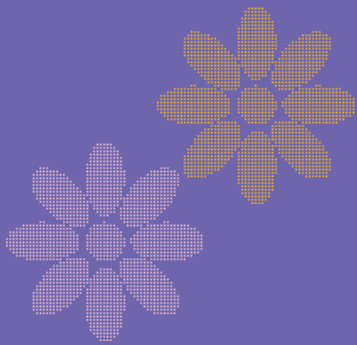


then and now:

the resurgence of print
in an artificially
intelligent world



graphic communications management

class of 2026

We live in a world where technology has become faster and more dominant than ever before, yet print has found its resurgence in a place that has predicted its disappearance. What was once considered old media is now being rediscovered, as seen in the revival of analogue cameras, the return of vinyl records, and the renewed appreciation for physical books and printed art.

Today, print offers something that digital media can't replicate: the connection felt when flipping through a photo album or collecting physical mementos. In a world of instant everything, print reminds us to slow down, be present, and appreciate the tangible.

Our grad book theme, ***Then and Now***, celebrates this evolution by reflecting on where print began, how far it has come, and how it can continue shaping the way we share stories, memories, and moments today.

– ***GCM Grad Book Committee***



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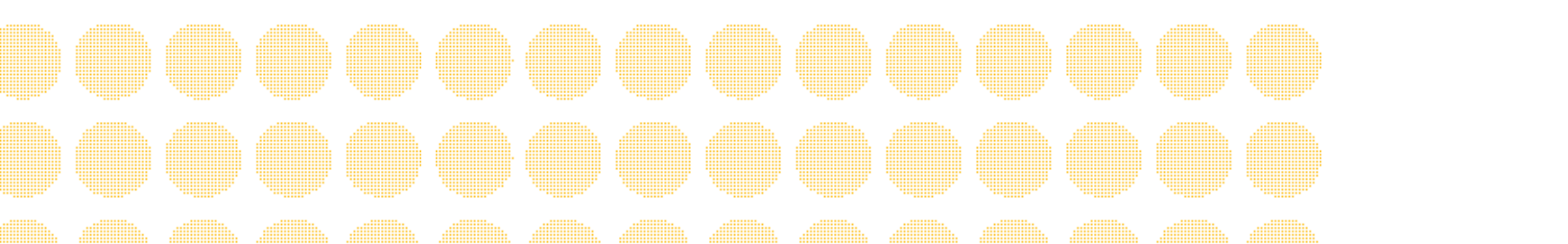
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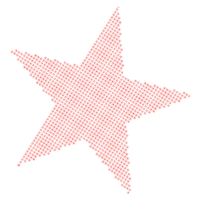
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MESSAGE FROM CHAIR



NATALIA LUMBY

Message from Chair

Dear Employers and Colleagues,

We appreciate you taking the time to explore the profiles of our upcoming graduates. Each of them brings strong skills, creativity, and enthusiasm for the packaging, printing, and allied industries. Your ongoing encouragement and mentorship mean so much as graduates prepare to enter the workforce and grow alongside you as future industry professionals.

I've had the privilege of teaching this group of students in their final year. They are adaptable, forward-thinking, and ready to embrace change. With curiosity and optimism, they are skillfully navigating the rapid technological transformations all around them, bringing a unique sense of energy and possibility to everything they do.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank this year's grad book team. This project was designed and produced by a group of dedicated students, led by Project Manager, Mina Zoabi and supervised by instructor Diana Varma. The core team included Valerie Cheng, Paulina Marin, and Sebastian Valdez. Thank you also to all of the faculty and staff who have worked to make these years at GCM memorable.

A heartfelt congratulations to the Class of 2026! You should be incredibly proud of all that you have achieved during your time with us. As you join the network of GCM alumni, remember that this community will always be your home. Stay connected — and don't be a stranger!

Warmly,

Natalia Lumby

Chair, School of Graphic Communications Management

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR



REEM EL ASALEH

Message from the Interim Chair

It is a true pleasure to welcome you to the Class of 2026 Grad Book.

While I officially stepped into the role of Interim Chair in January 2026, I had the privilege of teaching many of you during your final year. Through that experience, I witnessed firsthand your curiosity, resilience, engagement, and creativity across the academic year. You challenged ideas, embraced change, and brought energy and purpose into every project you touched. It is with great pride that we present this graduating class, the next generation of leaders, creators, and innovators who will help shape the future of our industries and communities.

To our industry partners, collaborators, and readers of this book: these graduates represent more than academic achievement. They bring with them hands-on experience, fresh perspectives, and a strong understanding of collaboration, technology, and creative problem-solving. They are adaptable, thoughtful, and ready to contribute meaningfully from day one. We are grateful for the ongoing support of the industry in shaping relevant, forward-looking education, and we are confident that the Class of 2026 will add real value wherever their careers take them.

This Grad Book itself is a reflection of that spirit. I would like to extend a special shout-out to the Grad Book team: Mina Zoabi, Valerie Cheng, Sebastian Valdez and Paulina Marin, with the guidance of their Supervisor, Diana Varma. Your dedication, collaboration, and creative vision brought this book to life from start to finish, leaving behind a meaningful record of this milestone year.

To the Class of 2026: congratulations on achieving another major milestone. This moment represents years of hard work, growth, and perseverance. As you step into your professional lives, aim high and aim strong. Carry forward your creativity, your values, and your willingness to learn and lead. We were proud to have you as our students, and we are even more excited to cheer you on as alumni. Always remember: Once a member of GCM, always a member of GCM!

With warmest congratulations,

Reem El Asaleh

Interim Chair, School of Graphic Communications Management

a b o u t

GCM

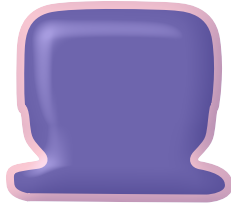
GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS MANAGEMENT

Graphic Communications Management is a one-of-a-kind program that blends creativity, technology, and business to show how ideas come to life, on shelves, in hands, and all around us. Students learn through hands-on courses in design software, sustainable packaging, visual communication, and production management. As of 2025, the graphic communications industry in Ontario is valued at approximately \$3.3 billion, giving graduates the opportunity to enter a dynamic and thriving sector.

About Concentrations

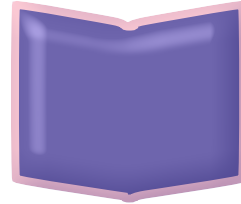
GCM students are able to customize their degree and graduate with an area of specialization (concentration). Students may also choose not to complete a concentration, and instead use core electives as an opportunity to pursue diverse areas of interest.

concentrations



Graphic Output

Focus is placed on the digital premedia files and data that are essential to many forms of graphic output, including signage, ebooks, and designs of all types.



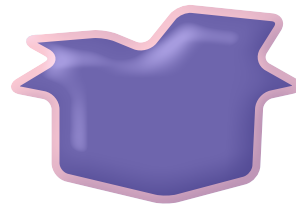
Publishing

Design, layout, and prepare publications, such as books and ebooks, magazines, and brochures. Focus is placed on presenting content in an aesthetically pleasing and accessible manner.



Leadership

Learn how to guide and manage a team, oversee projects, make strategic decisions, and foster a creative and collaborative environment to achieve business goals and deliver high-quality solutions.



Packaging

Design and create a package from start to finish. Focus is placed on conveying the product's value, protecting the contents and meeting logistical requirements.



OUR STUDENTS



3 words to describe me!

Focused, Kind, Funny

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/jana-abu-shaqra

JANA ABU SHAQRA

After graduation, I hope to pursue a career in a creative field that blends design and strategy, possibly in graphic design, luxury marketing, or fashion design. I'm drawn to roles that let me combine visual storytelling with brand identity and high-end aesthetics. Long term, I'd love to work with a global brand or creative agency, contributing to campaigns and designs that are both visually striking and thoughtfully crafted.

Since my first year at TMU, I've become much more confident in my creative and technical abilities. I entered the program unsure of my path, but through hands-on projects, collaboration, and late-night problem-solving, I've learned how to manage complex design and production challenges. I've grown more disciplined, detail-oriented, and adaptable, and I've developed a real appreciation for the balance between creativity, strategy, and process.

What are your goals after graduation?

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?



GILLIAN BEDFORD

3 words to describe me!

Silly, Authentic, Enthusiastic

Minor

Communication Design

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/gillian-bedford

What was your biggest takeaway from GCM?

Meeting and becoming friends with some great people. See y'all at my future wedding xo!

What are your goals after graduation?

Continuing to learn, experience new things, & find the fun in what I'm doing! Life is short so spend time doing things that make you happy. :)



3 words to describe me!

Creative, Ambitious, Compassionate

Minor

Marketing

Club Involvement

GCM Program Ambassador, TMU CKI

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/juliabelperio/

juliabelperio.myportfolio.com/

JULIA BELPERIO

After graduation, I plan to work in marketing to gain industry experience and build on what I've learned. I also have a long-term goal of becoming a high school teacher. Ideally, I'd love to combine both paths by teaching courses like marketing or graphic design. I'm passionate about creative work and really excited about the idea of helping students discover their own interests and talents.

Since my first year at TMU, I've grown so much, both personally and academically. I've come out of my shell, gained confidence, and built meaningful friendships. The GCM community made me feel welcome and supported from day one. The professors genuinely cared about my growth and were always there guiding me through projects and encouraging me to be my best self. I will always cherish my time and the memories I made at TMU!

**What are your
goals after
graduation?**

**How have you
changed since
your first year
at TMU?**



YAZHINI BHARATH

3 words to describe me!

Creative, Ambitious, Thoughtful

Concentration

Packaging

Club Involvement

Grad Book Support

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/yazhini-bharath/

www.yazhini-bharath-portfolio.framer

What are your goals after graduation?

After graduation, I want to go into structural packaging or packaging design for a big-name brand or either work in marketing and/or advertising at an agency. My goal is to pursue a career that lets me combine creativity with brand storytelling. I also want to keep building my freelance business, and take on more projects that let me experiment with photography and videography on my own terms!

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?

Looking back, first-year me just wanted everything to look good. Now I'm way more focused on the why behind every design. I've become more confident, more strategic, and better at mixing creativity with real-world problem-solving. I've also learned to trust my gut and back myself up when sharing ideas.



3 words to describe me!

CEO of Jobless

Concentration

Packaging

Club Involvement

METPack, Student Philosophy Journal

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/michael-brio

www.michaelbriones.myportfolio.com

MICHAEL BRIONES

My biggest takeaway from GCM is that everything starts with you. You are the foundation of your work, growth, and ability to support others. You can't pour from an empty vase—what you give depends on what you nurture in yourself. GCM taught me to stay rooted in self-respect, not give up on myself, and grow from the inside out.

**What was
your biggest
takeaway from
GCM?**

After graduation, I hope to travel and live in different parts of the world. My current top three countries to visit are China, Scotland, and Australia. I also want to return to sports and an active lifestyle, with the goal of completing the NYC marathon. Finally, I want to continue learning by developing a new skill in motion and 3D design to create beautiful renderings.

**What are your
goals after
graduation?**



WILBERT CHANG

3 words to describe me!

Calm, Steady, Centered

Concentration

Packaging

Minor

Computer Science

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/wilbert-chang

What are your goals after graduation?

Embrace every opportunity for growth, stay open to new experiences, and build a life filled with purpose and joy.

What are some meaningful takeaways from your internship?

Appreciated that each project brought new challenges and lessons, reinforcing the value of lifelong learning in a career.



3 words to describe me!

Outgoing, Easygoing, Positive

Concentration

Publishing

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/xuexuanjasonchen/

XUE XUAN (JASON) CHEN

Print and its application is in the everyday world. We see it all around us yet never think about the whole industry behind it.

