care for so dearly might not need me for much longer. Dr. Wubah, you asked me what gets me up in the morning. If you had asked me this a few years ago I would have said my family because they need me to get up. But now, I'm in the middle of learning to get up for myself. We live constantly surrounded by other people and so we're always part of something greater but it's important that when we all reach that point in our lives where all we can do is look back into the past, we can say we were someone. Even without this something greater we were someone.

7 uniqueness

Connor Phiel, Architecture

Gettysburg, PA

Frank Lloyd Wright is one of the greatest American Architects of all time. Anthony Alofsin, a chronicler of Wright's life said, "Wright's genius lay in his power to assimilate, abstract and to emulate without ever resorting to imitation."

I think this is one of Wright's most important characteristics because he never copied others; he only learned from them and then made something better and more unique in return.

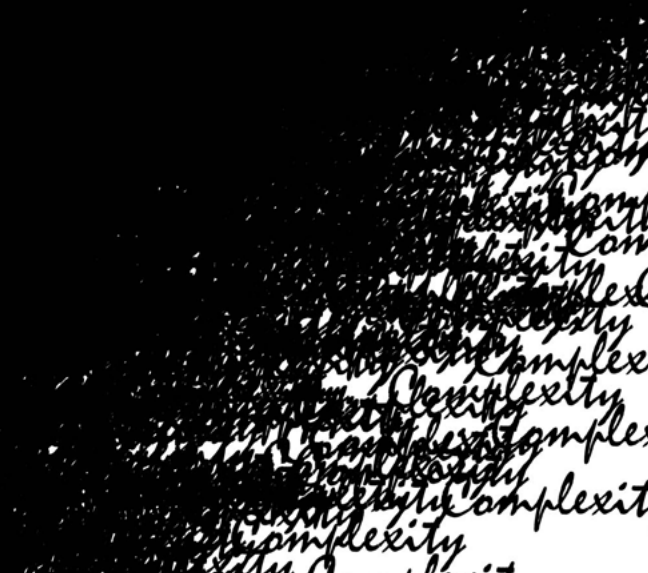
As an aspiring young Architect I look up to people like Wright and hope to learn many valuable lessons from his triumphs, as well as his failures. After reading many books on him, this particular quote still lingers in the back of my mind because it is what truly separates the good architects from the great. The good can assimilate and emulate, but very rarely without imitation. I hope to one day be able to create a type of architecture that is unique to me, just as Frank Lloyd Wright did during his remarkable lifetime.

Thirty thousand students attend Virginia Tech each year and all hope to leave this great university with the ability to make a difference in the world. I think in order to do this everyone needs to discover what makes them unique from one another and strive to apply this to their everyday life. If people start making an effort to cherish their own uniqueness, they can help create a better world for the future, and this is what I plan on doing through architecture. I believe in the power of uniqueness.

8 simplicity

Mitchell Harris, Industrial Design
Concord, NC

SIMPLICITY



9 share

Joy Cunningham, Architecture

Fredricksburg, VA

Being open to diversity has broadened my perspectives and enabled me to willingly accept change and respect new ideas. This *I Believe II* is an incredible book filled with beliefs from a wide variety of people who are all unique in their own way. Just by reading a couple of stories in the book, I have learned so much about others, life, and different ways of thinking. Based on the extra-curricular experiences of my high school career, I have learned it is best to create environments in which everyone's backgrounds, racial groups, socioeconomic status, and experiences can be utilized. This produces opportunities to learn from one another which can expand outlooks and ideas to bring innovative change. My senior year, I decided to get involved in my school's Multicultural Action Committee which put on James Monroe High's first Multicultural Fair. Through the preparation for this event, I became knowledgeable about people and cultures I didn't even know existed at my school. Imagine 30 students with 30 different backgrounds all contributing to this event in their own special way. While there are some obvious cultural differences with the various groups of people in the world, there are also plenty of hidden commonalities. Often times in educational settings, one's perspective on certain situations can be correlated to their background and experiences which can give new insight to others. In diverse environments, this can be pertinent to the learning process; it allows students to engage in discourse instead of relying on facts. Embracing different viewpoints has attributed to my success today. It has allowed me to become more attune to society and how I can help make a difference.

10 family matters

Sean Bilardello, Architecture

Seaford, NY

Time with family is essential to a happy life. Families stick together through good times and bad times, and will always be there for you no matter what. In my case, I could not have asked for a better family.

The best times in my life are moments spent on vacations with family. No matter where we go, I always manage to have a good time. My favorite vacations are the ones where we go to Myrtle Beach. Anyone would think that going there year after year would be boring and uninteresting, but actually they are fun and exciting.

