



COLLEGE OF  
INFORMATION  
STUDIES

# iSchool Assembly

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024



UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND

**FEARLESSLY  
FORWARD**



# Agenda

- Call to order
- Review and approval of minutes from December
- Review and approval of this agenda
- Dean's Update [Keith Marzullo]
- Dean's Student Advisory Council [Jason Baron, Wayne Lutters]
- External Relations [David Loshin]
- Election for TTK Faculty Representative to University Senate [Fabian Faccio]
- CAC College Advisory Council Representatives [Jeff Waters]
- Belonging and Community at UMD [Ron Padron]
- Sponsored Projects [Kyran Richardson]
- Giving Day [Katie Ambacher]
- Announcements





# Dean's Update

Keith Marzullo

# 2/2/24 Assembly Dean's Update

*Information and technology for good*



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[ischool.umd.edu](http://ischool.umd.edu)



# Welcome new people!

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- Jessica Grimmer: Lecturer
- Yeweon Kim: Postdoctoral Researcher
- Preeti Lakhole: Faculty Assistant
- Irene Pasquetto: Assistant Professor
- Angela Rodgers-Koukoui: Lecturer
- Kourtney Roussey: Business Manager
- Mirela Stimus: Faculty Affairs Manager

# Searches

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## Faculty searches

- TTK Assistant - INFO-GVPT
- TTK Open Rank - Libraries
- TTK Open Rank - INFO-JPSM
- PTK Open Rank Lecturers

## Staff searches

- Assistant Dean IT & Facilities
- Director FinSpOp
- Undergraduate Advisors (2)
- HR Coordinator
- Payroll Coordinator
- DEI Director
- DEI Coordinator



**Thank you for your continued participation and support!**



# What's been going on

## **IT & Facilities:**

- Secured ~ \$700K from the University to complete renovations
- Drafted a Facility Program report for DBM for releasing INFO Commons funds
  - Target return from DBM summer 2024 and construction starting early 2025

## **FinSpOp:**

- Continues working with Provost's Office towards our FY25 budget request

## **Communications and Academic Programs:**

Revamped Masters Program advertising, SEO, and web design:

- Program reels have received 10K views
- New program videos on website have had over 2K views
- Web pages have seen an 8% increase in views



# What's been going on

## **Payroll and Academic Programs:**

Processed 236 hourly students and 127 Graduate TAs

## **Academic Programs**

- Assigned 180 undergraduate and graduate course sections to 118 instructors for Spring 2024
- Shifted us substantially to in-person and blended modality for our College Park undergraduate course sections
  - About 50-60% course sections are in-person
  - About 30-45% are blended/hybrid
    - Total in-person and blended are about 90-95%
  - About 4-8% are synchronous online
  - About 1-2% are asynchronous online





# What's been going on

## **Development:** CDO/Asst Dean Nancy Murray and her team

- Working towards our annual goal, raising nearly \$500K so far
  - Focusing on corporate partnerships
  - Closed a gift to support undergraduate research
- Supporting the next Dean's Lecture - Scott Nash on March 5
- Planning for alumni of the year event on April 19: Denise Davis, Wilda Logan, and Gabriel Cruz
- Setting up for Giving Day on March 6
  - David Baugh Memorial Scholarship

**Please seek out these teams over lunch and thank them!**

# **UMD, INFO, and AI**



# UMD growing interest in AI

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## **The university has several marquee AI activities:**

- NSF National Institute for Trustworthy AI in Law & Society (TRAILS)
- UMD Grand Challenge Values Centered AI
- UMIACS Center for Machine Learning
- Artificial Intelligence & Autonomy for MultiAgent Systems (ArtiAMAS): ARL cooperative agreement