**What was
your biggest
takeaway
from GCM?**

To pursue a fulfilling career, preferably surrounded by books.

**What are your
goals after
graduation?**



WINNIE CHENG

3 words to describe me!

Creative, Mysterious, Intriguing

Club Involvement

TMU Tennis Club, Hues Magazine

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/winnie-cheng12/

www.winniezihsyuanchen.wixsite.com/winniicheng

What are your goals after graduation?

When people ask me this question, I try not to worry too much about the future, since tomorrow is never guaranteed. But if I had to answer, I would love to pursue a career in graphic design or creative directing. One that allows me to fulfill my creativity, take on challenging projects, express my personality and style, and continue growing as a designer.

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?

Since my first year in TMU, I've gained more confidence and self-identity in both my creative work and personal self. I've learned to trust my creative eye and make design decisions that reflect my personality and style. This growth has allowed me to express my ideas with more authenticity and confidence.



3 words to describe me!

Giving, Reflective, Quick-witted

Concentration

Publishing

Minor

Communication Design

Club Involvement

TMU UX, Youthquaker Magazine, TMU CKI, Grad Book

Where to find me

www.linktr.ee/valeriecheng/

VALERIE CHENG

I think surrounding myself with people with similar interests and goals is very important in what I do professionally. I wish to expand my scope and perspective by making new connections, discovering side hobbies, doing spontaneous things, and putting myself in weird situations to better understand myself and what I want to do.

I have changed significantly, from the first year of being in GCM. I used to be very driven by wanting to create for the purpose of having something to show, but I was very lost in who I was artistically and creatively. I have now learned that my style comes through observing, practising, and communicating and I think I have a better understanding of myself.

What are your goals after graduation?

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?



MELISSA CHOW

3 words to describe me!

Discipline Over Motivation

Concentration

Packaging

Minor

Marketing

Club Involvement

METPack, Phoenix Challenge

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/melissa-a-chow

What are your goals after graduation?

I'd like to explore more hobbies and areas that interest me. I plan to continue upcycling old clothes while also trying my hand at pottery, boxing, and learning data analysis skills. Ultimately, I want to enjoy life while experiencing and learning many new things.

What are some meaningful takeaways from your internship?

During my internship, I learned that efficiency is important. A few extra seconds can make a big difference in the long run when working on things in large quantities. Those seconds can turn into hours, and it is important to utilize your time efficiently in a busy, fast-paced environment. It taught me to look at tasks, even unrelated to my internship, and try to figure out the most efficient way to complete them in order to make the most of my time.



3 words to describe me!

Calm, Funny, Athletic

Club Involvement

GCMCU

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/haneil-chowdhary

HANEIL CHOWDHARY

My biggest takeaway from GCM is that there are various aspects/skills you may need in order to thrive in this industry. Honing one skill is not enough; you must be able to be flexible.

First year, like most people, I kept to myself. I realized later that reaching out to individuals and creating connections is the best way to make use of time in university. Not only does this help in the future but makes school fun.

**What was
your biggest
takeaway from
GCM?**

**How have you
changed since
your first year
at TMU?**



SIAN CHRVALA

3 words to describe me!

Caffeinated, Chill, Creative

Club Involvement

Ber.TMU

What are your goals after graduation?

After graduating from GCM, I just want to keep creating things that make people smile. I'd love to work as a creative director someday, bringing fun ideas to life through design. I also dream of running a small art shop where I can share my prints and cozy artwork—something that feels personal, creative, and a little bit like me.

What was your favorite GCM project?

My favorite project was designing a children's book cover for GCM130. I loved how it let me dive into a colorful, imaginative world and bring a story to life through art. It felt so natural to mix playfulness with design, and it reminded me why I love creating in the first place. That project really sparked my passion for storytelling through visuals and creativity.



3 words to describe me!

Creative, Ambitious, Confident

Concentration

Packaging

Minor

Communication Design

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/fiyin-cole/

FIYIN COLE

My biggest takeaway from GCM is that while I can rely on myself, it's equally important to trust and rely on others. GCM is a highly team-oriented and collaborative program, and it's not always possible to do everything alone. Learning to work with others and lean on them when needed is an essential skill.

**What was
your biggest
takeaway
from GCM?**

I've become a much more collaborative person, learning how to communicate effectively, share responsibilities, and contribute meaningfully within a team. Along the way, I've also developed stronger time management skills, learning how to balance multiple deadlines, prioritize tasks, and stay organized to ensure that projects are completed efficiently and to a high standard.

**How have you
changed since
your first year
at TMU?**



SANDRA CONSTANTINESCU

3 words to describe me!

Creative, Shopaholic, Competitive

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/sandraconstantinescu/

www.sconstantinescu.myportfolio.com

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?

Since my first year at TMU, I have become more confident in myself and my skills. I have learned so much about design, printing, and even packaging. I have met so many amazing people and made great friends for life. My four years at TMU have made me more passionate about graphic communications management and eager to get out into the industry.

What was your favorite GCM project?

My favourite GCM project was in Digital Package Prototyping. My group and I created a poop bag dispenser with a storage unit for extra rolls. The dispenser was in the shape of a dog and had colourful Dalmatian spots. This was a very creative assignment where we got to learn new software and use equipment I had not used before.



3 words to describe me!

Adaptive, Patient, Persistent

KASH DAVIT

I'd like to think that I've grown a considerable amount since my first year. In my first year, I tended to be overly reserved, I overthought a lot and was way too cautious when it came to certain things. I think that through my experiences with a wide variety of my peers throughout the last 4 years, I've grown past the limitations that would have hindered my personal growth in the past.

**How have you
changed since
your first year
at TMU?**

On my first day of my summer internship, my manager told me, "You're going to hear no a lot." Learning this and taking it to heart really helped me understand that even if there are setbacks in my personal or professional life, it isn't anything that I can't overcome and grow stronger from. Whatever challenges or obstacles I face can be overcome through continuous and accumulated effort.

**What are some
meaningful
takeaways
from your
internship?**



EMILY DE JESUS

3 words to describe me!

Driven, Curious, Supportive

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/emily-de-jesus

indd.adobe.com/view

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?

I've really grown over the last few years at TMU. My confidence in myself has really come a long way since my first year, and it has helped me form genuine friendships with some of my favourite people. I'm a firm believer in everything happening for a reason, and I couldn't imagine myself going anywhere but TMU!

What was your favorite GCM project?

My final magazine for GCM 720! I had so much fun creating my own pages and seeing the designs my fellow group members came up with. All of our pages were so different, but in the final product, they came together beautifully! That was one of my favourite collaborative projects I've done in GCM.



3 words to describe me!

Competitive, Loyal, Funny

Concentration

Graphic Output

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/sarah-de-grano

SARAH DE GRANO

Live a simple life and work in sports marketing to combine my love for sports and design.

What are your goals after graduation?

I've become more confident, independent, and open to new experiences.

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?



ENRIQUE DONG

3 words to describe me!

Dreamer, Driven, Determined

Concentration

Publishing

Minor

Communication Design

Club Involvement

TMU UX

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/enrique-dong

What was your biggest takeaway from GCM?

GCM helped me realize how multifaceted the print and marketing world really is. I left with an appreciation for the behind-the-scenes of production workflows, materials, sustainability, and even UX. It taught me how every detail matters when bringing a concept to life. More than anything, it helped me connect creativity with strategy and purpose.

What are some meaningful takeaways from your internship?

My internship gave me a real-world lens on everything I learned in GCM. I learned how to manage client relationships, troubleshoot production issues, and juggle multiple deadlines, while staying organized and proactive. One big takeaway is the importance of clear communication, especially when coordinating with vendors and customers across Canada. It was a fast-paced environment, but it taught me how to adapt, prioritize, and keep the customer experience at the centre.



3 words to describe me!

Scatterbrained, Determined, Creative

Concentration

Publishing

Minor

Communication Design

Club Involvement

TAGA

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/alicia-dos-santos

www.readymag.website/u3567950303/5208377/

ALICIA DOS SANTOS

I'd like to work in graphic design or publishing full-time!

The '24/'25 TMUTAGA journal is something I'm incredibly proud to have been apart of! (Winning the Kipphan cup was pretty cool too... no big deal!)

**What are your
goals after
graduation?**

**What was
your favorite
GCM project?**



NICOLE DOWNEY

3 words to describe me!

Creative, Curious, Stubborn

Concentration

Graphic Output

Minor

Communication Design

Club Involvement

TAGA

Where to find me

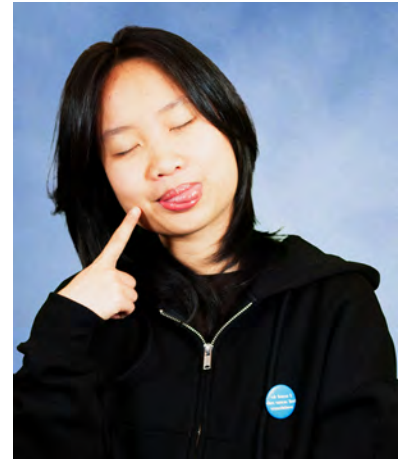
www.linkedin.com/in/nicole

What was your biggest takeaway from GCM?

The versatile skill set I developed and the connections I made along the way. The program exposed me to so many aspects of design, production, marketing, and technology, which helped build my confidence in both creative and technical contexts. Working alongside classmates and professors taught me a lot about myself and the industry, and I'm really grateful for those experiences as I begin this next chapter!

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?

Although it feels like yesterday, I'd like to think I've grown a lot since my first year at TMU! When I started GCM I was nervously trying to figure out my interests and exploring different career paths. Since then, I've become more comfortable taking risks, more open to learning from failure, and more intentional about the way I approach creative work. I still don't have all the answers I wanted then, but if I could go back I'd tell myself to calm down and be a little more patient!



3 words to describe me!

Shorty, Welcoming, Meow

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/leah-duong/

LEAH DUONG

My biggest takeaway from GCM was learning how much care and precision goes into the printing process, from preparation to final output. Through hands-on experience, I was able to grow both technically and professionally. Just as meaningful to me were the relationships I built along the way, working closely with classmates taught me the importance of teamwork, communication, and supporting one another in a creative environment.

Going on exchange is my forever best decision. Not only it broadened my academic knowledge on printing, but it also gave me the chance to meet up and be friend with amazing people of different backgrounds. I'm confident to say that I've made some lifelong friendships over exchange. People bonded differently on exchange because we struggled together. <3

**What was
your biggest
takeaway from
GCM?**

**What are some
meaningful
takeaways
from your
international
exchange?**



AMANDA EDWARDS

3 words to describe me!

Muses, Meditations, Melodies

Concentration

Publishing

Club Involvement

Hues Magazine, StyleCircle

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/amandaedwrds

What was your biggest takeaway from GCM?

Despite the common misconception that all print is in decline, this program showed me that it surrounds us, you just have to look at the world from a different angle. I think GCM is really unique in the way it unites technology with tactility; we must evolve with the current digital landscape, but we can't forget about the effective methods of communication that have been used for hundreds of years.

What are your goals after graduation?

I hope to find a place where I belong. Career paths are often impossible to foresee but I'd love to join a team where every job is cared for and finish with pride. I'm also extremely curious about information systems and would love to discover how cultural variables affect outcomes in other parts of the world. In terms of dreams, I hope to open my own publishing-company-slash-bookstore-slash-atelier someday (I have a name picked out already).



3 words to describe me!

