



## ***Design Brief - February 2025***

### **Dear Design Science Community,**

We are excited to bring you the February edition of the Design Brief, which is a platform to connect and inform members of the Design Science community at the University of Michigan. As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions to help us improve future issues.

## **Design Science Program Upcoming Opportunity**

### **Summer Research Assistant Position**

Hannah Myers, a 4th-year Design Science PhD Candidate, is seeking a research assistant to help her code some qualitative data related to her Munger Graduate Residences study (see this [paper](#) to learn more about the study).

This paid position could potentially be eligible to be considered as a Capstone 503 project (would require approval) for current DESCi MS students, but please note that

the work would take place during the Spring/Summer semester. More details to follow! In the meantime, reach out to Hannah ([hewmyers@umich.edu](mailto:hewmyers@umich.edu)) to learn more!

## Design Science Program Upcoming Events

**February 25, 11:30am-1:00pm** | DESCi Spring Luncheon

- Venue: SI-North 2nd Floor Common Area (ISD offices)
- Join us for the Design Science Spring Luncheon, where the community can informally come together before Spring Break to socialize and network with other Design Science faculty, students, and staff.
- [RSVP](#)

**March 10, 11-noon** | Save the date for the DESCi Town Hall

- Venue: SI-North 2nd Floor Common Area (ISD offices)
- Join us for an interactive town hall discussion about all things Design Science! Light snacks served.

## Design Science Program News

### [Prof. Grace Burleson](#) Presents Guest Lecture in DESCi 791 Seminar

On January 31, 2025, Prof. Grace Burleson, one of our distinguished PhD alumni, facilitated an engaging discussion in the DESCi 791 Seminar. Currently a multidisciplinary design researcher at the University of Colorado Boulder, Prof. Burleson specializes in engineering for social impact and sustainable development applications.

She began the session by sharing insights into her academic journey in the Design Science program and how it shaped her research in multidisciplinary design and advanced engineering design methods. The majority of the session focused on a collaborative dialogue with current Design Science students, encouraging them to reflect on their diverse backgrounds and explore how an interdisciplinary approach can broaden academic and professional perspectives.



Learn more about [Burleson Global Design Group](#)

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**Design Science Student Advisory Committee (DSAC)**

We are excited to announce the formation of the Design Science Student Advisory Committee (DSAC), a new student-led organization dedicated to enhancing the Design Science community and strengthening the connection between students and program leadership. The DSAC was established in response to feedback gathered through Town Halls and other student engagement efforts. Its mission is to provide a formal platform for student representation, fostering collaboration on curriculum development, community-building activities, professional development opportunities, and strategic program initiatives.

We are pleased to introduce the initial DSAC Leadership Team, who will serve through August 2025: Jared Owens, Hannah Myers, Brian Richards, Youngeun Yu

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### **Design Science PhD Handbook Updated**

The PhD Handbook has been updated to include new guidance on changing advisors, and can be found in the [Design Science Student Center](#) (Canvas).

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### **Design Science Graduate Student Staff Assistant (GSSA)**

We would like to introduce Yunyan Li as the Design Science Graduate Student Staff Assistant (GSSA). In this role, she will be supporting various programmatic and student engagement initiatives, including:

- Monthly Design Brief
  - Updating the DESCi Student Center Canvas page
  - Assisting with the DESCi 503 project proposal process
  - Supporting program-related administrative tasks
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### **Design Science Contacts**

We have created a shared document with information about the DESCi program faculty and staff, including how we can assist you with any concerns related to your academic or career plans. The document provides each faculty and staff member's contact details and office hours, making it easy for you to schedule an appointment with the person best suited to address your needs.

[Design Science Program Staff Contact Info](#)

## **Design Science Spotlights**

### **Master Student Spotlights:**



## Ke Ding (she/her)

Ke Ding received her Bachelor of Engineering degree in Product Design and Manufacturing from the University of Nottingham (Ningbo, China) and is expected to receive her Master's degree in Design Science in 2025.

She chose the Design Science program because of its inherently interdisciplinary and flexible nature. With a highly personalized learning path, students in the program pursue unique goals while sharing a foundational understanding of the design process.

This common ground fosters collaboration and enables the development of meaningful, impactful systems for society. Her research interests focus on **speculative design** as a catalyst for change, involving a broader range of stakeholders in the design process and advocating for **non-human-centered design** to gain wider recognition. Additionally, she is exploring how emerging technologies, such as **AI and XR**, can be integrated into design processes to drive innovation. She believes that combining these tools with both **human-centered and non-human-centered approaches** can lead to more impactful and sustainable design solutions.



