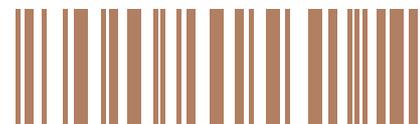


# DESIGN CULTURES + CREATIVITY

SEPTEMBER  
2023



## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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HONORS COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND,  
COLLEGE PARK

# VOL.02, ISSUE 1

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



**Welcome (back) to DCC!** Whether you've been basking in the glow of summer sun or finding solace in the shade, there's a certain charm to the transition towards cooler days and the return to our academic routines. The start of a new school year always brings with it an air of anticipation, a fresh chapter waiting to be written. I hope this message finds you in good spirits, ready to embark on another enriching semester.

To our returning students, welcome back – your determination and dedication continue to inspire us. And to those just beginning your journey with us, a special welcome awaits you. This is a place where ideas take root, where friendships are forged, and where you'll have the opportunity to cultivate a strong foundation for your future.

As we gather our energy for the months ahead, I'd like to share a thought that has often guided me: **"You bloom where you're planted."** This simple phrase carries a profound insight—that the environment we find ourselves in is not a limitation, but rather a canvas for our potential. Just as a seed takes root in a particular spot and flourishes into a unique plant, so too can we seek to thrive in the circumstances we find ourselves in. DCC's soil—if you'll excuse an extended metaphor—is rich and loamy, nurtured by generations of previous program participants and a highly talented and dedicated staff. **That is one major reason why I wanted to be the DCC Director, a position I began in July.** So, I'm in a similar position as many of you: confused about where things are in Pfreddy, excited about dynamic new classes, trying to remember names—but also, looking to bloom where I've chosen to be planted!

As students, you've chosen to be part of our academic family, and that choice is an invitation to engage, to learn, and to adapt. Like a gardener nurturing a variety of plants, we offer a diverse range of courses, resources, and activities that are designed to support your growth. But remember, it's not just about the external elements; it's about the perspective you bring, the effort you invest, and the determination to make the most of every opportunity.

**"... BLOOM WHERE YOU'RE PLANTED."**

One of the hallmarks of our program is the abundance of resources and activities available to you. I encourage each of you to take full advantage of these offerings. From workshops that deepen your understanding of your field to community engagement initiatives that broaden your horizons, there's something for everyone. Don't hesitate to explore the possibilities, to ask questions, and to seek guidance from your mentors and peers. **Every interaction, every experience, is a chance to nurture your own growth.**

As we embrace the exciting journey that lies ahead, let's keep the notion of blooming where we're planted at the forefront of our minds. Let's cultivate an environment where each member of our community has the chance to flourish, to contribute, and to leave their unique mark.

With heartfelt hopes for an inspiring and rewarding semester,  
**Damien**

### DCC LAUNCHES CREATIVE-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Effective for the 2023-2024 academic year, Design Cultures + Creativity (DCC) is pleased and honored to launch a new **Creative-in-Residence (CIR) program**, an opportunity for DCC's most accomplished and engaged student leaders to extend their experiences in creative making, original research/publication, and mentoring, while making the most of the resources and community support that DCC has to offer. Designed for DCC alums who have advanced to their junior or senior year of study at the University of Maryland, the CIR program holds space for one student per academic year to pursue an extended creative project of their choosing. They are further invited to:

- Make regular use of DCC's resources—such as faculty contacts, audiovisual equipment, and computing technology—to nurture their craft or skill
- Command a regular presence in DCC facilities, such as the DCC Makerspace and/or DCC Sound Studio
- Work in collaboration with current students
- Provide hands-on skills instruction and mentorship to the DCC community via workshops and open working hours
- Work alongside DCC's core staff to contribute to the program's overall vision and engagement with students
- Share their work with DCC and the broader campus community in a celebratory showcase at the end of the academic year

**Beginning Spring 2024**, DCC will solicit competitive applications for the Creative-in-Residence position each spring, in order to select the best candidate for the following academic year. To offer some amendment to the systematic underfunding of artists and creatives around the globe, this role will be compensated as an hourly staff position.