Kind, Ambitious, Detail-Oriented

Concentration

Packaging

Club Involvement

GCMCU, METPACK, Phoenix Challenge,
Society of the Creative School,
Middle Eastern Student Association

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/saraeid

SARA EID

One of my favorite GCM projects was the Advanced Typography mural: Type Takeover at SLC. I loved having the freedom to get creative and bring my ideas to life for a real client! The project was super fun and I had such a memorable experience with my team. Seeing our design take over a public space on campus was incredibly rewarding. :)

I had the amazing opportunity to complete my internship at Hemlock Printers, where I gained a deep appreciation for how interconnected every department is within a printing company. Collaborating with professionals across design, production, and sales gave me a strong understanding of how teamwork drives successful projects. A key takeaway was recognizing how essential innovation and adaptability are in keeping a print company dynamic!

What was your favorite GCM project?

What are some meaningful takeaways from your internship?



BROOKE FERRIER

3 words to describe me!

Open-Minded, Silly, Social

Minor

Marketing

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/brooke-ferrier

What was your biggest takeaway from GCM?

Staying open minded and understanding others and yourself. There are so many different avenues outside of GCM that this program can give you.

What are your goals after graduation?

Prioritizing myself and my own personal goals while finding a collaborative way to achieve my professional goals.



3 words to describe me!

Outgoing, Caring, Compassionate

Concentration

Packaging

CHRISTINA FOLLEGOT

I hope to build a career where creativity meets strategy, whether that's in branding, marketing, or print and packaging design. My goal is to keep pushing boundaries in how we communicate visually, develop sustainable design solutions, and lead projects that make a real impact in the industry. Ultimately, I want to keep growing, learning, and finding inspiration in every project I take on.

My internship gave me a true sense of what it means to bring ideas to life, from concept to production. It taught me the value of teamwork, adaptability, and clear communication across creative and technical teams. Most importantly, I learned that every project is a chance to problem-solve, experiment, and grow as both a designer and a professional. Those lessons will stay with me long after graduation.

What are your goals after graduation?

What are some meaningful takeaways from your internship?



VIVIAN FRIAS FLORES

3 words to describe me!

Vivian Frias Flores?

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/vivian

www.friasfloresdesigns.myportfolio.com/

What are your goals after graduation?

Travelling lots, meeting new people, preserving my childlike whimsy and wonder, trying new things, committing to a lifelong bit, finding something I'm passionate about, and exercising my free will every chance I get.

What was your favorite GCM project?

The GCM 130 food truck branding project!!!



3 words to describe me!

Print-Pilled, Design-Coded,
Chronically Online

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/daniel-fry

DANIEL FRY

The amount of group work and presentations done over the course of the past four years has seriously forced me out of my shell. Compared to first year, I have become much more sociable, team-focussed, and involved, both personally and professionally.

**How have you
changed since
your first year
at TMU?**

As of writing this, the GCM 420 project has been a wonderful experience in terms of the complexity, independence and the opportunity to work with people I get along with. It's a piece that I plan to highlight in my portfolio and take as many souvenirs as possible from.

**What was your
favorite GCM
project?**



DESIREE MAE GALLARMIN

3 words to describe me!

Detail-oriented, Passionate,
Expressive

Minor

Communication Design

Club Involvement

Hues Magazine

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/drmg/

What are your goals after graduation?

My current goal's to visit 5 different countries before committing to a full-time job after graduation. Vietnam, Japan, South Korea, Thailand & Philippines. I think it's well deserved, especially after years of studying.

What was your favorite GCM project?

Nothing can top my experience with GCM 130 Design & Layout. Specifically, the branding project. I was really surprised and satisfied at what I did considering that was during my first-year. I can't wait to create more creative branding projects after university!



3 words to describe me!

Adaptable, Reliable, Gullible

Concentration

Packaging

Minor

Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/mary-garingalao/

MARY GARINGALAO

It's not strictly graphic design... jk. GCM taught me that while technical skills in print, packaging, and digital media are essential, what really makes projects successful is connecting with people, whether teammates, mentors, or clients. Building those relationships makes the work more impactful and often opens doors in unexpected ways. I learned that collaboration and communication matter just as much as the technical expertise in this industry.

My internship pushed me to grow both professionally and personally. It gave me a fresh perspective on my career and reminded me that print is always evolving. I improved my technical skills, attention to detail, and developed a deeper appreciation for just how dynamic and innovative the print industry can be. The experience reinforced continuous learning and staying adaptable is key to success.

**What was
your biggest
takeaway from
GCM?**

**What are some
meaningful
takeaways
from your
internship?**



3 words to describe me!

Adventurous, Creative, Genuine

Minor

Marketing

Club Involvement

TMSBA

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/sofia-gismondi

www.sofiagismondi.myportfolio.com/work

SOFIA GISMONDI

What are your goals after graduation?

I hope to build a career in digital communications or sports marketing, where I can combine creativity with strategy to create meaningful campaigns that connect with audiences. I'm passionate about social media storytelling and brand engagement, and my goal is to keep growing as a communicator, finding new ways to inspire and entertain people through innovative content.

What are some meaningful takeaways from your internship?

During my internship, I learned the importance of clear communication, organization, and adaptability in a professional setting. Working on real projects taught me how to manage deadlines, collaborate effectively, and bring creativity into structured environments. I also realized how valuable it is to stay curious and open to feedback. Every task, big or small, can teach you something about teamwork and growth.



3 words to describe me!

Creative, Thoughtful, Determined

Concentration

Publishing

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/tristagleeson/

TRISTA GLEESON

Learning how design, print, and communication work together to create impactful visual experiences. I gained insight into the creative and technical sides of the industry, and accomplished many hands-on projects. I not only learned how to design something that looks good, but how to make it functional, accessible, and effective for its audience.

**What was
your biggest
takeaway from
GCM?**

My favourite project in GCM was for Magazine Production and Publishing, where my team created a 16-page magazine from concept to print. As a publishing concentration student with a creative background, I appreciated the freedom to design original content and advertisements, especially enjoying the hands-on experience of printing and trimming the final product. This project strengthened my skills in maintaining visual and editorial consistency while improving my ability to collaborate effectively in a team setting.

**What was your
favorite GCM
project?**



MEG GOSDANIAN

3 words to describe me!

Creative, Strategic, Organized

What are your goals after graduation?

My long-term goal is to build my own creative brand or studio, where I can collaborate with clients who value design as both an art form and a business tool. I want to continue experimenting with branding, marketing, and digital design, creating visuals that not only look beautiful but also connect emotionally with people.

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?

Since first year, I've grown into a more patient and confident person. GCM taught me that growth takes time. The program builds step by step, and as each year passed, I started to see how everything connects. I've learned to trust the process, stay organized, and believe in my ability to improve.



3 words to describe me!

Creative, Ambitious, Adaptable

Minor

Communication Design

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/jessicaliliagrants/

<https://tinyurl.com/3kmnjwum>

JESSICA GRANT

Learning how to balance creativity with strategy, not just designing visually compelling work, but managing projects, collaborating with teams, and using digital tools effectively to solve real-world communication challenges.

Some meaningful takeaways from my internship include learning directly from someone I admire in the art industry and gaining hands-on experience in marketing for social media. I've been inspired by how he runs his business, and it's helped me understand the practical side of turning creative work into a sustainable venture while also improving my own marketing and communication skills.

**What was
your biggest
takeaway from
GCM?**

**What are some
meaningful
takeaways
from your
internship?**



NADIA GULLO

3 words to describe me!

Funny, Optimistic, Thoughtful

Concentration

Packaging

Minor

Business Essentials

What are your goals after graduation?

My goal after graduation is to build a successful career in the graphic communications industry where I can apply what I've learned, continue to grow, and make a meaningful impact through my work. I hope to take on challenging projects, develop strong professional relationships, and contribute to innovative solutions within the industry.

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?

I've grown a lot both personally and professionally. When I started, I was still learning how to adapt to university life and build confidence in my skills. Over time, I've become more independent, organized, and comfortable stepping out of my comfort zone. I've also developed a stronger understanding of the graphic communications industry and discovered where my interests truly lie.



3 words to describe me!

Okanagan Tourism Director

Club Involvement

Colloquium

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/evangupta/

www.evanguptabc.wixstudio.com/portfolio

EVAN GUPTA

I am planning on continuing my journey as a graphic designer in the sports industry with the ultimate goal of working for a major professional sports team.

What are your goals after graduation?

Talk to people! Making meaningful connections with others is just as valuable as technical knowledge and skill.

What are some meaningful takeaways from your internship?



VICKY HA

3 words to describe me!

Honest, Hardworking, Collaborative

Concentration

Publishing

Minor

Communication Design

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/vicky-haha

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?

A lot has changed. I used to be more reserved, but over time, I've grown more confident in connecting with others and taking on roles that younger me would've been hesitant about. Thanks to the amazing professors, classmates, and friends I've met along the way, I've become someone I'm proud of today.

What was your favorite GCM project?

My favourite project would be from GCM808, where we got practical experience working with a real business. My group and I partnered with the hot sauce brand Lost in the Sauce (LITS), and it was such a fun and rewarding experience! Getting to prototype, collaborate with my team and work directly with the brand made it one of the most valuable and memorable projects I've done.



3 words to describe me!

Dynamic, Innovative, Driven

MARLA HALLADJIAN

My biggest takeaway from GCM is truly understanding and appreciating the behind-the-scenes work in print and media production. Every detail matters, and even a small mistake can affect the final product. I learned how much communication, teamwork, time, equipment, and resources are required for successful projects. GCM taught me to stay organized, think critically, and always consider functionality and accessibility in design. Most importantly, I learned to explore creativity confidently and take pride in my work.

**What was
your biggest
takeaway from
GCM?**

After graduation, I want to explore new opportunities, push myself outside my comfort zone, and travel to experience more of the world. I plan to continue growing my digital marketing agency and become an expert in the field, confidently bringing creative ideas to life. My long-term goal is to be a successful woman with a flexible schedule—working for myself, embracing creativity, and living a fulfilling life filled with growth, adventure, and meaningful experiences.

**What are your
goals after
graduation?**



ELLIOTT HOECKEL

3 words to describe me!

Graduating, This, Year

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/elliott-hoeckel

www.elliotthoeckel.myportfolio.com

**What was
your biggest
takeaway from
GCM?**

The extended gamut is beautiful.

**What was your
favorite GCM
project?**

The many stickers and prints I made during the Open Labs.
Thanks Darsan!



3 words to describe me!

Creative, Passionate, Artistic

Concentration

Graphic Output

CHARLIE HOLMES

How to use printers and Adobe software while spending time with friends.

**What was
your biggest
takeaway from
GCM?**

Got older, stronger, smarter.

**How have you
changed since
your first year
at TMU?**



MICHELLE HOU

3 words to describe me!

Detail-oriented, Reliable, Organized

Minor

Communication Design

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/michelle-hou-611170263/

What was your biggest takeaway from GCM?

The value of networking and building meaningful connections. Working with classmates, professors, and industry professionals has helped me grow both personally and professionally. Through group projects, social events, and internships, I learned the importance of communicating effectively, asking questions, and supporting others. These experiences taught me that success in this industry often comes from the relationships you build.

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?

When I first started at TMU, I was a bit anxious and unsure of what to expect, but I knew I wanted to build my confidence and improve my communication skills. Over time, I've started stepping out of my comfort zone more by exploring new experiences and taking on new opportunities. A part of me is still uncertain about my future, just as I was in first year, but I feel more relaxed now and have learned to adapt in tough situations.



3 words to describe me!

Creative, Loyal, Kind

Concentration

Graphic Output

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/laura-hsiung

LAURA HSIUNG

All the learning inside and outside the classroom. There has been so much hands-on experience through the labs from press demos in first year to creating our own printed products in fourth year. The learning continues through an internship over the summer where I expanded my skillset and experienced how everything I've learned in GCM is used in the real world.

