



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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HONORS COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND,
COLLEGE PARK

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



I was a snow-deprived youth. Growing up in a state with even less snow than Maryland, I learned to treasure and marshal what snow there was, if we ever got any. Once I made the decision to stay in college forever, the wonder of snow days have let me get my fill of winter weather during stops in Pennsylvania, Nebraska, and now here.

So it should come as no surprise that I spent much of the third week in January on the slopes of my local elementary school, gradually carving a long sledding track into the 8 inches of snow we got over several days. Dubbed “The Chute” by the local kids, this track’s slicked down surface will propel you about 75 yards—down a steep drop that lasts just a third of the ride, and then out, working with the field’s topography to keep you sliding along beyond what reason says is possible.

Laying down the track is an art form. I’ve become enamored by snow tubes instead of traditional sleds because of how well they compact and smooth the track. I take an organic approach: slide down the hill once, then again, and again, each time compressing the snow, each time, going just a little further, extending the track so that others can go even further. Over time, a natural track forms, with snow bumpers to keep you on course, a slick surface to reduce friction, and a wide landing spot from which one can easily and safely depart. Also over time, a community of sledding aficionados forms, cheering each other on and engaging in friendly competition for distance, airtime, and wipeouts.

This is more than just “Zen and the Art of Sledding”—it is a metaphor for your time with us at DCC. If “The Chute” is your college career, then DCC is the downward slope that—we hope!—gives you the energy to go far and to bring others with you. Many of you are at that inflection point where the slope turns flat, working on Capstone projects that are the culmination of your time with DCC. Others have just launched themselves down the ramp and are still gaining momentum. Wherever you are in your DCC experience, remember some common tips from sledding: stay centered and balanced to avoid wipeouts, ask for help if you get stuck, wait until people are finished before starting your turn, reduce frictions (except for the useful ones), and remember that the hill looks bigger than it really is.

**... remember that
the hill looks bigger
than it really is.”**

“The Chute” is also a metaphor for a semester. That heady first month should give you good momentum to glide through the next few months. DCC events—including our first ever Creative-in-Residence showcase this spring!—will help keep you engaged and balanced. Remember that DCC faculty, staff, and students are all cheering you on, and we’re looking forward to seeing what you each do this semester and in the coming years, with the hopes that it will be beyond what reason says is possible.

—Damien

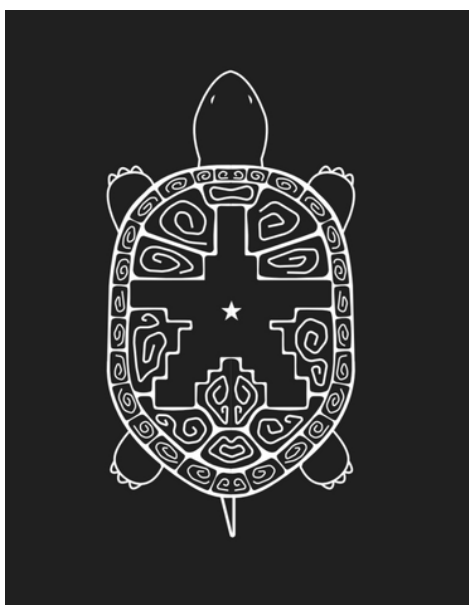
NOTABLES

THE 2024 DCC DESIGN TOURNEY: GOOD LUCK, DESIGNERS!

It's here! Our fifth annual design tournament invites submissions from all current DCC students and alumni offers one of the biggest prizes of the entire academic year—a **\$250 award, 500 Family Points, and the chance to have your own work featured on DCC apparel** as part of StuCo's annual spring merchandise fundraiser. Beginning today, we are officially accepting competitive submissions for this multi-round, single-elimination tournament bracket. While the exact duration of the tournament will depend on the number of submissions, we are anticipating another 2-week event that will begin on Monday, February 12. Now, all we need is your creative brilliance! We want another full bracket of imaginative, exciting, vibrant, and creative designs to capture the spirit and dynamism of our DCC community. All entrants will receive 100 Family points for their submission.

