

THE DELIBERATIVE CITIZEN

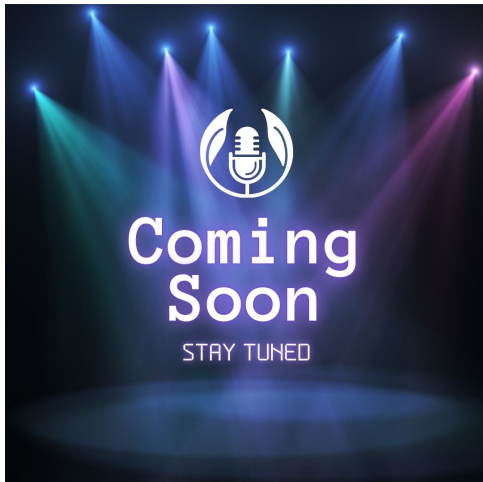
Δ Monthly Newsletter from the DCI



May 2025 Edition

Welcome to the fourth edition of the DCI's new publication, "*The Deliberative Citizen*." Read more below about some of our recent programs that rounded out our year of deliberation at Davidson. They included a Deliberative History Panel on the Power of Historical Narratives and a Deliberative Forum on Free Expression. One of our DCI Fellows also organized an innovative "Take an Opinion, Leave an Opinion" interactive video series on campus. We've also included links to several blog posts by our Student and Faculty Fellows. Enjoy!

Upcoming Programs



Stay Tuned for Plans for the 2025-26 Academic Year!

Our 2024-25 year of programs is complete, but stay tuned for information about our plans for the coming year. We've got some great ideas in the works that we are excited about. If you have suggestions for us to consider as topics for next year's D Teams or Deliberative Forums, please send them to us by 5/27 at dcidavidson@dcidavidson.edu. We'll be sharing a survey of potential topics soon for everyone to weigh in on. Stay tuned!

Announcements

BECOME A DCI FELLOW!



WE ARE HIRING FOR 2025-26!



DCI Fellows Program Application Remains Open!

Each year, the DCI selects 12-15 students to serve as **Deliberative Citizenship Fellows**. These fellows spend the year playing a leadership role in the initiative. They immerse themselves in deliberative theory and methods, help choose the issues for the year's focus, facilitate robust deliberations on those issues, and reflect on and document their experiences as sponsors of these discussions.

Applications for the 2025-26 Fellowship Program are now open. All Davidson students are welcome to apply. Complete the application form on WildcatSync at the link below. The priority application deadline has passed, but applications will be accepted until all spots are filled.

APPLY TODAY



Apply to Become a DCI Senior Fellow or Student Co-Convener

All students who have completed the DCI Fellows Program are eligible to apply to become Senior Fellows, who will continue their work with the DCI in the coming year. They facilitate D Teams and Forums, take responsibility for specific DCI tasks and operations, and implement deliberation projects on and off campus. All Davidson students are also welcome to apply to become a DCI Student Co-Convener, who help review and guide the work of the DCI, as Mae Corley '25, LJ Phillips '25, and Stephen Walker '26 (pictured to the left) did this past year. Selection criteria include extensive experience participating in DCI programs and a strong interest in creating a more deliberative culture in our community.

APPLY TODAY



DCI Accepting Program Coordinator Applications

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.

APPLY TODAY

Recent Programs



Deliberative History Forum on the Power of Historical Narratives and Contested Histories

On Tuesday, April 8 DCI Fellow TBC, in collaboration with the Davidson History Department and the DCI, a Deliberative History Forum on *"The Power of Historical Narratives and Contested Histories."* Held in the new football stadium's Gallery 18, the event included remarks by Davidson history professors Jonathan Berkey, Jakub Kabala, Hilary Green, Dáša Mortensen, and John Wertheimer and facilitated small group discussions among the 30+ audience members.