## **As well as most of the above, INFO faculty are involved in many AI activities, such as**

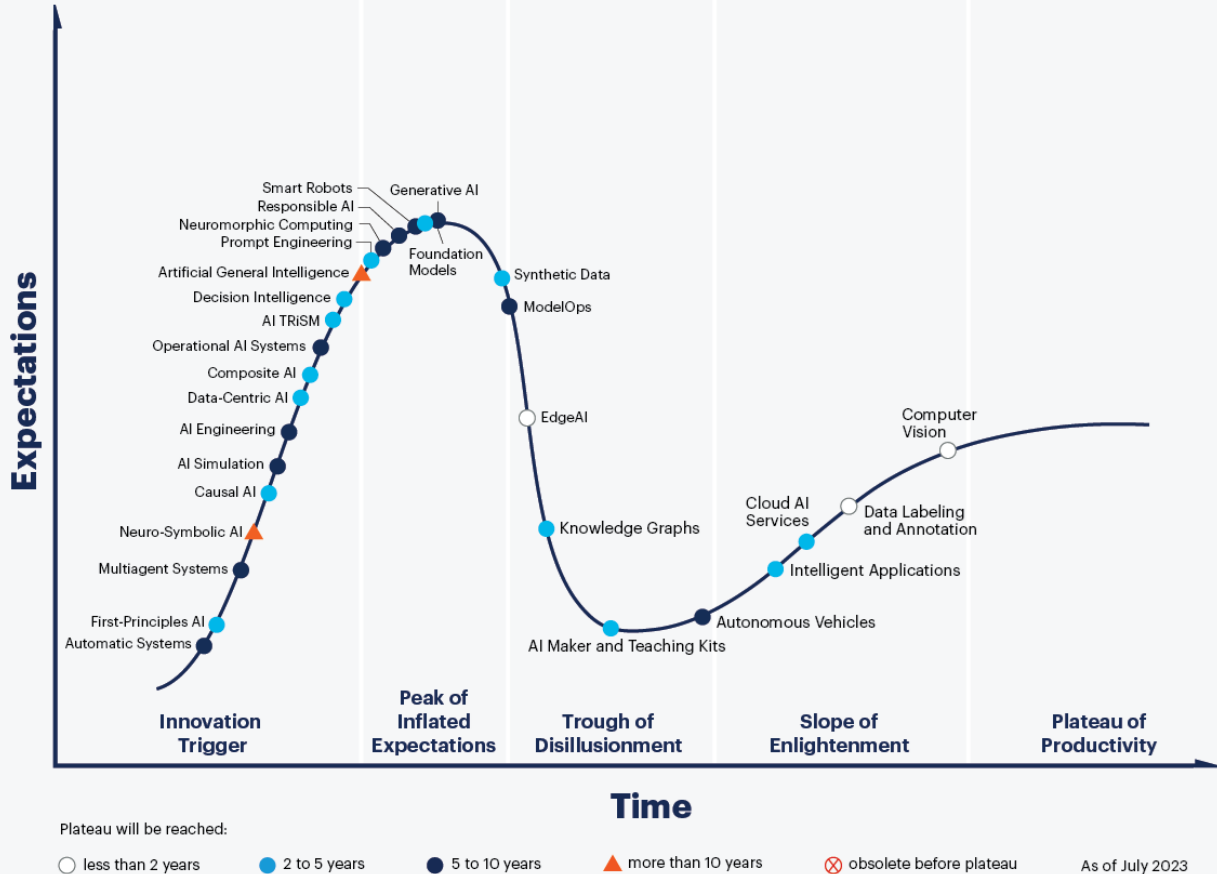
- UMIACS Computational Linguistics and Information Processing Lab (CLIP)
- NSF Convergence Accelerator Mid-Atlantic Food Resiliency Network
- Center for AI, Data, and Conflict
- Human-Agent Teaming on Intelligent Tasks: ARL

# What is AI?

**Core:** the technology and methods that expand what is technically possible and open up new opportunities for multidisciplinary approaches.

**Connections:** the interdisciplinary research of engaging domain problems using core technologies and methods.

**Context:** the human aspects and implications of the development and use of technology and methods. This includes the values and ethics that drive technological and research innovation, the policy and legal aspects that enable and constrain innovation, the business aspects of technology diffusion, and the educational innovation needed to create a society informed about AI.



[gartner.com](https://www.gartner.com)

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**Gartner**



# INFO and AI

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To tell our story better to UMD, INFO Comms has drafted five themes around INFO's research and education concerning AI:

1. Connecting AI, data, and people to build a better world
2. Ensuring that AI can be trusted to positively transform society, meet human needs, and respect societal values
3. Partnering with both the public and private sectors to promote human values centered AI
4. Developing tech-savvy, ethically grounded information professionals who are fearless about AI
5. Empowering fearless Terps who are ethically savvy and technically grounded about AI, fostering an AI-ready workforce and citizenry

**We will be reaching out to you to create an inventory of INFO research and education activities that involve AI**

# **Corporate relations**

# External INFO stakeholders

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- Public sector: Local, State and Federal government, information institutions, ...
- Private sector:
  - Not for profit: ALA, American Federation of the Blind, Mellon Foundation, ...
  - For profit: Adobe, Google, Meta, PWC, ...