All submissions must abide by the following guidelines in order to be considered valid for the tourney:

- **Submissions will be due to dcc-honore@umd.edu by NOON on Friday, February 9, 2024.**
- Designs must be limited to a maximum of three unique colors.
- The aim of the contest is to choose by popular vote the most compelling, most creative/inventive, most interesting, most well-designed logo for DCC merchandise. Submit your best work—the kind of work that you would show a potential employer or include in a public portfolio. All submissions, but especially the winning one, should demonstrate effective design principles, exemplifying DCC's role as a prominent design program on campus.
- Submissions should be prepared as vector graphics and submitted as an Adobe Illustrator .ai file (strongly preferred; with all type, if any, converted to outlines), a high-resolution .jpeg, or a Photoshop .psd file. Please use a transparent background for your design.
- Designers can work individually or in pairs to submit a design. Whether you are working individually or not, you can only be a part of one contest submission, and if you are working in a pair, the monetary prize must be split among both designers.



**2022 Winner,
Madison Mohan (Lambda)**



**2023 Winner,
Caroline Dinh (Mu)**

NOTABLES

SAVE THE DATE: 2024 DCC CAPSTONE FAIR

The Spring semester feels different than the Fall. First-year students have often started to settle into the rhythms of college life, both socially and academically. Second-year students have moved deeper into their chosen majors and many start to enjoy a sense of stability and comfort in their interpersonal relationships. And, the scent of summer doesn't feel far off as the days get longer. But, the biggest difference for us in DCC is the forward momentum towards our biggest event of the year: **the annual DCC Capstone Fair**. Our Nu class—and a couple members of our Mu class, as well!—are already hard at work on some amazing projects. We hope you'll be cheering them on throughout the next few months, and that you'll save the date right now to celebrate their work on **Thursday, May 9, from 4-6pm**.

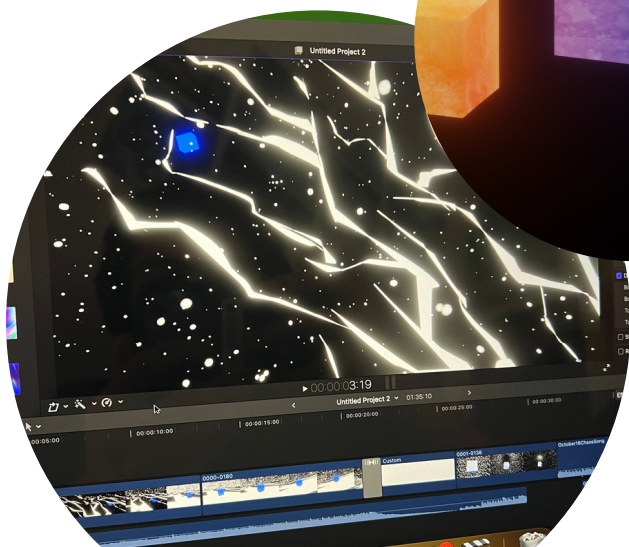
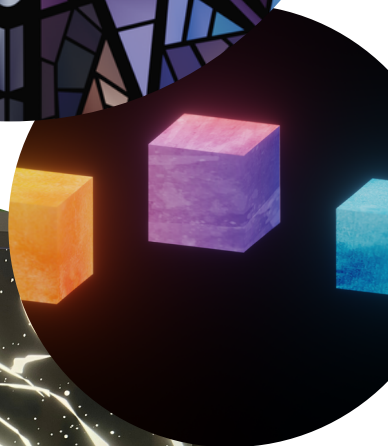
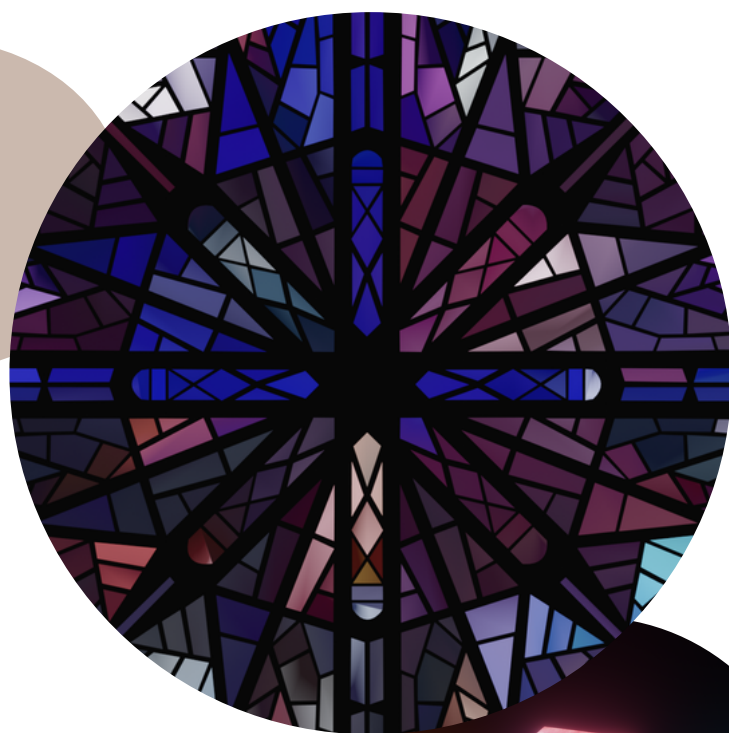
This annual event not only champions our second-year students, but it also marks the end of the DCC First Family contest and another year in DCC. Add it to your calendar now—we'll meet you there in May!

