

DESIGN CULTURES + CREATIVITY

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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HONORS COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND,
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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Transitions in life rarely go as expected. Stepping into something new—some place new, or a new role, or a new self-concept—usually brings a host of unknowns alongside the pleasures of novelty. When I became Director last summer, I had a vague sense of what I was getting into, but not much sense of the day-to-day operation.

Like the Xi Class, I was new to DCC, and trying to get my bearings with the program, in Pfreddy, and with the Honors College. Nu Class students, too, were transitioning: from first year college students to the grizzled veterans of DCC. Trials and tribulations? I'm pretty sure we all had them. I've learned a ton in the process, and I am pretty sure you have, too. If DCC teaches anything, it is that process matters; we teach that growth and experimentation, not perfection, is the point. I'm looking forward to continuing to grow and experiment in this role, just as I hope you all continue to grow and experiment in the roles that you are carving out for yourselves on this campus and in our community.

Some highlights of the year for me:

- An engaging HDCC 105 seminar, focused on experimenting with and researching generative AI. The big project of that class, **our podcast series featuring DCC students interviewing UMD faculty with expertise in AI, is now live on [Spotify](#)** and other podcasting platforms. Special thanks to **Frederick Z.** for extra work on the podcast series throughout this semester!
- **Capstone Awards**, where I got to reflect on some of the unique projects from the Spring 2023 Capstone Fair. Our awards this year really reflected the range and ambition of DCC students.
- Our **Creative-in-Residence Showcase, featuring the 2023-2024 Creative-in-Residence Elyas Masrouf and the Project Flatland team.** I'm writing this on the heels of this great event—a screening of a fun, inspiring, creative short film animated by a collective of DCC students who learned new skills and enlivened the Makerspace all year with their meetings.

And, of course, the year will culminate on **May 9, from 4-6 pm, for our annual Capstone Fair, in the MPR and Seminar rooms at PFH.** Please come out to see what your colleagues have been working on for, in some cases, years but, at minimum, a year!

It's always the people who make a place. DCC is a special place because the people that work here make it special. I'm thankful for Associate Director Jessica Lu (now +1!) for everything she did to orient me to the program and for her continued role in making DCC a wonderful place. Let me express special gratitude to program graduate assistants Jonathan Reyes and Jin Choi—they both have stepped up this semester to keep DCC running smoothly. If, at the Capstone Fair, you see Jonathan or Jin, or our esteemed supporters in the Honors College, ARHU, and other units on campus, please thank them for everything they've done for DCC this year.

And thank you for making this another good year in DCC. DCC is only as vibrant as our students, only as lively as you are involved.

See you at Capstone, and then in the fall,
—Damien

APPLY FOR STUDENT POSITIONS AT DCC!



Many of you may be interested in deepening your journey as a DCC student or alumnus by becoming a **student manager, teaching assistant, or creative-in-residence**. All three of these opportunities are excellent ways to give back to the community and build professional skill sets. We invite applications for the following open positions (click on each job title for more information):

Student Managers. Student managers supervise the Makerspace or Sound Studio, which includes opening and closing the spaces, assisting DCC students with technology needs, and serving as a mentor for newer students.

Teaching Assistants. Teaching Assistants assist in either HDCC 105 or HDCC 201, fulfilling a broad range of tasks in supporting the instructional lead.

Creative-in-Residence. The Creative-in-Residence, who must be a DCC alumnus, spearheads an ambitious, year-long creative project with a team of current DCC students.

Applications are due May 1, 2024 via Google Form, linked to each job title. Please consider applying for one of these positions, and feel free to reach out to DCC staff (faculty, graduate teaching assistants, or current student workers) for more information.



CAPSTONE FAIR: MAY 9, 4-6PM, PFH 1105 + PFH 1111

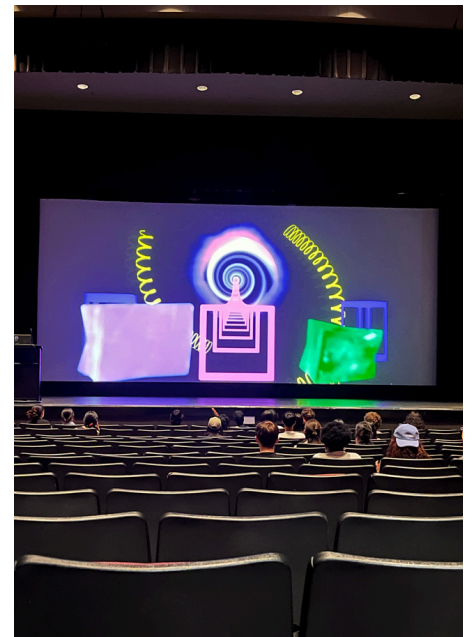


We invite you to our **annual Capstone Fair, from 4-6 pm on Thursday, May 9**, in the **Multi-Purpose and Seminar Room of Prince Frederick Hall**.

This culminating event for the DCC program features the capstone projects students have been working on all year. From event planning to podcasting, video game making to board game design, painting to sculpture, this year's Capstone Fair has it all--hope to see you there!