# Growing connections with the for-profit sector

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- Providing good opportunities for our graduates to start meaningful careers
- Informing us about our academic programs
- Strengthening the impact of our research on the private sector

INFO roles supporting these goals:

- David Loshin, Director of External Relations
- TJ Rainsford, Director of the iConsultancy
- Kevin Kenneally, embedded Program Director, University Career Center







# Next steps

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- David Loshin will talk later in Assembly about an event we will be holding to foster corporate connections - consider joining us!
- The Dean's Commission on the iConsultancy made several excellent suggestions on next steps, which we are considering.
- We are working with iLEAD members to develop ways for outside stakeholders - both private and public sector - to work more closely with our programs.

**As always, we welcome your ideas and suggestions**

# Renaming INFO

# Renaming to *The College of Information*

## ***Socializing***

- Socialize with both internal and external stakeholders ✓
- Socialize with Provost ✓ (+ Provost socialize with APAC 2/28)
- Socialize with the other deans ✓

## ***Review Process***

- Submit proposal to Division of Academic Affairs 2/1 ✓
- Proposal reviewed by Senate PCC 3/1
- Senate votes on proposal 4/3 or 4/23
- President approves name change and notifies USM Chancellor 6/1

## ***Launch***

- Digital, print, physical transition **August 2024**
- Public event + storytelling campaign **Fall 2024**



# An opportunity

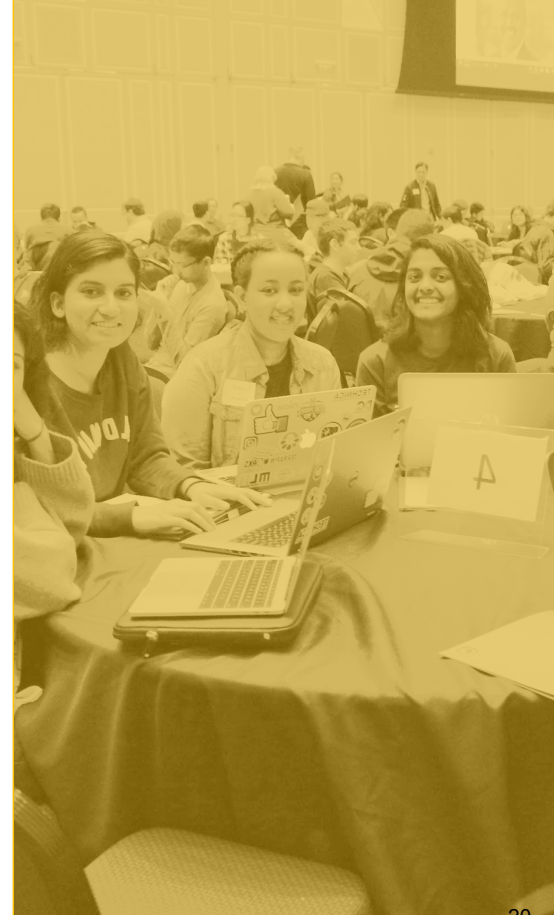
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If successful, we will have an opportunity to highlight our name change, and to tell a story to:

- Our students and their families
- Secondary education
- Local, State and Federal governments

We are working with University Communications to develop these stories

**We would love your ideas and help!**



# Q & A



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A large crowd of people is shown at an outdoor event, likely a sports game or festival. The crowd is diverse in age and appearance. In the foreground, a young man in a white t-shirt with a red 'M' logo and a tiger mascot is walking. To his left, another young man in a white t-shirt and sunglasses is walking. In the background, a man in a green t-shirt with 'AIA' on it is visible. The scene is bright and sunny. A large red diagonal shape overlays the left side of the image, containing the text 'Thank You!' in white.

**Thank You!**

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# **Dean's Student Advisory Council**

Jason Baron, Wayne Lutters



# Dean's Student Advisory Council (INFO DSAC)

Co-Advisors: Jason R. Baron, Wayne Lutters

Coordinator: Tetyana Bezbabna



## DSAC Mission

- The Dean's Undergraduate Student Advisory Council (DSAC) has been established to facilitate direct communication between Keith and undergraduate students at the INFO College.
- The DSAC was set up to be a diverse group of INFO undergraduate students who meet with Keith to discuss the INFO College's culture and climate, and to collaborate on initiatives that improve undergraduate programs within the College.
- The meetings are also intended to offer an opportunity for the Dean and INFO College leadership to solicit advice and student perspectives on decisions affecting matters of importance to undergraduate students.



