



## *Design Brief - March 2025*

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

We are excited to bring you the March 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 Events**

### **Portfolio Session: DESC1 791**

**March 21, 10:30am - 12:00pm** | Portfolio workshop with Ilka Rodriguez-Calero:  
Portfolio Story, Structure, and Strategy

Venue: 3360 GG Brown, aka "C-SED Collaboration Space"

Dr. Ilka Rodriguez-Calero is a social impact-driven engineer, design researcher, facilitator, and UM alum (Design Science MS '19; Ph.D. '22). While in graduate school, she accumulated diverse professional experiences, including academic research, advanced course projects, innovation competitions, science communication initiatives, teaching, facilitation, mentoring, and a new product innovation internship. This workshop emerged from that journey, as she shares

methods and tools she leveraged to find common themes across experiences and share her graduate work with broad audiences.

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## Design Science Community Forum

**March 24, 1:00pm - 2:00pm** | Town Hall

Venue: SI-North 2nd Floor Common Area (ISD offices)

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## Design Science Student Advisory Committee

**March 24** | Community Survey

Help us capture the diversity of viewpoints, needs, and priorities within the current DESCI cohort. Your feedback will guide DSAC's focus areas and initiatives.

[Survey link](#)

**March 28** | Community workshop

Join us for a collaborative session to define DSAC's mission. We'll present key insights from the survey, engage in discussions, and collectively identify priorities for DSAC moving forward.

## Design Science Program News

### **Congratulations to Hannah Myers for Receiving the Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship!** 🎉

We are thrilled to share that Hannah Myers has been awarded the Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship in recognition of her outstanding research and academic achievements.

Hannah shares insight into her research and its impact:

“The built environment—places we live, work, learn, and play—is not health-neutral. Substantial evidence supports this claim, yet most built environment and health research has focused on physical and mental health, neglecting the aspect of health that pertains to social relationships: social health. Meanwhile, our Nation's social health is in crisis. My dissertation contributes three original studies that address this built environment/social health evidentiary gap. Focusing on residential settings across two socioecological levels, my work aims to identify strategies to fight our ongoing epidemic of isolation and loneliness using the design of our everyday environments.”



[Learn more about the Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship](#)

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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**

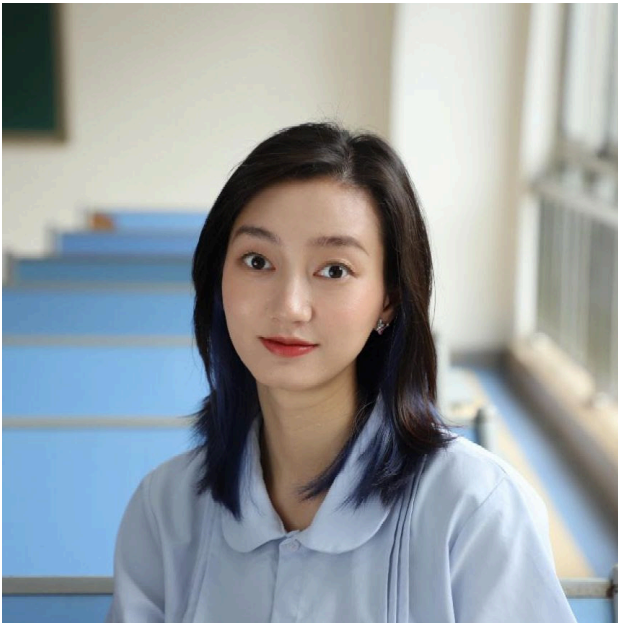
### **Master Student Spotlights:**



## Stephanie Danner (she/her)

Stephanie Danner received her Bachelor of Science in Anthropology with a minor in Human Behavior and Social Services from Michigan State University. Initially Pre-Med, she discovered a passion for digital heritage and ethics while volunteering at the MSU Bioarchaeology Lab, where she created 3D models of Mayan pottery. During this time, she also worked on a capstone project focusing on ethics in **digital spaces**, specifically **cultural institution websites**.

This experience led her to seek programs that would allow her to continue working in digital spaces while addressing ethical issues. She came across the Design Science program and immediately connected with its interdisciplinary and open approach. Since starting the program, she has continued working with **3D modeling** through her capstone project and exploring ethics in digital spaces through coursework. She would like to continue to do this in the future, either working in museums or universities, developing better guidelines for the use of **digital heritage materials**. Additionally, she aims to continue this work in Europe, a move she is actively working towards in the coming years.



