

Meet the Judges



Brian Chan began folding at the age of seven, when his parents gave him Montroll's "Animal Origami for the Enthusiast" and "Origami for the Enthusiast". It was not until 2004 when Robert Lang came to MIT to introduce theories about origami design that he started designing his own creations. Since then he has designed many technical pieces such as insects and anime characters, and won several origami awards, including "Best Original Model" and "Best MIT Themed Model" in the MIT Origami Competition, for his origami version of the MIT seal. In 2008 he won two JOAS awards for his "Water Buffalo" and "Rei Ayanami" color-change models. During the past few years he has been featured as a special guest in various origami conventions, including JOAS (Japan), AEP (Spain), and Korea. Chan works at the MIT Hobby Shop.

Elsa Chen graduated with a SBEE from MIT in 1989. She will always be grateful to Mr. Bob Giovannucci at Lincoln Laboratory for telling her about the origami mailing list in 1990. From this list, she learned about the Friends of the Origami Center of America (since renamed OrigamiUSA) and their Annual Convention. At this and other origami conventions around the world, she has taken classes from origami artists specializing in various styles of work, ranging from complex representational (e.g., Akira Yoshizawa, Michael LaFosse, Robert Lang) through geometric (e.g., Chris Palmer, Jeannine Mosely, Tomoko Fuse). She has been a contributing member of the origami fanzine, *imagi*, since 1995.

Erik Demaine is a Professor in EECS who studies the mathematics and algorithms underlying origami, and also folding more generally. He teaches a graduate class, 6.849, about this very topic, with video lectures that are freely available online. He also cowrote the book *Geometric Folding Algorithms: Linkages, Origami, Polyhedra* with Joseph O'Rourke. Erik has been folding for 15 years, particularly abstract geometric sculpture with his father Martin.

Martin Demaine is an Artist-in-Residence in EECS and Visiting Scientist in CSAIL studying folding problems and algorithmic art. He has enjoyed origami for 25 years. As a glassblower, his work is in several museum collections in Canada and Australia. He also has been commissioned to make a set of goblets for Queen Elizabeth. Martin and Erik Demaine make joint sculptures out of both paper and glass, including curved-crease sculptures that are in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York.

Michelle Fung graduated from MIT in 2013. She served as OrigamiMIT's publicity chair for many years and as a budding origami designer won many awards at past OrigamiMIT Competitions.

Jason Ku '09 has been folding for the past twenty years. At MIT, his research in the Mechanical Engineering department addressed a number of topics involving origami, including tomographic imaging of sheet-like surfaces, and the modeling and design of 3D nano-fabricated folded surfaces. As a veteran origami designer, he has published original designs in numerous leading origami publications. While a student at MIT, Ku acted as President of OrigamiMIT for seven years. He is now a Board Member of OrigamiUSA and the Managing Editor for their online magazine, *The Fold*.

Anne LaVin has been practicing origami for over 35 years. Her origami interests span the range of the art in terms of style, content, and technique, extending to a variety of related paper crafts including papermaking and bookbinding. She currently manages the largest origami email list in the world, hosting over 1100 members. LaVin graduated MIT in 1985 with a Bachelor's in Aeronautics and Astronautics, was a member of the MIT IS&T staff, and is now a freelance consultant.

Jeannine Mosely is best known for her origami model of the fractal called Menger's Sponge, which she and a couple hundred volunteers constructed from 66,048 recycled business cards. Her original works have been exhibited in galleries and museums in Boston, Worcester, Los Angeles, New York City, Charlotte and Tokyo. She taught many origami classes during IAP while a graduate student at MIT. She received a Ph.D. in EECS from MIT in 1984.

Mark Tompkins received his bachelors and masters degrees from MIT in 2002 and 2003 respectively and has folded origami for much of his life. While not active in OrigamiMIT while attending MIT, Tompkins has regularly attend OrigamiMIT club meetings for many years and is now an excellent technical folder.

Questions? Contact origami-info@mit.edu or visit <http://web.mit.edu/origamit/>