## INFO DSAC Tasking

In acting as a liaison between INFO College leadership and INFO College undergrads, the DSAC is expected to:

- Gather feedback from its own members and the broader student body, for the purpose of advocating for undergraduate student interests and concerns in college decision-making.
- Propose innovative changes to improve education quality and student life within the college.
- Cultivate a greater sense of community among undergraduate students through organizing events and initiatives to enrich the student experience.



# INFO DSAC - Representation

Initial semester: Fall 2023

Includes 12 Undergraduates:

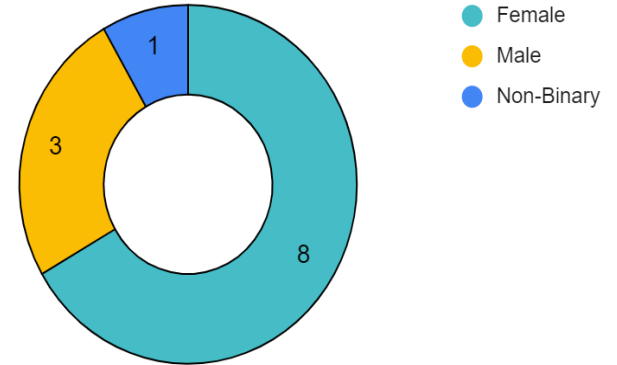
InfoSci College Park – 5 students

InfoSci Shady Grove – 3 students

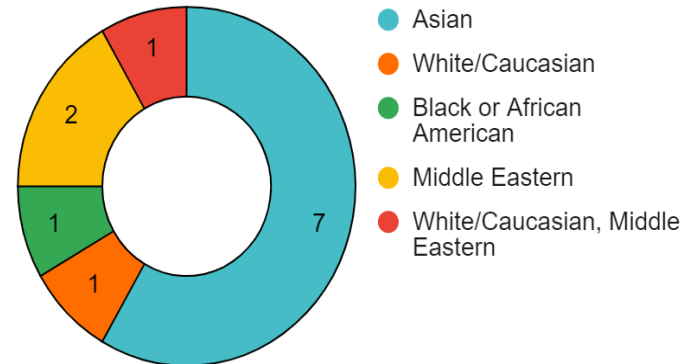
Social Data Science – 3 students

Tech and Info Design – 1 student

## INFO DSAC Gender



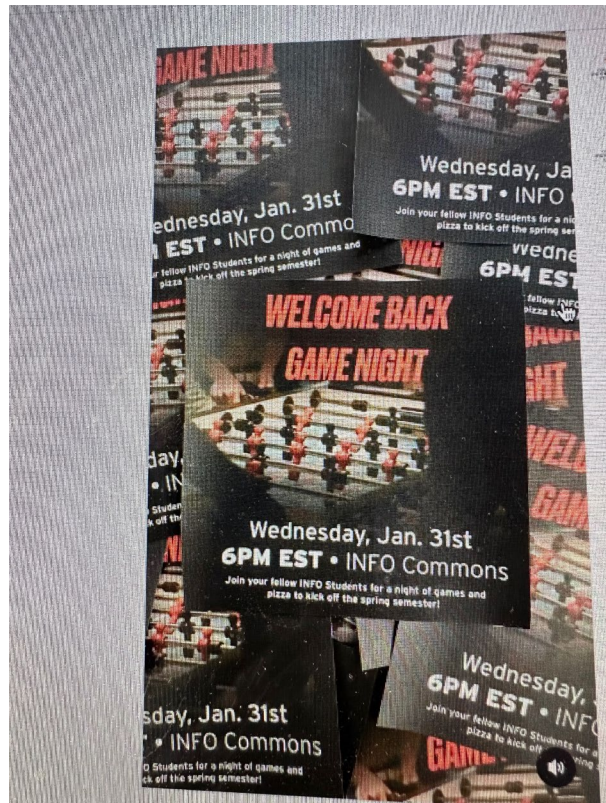
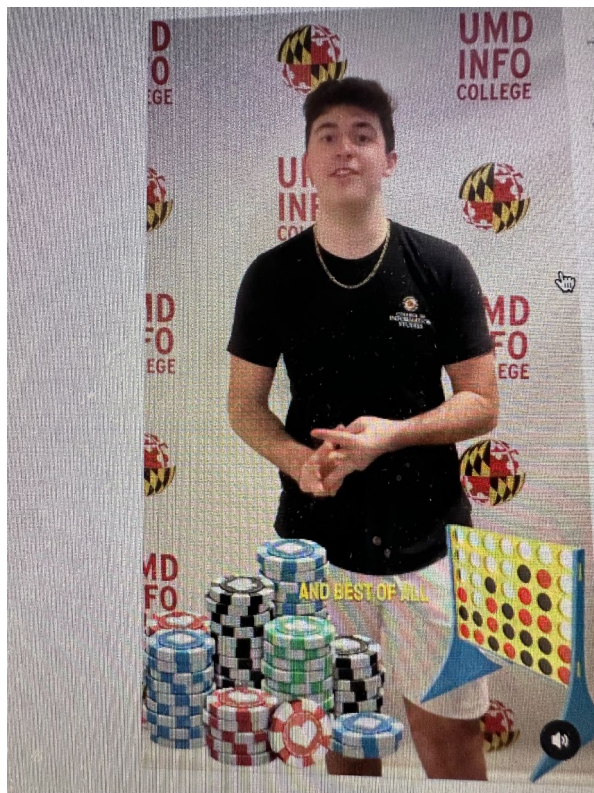
## INFO DSAC Race/Ethnicity