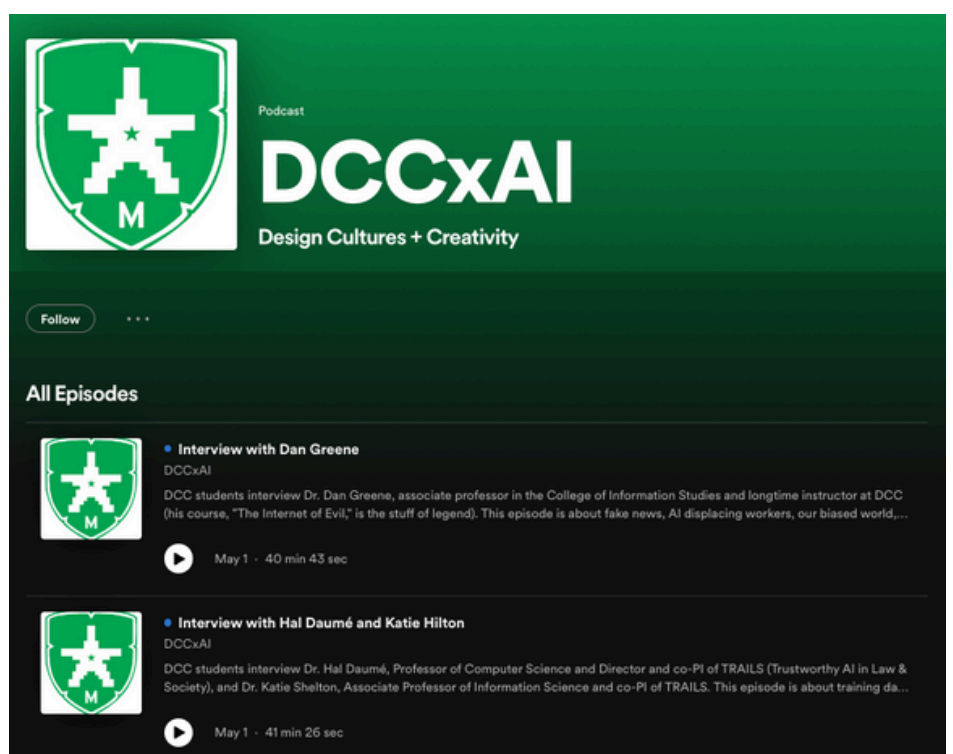
CREATIVE-IN-RESIDENCE SHOWCASE: THANK YOU!

Last night was our final premiere for Project Flatland! Thanks to all who came and supported us and of course, to everyone who helped out with the project over this or last year. With that, I can't wait to see what the next Creative in Residence decides to build. Applications are due tonight! - Elyas Masrou (Lambda)



FALL 2023 HDCC105 CLASS LAUNCHES PODCAST: DCCxAI

Last fall in HDCC105 led by Dr. Damien Pfister, the brilliant first-year Xi students researched and experimented with generative AI throughout the semester and interviewed faculty experts on our campus to learn more about how AI will change education, work, culture, and creativity to create the podcast DCCxAI. A huge thanks to Xi students and Frederick Zheng (Xi) for bringing this class endeavor to life! [Listen now on Spotify!](#)



MAKE WITH US!

MAKERSPACE & SOUND STUDIO END-OF-SEMESTER CLOSURES

The DCC **SoundStudio** will offer its last open session this **Wednesday, May 8.**

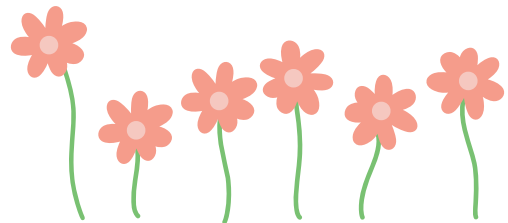
The DCC **Makerspace** will close for the semester at midnight on **Monday, May 6.**

Thank you to all DCC students and Student Managers for another vibrant year of making and creating! See you in the fall!



LAMBDA CLASS GRADUATION PARTY

The time has come to celebrate the culmination of the Lambda class's journey in the Honors Program! Join us in **Prince George's Room at STAMP on May 9, 7:30pm** for an evening filled with laughter, nostalgia, and fun activities! Reconnect with your peers, enjoy an array of games and entertainment, win raffle prizes, and pick up your DCC honors cords for graduation!



REQUIRED FOR XI STUDENTS: CAPSTONE IDEAS WORKSHOP!

All first-year (Xi class) DCC students are required to attend one Capstone Ideas Workshop sometime during the Spring 2024 semester. This requirement is tied to your HDCC106 grade! These workshops are designed to introduce you to the DCC Capstone process; help you begin to brainstorm viable project ideas; and, clarify any initial questions, concerns, or anxieties you may already have.

Space is limited! To reserve a spot in a workshop, visit the DCC Events Calendar at <https://dcc.umd.edu/events>, or click (once) on your desired session below:

- [Workshop 4 \(Virtual\), May 7, 4-5pm](#)

Note: If you are unable to make it to this last workshop offering, please contact Jin (Graduate Assistant) at jinrchoi@umd.edu!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

LET YOUR COMMUNITY CELEBRATE YOU! HAVE SOMETHING EXCITING TO SHARE? SUBMIT TO DCC-HONORS@UMD.EDU BY THE 25TH OF EACH MONTH.

MAY

- 7 — Kelsey A., Nu
- 10 — Shiham S., Xi
- 14 — Dasi F., Nu
- 15 — Gabrielle H., Nu
- 16 — Bia M-L., Nu
- 18 — L N., Mateo R., Nu
- 20 — Samarth K., Xi
- 25 — Janna C., Nu

JUNE

- 1 — Brian W., Xi
- 7 — Brian W., Nu
- 8 — Dasha D., Nu
- 11 — Stella C., Xi
- 16 — Isabelle L., Nu
- 19 — Sravya P., Xi
- 20 — Serena L., Nu
- 22 — Nuha T., Nu
- 23 — Michelle A., Nu
- 30 — Dua N., Sofia S., Xi

JULY

- 2 — Fola A., Xi
- 3 — Amanda T., Nu
Sylvia V., Xi
- 4 — Natalie B., Xi
- 24 — Calvin B., Nu
- 27 — Kaisha S., Nu
- 28 — Raphael E., Nu

