

THE DELIBERATIVE CITIZEN

A Monthly Newsletter from the DCI



February 2025 Edition

Welcome to the second edition of the DCI's new publication, "*The Deliberative Citizen*." This monthly newsletter replaces our weekly DCI Digests and will be packed with articles about recent DCI programs, announcements about upcoming events, and insights from DCI Student and Faculty Fellows. Read more below about our upcoming Forum on the Legacies of WWII in the Asia Pacific and a Campus Conversation on the Honor Code. You can also check out reports from our recent programs on Religion in Public Life and the Red Line in Davidson as well as several blog posts by our Student and Faculty Fellows. Enjoy!

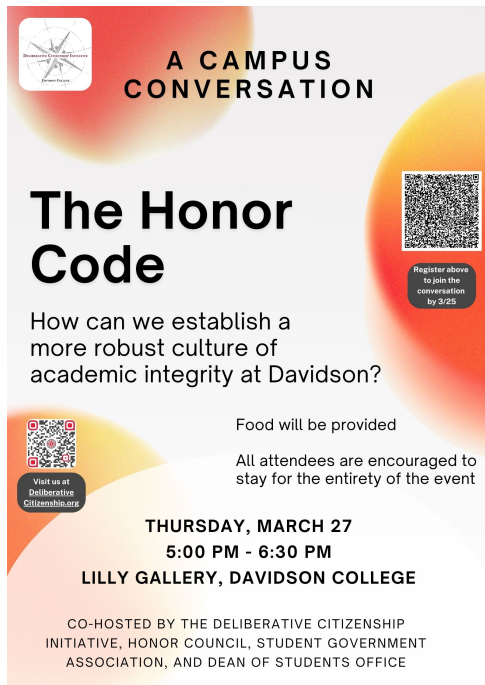
Upcoming Programs



Deliberative Forum on WWII in the Asia Pacific

On Wednesday, March 5 from 7-9 pm, the DCI is hosting a Deliberative Forum on the legacies of WWII in the Asia Pacific. Participants will hear from three Davidson professors and then deliberate together about what should be included on signage introducing the Ginkgo trees recently planted on campus. These trees are descendants of survivors of the 1945 atomic blast in Hiroshima. How can we craft an interpretation of these trees that honors the universal suffering caused by war while respecting the diverse ways nations and individuals remember this history? Come join us for an important conversation - online and in-person (with food served from Sabi!). Registration has been extended through March 4, so sign-up TODAY!

CLICK TO
REGISTER



A CAMPUS CONVERSATION

The Honor Code

How can we establish a more robust culture of academic integrity at Davidson?

Food will be provided

All attendees are encouraged to stay for the entirety of the event

THURSDAY, MARCH 27
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
LILLY GALLERY, DAVIDSON COLLEGE

CO-HOSTED BY THE DELIBERATIVE CITIZENSHIP INITIATIVE, HONOR COUNCIL, STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION, AND DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE

Visit us at [DeliberativeCitizenship.org](https://deliberativecitizenship.org)

Register above to join the conversation by 3/25

Campus Conversation on the Honor Code

Academic integrity is a core value at Davidson College, shaping our community's commitment to honesty, trust, and responsibility in scholarship. But **what does a robust culture of academic integrity truly look like?** How do we define it, how well does it align with Davidson's current academic culture, and what steps—if any—should we take to strengthen it? The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI), Honor Council, Student Government Association (SGA), and the Office of the Vice President of Student Life invites all Davidson students, faculty, and staff to join a Campus Conversation on the Honor Code on **Thursday, March 27 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM in the Lilly Gallery**. Dinner included - registration deadline is March 25.

SIGN UP HERE



Spring 2025

Deliberative Pedagogy (DeeP) Faculty Panel and Lunch

Come hear from faculty who have embedded deliberation about contentious topics in their courses!