## Siyi (Alex) Wang (she/her)

Siyi (Alex) Wang is a graduate student in the Design Science program at the University of Michigan, with a five-year background in architecture and human-centered design. She is passionate about **user research** and **technology-driven solutions**, focusing on improving user experiences for vulnerable populations.

Her projects span a range of disciplines, from optimizing **public transportation infrastructure** to designing **medical solutions** for

marginalized communities. Looking ahead, she aims to pursue a career in **UX design** and **HealthTech**, leveraging interdisciplinary research to develop impactful and empathetic design solutions.

## Campus Career & Professional Development Resources

**March 19, 12:00pm - 1:00pm** | ECRC - Quiet the Inner Critic: No Internship, No Worries! ([Link](#))

**March 21, 11:00am - 3:00pm** | Startup Career Fair

Venue: First floor Duderstadt Center

The Startup Career Fair is your chance to connect with innovative companies, explore career opportunities, and take the first step towards an inspiring career journey.

[Registration link](#)

[More details](#)

**April 3, 12:00pm - 1:00pm** | ECRC - Maximize Your Summer Internship Experience ([Link](#))

**April 3-4** | 2025 Ph.D. Connections Conference

[Registration link](#)

[More details](#)

**Find Job & Internship Listings** | University Career Center

Explore Career Opportunities with Handshake

Looking for internships, job opportunities, or networking events? Handshake is the University of Michigan's go-to platform for connecting students with employers, career fairs, and professional development resources.

[More details](#)

**ECRC** - Career Development Workshops in Canvas

Visit [here](#) and click "Enroll in Course."

## Campus General Upcoming Dates & and Deadlines

**March 19** | Pre-registration backpack begins for Fall 2025

**March 26** | Registration begins for selected units for Fall 2025

**April 3** | Associate Dean for Graduate & Professional Education celebration event ([Register](#))

**April 7-11** | Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week, theme "Innovate & Celebrate: Graduate Student Engineering Excellence" ([Link](#))

**April 8** | SS25 Capstone Project Proposal Deadline

**April 11** | Register to participate in Rackham Graduate Exercises 2025

**April 15** | Tax Day

**April 22** | Classes end

**April 22** | Last day to submit graduation application for Winter 2025 Graduation

**May 2** | Rackham Graduate Exercises Ceremony ([Link](#))

**May 3** | Spring Commencement Ceremony ([Link](#))

**August 12** | Last day to submit graduation application for Summer 2025 Graduation

**August 25** | Classes begin

## 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.

**March 25, 12:00pm - 12:45pm** | The GenAI Educational Landscape: Best Practices for Instructors ([Link](#))

**March 25, 1:00pm - 2:00pm** | Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop End-of-Year Celebration ([Link](#))

Venue: Michigan Union (Pendleton Room, 2nd Floor)

**March 27/April 3, 4:00pm - 5:30pm** | Improving Sleep: Cognitive Behavior Therapy Group for Insomnia ([Link](#))

**March 28, 9:00am - 3:00pm** | Disability Visibility in Engineering Symposium ([Link](#))

Venue: Pierpont Commons - East Room

**April 1, 12:00pm - 6:15pm** | Mental Health on College Campuses Conference ([Link](#))

Venue: Rackham Graduate School (Horace H.)

**April 4, 2:00pm-4:00pm** | Portrait Session - The ECRC is offering FREE portrait style headshots to engineering students on April 4 ([Link](#))

## External Conferences & Opportunities

**2025 NextProf Nexus held at UC Berkeley**

# NextProf Nexus

Preparing the next generation of scientific and academic leaders

Applications are open!

Live!

Nexus FAQ >

September 8-11, 2025 | Berkeley, CA

## Applications due April 21, 2025 by 5pm, EDT

This preeminent event is designed to give participants the opportunity to explore and prepare for a faculty position in academia. To be eligible for Nexus, you must be a senior-level PhD candidate, postdoctoral researcher, or an early-career scientist or researcher in the field of Engineering.

[Apply here](#)

[More details](#)

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## Fully Funded PhD Opportunities at Imagination Lancaster

**April 30, 2025**

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](#)

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## Engineering Design Show Chicago

**September 10-11, 2025**

A new exhibition entirely dedicated to mechanical, embedded and electronic design.  
Venue: Donald E. Stephens Conference Center, Rosemont, Chicago

[Registration link](#)

[More details](#)

**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](#)