



## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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HONORS COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND,  
COLLEGE PARK



VOL.03, ISSUE 7

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Spring is (finally) here! April brings some relief in between exams, better weather to enjoy our region's beauty, and hopefully some creative energy as much of the world regenerates around us.

My favorite perk of this time of year is the abundance of daffodils, which seem to thrive in this climate better than any place I've ever lived. Their bright sunny heads are typically the final announcement that winter has given up, and their brief stand reminds us of how quickly things can turn positive.



While daffodil bulk plantings have their allure, it's the random clump of daffodils in the woods that really charms me. Amidst the leaf litter and slowly waking forest, these unexpected splashes of yellow offer surprise and delight. How did they get there? They aren't native to North America, but neither are they an invasive species. Is someone surreptitiously planting daffodils in their spare time? Are these final markers of old home gardens that might have once been in the forest? Are they just naturally spreading from more manicured landscapes to the wild beyond?

As you enjoy the blossoming of April on our campus, think about how you can be the daffodil in the woods for someone. Although April does not have the same stresses as May, this can still be a month full of final projects (like Capstones!) and other academic obligations. And of course, so many of us are dealing with non-academic issues that aren't necessarily visible to others. And the world offers us a number of pretty scary uncertainties right now. So: **be the daffodil in the woods for someone.** Be the random bit of sunshine, the unexpected bit of happiness, the breath of fresh air for someone as we start to ramp up toward the end of the semester.

The **Makerspace and Sound Studio** are hospitable places for daffodils and people in need of daffodils to converge! The early reports on the new Makerspace are overwhelmingly positive—new equipment, tools, and storage will continue to offer opportunities for DCC students to thrive creatively.

I'm always happy to hear from DCC students. In fact, **the first three students who email me a selfie in front of some flowering plant on campus will get some DCC swag!**

See most of you at the Capstone in May!

— **Damien Pfister**  
DCC Director

### DCC BIMONTHLY DESIGN CHALLENGE: APRIL

For our April design challenge, **create for a DCC friend or peer**. In any medium you'd like, channel your creativity toward someone else in the program. Whether you create a tangible thing, a moment, a meal, a song, a story, a dance... let's cultivate opportunities to show one another we care! Send your submissions to [dcc-honors@umd.edu](mailto:dcc-honors@umd.edu) by **Wednesday, April 30**, to mark the final day of this year's DCC First Family Contest!



### REMINDER: 2025 DCC CAPSTONE FAIR (5/13)

This annual celebration and showcase of our program's students and their work is the biggest and most anticipated DCC event of every year! Come to the **Multipurpose & Seminar Rooms of Prince Frederick Hall** on the final day of classes, **Tuesday, May 13, between 4-6pm** to enjoy the 2025 Capstone projects of our Xi class! The entire DCC community—current students, alumni, and prospective students—are warmly invited. Family and friends are also welcome and encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will be served. <https://dcc.umd.edu/event/capstone-fair-2025/>

### DCC FIRST FAMILY CONTEST 2024-2025 ENDS 4/30

DCC's annual First Family contest closes on April 30! The Family with the most points will be announced at the 2025 Capstone Fair on May 13 and will receive an end-of-year celebration. The top 5 point-earners across all five Families (instead of the top 3 earners from the winning Family) will receive a DCC prize pack. Earn as many points as you can during these last few weeks of the semester!

# DCC IS HIRING FOR 2025-2026!

3 open positions / All applications are due 4/30, but positions will be filled on a rolling basis.