Thursday, March 20
11:05 AM - 12:15 PM
Lunch will be provided.
Register by March 18!
In-Person & Zoom
Options Available

Maggie McCarthy
Professor of
German Studies
Davidson College

Rebecca Alt
Assistant Professor of
Communications
Lenoir-Rhyne University

Rebecca Harrison
Visiting Assistant Professor
of Philosophy
Vassar College

Shyam Gouri Suresh
James W. Cannon
Professor of Economics
Davidson College

Register at the QR Code Above!

Spring 2025 Deliberative Pedagogy (DeeP) Faculty Panel and Lunch

Professors Maggie McCarthy (German Studies, Davidson College), Rebecca Alt (Communications, Lenoir-Rhyne College), Rebecca Harrison (Philosophy, Vassar College), and Shyam Gouri Suresh (Economics, Davidson College) will be sharing their work as members of the **Deliberative Pedagogy (DeeP) Collaborative**. They each developed creative ways to embed more constructive and authentic discussions about contentious topics about their courses' content into the classroom. Register and join us on Thursday, March 20 from 11:05 am to 12:15

pm for this Faculty Panel and Lunch hosted by the DCI.

RSVP TODAY!

Recent Programs



Deliberative Forum on Religion in Public Life

On February 13, 2025, in collaboration with Davidson College's Chaplain's Office and Religious Studies and Political Science Departments, the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative hosted a Deliberative Forum on Religion in Public Life. Attended by over 150 people, approximately half in person and half online, the event included both a roundtable discussion of five panelists and small group discussions among audience members. Check out the video and more photos at the link below!

**WATCH THE
RECORDING**



Campus Conversation on the Red Line Coming to Davidson

Last week, DCI Fellows Garratt Rothberg '27 and Zak Abdulahi '27 hosted an insightful Community Conversation on the Red Line station in Davidson. The Planning Director of the Town of Davidson, Jason Burdette, delivered an informative presentation on the project plan and its expected benefits to Davidson to a diverse group of students, college faculty, and community members. Then, participants shared their thoughts and questions through an interactive activity, which segued into a deliberation about the benefits of public transit to the community.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Student Insights



The Power of Disagreement within Deliberation

Garratt Rothberg '27 discusses how his D Team was able to productively explore their areas of disagreement by leaning into two important deliberative dispositions - humility and charity. He also explores the Citizens' Assembly model as an important experiment in deliberative democracy that could be a natural next step for DCI deliberators.

[READ THE POST](#)



The Bridges We Build

Cavan Klein '27 shares his insights about the dynamics of his D Team, "By the end of the first meeting and especially in the later meetings, we had created complex metaphorical structures: a series of multilayered and interweaving bridges...spanning the divides of polarization, argumentation, and misunderstanding. These bridges stemmed from every single person in my group...So many different perspectives and experiences, but somehow it all came together – not for the purpose of generating agreement but for the purpose of sharing understanding."

[READ THE POST](#)



Deliberation vs. Debate: How Our Forms of Discourse Shape How We Engage

Lily Ogawa '28 compares her high school debate experience with her deliberation facilitator experience as a DCI Fellow, and concludes that while debate has a role to play, "deliberation is more applicable to our society now in so far as that deliberation seeks to find a solution while debates aim at finding a winner."

[READ THE POST](#)

Faculty Insights

DeeP Collaborative Series



Kim Maslin
Hendrix College

Deliberative Roleplaying in a Course on American Political Thought

Kim Maslin, Professor of Politics at Hendrix College, shares how she introduced more deliberation into her course, American Political Thought. Learn how she used a multi-week roleplaying exercise centered on the Constitutional Convention followed by a series of deliberative discussions about originalism and living constitutionalism.

[READ THE POST](#)

Contribute to the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative

If you like what the DCI has been doing to support more productive public discourse at Davidson – in the classroom, across campus, and in the community – then you are welcome to make a financial contribution to the initiative. Simply click on the link below, select Other under “I want to support” and type in “Deliberative Citizenship Initiative,” and proceed from there. Any amount would help us continue to do the work of bringing people together to discuss the challenging and contentious topics facing our society.

[Give a Gift to the DCI](#)

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Davidson College

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