## Eliza Steinberg (she/her)

Eliza Steinberg is a student in the U-M Design Science Master's Program with an interdisciplinary background in biopsychology and health from her undergraduate studies at the University of Michigan. She is passionate about improving health outcomes through the application of scientific principles and human-centered design. She chose the Design Science Program because of its **flexibility** in allowing students to take courses across **multiple disciplines** within renowned academic programs, such as Public

Health, Business, Engineering, and the School of Information, while maintaining a strong focus on **design principles**. She values being part of a close-knit cohort with **diverse design backgrounds**, where engaging discussions and a strong sense of community enrich the learning experience. Currently, she is preparing for her capstone project for the spring/summer semester, where she will likely assist a research team in conducting an acceptability and feasibility study of a medical device. This work will

integrate participatory research design methods she has learned throughout the program. Outside of her academic and research pursuits, she enjoys climbing, applying her problem-solving skills in a different way at the climbing gym.

### PhD Student Spotlight:



### Jared Owens (he/him)

Jared Owens is a first-year PhD student in the Design Science program. His research focuses on **sociotechnical systems**, with an emphasis on embedding **public and community engagement** into the **design and deployment processes** for **future nuclear energy technologies**.

He graduated valedictorian from North Carolina State University in 2020 with an Honors Bachelor of Science in Philosophy: Concentration in Logic, Representation, and Reasoning, with double minors in

Psychology and Technology, Engineering, and Design Education. In 2024, he completed a Master of Science with distinction in Public Interest Technology from Arizona State University.

Before joining the Design Science program, Jared spent two years as the Communication and Engagement Coordinator for Arizona State University's Consortium for Science, Policy and Outcomes, a science and technology policy think tank in Washington, DC. His work primarily involved planning and executing public engagement research, utilizing ASU-CSPO's Participatory Technology Assessment (pTA) method. Jared joined the University of Michigan following his time at ASU to facilitate boundary spanning between engineering and social science, researching meaningful methods for embedding pTA-like engagements into engineering design processes. He is currently working on a **qualitative research project** examining the perspectives of **technical experts at U.S.-based fusion energy companies** on the value of **public and community engagement in nuclear technology design**.

Looking to the future, Jared hopes to continue on in academia as a professor.

## Campus Career & Professional Development Resources

**February 25, 1:00pm -2:30pm** | Coffee Chats for Graduate Students: Interviewing for Jobs Beyond the Professoriate

Venue: Online

Organizers: Rackham Professional Development and Engagement, University Career Center

[Registration is required](#)

[More Details](#)**February 28, 12:00pm-1:30pm** | Converting Your Ph.D. CV to a Resume Lab

Venue: In-person

Organizers: Rackham Professional Development and Engagement, University Career Center

[Registration is required](#)[More Details](#)**May 6 - June 5, 2025**

Description: The Rackham School of Graduate Studies and the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching's (CRLT) "Preparing Future Faculty" seminar (PFF) is a nationally recognized program designed to help prepare doctoral candidates for the academic job search and success in their subsequent faculty positions.

[Check for more information](#)

## Campus General Upcoming Dates & and Deadlines

**March 1 - March 10** | Spring Break (no class)**April 8** | SS25 Capstone Project Proposal Deadline**April 22** | Classes end**April 22** | Last day to submit graduation application for Winter 2025 Graduation**August 12** | Last day to submit graduation application for Summer 2025 Graduation

## Other Campus General Events

Here's some information about what's happening at the University of Michigan that might interest you. Check [Happening @ Michigan](#) for more events and details.

**February 25, 12:00pm -12:45pm** | Introduction to GenAI: Unpacking Key Concepts ([Link](#))**March 4, 12:00pm -12:45pm** | Critical Challenges in Generative AI: Exploring Privacy, Ethical Implications, Integrity, and Bias ([Link](#))**March 6, 1:00pm -4:00pm** | Introduction to the Linux Command Line ([Link](#))**March 11, 12:00pm -12:45pm** | From Basics to Brilliance: Prompt Engineering with U-M GPT ([Link](#))**March 18, 9:00am -5:00pm** | 2025 AI in Science and Engineering Symposium, Michigan League - Ballroom (2nd Floor) ([Link](#))**Tuesdays from 6–7 PM in BBB 1620** | Michigan Drone Technology General Meeting ([Link](#))

# External Conferences & Opportunities

## 2025 International Design Engineering Technical Conferences & Computers and Information in Engineering Conference (IDETC-CIE)



**August 17–20, 2025**

Important Dates:

**March 3** | Workshop Proposals Deadline  
**March 17** | Submission of Full-Length Paper for Review & Electronic Copyright Process Open

[Welcome to IDETC-CIE 2025](#)

**April 30, 2025** | Fully Funded PhD Opportunities at Imagination Lancaster

They are looking for proposals for design-led research into topics including:

- Sustainable and Regenerative Systems
- Robotics and AI
- Biomaterials
- Digital Worlds and Worldbuilding

[More Information](#)

## Call For Content

Do you have news, events, achievements, or opportunities you'd like to share with the Design Science community? We'd love to hear from you!

Send your content or ideas to [desci-gradcoord@umich.edu](mailto:desci-gradcoord@umich.edu), and it could be featured in an upcoming edition of the Design Brief!

[Visit Our Website](#) | [Contact Us](#)