updates from PROJECT FLATLAND

Project Flatland returns this semester! Under the leadership of **Elyas Masrouf** (Lambda), our first-ever DCC Creative-in-Residence, this filmmaking project gathers an enthusiastic team of DCC students and alums **every Wednesday, from 7-10pm, in the DCC Makerspace**. This semester, the team will extend their planning and ideational work from last fall to bring their animated short film to life!

It's not too late to join in! Just come on down to the Makerspace on Wednesday nights, starting January 31. You can also feel free to reach out to emasrouf@gmail.com with your questions/interest.

We'll also be celebrating Elyas and this year-long effort this semester, so save-the-date for the **first annual Creative-in-Residence Showcase on Tuesday, April 30, at 5pm!**



MAKE WITH US!

OPENING NIGHTS

MAKERSPACE

Monday, January 29
7pm-midnight

SOUND STUDIO

Wednesday, January 31
6-10pm

Welcome back to your creative home on campus! Along with your student managers—**Ehesane, Julie, and Lily**—we are delighted to announce that both our Makerspace and Sound Studio will be available to you this semester.

The Makerspace will be open on **Mondays and Thursdays, 7pm-midnight**. The Sound Studio is tentatively scheduled to be open on **Wednesdays and Fridays, 6-10pm** (with some potential, upcoming disruptions. Please keep a watchful eye on your email inbox for details).

The full schedule of Makerspace events was announced via direct email on Monday, January 22. Missed those details? Visit <http://dcc.umd.edu/spr24-makerspace> to get caught up!

ATTENTION XI CLASS: CAPSTONE IDEAS WORKSHOPS ARE REQUIRED!

All first-year (Xi class) DCC students are required to attend one Capstone Ideas Workshop sometime during the Spring 2024 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.

There is one workshop offered per month; two workshops will be held virtually while the other two will be facilitated in-person; and, workshops are held on different days of the week. These choices were intentionally made to maximize flexibility to accommodate a variety of different needs and schedules. It is each first-year student's responsibility to identify and RSVP for a workshop that suits them, in order to satisfy this requirement—which is also tied to part of your HDCC106 grade!