## CONGRATULATIONS, ELYAS MASROUR!

(DCC '22, UMD '24)

Read all about our inaugural CIR, Elyas, and his plans for his residency at <http://dcc.umd.edu/announcing-cir-masrou/>



## NOTABLES

### NEW 2023-2024 DCC FAMILIES ANNOUNCED

At yesterday's Sunday Bingo Welcome Weekend event, we were delighted to convene new and returning DCC students for the first time! We took the opportunity to announce the rosters for this year's DCC Families, along with changes from last year's contest:

- At the suggestion of StuCo, DCC's previously-ten Families have now been transformed into five Families, in the hopes that this will lead to a more competitive contest throughout the year.
- StuCo also suggested new names for each Family, rather than going by a basic numbering system. The Families' new plant-themed names are **Lotus, Maple, Ivy, Cactus, and Willow**. They honor DCC's identifying color—green—while also paying homage to our community's intentions toward sustainability; our values regarding personal growth, experimentation, and surprise; and, care for our planet Earth.
- Each Family currently includes one returning StuCo member among its roster: **Dasha Didenko (Lotus), Gabrielle Hester (Maple), Sophie Alao (Ivy), Mateo Rodriguez (Cactus), and Brian P. Wu (Willow)**. Please be encouraged to get in touch with your Family's second-year StuCo rep if you have any questions or concerns about DCC and/or life on campus.
- We've updated points-earned values for new and recurring DCC community activities.

The DCC Families competition is a year-long contest and officially began Sunday, August 27, at the Sunday Bingo event. **Points may be earned until Tuesday, April 30, 2024.** The winning Family will be announced at the 2024 Capstone Fair in May; they will receive a year-end celebration and the top 3 point-earners in the winning Family will also receive an additional prize pack.

### EARNING FAMILY POINTS:

- Tag @umd\_dcc on Instagram when sharing creative activities: 10 points
- Attend the annual TerpZone Takeover: 25 points
- Visit the Makerspace or Sound Studio: 15 points
- Attend a TeachMe Thursday: 25 points
- Complete a Design Camp: 200 points
- Report a major campus scholarship or award: 50 points
- Attend the DCC Capstone Awards Ceremony: 50 points
- Represent DCC in Admissions recruitment (Spring 2024): 100 points
- Submit a design to the DCC Design Tourney (February 2023): 100 points
- Win the DCC Design Tourney: 300 points
- Participate in StuCo-sponsored events/competitions: points vary
- Join Project Flatland and work with CIR Elyas Masrour: 1000+ points



# MAKE WITH US!

DCC takes great pride in extending creative resources to its student community. Two makerspaces, the DCC Makerspace and the DCC Sound Studio, are hallmarks of this effort.

The makerspaces will open for the Fall 2023 semester during the second week of classes and will remain open on a regular schedule until the final day of classes.

**Starting on Thursday, September 7**, the DCC Makerspace in Prince Frederick Hall #0111 will be open for student use **on Mondays and Thursdays, 7pm-midnight**. The Makerspace will be managed and supervised by Nu class leaders **Julie Lin** and **Ehesane Nida**.

**Starting on Friday, September 8**, the DCC Sound Studio located in Taliaferro Hall #0135 will be open for student use **on Wednesdays and Fridays, 6-10pm**. The Sound Studio will be supervised by the extraordinary **Lily Gallihue**, of the Mu class.

**Visitors to the makerspaces will earn 15 Family points per visit!**

In addition to regular operating hours for general student use, DCC will also host a series of both informal and formal workshops in the DCC Makerspace this semester.