### DCC Creative-in-Residence

**Eligibility:** DCC alumni who have already satisfied all program requirements

**For:** Motivated, ambitious creatives with skills to share and a project in mind

**Compensation:** Paid via hourly wage and use of DCC resources (spaces, equipment, supplies)

**Apply/More Info:** <https://go.umd.edu/dccCIR2025>

### DCC Student Managers (Makerspace & Sound Studio)

**Eligibility:** All incoming, current, and past DCC students

**For:** Organized, responsible, community-oriented leaders who love inspiring creativity in others

**Compensation:** Paid via hourly wage and use of DCC resources (spaces, equipment, supplies)

**Apply/More Info:** <https://go.umd.edu/dccmanagers2025>

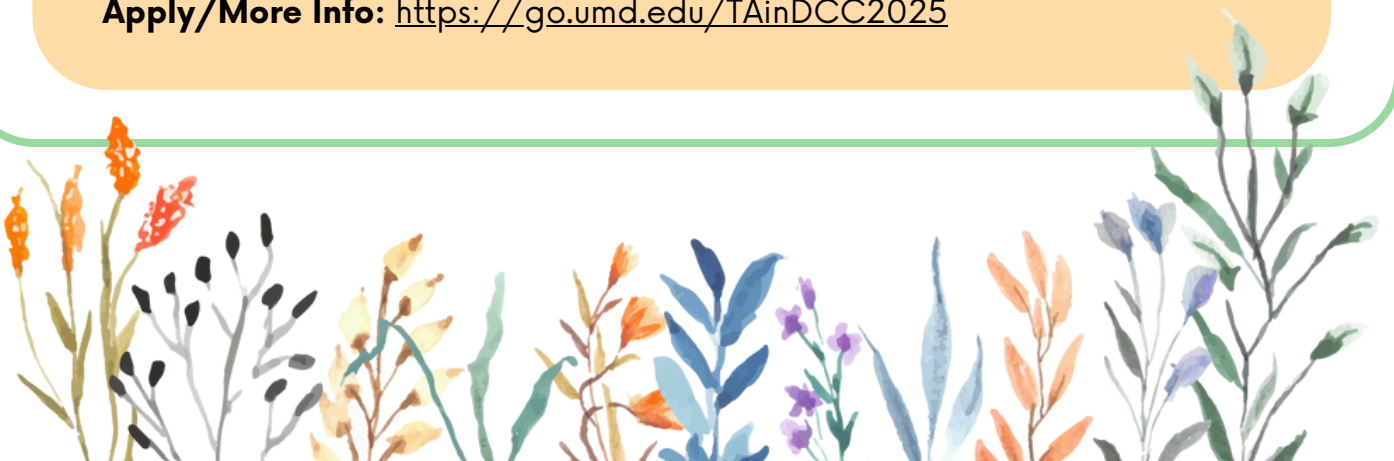
### DCC Teaching Assistants

**Eligibility:** All students who have completed the DCC core curriculum

**For:** Responsible creatives with an interest or passion for teaching and mentorship

**Compensation:** Unpaid; requires enrollment in ARHU338 for Fall 2025

**Apply/More Info:** <https://go.umd.edu/TAinDCC2025>





### STUCO: DCC GARDEN PARTY (4/26)

DCC's annual end-of-the-year celebration is coming up! Join us at the **DCC Garden Party on April 26, 5 PM - 9 PM** for an evening of games, food, crafts, raffles, and more on the **Prince Frederick Lawn**!

Dress in your best spring attire for picture-perfect photo moments, but wear comfortable footwear if you are plan on playing lawn games.

We'll have something for everyone, so make sure to come out for our final event of the year!



### REQUIRED FOR OMICRON: CAPSTONE IDEAS WORKSHOP

All first-year (Omicron class) DCC students are **required to attend one Capstone Ideas Workshop** during the Spring 2025 semester. 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.

Please sign up for one workshop out of the three remaining that are offered this semester:

- April 15, 4-5pm (in-person)
- May 7, 5-6pm (Zoom)

Space is limited for each workshop, and spots must be reserved in advance on a first-come, first-served basis. Attendance is tied to part of your HDCC106 grade.

To reserve a spot in a workshop, visit the [DCC Events Calendar](#).

# IMMERSIVE MEDIA DESIGN NEW WORKS INCUBATOR + NEXTNOW FEST CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Applications are now being accepted for the **University of Maryland's Immersive Media Design (IMD) New Works Incubator**. [Link to application.](#)

The New Works Incubator is a **free, nine-week summer program** that invites students across the UMD campus to explore the design and development of immersive media experiences. Completed incubator projects will be invited to present their work at **this year's NextNOW Fest on September 11 & 12, 2025**.