Space is limited for each workshop, and spots must be reserved in advance on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve a spot in a workshop, visit the DCC Events Calendar at <https://dcc.umd.edu/events>, or click on your desired session below:

- Workshop 1 (Virtual), February 5, 4-5pm
- Workshop 2 (In-Person), March 13, 3:30-4:30pm
- Workshop 3 (In-Person), April 1, 4-5pm
- Workshop 4 (Virtual), May 7, 4-5pm

PLEASE, WE BEG OF YOU, CLICK "CONFIRM RSVP" only once—or else you'll claim multiple spots, preventing them from being reserved by others!

SAVE THESE SPRING DATES!

FEB09 LAST DAY (BY NOON!!!) TO SUBMIT A DESIGN TO THE 2024 DCC DESIGN TOURNEY

FEB12 2024 DCC DESIGN TOURNEY BEGINS ONLINE! CHECK YOUR EMAIL AND/OR THE DCC INSTAGRAM TO START VOTING

APR30 CREATIVE-IN-RESIDENCE SHOWCASE

APR30 LAST DAY TO EARN FAMILY POINTS AND TOPPLE FAMILY IVY!

MAY01 APPLICATIONS FOR 2024-2025 DCC MANAGER, TA, AND CIR POSITIONS DUE

MAY09 DCC HOLDS ITS ANNUAL CAPSTONE FAIR TO CELEBRATE ITS SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS

MAY10 MAKERSPACE AND SOUND STUDIO CLOSE FOR THE SUMMER

MEET YOUR MATCH!

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14—SATURDAY, FEB. 17

The Meet Your Match event is back! Fill out [THIS FORM](#) **before Monday, February 12**, if you wish to participate in the event, and on February 14, StuCo will make a special delivery to your door/room! You'll receive one half of a heart with the scrambled name of another person on it, while they'll receive the matching half, with yours. Find your match before Saturday, February 17, take a picture with them, and send* it to dcstudentcouncil@gmail.com to earn **30 Family points each!**

***Note:** Please include whether you consent to your picture being posted/used in DCC promotional/digital materials.

IT'S THE START OF A NEW SEMESTER, WHICH MEANS THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME TO SHAKE UP THE DCC FIRST FAMILY CONTEST! STUCO WILL INJECT SOME EXCITEMENT IN THE COMING MONTHS, BUT UNTIL THEN, TAKE MATTERS INTO YOUR OWN HANDS, RALLY YOUR FAMILY, AND MAXIMIZE YOUR POINTS-EARNINGS BEFORE APRIL 30!



KEEP AN EYE OUT:

FIRST-EVER DCC SEMIFORMAL

What's that sound?! Is it the elevator? Is it your noisy neighbors Is it Habib skipping down the hallway?

No—it's the sound of MUSIC! Our **first-ever DCC Semiformal/Dance IS** quickly approaching. Over break, StuCo has been planning a masquerade ball! We've even gotten IBH and ACES on board, so it's an all-building event you truly don't want to miss. We will have mocktails, paparazzi, midnight snacks, and more! So prepare your finest formal wear—[check out our lookbook for inspo](#)—and get ready for a night you can't miss! We will have bouncers so look out for an RSVP form to make sure you make it onto the VIP list. ✨🌐 We can't wait to see you show up and show out on the red carpet.

Date to be announced soon!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

FEBRUARY

- 03 — Nina B., Xi
- 15 — Grace M-F., Xi
- 26 — Purva J., Xi

DCC FAMILIES CONTEST UPDATE

AS OF FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

LOTUS
4565 POINTS

Top earners:
Julie L.,
Florichel B.

Active members:
20 (83%)

MAPLE
4705 POINTS

Top earners:
Bia M-L.,
Trung N.

Active members:
22 (92%)

IVY
7565 POINTS

Top earners:
Sophie A.,
Tracy T.

Active members:
20 (83%)

CACTUS
4505 POINTS

Top earners:
Mia S.,
Mateo R.

Active members:
19 (79%)

WILLOW
4350 POINTS

Top earners:
Javier F.,
Dasi F.,

Active members:
24 (96%)