**What was
your biggest
takeaway from
GCM?**

I would like to find a job in the graphic communications industry that incorporates design. In the future, I also want to travel to many different countries around the world, move out into my own apartment in the city, and adopt a pet.

**What are your
goals after
graduation?**



LESTER HUANG

3 words to describe me!

Funny, Slay, Sleepy

Concentration

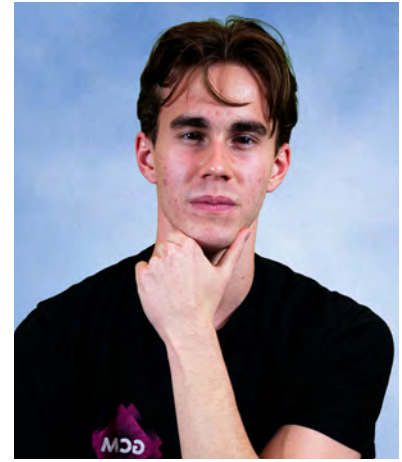
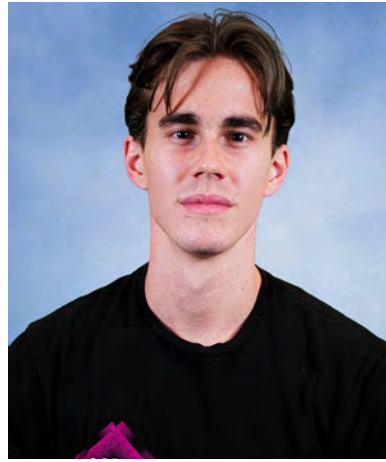
Graphic Output

What are your goals after graduation?

Travel as much as I can.

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?

I feel like I've become more open to being spontaneous and meeting new people.



3 words to describe me!

One, Two, Three

Minor

Philosophy

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/nicholasjess

www.nicholasjess.com

NICHOLAS JESS

I plan to work in the creative industry, gaining skills and experience within design both as a freelancer and an employee.

**What are your
goals after
graduation?**

My favourite GCM project was when we were tasked with creating and printing a poster on the Ricoh using a 5th colour specialty ink. This project offered creative freedom, allowing me to use my skills to create something I was proud of.

**What was your
favorite GCM
project?**



MARYAM JIMALI

3 words to describe me!

Creative, Determined, Curious

Club Involvement

Grad Book

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/maryam-jimali/

www.linktr.ee/mudrin

What was your biggest takeaway from GCM?

How many directions you can go in this field. I got to try a bit of everything like design, printing, production, and media, and learned how creative and hands-on it all is. I also realized how important teamwork and communication are and how much you can learn from the people around you.

What are some meaningful takeaways from your internship?

My internship taught me how things really work outside of class. I learned how to manage my time better, speak up with ideas, and work with different people on real projects. It was cool to see how creative work comes together in a professional setting and it made me more confident about what I want to do next.



3 words to describe me!

Imaginative, Strategic, Passionate

Concentration

Packaging

Club Involvement

TMU Hellenic Students' Association

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/katrinakalogiros/

www.shorturl.at/jfWd9

KATRINA KALOGIROS

I've grown a lot both personally and professionally. I used to doubt myself creatively, but now I've found confidence in my ideas and my ability to execute them. I've learned how to manage projects, collaborate better, and stay organized under pressure. More than anything, I've learned to trust my process and that growth takes time, patience, and consistency.

During my internship at Branded Group, I learned how fast-paced and detail oriented the industry really is. I got to see how design, print, and client communication all come together in real projects. I learned the importance of staying adaptable, organized, and professional even under pressure. It made me realize how much I enjoy creative project management and confirmed that I'm on the right career path.

**How have you
changed since
your first year
at TMU?**

**What are some
meaningful
takeaways
from your
internship?**



ISABEL KALOVSKY

3 words to describe me!

Dedicated, Logical, Intuitive

Minor

Computer Science

Club Involvement

TAGA

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/ikalovsky

What was your biggest takeaway from GCM?

GCM taught me that the world of graphic communications is always changing. With a medium as old as print you'd figure that we'd have everything figured out already, but innovations such as artificial intelligence and martech are reshaping the industry right in front of our eyes! I'm glad that GCM took the time to teach us not just what the industry looks like today, but what it may end up looking like in the years to come.

What are some meaningful takeaways from your internship?

Through my internship, I learned that it's okay to turn to others for help. I've always been determined to tackle problems on my own, but as a newcomer to the industry, there are inevitably going to be some gaps in my knowledge and skills. With my team's support, I was able to achieve things I would never have thought I was capable of, such as bringing a point-of-purchase display from prototype to production.



3 words to describe me!

Tacit, Bombastic, Timid

Concentration

Publishing

Club Involvement

TAGA

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/matthew-karton/

www.kartonmatthew.wixsite.com/portfolio

MATTHEW KARTON

Through these past years I have become more confident and connected with myself. Not only have my design and production skills dramatically improved, but my artistry through print has grown alongside them. At the same time, who I am as a person and how I choose to navigate this world has been radically shifted for the better. In short, I'm a much happier person now.

One of my favourite GCM projects was a group assignment from GCM 750: 3D Printing (which was one of two classes I had the opportunity to take with my sibling). We worked together to design a cat themed lantern that held an LED, made in a program that I loath to this very day. Though to be truthful, I'm not one to pick favourites. Everything I make holds a place in my heart.

**How have you
changed since
your first year
at TMU?**

**What was your
favorite GCM
project?**



CYRA KAUR

3 words to describe me!

Extroverted, Driven, Perceptive

Concentration

Packaging

Club Involvement

GCMCU, TAGA, Phoenix Challenge

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/cyra-viola-kaur

What was your biggest takeaway from GCM?

The connections I made with those around me. :D

What was your favorite GCM project?

GCM420 and the whole branded print project we had to do for it!! Developing multiple products and producing them using different printing methods pushed me to think both strategically and creatively. This project challenged me in the best way; it strengthened my problem-solving skills, and let me practice and build on my print experience.



3 words to describe me!

Work in Progress

Concentration

Packaging

Minor

Computer Science

Club Involvement

METPack

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/sara-f-khan

SARA KHAN

To be as whimsical as possible.

I've grown so much more confident, both in my work and in myself. I never thought I'd be the most talkative person in the room, but here I am! When it comes to my work, I've become more confident in sharing my ideas and stepping up to lead. I owe a lot of that growth to joining METPack. It truly brought me out of my shell and I got to make so many amazing friends. <3

**What are your
goals after
graduation?**

**How have you
changed since
your first year
at TMU?**



JEREMIAH LAH

3 words to describe me!

Unserious, Overthink, Goof

Concentration

Packaging

What was your biggest takeaway from GCM?

GCM is not just a program, but a way of life.

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?

I have realized that printers are truly amazing devices; the past few years have shown me how printers can perform various tasks.



3 words to describe me!

Can't Stop Thinking

Concentration

Publishing

Club Involvement

METPack

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/vanessavylam

www.readymag.website/vanessavylam/

VANESSA LAM

I aspire to become a designer of impact. One that combines purpose with inclusivity and curiosity. Although my learning never ends, GCM taught me that good design is more than aesthetics; it's communication that connects people. My goal is to keep improving, experimenting, and finding joy in creating work that can make our hectic lives a little clearer and kinder.

Some of my favourite memories of being in GCM were from my exchange at Dongguk University in Seoul! Living and studying in a new culture taught me to embrace change, appreciate the present, and the importance of being surrounded by different perspectives. I learned that design, much like people, thrives when it's connected and intentional. Korea taught me how to slow down and listen, and reminded me that connection is the most universal form of design.

What are your goals after graduation?

What are some meaningful takeaways from your international exchange?



KAMY LIN

3 words to describe me!

Ambitious, Witty, Jaded

Minor

Communication Design

Club Involvement

TMU Anime

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/wenxue-lin/

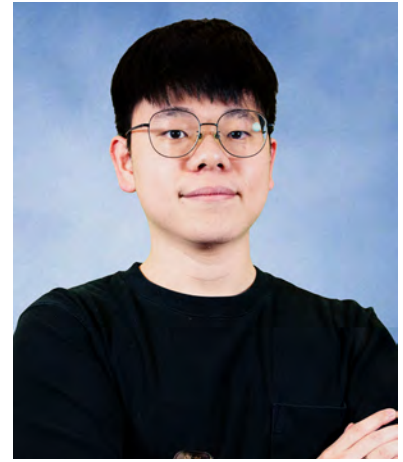
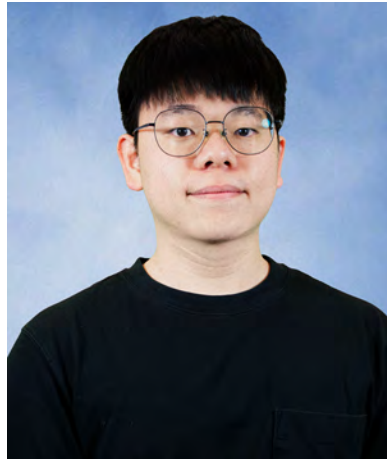
www.linktr.ee/wenxue.lin

What was your biggest takeaway from GCM?

There's something for everyone.

What are some meaningful takeaways from your internship?

Talk to the people you never thought of talking to, as there's meaning to every conversation.



3 words to describe me!

Chill, Creative, Gamer

Concentration

Packaging

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/pingchen-lin-329b94291/

PINGCHEN LIN

I have more confidence in design abilities and know more about the work opportunities that I could have after graduating.

**How have you
changed since
your first year
at TMU?**

I worked as an estimator for my internship, and the key take away from the internship is to apply what you learned in class to the job, and develop your communication skills.

**What are some
meaningful
takeaways
from your
internship?**



YI JIA LIN

3 words to describe me!

Curious, Resourceful, Analytical

Concentration

Packaging

Minor

Communication Design

Club Involvement

Colloquium, TAGA, Phoenix Challenge

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/yi-jia-lin/

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?

I'm a lot more social than I was in my first year at TMU! I've always been a rather reserved individual, and GCM has really helped me push my boundaries in that regard. This program has provided me with numerous opportunities to put myself out there and meet new people. We have such a diverse collection of people, and it's been great to have the chance to work with all of them!

What was your favorite GCM project?

Out of all the projects I've had the chance to work on, my favourite GCM project by far is the final project for GCM 824: Digital Package Prototyping. I was able to ideate and create a package for a cat brush with my fellow group members. I had a lot of fun sketching and mocking up the visual and structural design of the package. I learned a great deal in the process, and, of course, the product turned out really well.



3 words to describe me!

Optimistic, Compassionate, Creative

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/yubing-liu

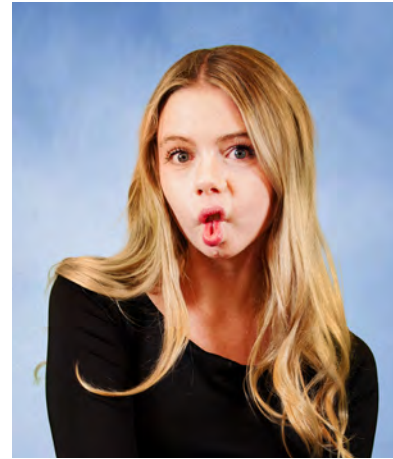
YUBING LIU

I would like to be a graphic designer in the advertising industry. This is the job that I did during my internship. I really enjoyed devising different posters and banners for various brands, tailored to their requests and product tone. Before looking for a job, I want to travel around the world to broaden my horizons and learn about culture and history. This might inspire me for creative work.