When we went this summer, we had the best time playing all different kinds of board games. Our favorite, however, was the game Whoon. The object of the game is simple: win the most points by guessing another person's favorite things. Although it sounds somewhat pointless, it is often hilarious when my family argues their views. For example, my aunt always needs to prove that she knows exactly what the other enjoys, when in fact the latter hates it.

We also have a great time playing mini golf on the various courses at Myrtle Beach. This summer we spent nearly two hours one night mini golfing because we played horribly. From this, we had a great time making fun of each other, which further delayed the game. Myrtle Beach always offers great family time.

I believe that a family that plays together stays together. I believe that we all should cherish our relationships with our families.

11 moving on

Rajkomal Chowdhury, Architecture

Flushing, NY

My grandfather always told me to live in the present not the past. He said, "The past has a way of getting you to try and come back to it but you can't do that. It's impossible to do that so just move on or else you will just be stuck."

I used to care about everything that went on before. If someone said something in one context, I would take it in another and think about it all day. If I did not do so well on one test, it would haunt me. But I learned that all those things just bring you down. If people just moved on and did not hold grudges then there would be less violence in the world. If you fail and never move on from that failure, how will you ever succeed? If someone close dies, mourning them forever isn't going to help.

I recognized the value of moving on when my grandfather died. He inspired me to do everything I do now and is the reason I am the way I am today. I want to be an architect because of him. When I found out that he died, I was beyond surprised because he was very healthy for his age and no one would ever think that he was 76 years old. I was upset for weeks, not bothering to do work or go outside. I would keep to myself and only talk to a select few people. Then when I saw how my grades were being affected; I realized that if my grandfather had been alive, he would have been very upset. I decided that sitting and sulking is not going to help me. From then

on, I made the choice to never linger on anything and move on. I would remember my grandfather by doing things that would have made him proud.

There is an old saying, "Waste not fresh tears over old grieves." There are times when you can reminisce about old memories but not all the time. All I can say is just move on because if you're not going to, everyone else is and you will just be left behind.

12 love

Molly Vaughan, Interior Design
Alexandria, VA



13 enjoy life

Nathan Strother, Architecture

Front Royal, VA

I believe in enjoying life.

We are all granted one life. Shouldn't we try to make the most out of it? That means we should search for the things that will make us happiest in life. If I'm looking for a job I am going to want to find a job that I would look forward to going to every day. I want to have a wife that will bring a smile to my face every time we talk or see each other. Why would we make decisions that put us down all of the time?

A person should not go through life being depressed. Horrible events can and will happen in life, but you can't let that get you down. There's nothing you can do about it. If you make a mistake just forget about it. Have no regrets. That is the best way to tread through life. Regrets will weigh a person down every second of the day. A person who does not regret anything learns many life lessons through the trials they go through. I've learned this lesson through playing the game of baseball. I've learned that if you make an error or a mistake you need to shake it off before the next pitch. My dad always said that if you make an error and didn't let it go that the next pitch would be hit to you and you would make another mistake.

Baseball taught me how to let go of my mistakes and live with no regrets. I believe this mind-set can create happiness for a person. I believe everyone should enjoy his or her life.

14 the choice is yours

Josh Schiemann, Architecture

Salisbury, NC

I believe that it is the choices we make that define us-they describe what and who we are, helping create our character. Through our choices, we display our best and worst qualities.

In middle school, our principal, Mrs. B, would read a different short story each morning over the announcements that provided a positive message or moral. Although the story was always different, she never failed to close with the exact same phrase: "With something to think about, this is Mrs. B. with a few words of wisdom. Make it a great day or not, the choice is yours."

I didn't necessarily take much from Mrs. B's words of wisdom until high school, when it became especially clear to me that it is our choices-which lead to our words and actions-that determine our temperament. The finishing touch, "the choice is yours," became an increasingly prominent phrase in my day to day life as I matured, gaining more responsibility as a young adult.

Every moment we are faced with decisions, ranging from those that require little thinking to those that have life altering consequences. It is important that we take Mrs. B's words of wisdom into consideration as under most circumstances the choices we make create the person we are. It is our decisions that describe us, creating our strength, integrity, maturity, responsibility, pride, and confidence. This I believe.