The following schedule of events has been made available via the DCC Instagram, as well as the DCC website & Events Calendar:

- **SEPTEMBER 7:** Bookbinding with Bia Moreira Leite (Nu), a TeachMe Thursday from 8-10pm
- **SEPTEMBER 19 + 21:** Creative Coding and Open Source with Caroline Dinh (Mu), a two-day Design Camp from 5-6:30pm. RSVP required.
- **OCTOBER 5:** Fluid Painting with Bryant Rivera Cortez (Mu), a TeachMe Thursday from 7-9pm
- **OCTOBER 19, OCTOBER 26, + NOVEMBER 2:** Game Design/Unity with Sebastian Bolatto (Lambda), a three-day Design Camp from 5-6:30pm. RSVP required.
- **NOVEMBER 16:** Paper Crafts and Cutting with Julie Lin (Nu), a TeachMe Thursday from 7-9pm

**FOR ALL THE DETAILS REGARDING THE FALL 2023 MAKERSPACE SERIES—INCLUDING HOW TO EARN FAMILY POINTS AND RSVP FOR DESIGN CAMPS—PLEASE READ MORE AT <http://dcc.umd.edu/makerspace-f23/>**

### XI CLASS STUDENTS: GET READY TO RUN FOR STUDENT COUNCIL!

Members of StuCo take a lead role in shaping the culture of DCC's community, organizing monthly events to help relieve stress and build connection, and work closely with DCC's core staff to gain experience in leadership, event planning, budget management, and more.

**A StuCo rep will visit HDCC105 this week** to tell you all about how we elect reps from the first-year class! Get ready!

As our inaugural Creative-in-Residence, **Elyas** is launching Project Flatland, a year-long effort to adapt a novel into an animated short film.

**Do you have any interests in geometry/math, coding, storytelling/narrative/fiction, humor, animation, music composition, or graphic design?**

Are you ready to learn from an award-winning filmmaker and extraordinary DCC alum? This is your chance to be part of something amazing in a laidback, creative environment. Come to the **info session on Wednesday, September 6, at 7pm** in the DCC Makerspace (#0111) to meet Elyas and learn more about how you can get involved!

**GET ON BOARD WITH PROJECT FLATLAND, AS PART OF THE NEW CIR PROGRAM WITH ELYAS MASROUR!**

**DON'T WANT TO WAIT TO GET INVOLVED?**

# START-OF-SEMESTER CHECKLIST

FOLLOW @UMD\_DCC ON INSTAGRAM FOR EVERYDAY REMINDERS AND CREATIVE CONTENT

TRY OUT NEW ROUTINES UNTIL YOU FIND ONE THAT HAS SPACE FOR EATING, SLEEPING, SOCIALIZING, EXERCISING, WORKING, AND STAYING CREATIVE

RE-EXPLORE THE DCC WEBSITE, ESPECIALLY: FAQs, THE EVENTS CALENDAR, AND "THE SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS" AND "QUICK RESOURCES" PAGES

TRY ENJOYING A MEAL—IN A DINING HALL, IN STAMP, OR NEARBY CAMPUS—BY YOURSELF!

LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR EQUIPMENT/MATERIALS IN THE DCC MAKERSPACE OR SOUNDSTUDIO BY FILLING OUT THE FORM AT [HTTPS://TER.PS/DCCREQUEST](https://ter.ps/dccrequest)

VISIT THE FIRSTLOOK FAIR ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 TO FIND YOUR NEW FAVORITE ORG/ACTIVITY!

VISIT THE DCC MAKERSPACE AND SOUND STUDIO AT LEAST ONCE BEFORE THE END OF SEPTEMBER

MAKE A FRIEND IN YOUR NEW DCC FAMILY

# 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.

## AUGUST

- 01** — Priya N., Xi
- 04** — Andrea S., Xi
- 05** — Caitlin Y., Nu
- 07** — Lydia C., Xi
- 12** — Melissa A., Nu
- 19** — Asher H., Nu
- 22** — Jocelyn L-F., Nu
- 26** — Meredith H., Xi
- 27** — Floricel B., Nu
- 29** — Natalie G., Xi

## SEPTEMBER

- 02** — Elliot G., Xi
- 02** — Adam Z., Xi
- 08** — Anna L., Xi
- 09** — Corey B., Nu
- 09** — Tekoa S-R., Nu
- 13** — Yiting Z., Nu
- 15** — Sunil P., Xi
- 19** — Utkarsh G., Xi
- 19** — Sarah H., Xi
- 20** — Katherine B., Xi
- 25** — Simon O., Xi
- 27** — Zachary M., Nu
- 28** — Breanna P., Nu