During my internship, I learned a great deal about designing posters and banners for advertising. These are things I cannot learn from classes in university. Each poster and banner for advertising needs to consider the product and brand tonality. Even though I had little freedom to create the work I really wanted to do, I was very excited to tackle the challenges I encountered and strengthen my critical thinking while solving them.

**What are your
goals after
graduation?**

**What are some
meaningful
takeaways
from your
internship?**



BAILLIE LOUCKS

3 words to describe me!

Kind, Generous, Empathetic

Concentration

Publishing

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/baillieloucks

[www.baillieloucks.wixsite.com/
portfolio/baillie](http://www.baillieloucks.wixsite.com/portfolio/baillie)

What are your goals after graduation?

Pursue a creative role at a Design Agency.

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?

University life really got me out of my shell and encouraged me to be a more outgoing person.



3 words to describe me!

Funny, Intuitive, Candid

Minor

Communication Design

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/saramandarino/

SARA MANDARINO

Make friends. Be as social and outgoing as you can be, some of the best people you will meet are in GCM. Don't be afraid to get outside of your comfort zone and be yourself.

**What was
your biggest
takeaway from
GCM?**

Be happy. My goal in life is to always do the best I can and do whatever makes me the happiest. In life you have to choose yourself first; in school, careers and relationships. I want to find the people and the jobs that make me happy.

**What are your
goals after
graduation?**



WREN MANZANO

3 words to describe me!

Chill, Weird, Nice!

Concentration

Publishing

Minor

Communication Design

Where to find me

www.wrenzano.my.canva.site/

What are your goals after graduation?

Traveling & Designing!

What was your favorite GCM project?

I still have a few copies of the magazine project from 720 — it's been a staple on my coffee table! Great to see the spread I made from scratch in its final form.



3 words to describe me!

Enthusiastic, Adaptable, Kind

Concentration

Packaging

Club Involvement

Grad Book Committee

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/paulina-marin-/

PAULINA MARIN

I have grown so much as a person, moving to a different country by myself made me mature and develop a bigger sense of responsibility, learning how to balance school, chores, hobbies, family, and my social life. I also feel like I've come out of my shell and am now the most authentic version of myself, and along with that came amazing lifelong friendships. :)

Working at OwlKids gave me a greater appreciation for entertainment made for children, especially because it's print media in a digital content era. It helped me see where I wanted my professional life to be headed, and taught me the importance of asking for help and to not expect to know everything on your first day. It was an amazing experience getting to reconnect with my childhood and be part of something that takes care of the future generation.

**How have you
changed since
your first year
at TMU?**

**What are some
meaningful
takeaways
from your
internship?**



KIERAN MCGLADE

3 words to describe me!

Industrial Meets Sustainable

Concentration

Packaging

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/kieran-mcglade

What was your biggest takeaway from GCM?

That I really like making stuff! Working with professional equipment is pretty great.

What are your goals after graduation?

Eventually I want to act as a sustainability consultant for major packaging firms!



3 words to describe me!

Cuando Bailas, Frenesí

Club Involvement

Colloquium, GCMCU

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/alexiamoran

ALEXIA MEDINA

Dance to all my favourite songs, eat good food, travel with friends, learn my grandma's recipes, find my four-legged best friend, and make some money along the way while enjoying my career.

I've gained the confidence to recognize that every stage of my life has led me to who I am today. I've learned to acknowledge my past self, to be proud of who I am, and to feel excited about what's yet to come.

La vida nos recuerda, a veces, que solo somos niños jugando a ser adultos; entonces solo nos queda equivocarnos, reírnos y seguir intentándolo. No logro recordar exactamente lo que Alexia de hace unos años soñaba tener al terminar la universidad, pero a veces la línea entre los sueños y la realidad se vuelve borrosa.

What are your goals after graduation?

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?



SAANEN MILLER

3 words to describe me!

Upbeat, Friendly, Creative

Minor

Communication Design

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/saanenmiller

saan3n.my.canva.site

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?

I've become so much more confident and comfortable with who I am. I've built amazing friendships that have really shaped me and made my university experience so much fun. I've also found my own personal style, both in design and in how I express myself. Plus, I've learned how to balance school, work, friends, and staying active, which has made everything feel way more fulfilling!

What was your favorite GCM project?

Definitely my magazine class, where we got to produce a real, printed magazine from start to finish. It was so cool to be involved in every part. Designing the pages, ads, spreads, and cover, and then actually seeing it printed, stitched, and finished. I loved getting to express my own cool unique personal style, and it really made me realize I'd love to do something like that as a career.



3 words to describe me!

Resilient, Loyal, Energetic

Where to find me

[www.linkedin.com/in/
breanna-morrow-5318512aa/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/breanna-morrow-5318512aa/)

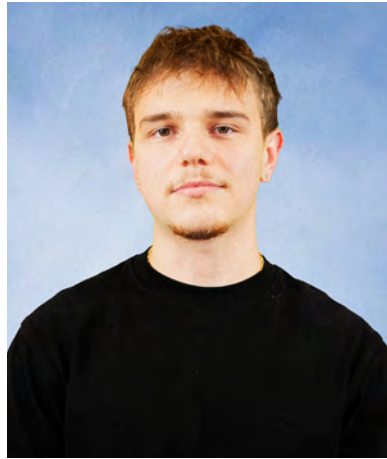
BREANNA MORROW

How interconnected creativity, technology, and business are within the graphic communications industry. The program taught me that successful projects aren't just about great design, they rely equally on strong workflow management, cost estimating, sustainability, and digital strategy.

**What was
your biggest
takeaway from
GCM?**

One of the biggest changes has been how much I've grown through the relationships I've built. In my first year, I didn't realize how important it would be to form connections—with classmates, professors, and industry professionals. As time went on, I learned that collaboration is at the heart of this program. The friendships I've made have turned into a strong support system, and working alongside talented, creative people has pushed me to improve and see new perspectives.

**How have you
changed since
your first year
at TMU?**



ERIC MUKAN

3 words to describe me!

Ambitious, Authentic, Dependable

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/eric-mukan/

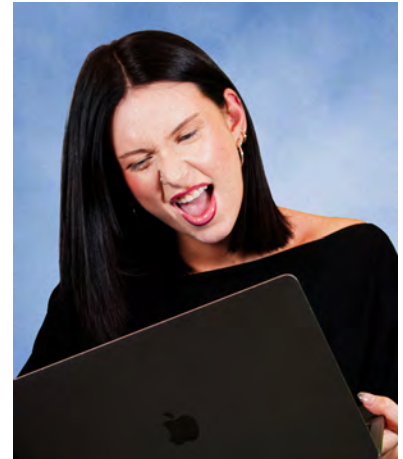
www.ericmukan.myportfolio.com/

What are your goals after graduation?

My goal is to work in the marketing sector, and continue to strive for greater things, whether that means working up in a company or starting my own business. I will take every opportunity thrown my way and execute them to my fullest ability.

What are some meaningful takeaways from your internship?

Always be open and honest and let people know when you don't know how to do something. People will appreciate it more when they can teach you how to do something properly instead of wasting time doing a task poorly.



3 words to describe me!

Creative, Intentional, Original

Concentration

Packaging

Minor

Sociology

Club Involvement

GCMCU, FAF

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/erica-myles638/

<https://readymag.website/5336240>

ERICA MYLES

Find a career that is even harder to explain than this program.

**What are your
goals after
graduation?**

Procrastination: mastered and proud.

**How have you
changed since
your first year
at TMU?**



FARIYA NASIR

3 words to describe me!

Ambitious, Authentic, Creative

Minor

Visual Communication

Club Involvement

GCMCU, Phoenix Challenge

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/fariya-nasir

What was your biggest takeaway from GCM?

Group projects weren't always easy, but they taught me how to collaborate with peers who have different work styles from my own. I learned to recognize and leverage each person's strengths and bring them together to support the group as a whole. My biggest takeaway from GCM is understanding that successful work isn't just about individual skill, but about how effectively we communicate, adapt, and build on each other's strengths.

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?

I've become much more involved on campus. In my third and fourth year, I started engaging more with clubs, students, and faculty, which helped me grow both personally and professionally. Along the way, I've built meaningful friendships and strong relationships with professors who have supported and inspired me. I've also taken on more responsibilities and embraced every opportunity to learn and contribute.



3 words to describe me!

Empathetic, Dedicated, Creative

Concentration

Publishing

Minor

Communication Design and English

Club Involvement

GCMCU

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/enghiem/

ELIANNA NGHIEM

Aside from employment in a GCM career, I'd love to continue exploring the city for cafe spots and own a cat!

**What are your
goals after
graduation?**

I think I've become a lot more flexible and outgoing! Since my first year at TMU, I've learned to say "yes" a lot more to experiences, lessons and friendships that, as corny as it sounds, have helped me to grow into someone who's more willing and confident to try new things and continue my growth in many areas of my life that I initially didn't expect to in first year.

**How have you
changed since
your first year
at TMU?**



ANALIAH OLAVARIO

3 words to describe me!

Sleepy All Day

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/analiah-olavario

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?

I've grown a lot in how I approach collaboration. Back then, I preferred to work on my own and get things done my way. Over the years, I've learned that working with others helps you grow, gain new perspectives, and develop stronger ideas. Being part of different group projects taught me the value of teamwork, communication, and learning from people with different strengths and experiences.

What are some meaningful takeaways from your internship?

Stay open-minded and always be willing to learn. I realized that every new experience, challenge, or task is an opportunity to grow and develop new skills. Another important lesson is to take every opportunity that comes your way, even if it feels unfamiliar at first, because those experiences often lead to unexpected growth and connections.



3 words to describe me!

Creative, Innovative, Imaginative

Concentration

Publishing

KEVON OSEI-BONSU

My biggest takeaway from GCM is how the 3 sectors of graphic design, communications, and management can all connect to each other.

**What was
your biggest
takeaway from
GCM?**

My goal after graduation is to be a professional graphic designer for a well known establishment.

**What are your
goals after
graduation?**



NAOMI PAREJA

3 words to describe me!

Five Foot None

Concentration

Packaging

Club Involvement

METPack, TMU Pre Vet Club

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/naomi-pareja

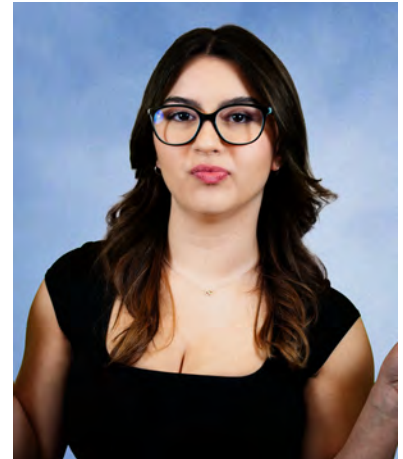
www.naomipareja.myportfolio.com/

What was your biggest takeaway from GCM?

The people and the community. :) I'm really lucky to have found a group from first year that I'm glad to call my friends to this day, as well as get to make lasting connections through classes and the clubs here at GCM.

What was your favorite GCM project?

The GCM130 Food Truck Branding project or sticker making in GCM800.



3 words to describe me!

Avid Pinterest Doomscroller

Concentration

Publishing

Club Involvement

Colloquium

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/emma-c-pereira

EMMA PEREIRA

Continued growth as a designer/creative, more travelling, creating more memories with my friends, getting back into photography, become someone my younger self would be proud of.

I feel like an entirely new person! I started first year not knowing much about myself or what I wanted for my future. Throughout my time at TMU, I've met so many wonderful people who brought out the best in me, introduced me to new experiences and interests, and I'm proud to say I've learned what matters most to me and try to live life based on those values. I'm beyond grateful to the friends I've made here, and cannot wait to see how we all continue to grow.

