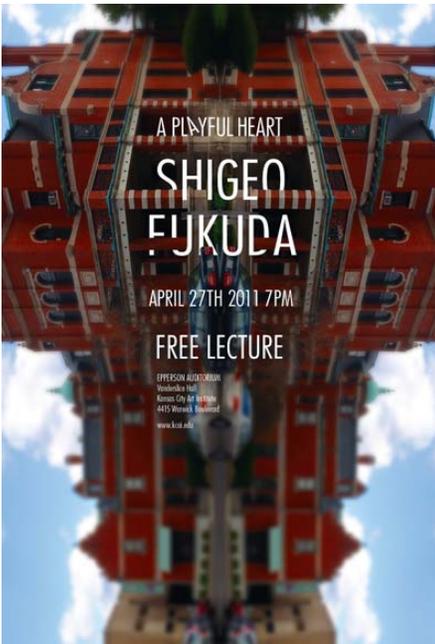


2012/13 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Coyne Family Foundation Award



ELI BRUMBAUGH
Graphic Design
Senior
Kansas City Art Institute



When I was in high school, I discovered my love for graphic design. I never dared to dream that I could actually go to school for design (let alone at the Kansas City Art Institute) after growing up in a low-income family who struggled to stay afloat. After high school, I decided to move out so I wouldn't be a burden on my family. I attended community college to discover what direction to take, still unsure if I could ever afford a four-year college. After several design courses and very special teachers, I was inspired to pursue design. When KCAI offered me their scholarship, the line between impossible and possible started to blur. I moved to Kansas City alone with what money I could save up from working a full-time retail sales job.

I have been working three part-time jobs so I can remain in school. I work in the Print Center, where I helped establish a sustainable practice of reusing materials and expired inks. When I graduate, I will become the only person in my family to have completed a bachelor's degree. This is extremely important to me: not only do I graduate, but I also create a lasting trend of higher education in my family.



ELI BRUMBAUGH

Graphic Design



Growing up, I knew of my cultural heritage as a tribal member of the Wyandotte Nation in Oklahoma. I grew up aware of the painful past and the difficulties many Indian tribes face today. For that reason, I will use the abilities that I have developed to help create design solutions for Native Americans. The tribe offers a small scholarship for those members who attend college. I would like to give back to that community for helping me make my dreams a reality.

I have been able to take classes like Visual Advocacy, with projects focused on design solutions for the community. I have experienced poverty simulations in which we lived the daily life of someone in poverty and then created a design intervention. My group created "INSIST" to help low-income people in the community use responsible financial practices to help them avoid evictions. I have taken part in an extra curricular workshop with Thrive, which is based in Helena, Arkansas—a rural, economically depressed city—dedicated to improving the life of the citizens through design. I was able to assist them in developing design solutions for the struggling local economy.



With this scholarship, I will be able to focus on my education so that I can better give back to those communities who have given me so much hope. I want to help ensure that the next generation receives not only the same opportunities, but even more. Design is such a powerful force in the world today that with responsible design practices and accountability, we really can make a difference.