Students with all levels of experience are encouraged to apply. Whether you are working with a team on an existing project or you are a solo creator looking to explore new possibilities, the incubator offers access to IMD's labs and equipment, workshops, and technical support and staff mentorship.

Projects may range from augmented or virtual reality experiences, immersive music, theater, or dance performances or installation art that incorporate interactive and digital media, interactive projection design, and other forms of interactive media including games.

More information about the New Works Incubator can be found [HERE](#).

How to Submit an Application: Submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis through **Friday, May 16, 2025**. Space is limited so applicants are encouraged to submit their proposals as early as possible. All applicants will be notified of their acceptance in the New Works Incubator by May 19, 2025. [LINK TO APPLICATION](#)

Questions? Please contact Jonathan David Martin, NWI Program Manager, [martinjd@umd.edu](mailto:martinjd@umd.edu).

The New Works Incubator and The Clarice's NextNOW Fest are sponsored by the University of Maryland's [Arts for All](#) initiative, which leverages the combined power of the arts, technology and social justice to address the grand challenges of our time.

### **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE INTERDISCIPLINARY INSTITUTE AT MARYLAND: 2025 DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES**

Speaker: Safiya U. Noble, UCLA, Author of "Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism" [Register here!](#)

Date: April 1, 2025

Location: Samuel Riggs Alumni Center (Orem Ballroom)

Time: 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

### **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE INTERDISCIPLINARY INSTITUTE AT MARYLAND: PRECARIETY AND SOLIDARITY: QUEER AND DISABLED FICTION WRITERS AND GENERATIVE AI**

When: April 15th, 4pm

Where: Zoom

ASL interpretation sponsored by Artificial Intelligence Interdisciplinary Institute at Maryland (AIM).

Join the College of Information and AIM for a discussion with dan brown of the University of Waterloo around the feelings of Queer and Disabled fiction writers on Generative AI (genAI). We'll explore themes in a paper he co-authored highlighting how genAI exacerbates existing causes of precarity for writers, reasons why writers are opposed to its use, and strategies used by marginalized fiction writers to safeguard their industry.

Registration is required. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)

For questions please contact Ron Padrón at [rapadron@umd.edu](mailto:rapadron@umd.edu).



# MAKE WITH US!



## MAKERSPACE

**Location:** Prince Frederick Hall 0111

**Hours:** M & TH, 7pm-midnight

**Student Managers:** Tracy & Julie

## SOUNDSTUDIO

**Location:** Taliaferro Hall 0135

**Hours:** M 3-7pm, W 4:30-8:30pm

**Student Managers:** Mateo & Frederick

## \* SPRING 2025 SPECIAL MAKER SERIES!

### SPRING MAKERSPACES TOUR WITH DR. LU

In lieu of Design Camps and TeachMe Thursday Workshops, Dr. Lu will be hosting a **Spring Makerspaces Tour** of key creative destinations on campus this semester.

#### Upcoming Event:

- Immersive Media Design Labs on 4/16, 5-6pm

Earn 100 Family Points for attending 1 event. Attend all of the events to receive 500 additional Family Points.

Space will be limited for each "field trip," so be sure to reserve a spot via [dcc.umd.edu/event/](https://dcc.umd.edu/event/)

(RSVPS REQUIRED)



## CELEBRATIONS

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



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

### APRIL

**9** — Kayla J., Omicron  
**15** — Diego A-C., Xi  
**19** — Morgan B., Xi  
**20** — Kevin Q., Xi  
**21** — Austin A., Eva K., Xi

## DCC FAMILIES CONTEST UPDATE

AS OF FRIDAY, MARCH 28

**Overall Top 5 Earners:** (1) **Tracy T.**, (2) **Jacquelyn E.**, (3) **Sonia T.**, (4) **Purva J.**, (5) **Andy L.**