**What are your
goals after
graduation?**

**How have you
changed since
your first year
at TMU?**



AMANDA PHAN

3 words to describe me!

Witty, Meticulous, Curious

Concentration

Publishing

Minor

Communication Design

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/amanda-phan

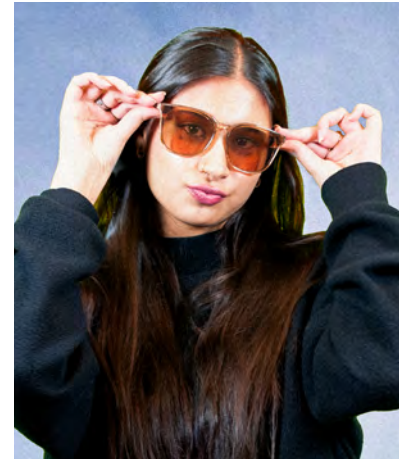
www.amapha.wixstudio.com/portfolio

What was your biggest takeaway from GCM?

Great communication can take many forms: visual, digital, and experiential. Whether through print, branding, or a presentation, every project taught me that clarity, creativity, and precision work together to tell a story. GCM showed me how processes, tools, and collaboration shape ideas into tangible experiences, and that thoughtful design can connect people in ways words alone cannot.

What are some meaningful takeaways from your internship?

My internship at Resource Label Group taught me that every project is like a puzzle, each piece, from design to production, needs to fit perfectly. I learned how creativity and precision work hand-in-hand, and how collaboration turns individual skills into something bigger than the sum of its parts. It also showed me that adaptability and curiosity are essential, turning challenges into opportunities to grow and experiment in real-world workflows.



3 words to describe me!

Creative, Driven, Witty

Club Involvement

TAGA, DRUPA Print Convention

Where to find me

[www.linkedin.com/in/mahrukh-qureshi-/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/mahrukh-qureshi/)

www.mahrukhqureshi.myportfolio.com/

MAHRUKH QURESHI

I have gained confidence in my abilities and clarity about my goals. I have learned how to maintain a balance between creativity and strategy, as well as how to effectively convey ideas in academic and professional environments. Working on multiple capstone projects has helped me improve my problem solving and teamwork abilities while also teaching me the value of adaptability. I have gained confidence, and feel more motivated to continue my professional and personal growth.

I learned how to adapt fast in a professional atmosphere, interact well within a team, and confidently take the initiative on tasks. The internship taught me how to manage multiple projects and what techniques work together to achieve team goals. I also learned organizing skills, increased my attention to detail, and gained a better understanding of how to turn creative ideas into practical, results-oriented outputs.

**How have you
changed since
your first year
at TMU?**

**What are some
meaningful
takeaways
from your
internship?**



RASIKA RAMESH

3 words to describe me!

Cool, Chatty, Cheerful

Concentration

Packaging

Minor

Geography

Club Involvement

GCMCU, TMTC, tmuSMASH

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/rasikka-r-0a9a42224/

What was your biggest takeaway from GCM?

Realizing that print is everywhere!! Is that a bird, a plane? No, just more print!

What was your favorite GCM project?

Making pretty cool stickers of my dogs. :)



3 words to describe me!

Creative, Curious, Passionate

Club Involvement

Phoenix Challenge

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/aqsa-rehman

www.tinyurl.com/yume46z4

AQSA REHMAN

The versatility in knowledge provided. I came into the program only focused on design but throughout my four years I was able to explore many different topics. I built a lot of useful career and business skills especially during my internship that have helped open new doors for me. I also learned different applications for design through print and digital media. Overall, the program provided the opportunity to dive into a multitude of skillsets and career pathways.

One of my goals post-graduation is to continue diving into the digital media world and learning more about UX/UI design. I would also love to continue exploring career pathways in the printing and technology industry. Eventually I would love to go back to school either pursuing a specialization or a master's degree but currently my plans are to get started on my career after graduating.

**What was
your biggest
takeaway from
GCM?**

**What are your
goals after
graduation?**



SOL RIQUERO

3 words to describe me!

Driven, Caffeine-Powered, Creative

Concentration

Packaging

Minor

Psychology

Club Involvement

Colloquium, GCMCU

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/sol-riquero

www.riquerosol.myportfolio.com/

What was your biggest takeaway from GCM?

Make the most of the time you're given. These past four years have flown by, and stepping out of my comfort zone to get involved and meet like-minded people has made the experience unforgettable. I've connected with some of the kindest, most creative people, and for that, I will always be grateful.

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?

I've changed from being shy and introverted to someone who is fully involved with GCM, through student groups, multiple campus jobs, and even the occasional nod of recognition from peers. The journey had its ups and downs, but GCM gave me room to grow, both personally and academically. Now, I'm settled in strange-but-comfy sitting positions on the orange couches in HEI: a little older, a little bolder, and a lot more me.



3 words to describe me!

Creative, Determined, Thoughtful

Concentration

Publishing

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/elisha-salazar

ELISHA SALAZAR

My goal is to secure a full-time position in either digital advertising or publishing. I'm passionate about creativity and storytelling, and I hope to apply those interests in a professional setting that allows me to grow and make an impact. Since I enjoy reading and exploring innovative ideas, working in a field that combines creativity, communication, and design would be both fulfilling and inspiring for me.

During my internship at Signify, I learned the importance of continuously developing my skills and not being afraid to ask questions. Curiosity and initiative are valuable for growth, especially when taking on unfamiliar tasks that challenge you to learn and adapt. I also discovered the value of time management and setting boundaries when feeling overwhelmed. Most importantly, I learned to embrace mistakes as opportunities to grow and gain meaningful experience.

What are your goals after graduation?

What are some meaningful takeaways from your internship?



JEEVANA SARAVANABAVAN

3 words to describe me!

Easy, Breezy, Beautiful

Concentration

Packaging

Minor

Marketing

Club Involvement

TAGA, Visual Artists Association

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/jeevana-sara

**What was
your biggest
takeaway from
GCM?**

Print is not dead!

**What are your
goals after
graduation?**

Pursuing a master's and starting my own business. :)



3 words to describe me!

Easy-going, Dependable, Bookworm

Concentration

Packaging

Minor

Social Media Marketing

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/sarme

SARME SASEEHARAN

You have to master time management. Whether it's for school projects, extracurricular activities, or your personal life. If you are passionate about something you have to make the time to fit it into your life.

My favourite GCM project was creating a mailer box in GCM 808. It was the most challenging project I've worked on, which often had me spending late nights working on it alongside Lorimae Mesina and Fiyin Cole. However, it truly was an unforgettable experience that I look back on with fondness.

**What was
your biggest
takeaway
from GCM?**

**What was your
favorite GCM
project?**



SIERRA SETON

3 words to describe me!

Smart, Driven, Creative

Concentration

Publishing

Club Involvement

DRUPA

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/sierra-seton

www.sierraseton.myportfolio.com/work

What are your goals after graduation?

To pursue graduate studies in digital media/design by completing both a master's degree and a PhD. Through these programs, I hope to deepen my knowledge of graphic communications, QR code integration in design, and user experience-based design. Ultimately, I aspire to become a professor, where I can teach, conduct research, and inspire future designers to explore innovation in digital media.

What was your favorite GCM project?

My favorite GCM project was from GCM 800: Tags, Labels, and Bags: Flexo Processes. For this assignment, I designed and printed packaging for a fictional tea company. I created a cohesive brand identity, developed the artwork, and learned how to prepare files for flexographic printing. This project was especially rewarding because it combined creativity with technical production skills, giving me hands-on experience in real-world packaging design.



3 words to describe me!

Creative-at-Heart, Sunny, Sweets Fanatic

Concentration

Packaging

Club Involvement

Colloquium, GCMCU, TAGA, StyleCircle

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/duaa-shahzad/

www.behance.net/duaaashahzad1

DUAA SHAHZAD

Once I've graduated from GCM, my efforts will go 100% towards launching my own webcomic projects and art/prints business! Coming to terms with my post-grad goals took honest reflection, just as the acknowledgement that treading my own path will be unique from others around me. Yet instead of turning away from it... I now embrace the *ultra happy* future I want to create with my own hands!

Beyond shelving some of my perfectionist tendencies (sometimes good work just means gettin' it done), I've become more outgoing compared to my first year at TMU. I'm still a head-in-the-clouds kind of person whose always focused on her own inner world...but see, what made me come out of my shell was the kindness of others and the learning experiences I got from the student initiatives I joined throughout the years!

What are your goals after graduation?

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?



UNIBA SHAIKH

3 words to describe me!

Creative, Passionate, Resourceful

Concentration

Packaging

Minor

Communication Design

Club Involvement

GCMCU, TAGA, Phoenix Challenge

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/uniba-s-19822b294/

What was your biggest takeaway from GCM?

The meaningful connections and friendships I've built along the way. The program gave me the opportunity to collaborate with talented, creative, and driven individuals who inspired me to grow both personally and professionally. While the knowledge and technical skills I gained are invaluable, it's the people I met and the relationships I formed that have truly made the experience unforgettable.

What was your favorite GCM project?

The final project in GCM 808 was my favourite. We were given the opportunity to design a solution for and work with a real client, which really made it memorable. This project helped me realize my passion for packaging and confirmed that I wanted to pursue a future in it. I also really enjoyed collaborating with my teammates. They were great to work with and I learned a lot from them.



3 words to describe me!

Cyan, Magenta, Yellow

Concentration

Packaging

Club Involvement

METPack, Phoenix Challenge

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/jiya-sharma

<https://shorturl.at/Fr1mJ>

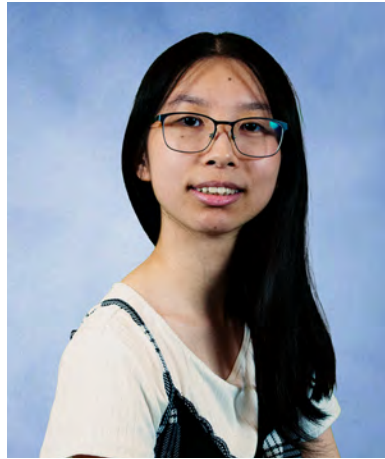
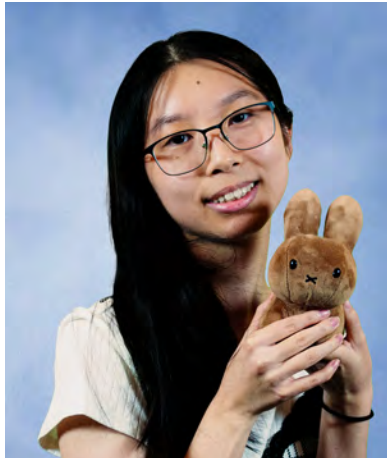
JIYA SHARMA

You never stop learning. Every year, we are exposed to new technologies and processes, and we can find what truly works for us! GCM is the time for us to discover new possibilities and get closer to figuring out what we want to do in the future!

I would say the biggest change I've noticed in myself since my first year is definitely my independence. While I'm definitely still a kid at heart, I've taken on a lot of responsibilities through the years, and they have all helped me to grow and mature into the person I am now. I have been able to take more risks, put myself out there, and do things that I might not have without my newfound independence!

**What was
your biggest
takeaway from
GCM?**

**How have you
changed since
your first year
at TMU?**



BO LIN SHEN

3 words to describe me!

Curious, Imaginative, Friendly

Concentration

Publishing

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/bolin-shen

www.bolinshen.myportfolio.com/

What was your biggest takeaway from GCM?

The importance of preflighting before printing.

What are your goals after graduation?

I hope to pursue a career related to marketing and graphic design as I enter the workforce, applying what I learned in GCM.



3 words to describe me!

