

THE DELIBERATIVE CITIZEN

Δ Monthly Newsletter from the DCI



May 2026 Edition

The academic year is wrapping up and we have lots of updates from the DCI! Davidson students can now apply to become DCI Fellows for next year, and everyone can submit their ideas for next year's Deliberative Forum and D Team topics! The DCI was also featured recently in the Chronicle of Higher Education and the When We Disagree podcast, and it was represented at a Leadership Symposium on Civil Discourse hosted by the Council of Independent Colleges and Emory University. We're also happy to share the news about the launch of the Martin Institute for Public Good that the DCI is proud to be a part of. And we've also got some fantastic new blog posts from three of our current Fellows. Check them out below...

Spotlight



DCI 2026-27 Topics Survey: Submit Your Idea!

Every year we collect ideas from the DCI community for topics that we might explore in our future Deliberative Forums and D Teams. Have an idea that you'd like us to consider? Then click on the link below and submit it! Do so by May 12 and we'll include it in a survey that will enable our community (and the general public) to vote on the topics they would most like to deliberate about in the 2026-27 academic year.

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News



Application to Become a 2026-27 DCI Fellow is Now Open!

Davidson students can now apply to become a 2026-27 DCI Student Fellow! These paid positions enable students to learn how to facilitate contentious conversations, serve as facilitators at DCI events, & host their own deliberations. Learn more & apply today!

[CHECK IT OUT](#)



Chronicle of Higher Education Features the DCI

The DCI was the focus of a recent article in the Chronicle of Higher Education on "Teaching Civil Discourse: How One College's Initiative is Influencing Campuses Nationwide." The in-depth piece features Saeran Dewar '28, Stephen Walker '26, & Graham Bullock.

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A PODCAST ABOUT DISAGREEMENTS THAT MATTER

DCI Faculty Director Graham Bullock Joins "When We Disagree" Podcast

When We Disagree is a podcast about "disagreements that matter" hosted by College of Charleston Prof. Mike Lee. DCI Faculty Director Graham Bullock recently joined the podcast for a conversation about how meaningful dialogue can break us free from today's "polarization vortex."

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Davidson Represented at Leadership Symposium on Civil Discourse

DCI Faculty Director Graham Bullock recently attended a Leadership Symposium on Civil Discourse hosted by the Council of Independent Colleges and Emory University. He co-led a session with Daryl Lowe from Spelman College

& was inspired by everyone who attended the two day event.

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\$47 Million Martin Institute for Public Good Launched at Davidson College

Davidson College recently announced the establishment of the Martin Institute for Public Good, a \$47 million initiative that the DCI is proud to be part of. We are looking forward to the great work we have ahead of us! Learn more about this big news at the link below.

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Student Insights

DCI Fellow Blog Series

The Case Against Denunciation



Ezra Minard '28

The Case Against Denunciation

Why shouldn't we denounce those we disagree with? DCI Fellow Ezra Minard '28 argues that such denunciation, while instinctive and emotionally satisfying, is usually counter-productive. He suggests another approach - dialogue and persuasion.

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DCI Fellow Blog Series

Personality-Based Regimes and the Crisis of Democratic Discourse in the 21st Century



Aditya Pratap Singh Phogat '29

What It Feels Like to Sit with Unresolved Disagreement

Personality-based regimes have become increasingly popular, but DCI Fellow Adi Phogat '29 argues they often are accompanied by democratic backsliding & the silencing of deliberation, which should be used by citizens to preserve their rights & values.

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DCI Fellow Blog Series

Deliberation in the Humanities



Coralyn Cairns '29

Deliberation in the Humanities

Coralyn Cairns '29 is a DCI Fellow and a student in Davidson's Humanities Program this year. She has found many commonalities between the two programs, including their focus on bravery, small group discussions, and "learning as the art of discernment."

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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 we encourage you 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](#)

The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative is Now Part of the Institute for Public Good!

The DCI has joined Davidson College's new Institute for Public Good. The goal of the institute is to foster academic and intellectual collaboration that equips students to address society's challenges and emerge as ethical public leaders, and it will do so across five main program areas. Click the link below to learn more!

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