15 failure is my drive

Ade Joy-Hogg, Architecture

Newport News, VA

I was asked what drives me, what do I believe that has a significant effect on my life? I stared at the wall for hours to try and figure this out myself and it was probably one of the hardest things I have ever done, but in doing so I figured out what drives me. Failure. I don't like to fail, to lose, to not give something I care about my best. When I stared at the wall I thought to myself, "Why the heck am I doing this, what is the point?" My conclusion was, because they told me to. So why did I sit down and write this? Because I looked down the road and saw my future. If I want to succeed in life I can't just give up and not do something because I don't want to, no I won't get anywhere in this life if I don't try.

You have to try in everything to succeed. The most challenging object I had to do to in order to succeed was to push myself. You are your own worst enemy and if you don't give something your all, than why do you deserve to succeed? No, you deserve to fail. Countless times during my high school wrestling career I didn't win and looking back on it now, writing this essay, I realize I may not have given it my all in every match. This disappoints me because I don't want to admit to my failure but in order to succeed I must acknowledge this failure and use it to better myself next time. This is what drives me in the morning, what gets me up and moving. If I don't get up and try then where will I be in the future? I know, on the street corner living in a box or working in some

dead end job trying to make ends meet. No, I won't let this be me, I won't let myself keep me back from succeeding, from being what I want to be. When I am backed up in a corner I just push myself out, for I am not a failure, failure is not an option. Failure is my drive and giving it my all is the only way to beat it.

16 love that bonds create

Katherine Rouse, Architecture

Aglott, VA



17 the pursuit of pleasure

Gregory Mitchell, MS Architecture, MFA Creative Technologies
Ashburn, VA

I believe the pursuit of eternal pleasure is not optional, it is essential. If we are honest with ourselves, we place our hopes and dreams in objects that often fail us. To quote C.S. Lewis, "We are far too easily pleased."

Freshman year of college I was living a naive pursuit of pleasure. I was convinced that the most pleasurable thing I could do was go out on the weekends and get as drunk as possible. This lifestyle continued throughout the rest of the fall semester and as time went on, I would drink more and more and remember less and less. I never thought twice about what was going on inside of me. I developed the habit of pushing aside the let downs associated with the pursuit of drinking and girls, because they were the objects of my hope.

In the Bible the psalmist writes, "O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water." (Psalm 63:1) He also writes, "You have made known to me the path of life: you will fill me with my joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand." (Psalm 16:11)

We see that the God in the Psalms is THE all-satisfying object; like a faucet of pleasure that never runs dry. So what does this mean for us? We learn that without a personal relationship with God, you can keep searching in vain for something or someone to fill you up. It took me 18 years to realize that we all long for our Maker and His words to satisfy and bring us pleasure. For me, my new pursuit of pleasure

involves seeking pleasure in God, reading His word, the Bible, every morning and holding fast to His promises. Thus, the pursuit of pleasure is not optional, because He is essential.



18 goggles are a girl's best friend

Helene Renard, Associate Professor, Interior Design, SoA+D
Blacksburg, VA

Be yourself. Those two words are at the center of my personal manifesto. It can take a lot of careful listening to discern the difference between who you are and what others want you to be. As children we may spend a lot of time hearing about what our parents and teachers want us to be, or what potential they see in us. This is certainly valuable, and children need guidance and reassurance to build a sense of their place in human society. As we grow and learn and are exposed to new places, people and ideas, our interests and desires begin to emerge.

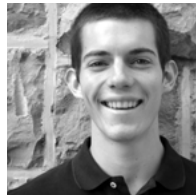
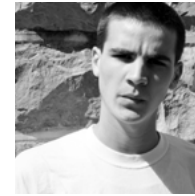
As a pre-schooler, I was once sent to school wearing chemistry lab goggles. A kid in my carpool had tried to scratch me in the eyes, and that was the way my father chose to protect me. Strangely, I now am happy to wear protective gear all day long, because it usually means I am making something. Whether it means welding, standing at the table saw, or making felt from wool batts, I enjoy creating things with my hands.

My first teaching job was with the South Carolina Mobile Arts Program. I taught 3rd – 5th graders as a visiting architect-in-residence. The program had two eighteen wheelers that they drove around the state and parked behind the schools for use as a mobile classroom. I remember the kids asking me where I slept; they thought I lived in the truck. The truly addictive part of that experience was seeing the kids take the little bit of instruction I gave them and running with it as far as their creative imaginations would take them. I was hooked.

So, it doesn't surprise me that I enjoy teaching as much as I do. Getting the opportunity to help others tap into their creative abilities and seeing them thrive keeps me motivated to continue pushing myself to learn and grow while wearing goggles. I am being myself and trying to help others do the same. Ask yourself the simple question: What is important? You already know the answer.

19 faces of believing

Kathryn Albright, Associate Professor, Architecture, SoA+D
Blacksburg, VA





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