## Spring 2024 Initiatives

- 1. Social Media Engagement:** boosting online interaction by utilizing various social media platforms effectively to foster connections and dialogue among students, faculty, and the wider community.
- 2. Community Events & Development:** nurturing a vibrant campus community through the organization of diverse events and initiatives, promoting inclusivity, and strengthening bonds among students, faculty, and staff.
- 3. Communication Enhancement:** improving communication channels within the INFO College, facilitating transparent and efficient information exchange, fostering collaboration, and ensuring that everyone feels heard and valued.
- 4. Enhancing Career Clarity:** providing students with clearer pathways to career development by offering resources, workshops, and mentorship opportunities, empowering them to make informed decisions about their future professional endeavors.





[https://www.instagram.com/reel/C2u24\\_dNGfF/?igsh=MXE4ZDYxMHhtYnRuZg==](https://www.instagram.com/reel/C2u24_dNGfF/?igsh=MXE4ZDYxMHhtYnRuZg==)



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## Dean's Student Advisory Council (DSAC)

### HOME

Meet the INFO Dean's Undergraduate Student Advisory Council (DSAC). Comprising 12 dedicated undergraduate students from four different undergraduate majors offered by our INFO college, DSAC serves as the voice and collective vision of our undergraduate student body. The INFO DSAC members have different experiences and passions, and together, they work to make our academic community better.

### The INFO DSAC team:

- Serves as a bridge between undergraduate students and the college administration, fostering open communication and collaboration on strategic initiatives;
- Collects feedback from its members and the broader student body, advocates for the interests and concerns of undergraduate students, providing valuable insights to the college's decision-making processes;
- Contributes ideas for innovative changes within the college, aiming to enhance the overall quality of education and student life.
- Fosters a sense of community among undergraduate students within the college, organizing events and initiatives that enhance the overall student experience.
- Empowers INFO undergraduate students by providing them with opportunities for collaboration and engagement in shaping the direction of their academic community.
- Promotes inclusivity and diversity within the college, working towards creating an environment where all students feel heard, valued, and represented.

### DSAC Members:



Asa Agyemang

**Asa Agyemang** is a dedicated Information Science major, specializing in Data Analytics. Asa's journey has embraced programming and UX/UI design, enriching her understanding of technology's multidimensional nature. Asa is committed to reshaping perceptions of Information Science, showcasing its relevance in everyday life. Her passion for conceptual art creation fuels her growth-oriented approach, transforming mistakes into stepping stones toward innovation.