Are, Gee, Bee

Concentration

Publishing

Club Involvement

METPack, TMU UX

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/zoha-sherwani-99a617303

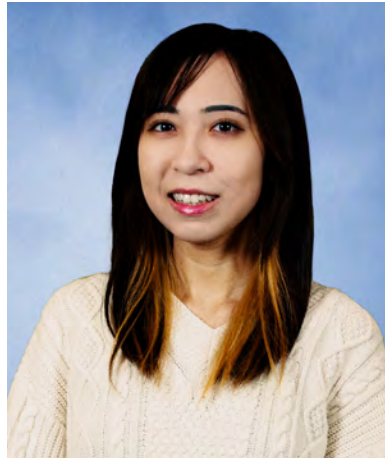
ZOHA SHERWANI

Making stickers first year! I still have them on my laptop, they'll always remind me of CutContour. <3

**What was your
favorite GCM
project?**

Always ask questions, even if you think you're being annoying. It's so much better to be completely sure than to guess!

**What are some
meaningful
takeaways from
your internship?**



MIA SPIZZIRRI

3 words to describe me!

Creative, Introspective, Calm

Concentration

Graphic Output

Club Involvement

GCMCU, Metropolitan Game Studios

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/mia-spizzirri/

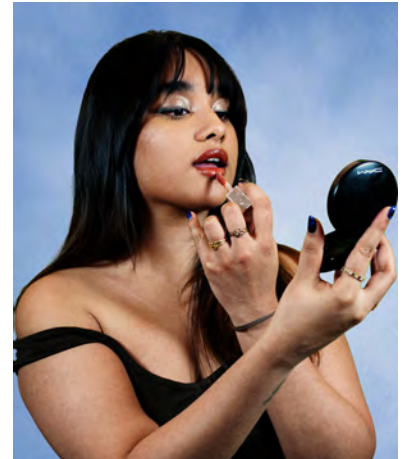
www.linktr.ee/miaspi

**What was
your biggest
takeaway from
GCM?**

There's no CMY without the K.

**What are your
goals after
graduation?**

I wish to keep learning new things in life and travel the world!



3 words to describe me!

Creative, Confident, Charismatic

Concentration

Packaging

Club Involvement

TAGA, METPack, Phoenix Challenge

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/fleurtorres

FLEUR TORRES

Stay true to myself and my interests while building a career that pays well and feels genuine.

I've learned more about myself, my goals, and how to make things happen my way.

**What are your
goals after
graduation?**

**How have you
changed since
your first year
at TMU?**



JAMES TOWIE

3 words to describe me!

Funny, Optimistic, Outgoing

Concentration

Publishing

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/james-towie
-052276273/

**What was
your biggest
takeaway from
GCM?**

You are always learning.

**What are some
meaningful
takeaways
from your
internship?**

Pay attention, and learn lots.



3 words to describe me!

Optimistic, Hustler, Coffee!

Club Involvement

Circle K International

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/laura-trann

www.readymag.website/lauratran/

LAURA TRAN

There is a lot more to Graphic Communications than just graphic design. There's so many other pathways that make this program unique.

**What was
your biggest
takeaway from
GCM?**

420: Advanced Print Production Processes - the whole course included being able to create different print outputs and turn it into something magnificent. It was really cool to see that all the cumulative hands-on work from Y1 make its comeback to let us create an output we were really happy about. The best part: we had FULL control. (My group created a blind box.)

**What was your
favorite GCM
project?**



VANESSA TSUI

3 words to describe me!

Creative, Thoughtful, Dedicated

Concentration

Packaging

Minor

Professional Communication

Club Involvement

Colloquium, SCS, TRSS, TMUGG

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/vtsui

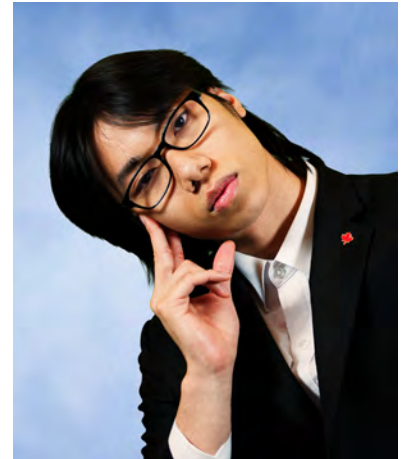
www.vanessatsui.myportfolio.com/

What are your goals after graduation?

I hope to take some time to travel and make memories with friends and family. When I return, I'd love to find a role in the industry where I can continue learning and growing. My dream job would be something creative, like working as a graphic or packaging designer, or exploring UI/UX design.

What are some meaningful takeaways from your internship?

My internship taught me a lot about teamwork, communication, and attention to detail. I got hands-on experience managing multiple projects, preparing files for production, and collaborating closely with colleagues. It gave me a better understanding of how creativity and technical work come together, and helped me build skills I know will be useful in my future career.



3 words to describe me!

I. Do. Me.

Concentration

Leadership

Club Involvement

GCMCU

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/nhan-brian-tu

BRIAN TU

Procrastination and pride kill goals. Be humble and hardworking. Don't dwell on mistakes, but reflect on them to learn how to do better in the future.

Plan your goals and tasks as far ahead as possible, communicate with other people concisely and clearly while remaining polite, and treat your co-workers with trust and respect.

**What was
your biggest
takeaway
from GCM?**

**What are some
meaningful
takeaways
from your
internship?**



SHAAFI USMAN

3 words to describe me!

Outgoing, Competitive, Dramatic

Concentration

Packaging

Minor

Communication Design

Club Involvement

GCMCU, Phoenix Challenge, Pack Expo Chicago, Pack Expo Las Vegas

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/shaafi

www.linktr.ee/shaafiusman

What was your biggest takeaway from GCM?

The biggest takeaway I took from GCM wasn't found in a lecture or a textbook; it was the value of friendship. I met people who turned group projects into gossip sessions, classrooms into comfort, and ordinary days into warm memories. They made these past years feel alive, meaningful, and truly worth living.

What was your favorite GCM project?

Everything I did in GCM 420. Watching our ideas turn into real, tangible creations was a real moment of pride, and a reminder of why I fell in love with this industry; we bring imagination to life.



3 words to describe me!

Suffering From Success

Concentration

Graphic Output

Minor

Music and Culture

Club Involvement

ITMSA, TRMC

ZAM VALDEHUEZA

It's okay to fail, as long as you keep trying. Every mistake taught me something new and helped me grow into a better designer and person.

I've become way more social and confident. I've pushed myself to try new things I never would've done before and it's been a ride. Shout out to the GCM girlies, fr. Could not have done it without you all. <3

**What was
your biggest
takeaway from
GCM?**

**How have you
changed since
your first year
at TMU?**



SEBASTIAN VALDEZ

3 words to describe me!

Productive, Shy, Humble

Concentration

Graphic Output

Club Involvement

OLAS TMU, Grad Book Committee

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/sebastianvaldez6

www.behance.net/sebastianvaldez6

What are your goals after graduation?

To study an advanced diploma in software engineering while working in the IT industry, or in marketing as a graphic designer.

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?

I've changed a lot, not only did I gain more knowledge, but also feel old but wise. I also met really fantastic people during my final year which gave me perspective.



3 words to describe me!

Creative, Personable, Determined

Concentration

Packaging

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/ellena-vargas

ELLENA VARGAS

The importance of collaboration. It enabled me to step outside my comfort zone, think creatively, build meaningful connections, and approach every aspect of the program with an open mind and willingness to learn.

Explore the world through travel, build a successful career, and continue growing into a strong, independent, and courageous individual who approaches life through passion, purpose, and optimism.

**What was
your biggest
takeaway
from GCM?**

**What are your
goals after
graduation?**



ALYSSA

VARONE-FERREIRA

3 words to describe me!

Clumsy, Kindhearted, Bookworm

Concentration

Publishing

Club Involvement

Colloquium, TAGA, StyleCircle

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/alyssa-ferreira

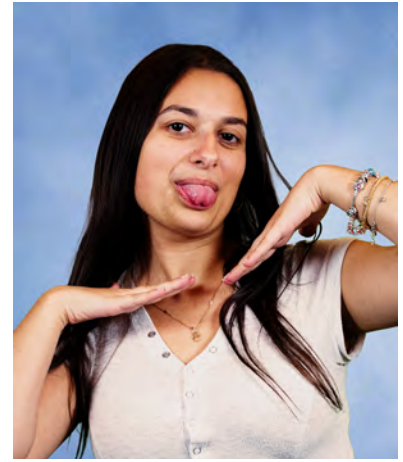
www.alyssavaroneferreira.myportfolio.com

What was your biggest takeaway from GCM?

Realizing that art is intersectional activism, it has a lasting impact, and with that comes great responsibility. Design isn't just about aesthetics; it's about shaping perspectives and driving change. GCM taught me to approach every project with intention, considering not only how something looks, but what it communicates and who it affects, along with understanding the entire production process behind every piece. Creativity, when paired with awareness and purpose, can truly make a difference.

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?

I've grown more confident in not only myself but in my abilities, and learned to trust my creative instincts. I came in unsure of my direction, but through projects, collaboration, and challenges, I've discovered my voice as a designer. I've also learned the importance of balance, knowing when to push myself, and when to step back. I'm leaving with a clearer sense of purpose and pride in how far I've come and how much I've grown as not only a person, but as a creative.



3 words to describe me!

Earnest, Reliable, Sensible

Concentration

Publishing

Minor

Communication Design

Club Involvement

GCMCU

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/karina-vilhena

KARINA VILHENA

Even though this program is not exactly what I first expected, it is honestly such an amazing experience that gives us a real headstart compared to other programs. I am so grateful for all the opportunities I have had. Also, print is definitely wonderful!

My favourite GCM project has to be the GCM375 semester-long management group. I was the Project Manager for my group and I think I had such a great team, we were always on track, and I just loved the concept we had. The blogs were on point and the brand and designs were beautiful! I believe this project is what sparked the interest in pursuing a role in project management after I graduate.

**What was
your biggest
takeaway
from GCM?**

**What was
your favorite
GCM project?**



AIDAN WILLIS

3 words to describe me!

I Make Box

Concentration

Leadership

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/aidan-willis

**What was
your biggest
takeaway
from GCM?**

Print is wonderful.

**How have you
changed since
your first year
at TMU?**

I know how to make a saddle stitched book now.



3 words to describe me!

Live, Laugh, Love

Club Involvement

TMU Dance Pak - Assistant Captain

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/jaclynwong

JACLYN WONG

Definitely the relationships I've made while being in the program. My closest friends are from the program, and for that I will always be grateful. <3

**What was
your biggest
takeaway
from GCM?**

After graduation, I hope to continue my studies in a new field. Although, I am not certain of what program I will be going into, I am excited for whatever comes next.

**What are your
goals after
graduation?**



LAILA YOUSSEF

3 words to describe me!

Funny, Loving, Loud

Concentration

Leadership

Minor

Communication Design

What are your goals after graduation?

To take a breather, travel a bit, and figure out where I want to take my creativity next. I'd love to work on projects that feel meaningful.

How have you changed since your first year at TMU?

I've definitely grown a lot! I learned to manage stress better, trust my instincts, and actually enjoy the process instead of panicking over every deadline.



3 words to describe me!

Supportive, Resilient, Tenacious

Concentration

Graphic Output

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/asia-zain

ASIA ZAIN

A great group of friends who will accomplish big goals in our industry. :)

**What was
your biggest
takeaway
from GCM?**

To see as many countries as I can!

**What are your
goals after
graduation?**



MICHELLE ZHANG

3 words to describe me!

Creative, Kind, Spontaneous

Concentration

Packaging

Minor

Psychology

Club Involvement

Colloquium, METPack

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/yingxin

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What are your goals after graduation?

