

THE DELIBERATIVE CITIZEN

Δ Monthly Newsletter from the DCI



January 2025 Edition

Welcome to the first 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 Spring D Teams on Public Health Issues, Deliberative Forum on Religion and Public Life, and other upcoming events. You can also check out our new Spotlight section (this week highlighting our 2024-25 DCI Fellows Cohort), several blog posts by our Student and Faculty Fellows, and our search for a new DCI Program Coordinator. Enjoy!

Upcoming Programs

A graphic with a teal background. At the top, it says 'DELIBERATIVE CITIZENSHIP INITIATIVE' and 'SPRING 2025 D TEAMS'. Below that, it lists three topics: 'OPIOID EPIDEMIC', 'LESSONS LEARNED FROM COVID', and 'HEALTHCARE REFORM'. Each topic has a small icon next to it: a syringe and pill for the opioid epidemic, a virus for lessons learned from COVID, and a medical cross for healthcare reform. At the bottom, it says 'Learn, Listen, and Share with your Fellow Citizens', 'SIGN UP BY JAN 30', 'TEAMS MEET IN PERSON OR ONLINE', and 'Everyone is Welcome!'.

Spring D Teams on Public Health Issues Registration Deadline is Today!

This spring learn, listen to others, and share your thoughts about critical public health issues, including the opioid epidemic, lessons learned from COVID, and healthcare reform. Teams of 6-10 Davidson students, faculty, staff, and members of our broader community led by DCI Fellows meet three times in February, March, and April. Register to join a team by January 30 [here](#).

REGISTER TODAY



Deliberative Forum on Religion in Public Life Set for Feb. 13

Wondering what role religion should play in the public square and government policies? Come hear an AME Zion minister, a law professor, a Baptist pastor, a professor of religious studies, and an advocate for the separation of church and state discuss this important question, and then talk about it with other attendees, guided by the DCI's facilitators. February 13, 7 pm, Lilly Gallery. Learn more and register by February 11 [here](#).

[LEARN MORE](#)



Programs and Events in March

We also have several events planned for March that we'll be sharing more about soon. They include two deliberative forums on local campus questions that connect to broader national and global issues of concern. We will also host a panel of faculty members who will be sharing their work on introducing more deliberation on challenging topics into their courses.

Recent Programs



Semester Kickoff Party Recap: They Came, They Deliberated, and They Played Ping Pong!

On January 23, the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative co-hosted a Semester Kickoff Party with the Ping Pong Club, and we discovered it is indeed possible to deliberate about interesting topics, eat pizza, and play ping pong simultaneously! Learn more at the link below...

[SEE SOME PHOTOS](#)

Announcements



We're Hiring!

The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative is hiring a new Program Coordinator! We are seeking an energetic and hard-working person to join our team and coordinate the implementation and logistics of the initiative's programs. These include our efforts to create opportunities for productive dialogue and deliberation in diverse classroom settings, outside of the classroom, and in the community. Visit the [Davidson website](#) to learn more about the position and the application process.

CHECK IT OUT

Spotlight



The 2024-25 DCI Fellows

We've just uploaded photos and bios for all of our [2024-25 cohort of DCI Fellows](#), 19 Davidson students who applied and were selected to participate in the Deliberative Citizenship Fellows Program. They have gone through an intensive training program and serve as facilitators for the DCI's D Teams and Deliberative Forums. Learn more about their backgrounds, check out [this page](#) with their bios and photos.

VISIT THE PAGE

Student Insights



Teaching Beyond Content: The Power of Deliberative Pedagogy

Jane McNeill '28 discusses both the DCI and her high school's efforts to promote better dialogue on campus. A common theme Jane identifies is an emphasis on deliberative pedagogy and embedding better discourse in the classroom. She also highlights the value of her experiences as a DCI Fellow this year.

[READ THE POST](#)



How to Escape Our Echo Chambers in a Polarized Digital World

"Deliberation is one of the most effective ways to mitigate the negative effects of echo chambers," Tehinnah Kitcher '27 argues in her recent blog post. She describes how social media contributes to these echo chambers, and how programs like the DCI can help us escape them by exposing us to diverse opinions that we have not yet considered

[READ THE POST](#)



The Power of Disagreement Within Deliberation

Lots of us fear disagreeing with one another, but Garratt Rothberg '27 argues that respectful disagreement can be and often is a key feature of productive deliberation. He discusses how he tried to foster such disagreement in the D Team he led this past fall by encouraging three key deliberative dispositions - openmindedness, humility, and charity.

[READ THE POST](#)

Faculty Insights

DeeP Collaborative Series



Victoria Machado
Rollins College

From Deer in the Headlights to Deliberation in the Environmental Studies Classroom

Victoria Machado, Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at Rollins College, shares how she introduced more deliberation into her course, ENV 189: Environmental Crisis in its Cultural Context. Learn how she used a Mock Town Hall to get her students to grapple with a wider range of perspectives and engage with one another in deeper and more nuanced discussions.

[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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