<https://ischool.umd.edu/deans-student-advisory-council/>







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**Thank You!**



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# **External Relations**

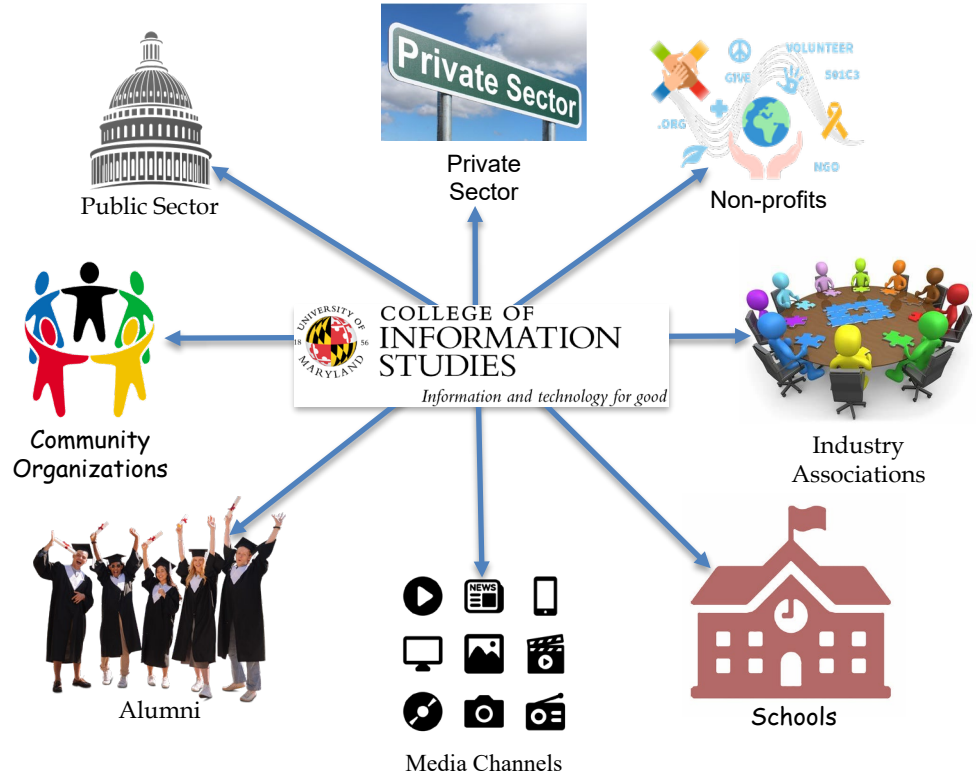
David Loshin

INFO External Relations

David Loshin  
dloshin@umd.edu

## What is “External Relations”?

- *Establishing and sustaining* relationships with organizations outside the INFO College/UMD ecosystem in which there are *mutual benefits* to both INFO stakeholders



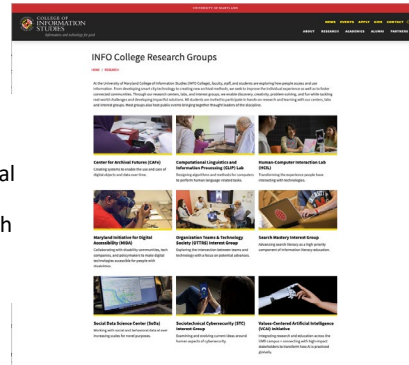
# Stakeholders, Objectives, and Benefits

- Students benefit by learning about
  - Different industries and companies
  - The kinds of roles they can fill
  - Organizational recruiting processes, timeframes
  - Preparing to engage with potential employers



- Organizations benefit by
  - Having a greater awareness of what students learn at the INFO College
  - Distinctions between INFO and CS, Engineering, and Smith
  - Providing insights as to emerging needs that inform our curricula
  - Supporting their talent development goals

- Faculty and Staff benefit by
  - Helping students in career visioning
  - Increased opportunities for experiential learning (e.g., capstones and projects)
  - Finding opportunities to share research and influence corporate behaviors



- INFO College benefits by
  - Improved “brand awareness”
  - Increased development opportunities
  - Increased opportunities for influencing “Information and Technology for Good”



## Event: INFO College Employers and Potential Partners

- 2/29/24 3:30PM at Capital One Tech Incubator (Behind The Hotel)
- Panels:
  - What are We Exploring at the INFO College?
    - INFO professors' research insights relevant to business challenges
    - Topics:
      - Trustworthy AI, accessibility, influence in social media, inclusive design for aging in place, privacy and information risk, cognitive cybersecurity, others
    - Audience questions about opportunities for collaboration.
  - What are Our Students Learning?
    - Representatives from each academic programs will introduce their curricula and learning objectives.
    - Discussion of
      - information professionals as mediators between people and technology,
      - How our students are trained to take leadership roles as they graduate
- Networking and Conversations
- *Interested in joining us?*

## Interesting in Learning More?

- Are you interested in engaging with external organizations?
- Or even simply curious?
- Please let me know: [dloshin@umd.edu](mailto:dloshin@umd.edu)



Thank You!