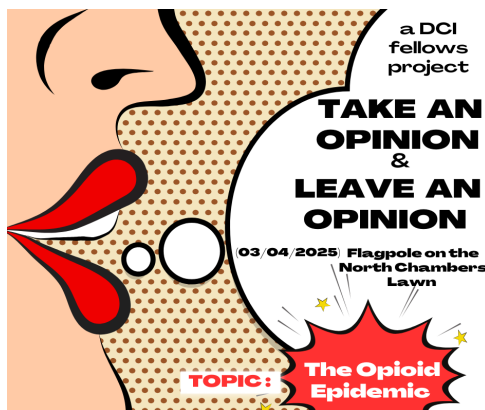
LEARN MORE



Deliberative Forum on Freedom of Expression at Davidson

On April 23, the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative hosted a Deliberative Forum on “Free Expression at Davidson: Rights and Responsibilities during an Uncertain Time.” Speakers included Melissa Gonzalez, Dan Layman, Jim Martin '57, Ike Bailey '95, Jacqueline Pfeffer Merrill, Stacey Riemer, and Graham Bullock. Check out a recording of their remarks, more details about the event, the forum's deliberation and pathways guides, and participants' comments about their forum experience and thoughts on free expression on campus.

[LEARN MORE](#)



"Take an Opinion, Leave an Opinion:" An On-the-Street Deliberative Video Series

As her personal deliberation project this spring, DCI Fellow Fatima Mukasa '28 developed a program called *Take an Opinion, Leave an Opinion*. Designed to foster open dialogue and critical thinking, the project invited students to anonymously share their perspectives on thought-provoking topics, which others then read and responded to. These responses were recorded and are available to watch online. Learn more about the project and watch the videos at the link below!

[CHECK OUT THE VIDEOS](#)

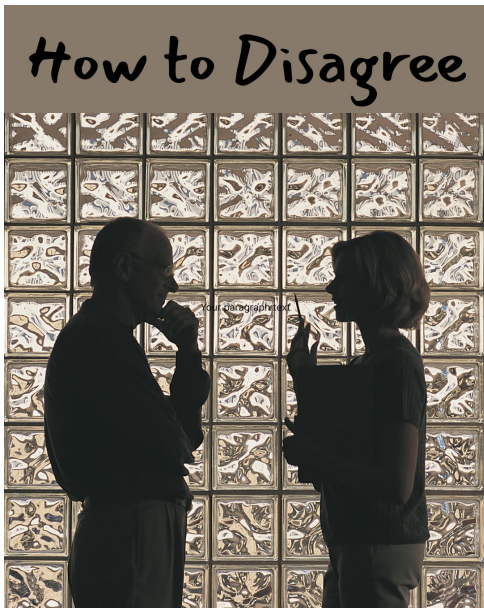


All in for DCI!

As part of the All in for Davidson activities celebrating every gift made to the College, Graham Bullock was one of several faculty and staff invited to be pied by students. DCI Fellow Luna Noguchi '25 and several other students took advantage of the opportunity - check out the photos at the link below!

[SEE MORE PHOTOS](#)

Spotlight



The DCI's Guide to "How to Disagree"

Ever hesitate to engage with a friend or family member about a political or social issue because you aren't comfortable disagreeing with them? Or just don't know how to do so in a constructive manner? The DCI's Guide to "How to Disagree" might help. It introduces seven tips that can help you navigate disagreements you encounter in your everyday life. Check it out and share it with anyone you think might find it useful.

[CHECK IT OUT](#)

Student Insights



Seeing in Color: Why Deliberation Shouldn't Be Black and White

In a world where issues are often reduced to binary choices, DCI Fellow Mohamed Mustafa '26 describes how we tend to jump

to conclusions without acknowledging the nuances of complex topics. He explores how the deliberative model helped the D Team he facilitated last fall see beyond overly-simplistic divisions and reveal the multivalent motivations behind different perspectives in its discussion of how best to defend democracy against anti-democratic forces.