I hope to travel the world before finding a stable job and settling down to explore different cultures and their contributions to the graphics industry.

What are some meaningful takeaways from your internship?

It was very interesting to see how intricate and technical the packaging industry really is in a real-world setting. I interned at Atlantic Packaging and it was very fascinating to see the different departments of the company collaborate with each other.



3 words to describe me!

Curious, Motivated, Driven

Concentration

Packaging

Club Involvement

Grad Book Committee

Where to find me

www.linkedin.com/in/mina-zoabi

MINA ZOABI

My biggest takeaway from GCM is noticing all the printing dots on packaging, I can now understand and explain to everyone around me why they are there and how a package is made. It is fascinating how such small things would have gone unnoticed before I learned about them during my time in GCM.

**What was
your biggest
takeaway from
GCM?**

Going on exchange left such an impact on me. It has enabled me to connect with people from different cultures, creating meaningful friendships, while also broadening my perspective in life on a personal and academic level. Exchange has definitely made my undergrad experience a lot more satisfactory.

**What are some
meaningful
takeaways from
your international
exchange?**



The GCM Colloquium is a professional, academic, and networking event organized by undergraduate students in the Graphic Communications Management (GCM) program at Toronto Metropolitan University. Each year, the Colloquium celebrates the achievements of the graduating class while bringing together students, faculty, and industry professionals from across the Greater Toronto Area.

Additionally, this event marks the culmination of the GCM students' journey, showcasing their final projects and innovative solutions that reflect current trends in print, packaging, and digital media. This end-of-year show features student business projects and theses, as well as networking opportunities, offering guests the chance to engage with emerging talent, explore new technologies, and celebrate the future of the graphic communications industry.



COLLOQUIUM

GCMCU



The Graphic Communications Management Course Union (GCMCU) represents the student body of the Graphic Communications Management program at Toronto Metropolitan University. As a student-led group, we strive for and promote the interests, engagement

and inclusivity of all GCM students. The GCMCU organizes academic and social events independently and in collaboration with other programs under The Creative School at TMU, encouraging students to be a part of their community!

METPack is a student-run club at GCM dedicated to exploring the innovative world of packaging. We provide opportunities for learning, networking, and collaboration, connecting students with industry professionals and peers who share an interest in sustainable packaging, cutting-

edge design, and advancements in materials and technology. We do this through packaging related events and industry trips. Through these experiences, METPack fosters a community of passionate students who are eager to learn, collaborate, and drive innovation in the future of packaging.



METPACK

TAGA

The logo for TMUTAGA, featuring the letters 'TMUTAGA' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The 'M' is stylized with a yellow and blue horizontal bar through it.

TMUTAGA is the only Canadian student chapter of the Technical Association of the Graphic Arts. Creating and producing a journal with GCM student thesis papers, TMUTAGA annually enters the competition for the Helmut Kipphan Cup and attends

the TAGA NextGen conference in different locations across North America. The TMUTAGA group has won several awards and is a 9x competition winner. In 2026 TMUTAGA (makes/made) its way to the NextGen Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Earlier this school year, a group of fourth-year GCM students, joined by graduate students and faculty, attended the Packaging Expo in Las Vegas, Nevada, where they explored the

packaging and processing industries and discovered thousands of exhibitors presenting new technologies, machinery, materials, and innovative solutions.



PACK EXPO

PHOENIX CHALLENGE



The Phoenix Challenge College (PCC) competition is a year-long, problem-solving project where students research, design, and produce a solution to an industry-relevant flexographic challenge. This year, our team partnered with Cheekbone Beauty

to develop innovative, sustainable and inclusive cosmetic packaging, culminating in a formal presentation to a panel of industry judges. Our project was recognized as Best Student Project of the Year at the Canadian Printing Awards!

The international exchange program is an excellent way for students to immerse themselves in new cultures, make new connections, and see what the graphic communications industry looks like on the other side of the world. This year, participating

students got to expand their academics in Germany, Belgium and South Korea, gaining skills and global experiences in printing technologies, design approaches, and the world of media.



EXCHANGE

AWARDS NIGHT



Every year, GCM honours its outstanding students at the Awards Night; a wonderful evening celebrating student success. The event brings together students, faculty, alumni and generous industry professionals to recognize academic excellence and innovation in the graphic communications industry. This

year, GCM celebrated 82 students for their outstanding academic performance and awarded \$135,000+ in scholarships. It was an unforgettable night filled with joy, smiles and meaningful speeches, capturing our vibrant community together.

GCM grads are in high demand, working in rewarding and engaging positions around the world. Many of our students find jobs at the GCM Career Fair. With over 60 of the top printing industry employers in attendance, this annual event is an invaluable opportunity for GCM students to network with industry leaders and showcase their skills.

Internships are a mentoring relationship between the employer and a third year student. The Career Fair connects students who elect to complete their internship between April and the end of August with paid positions at a range of companies.



JOB FAIR





Abhay Sharma



Art Seto



Christopher Smyth



Ehsan Behzadfar



Jonghun (Jay) Park



Kris Krystosiak



Layal Shuman



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Natalia Lumby





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Tannisha Lambert



From: Grad Book team

Focusing on one area of the print production workflow (prepress, press, finishing, etc.), **what is one thing that has changed the most since you started at GCM?**



Laura Brady

In the context of books as physical media, the trend I am in love with at present is sprayed or printed edges. It's a subtle detail that causes book browsers to pick the book up and explore further. The tactile treatment of books is so incredibly important and this trend goes a long way to getting books literally into the hands of readers.



Diana Varma

When I began as a student at GCM in 2004, our premedia labs were so much more analog than they are today. We were stripping film and manually composing our files, which took a very long time and was prone to a variety of errors along the way. When I began teaching in 2012 (and even more so now), the way we process files for print is so much more automated and streamlined, resulting in shorter time to produce high quality print. Making a plate now happens at the push of a button and producing digitally printed products requires even less work. No more utility knives and light tables needed!



Jason Cole

The rise of low-cost software alternatives and an ever-expanding definition of graphic communications has inadvertently diluted our profession, increasing expectations for diverse creative output with a less commensurate dollar. Now more than ever, deep educational foundations and clear specializations are essential to protect and preserve the integrity of the industry we love.



Donna Cormier

I have been at GCM since 2017. One area that continues to evolve in Design and Premedia is the omni-channel workflows, requiring students to develop and manage assets that move seamlessly across print, web, and interactive platforms like augmented reality. The emphasis being on cross-media integration, digital fluency, and adaptable design-to-production skills.



Lee Elridge

I first taught at GCM (part-time) in 2013. I think the real disruption has been human: We're now living in a permanent storm of data where creation and consumption collide. Audiences expect dialogue, transparency, and purpose. Print has shifted from a quiet endpoint to a strategically chosen pause, a tangible anchor for trust and memory while everything else scrolls past.



Vern Freeland

Digital signage represents an important development positioned at the intersection of physical media and digital content. When I began teaching digital signage at GCM in 2001, it was a sector dominated by the audio-visual industry with limited creative involvement. Digital signage has matured into a sophisticated, data-driven medium of its own, engaging audiences everywhere.

[Send](#)

From: Grad Book team

Focusing on one area of the print production workflow (prepress, press, finishing, etc.), **what is one thing that has changed the most since you started at GCM?**



Ian Baitz

The greatest changes since I started at GCM in 2001 are that we have added flexography because of its connection to packaging. Now students have access to flexo premedia workflows, platemaking, mounting and a flexo press. Previously, we had no flexo equipment at all. We have also brought in a new digital press, and we changed our offset presses to provide the best possible learning experience. Industry-wide, premedia has seen huge changes as well, and GCM students get to learn about many of the newest technologies.



Reem El Asaleh

Over the years, technological innovation has evolved from mechanical production with manual presses to human-centric, AI-powered systems of Industry 5.0. Similarly, Digital Asset Management has advanced from simple storage solutions to Intelligent Content Hubs, where AI curates, personalizes, and enhances creative workflows, empowering the graphic arts and print industries and inspiring a dynamic revival of physical media in today's digital world.



Martin Habekost

Digital printing technologies have made great advances in the past five years. Printing speeds and printing quality improved significantly, with offset print quality still the bar to reach. The fastest digital inkjet press now prints at 11,200 impressions per hour, a speed that sheetfed offset presses achieved 20 years ago. It is only a matter of time before inkjet presses reach the speed of today's sheet-fed offset machines.



Krzysztof Krystosiak

The biggest change I've noticed is prepress, where automation and AI-driven workflows have transformed how we handle files, proofs, and colour management. Of course, a lot of changes were also in press and post press but not as significant as in prepress. Why? Because it's cheaper – any automation in press or postpress requires huge investments. I split the printing world into two worlds: digital and physical – what can be easily automated in digital, is pretty hard to do in physical.



Natalia Lumby

I began teaching at GCM in 2008, one year after the first iPhone launched! Since then, all things digital, including digital printing, have dramatically expanded print's reach. From self-published books to personalized campaigns to photo books, digital technology has transformed how we create, share, and experience print.



Christopher Smyth

A highlight over the past several years has been seeing the overall growth and understanding of how important design is, both in business and our daily lives. From an aesthetic final touch to an appreciation of the core part it plays in better functionality, usability and accessibility in everything.

[Send](#)

meet the grad book committee

core team



Project Management

Mina Zoabi



Concept Design & Page Layout

Valerie Cheng



Photographer

Sebastian Valdez

Copy & Text

Paulina Marin

Production Team

All



on-call team

Design Layout Assistant
Maryan Jimali

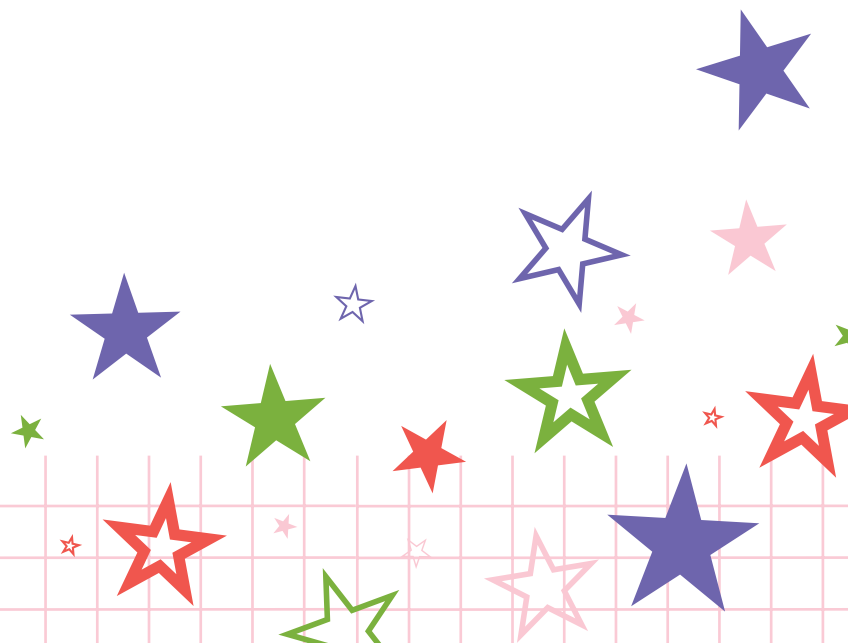
Packaging/Print Assistant
Yazhini Bharath

Social Media Graphics Assistant
Sheilae Siagian



**let's
keep in
touch**

scan this Spotify
code and add your
best GCM anthem!



acknowledgements



The GCM Grad Book Committee 2026 would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this year's production and made the Grad Book possible.



Production Assistance

Darsan Sivanantharajah
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Sponsors

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at The Creative School

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