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# **Election for TTK Faculty Representative**

Fabian Faccio



# Tenure/Tenure Track Faculty Representative to the University Senate



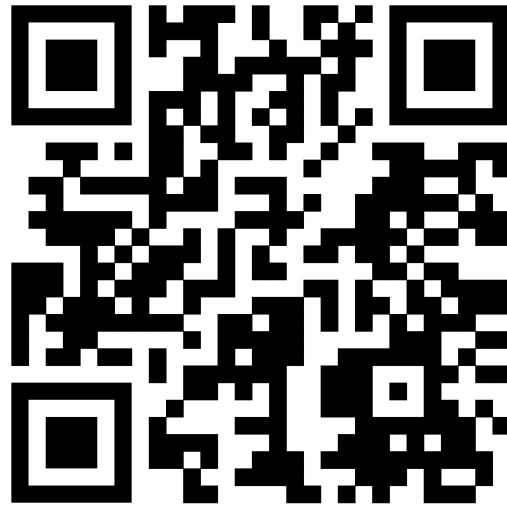
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# Victoria Van Hyning

[Victoria Van Hyning](#) joined INFO as an Assistant Professor of Library Innovation and an affiliate of the English Department in 2020. She is a co-founder and Director of the Center for Archival Futures (CAFe), and the Recovering and Reusing Archival Data or RRAD Lab at UMD where she focuses on community cultural heritage, crowdsourcing, and data reuse. She was awarded a 3-year Institute of Museum and Library Services Early Career Grant in 2022 for her project "[Crowdsourced Data: Accuracy, Accessibility, Authority \(CDAAA\)](#)," to investigate the challenges and sociotechnical barriers that libraries, archives, and museums (LAMs) face in integrating crowdsourced transcriptions of cultural heritage materials into their discovery systems. She is also a contributor to the forthcoming [Standards for Library Services for the Incarcerated or Detained](#) with the American Library Association. She is the former Humanities PI of [Zooniverse.org](#), and a former Senior Innovation Specialist and Community Manager for Collections and Data for the crowdsourcing project [By the People](#) at the Library of Congress. Her first academic monograph is *Convent Autobiography: Early Modern English Nuns in Exile* (OUP: 2019).



# VOTE



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**THANK YOU!**

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# **CAC College Advisory Council Election**

Jeff Waters

# VOTE



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A large yellow arrow graphic pointing to the right, positioned on the left side of the slide.

# **Belonging & Community at UMD**

Ron Padron

# Belonging and Community at UMD Survey

January 2024



# What will the survey measure and why is it important?

The Belonging and Community at UMD survey will measure belonging and the experiences of students, staff and faculty who live, work and learn at UMD. The results will inform the creation of an action plan designed to improve belonging at UMD. Belonging is important for individual and community well-being, for personal, academic and professional success, and for ensuring everyone in the UMD community can thrive.



# What kinds of topics will the survey cover?

## **Demographic Information**

Example: What is your primary position at the University?

## **Personal Experiences**

Example: Overall, how comfortable are you with the climate at UMD?

## **Workplace Climate**

Example: UMD provides enough resources to help me manage work-life balance.

## **Perceptions of Campus Climate**

Example: I feel valued by instructors in the classroom

Example: I feel valued by my supervisor/manager





# How will participant confidentiality be maintained?

- Confidentiality is vital to the success of campus climate research; this is one of the key reasons Rankin Climate, an external vendor, was selected.
- No information already protected through regulation or policy is requested.
- Participants can access the survey using the same survey link, so no personal identifiers (e.g., UID) will be present in the database of responses.
- Other than one question about position at the university, any question can be skipped.
- Responses will not be reported for groups of fewer than five individuals.
- Any identifiable information reported in comments will be redacted.



# How will the survey be administered?

- Online; participants will be able to leave and return to the survey as needed
- In person; Rankin Climate will be present on campus to offer paper surveys



# What incentives will be offered?

## Students

- One participant will be selected to create and name their own ice cream flavor at the Dairy.
- UMD Athletics Apparel Gift Packs (2)
- 1 Pair of Men's Basketball Tickets (24-25 Season)
- 1 Pair of Women's Basketball Tickets (24-25 Season)
- 4 Tickets to UMD Football (24-25 Season) Pair of Tickets and Access to Terrapin Club Box for UMD Football (24-25 Season)

## Faculty/Staff

Participants may select from one of two campus causes (The Campus Pantry OR The Student Crisis Fund) to allocate a \$1 donation. The maximum total contribution will be \$10,000.