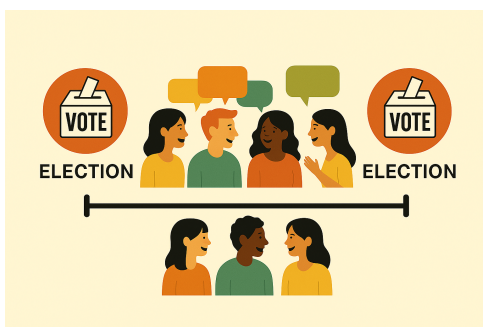
[READ THE POST](#)



Jubilee's "Surrounded:" Where Popular Media Deliberation Succeeds and Fails

In this sequel to a post by Declan O'Donoghue last year, DCI Fellow Liam Mann '27 examines the "Surrounded" series produced by Jubilee as an example of deliberation in popular media. While acknowledging its innovations and popular appeal, Liam concludes that it is less constructive and deliberative than Jubilee's other series.

[READ THE POST](#)



Beyond the Ballot: The Power of Between-Election Deliberative Small Talk

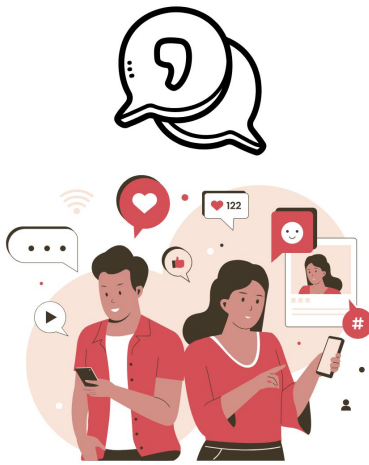
Six months after the election our emotions, opinions, and beliefs may still be running high, and the euphoria or anxiety stemming from the election outcome is focused on the actions of the current administration and their implications for the next election cycle. DCI Fellow Zak Abdulahi '27 wonders whether this time between elections can be used to engage in something rare but important: small intentional bouts of deliberation?

[READ THE POST](#)



All Bark and No Bite? The Role of Action in Deliberation

Izzy Cevallos '27 discusses the connections between deliberation and action. She shares her realization that while deliberation is indeed just talking about an issue, it can also function as a precursor to dozens of different actions to take. Izzy discusses the example of the Ireland Citizen Assembly and her own experience as both a D Team deliberator and facilitator.

[READ THE POST](#)

From Threads to Thoughts: How Social Media is Shaping Public Dialogue

In a world where public squares are increasingly digital, social media has emerged as an unexpected but powerful arena for deliberative conversations. Building on her deliberation project, Fatima Mukasa '28 asks whether these platforms that are built for speed, entertainment, and algorithms can truly foster meaningful deliberation?

She explores what the key features of deliberative conversations are and how they can be incorporated into the world of social media.

[READ THE POST](#)

Faculty Insights

DeeP Collaborative Series



Zulfiya Tursunova
Guilford College

Embedding Deliberation in a Human Rights Course at Guilford College

Zulfiya Tursunova, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at Guilford College, N.C., shares how she applied deliberative pedagogy in her PECS 315 Human Rights course. She shares some of the positive feedback she received from students; one said that the "deliberation process was unique and especially valuable." Zulfiya also discusses how the changes she made resonated with Guilford's Quaker heritage and her own goals for the course.

[READ THE POST](#)

DeeP Collaborative Series



Uchenna Iloghalu
Guilford College

Finding a Soft Landing for Freshman Non-Biology Majors via Deliberative Pedagogy

To enhance students' understanding of biological concepts, Uchenna Iloghalu incorporated pedagogical practices she learned from the DCI's DeeP Collaborative. She used a scaffolded read/pair/share/question/deliberate framework to help students learn and engage with the material with her course's main text, Ed Yong's "I Contain Multitudes." She reports that the students "demonstrated a mastery beyond what I imagined possible."

[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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