# What is the survey timeline?

**Week of February 5, 2024:** Survey announced and website launched

**February 28, 2024:** All faculty, staff, and students will receive an email invitation from the President to take the survey.

**March 15, 2024:** Survey closes.

Results will be reported in **Fall 2024.**



# Survey Timeline

**2023**  
**Sept to Oct**

Working group began survey development  
Communication planning

**2023**  
**Oct to Nov**

Conducted focus groups  
Finalized survey  
Submitted IRB application

**2024**  
**Feb to Mar**

**Survey administration**

**2024**  
**Mar to Apr**

Rankin will code data, conduct database management

**2024**  
**May to Aug**

Rankin will analyze data, develop data visualization dashboard, write report

**2024**  
**Sept**

Topline findings will be presented to the UMD community



# When and how will the results be reported?

- In **Fall 2024**, Rankin Climate will present a campus-level report and dashboard to the community.
- Academic leaders may also have an access to a dashboard of results for their unit.
- Rankin Climate will then support campus-level action planning.



# How Can I Support the Survey?

- Take the survey and encourage others – students, faculty, and staff – to take the survey! More voices participating will lead to more complete data and a better path to belonging for all.



**Questions?**





A large crowd of people is shown at an outdoor event, likely a sports game or festival. The crowd is diverse in age and appearance. In the foreground, a young man in a white t-shirt with a red 'M' logo and a tiger mascot is walking. To his left, another young man in a white t-shirt and sunglasses is walking. In the background, a man in a green t-shirt with 'AIA' on it is visible. The scene is bright and sunny. A large red diagonal shape overlays the left side of the image, containing the text 'Thank You!' in white.

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# Sponsored Projects

Kyran Richardson

# Sponsored Projects

Kyran Richardson	Assistant Director of Sponsored Projects
Jackie Armstrong	Business Manager
Maura Matvey	Business Manager
Kourtney Roussey	Business Manager



## Pre Award :

- Submit [Proposal Request Form](#) with proposal details (or email your business manager) *as soon as you start thinking about submitting*
- Collaborative and communicative proposal creation process
- Office of Research Administration requests 6 business days before sponsor deadline. *ORA will submit on our behalf to sponsor*



## Post Award :

- Budget trackers for each award/non sponsored account (i.e. start up)
- Updated monthly, including spending projections
- Quarterly Budget meetings
- Review of financial portfolio
- Appointment updates

The background of the slide is a photograph of a university campus. In the center, there is a large, multi-story building with a prominent portico and columns. In the foreground, there is a large, rectangular stone fountain with water flowing into a basin. The scene is set on a grassy area with some trees and benches. The sky is blue with some light clouds. A semi-transparent dark grey horizontal bar is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text 'THANK YOU!'. On the left side of the slide, there is a decorative graphic consisting of a grid of diamond shapes. The diamonds are outlined in black, with a red border on the outer edge and a yellow border on the inner edge. The top and bottom corners of the grid are filled with solid red and yellow colors, respectively.

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# **Giving Day**

Katie Ambacher

# Giving Day is March 6th!

Faculty/Staff best time to give: 11am-1pm

Champion Pages: contact me if interested  
([ambacher@umd.edu](mailto:ambacher@umd.edu))





A large crowd of people is shown at an outdoor event, likely a sports game or festival. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking down a path where many people are walking. In the foreground, a young man in a white t-shirt with a red 'M' logo and a backpack is walking towards the camera. To his right, another young man in a white t-shirt is walking away. In the background, a man in a green t-shirt with 'AIA' on it is visible. The crowd is diverse in age and appearance. A large red diagonal shape overlays the left side of the image, containing the text 'Thank You!' in white. The overall atmosphere is bright and busy.

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# Announcements





A vibrant campus scene featuring a large green lawn, trees with autumn foliage, and a building in the background. The text 'FEARLESSLY FORWARD' is overlaid in a white, bold, sans-serif font. The background shows a clear blue sky, green grass, and several people walking on a path. The text is centered and takes up a significant portion of the image.

**FEARLESSLY**

**FORWARD**