

September 2026, Vol. 52

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to another autumn semester.

Last week, I had the opportunity to spend time with some of our new faculty and was reminded of the mix of feelings that are present at the start of new experiences. Anticipation, excitement, nervousness, and even some uncertainty. After nearly two years of an upended higher ed landscape, feelings of uncertainty are even more understandable and it can be challenging to think about innovation and creativity when external forces impel our attention elsewhere. Yet, it may be exactly the right time to reframe our work through the prism of innovation and harness our creativity to approach problems, find collaborators, and reach new audiences.

Perhaps you want to use new media forms to communicate research findings to a wider range of stakeholders; Or expand pedagogical repertoires by exploring digital tools for collaboration, to reach in person and remote students... Of course, no welcome message in 2026 would be complete without a recognition of the dominating presence of AI in higher ed, which is necessitating a reexamination of our practices of teaching and learning, instruction and assessment, communication and dissemination of ideas.

At TC, rather than mandate or adopt a singular stance on AI, we are engaging a measured approach that will rely on responsiveness and consensus building. To support these efforts, the college will launch a new AI @ TC website later this fall, which will expand on the work of the college-wide AI Strategy Group and provide guidelines and reminders of relevant policies to support our collective efforts to navigate this time of heightened digital disruption. Look out for this and related information about events and other opportunities to stay in conversation as a college community.

In the meantime, you'll find support you need at the Digital Futures Institute (DFI). In addition to our signature **DFI Speaker Series**, featuring researchers, designers, and practitioners from many disciplines who address key questions of digital innovation in society, you'll also find ample inspiration in many of our on-site resources, including the [Innovation Space](#), the [DFI Media Studios](#), and the [Smith Learning Theater](#); and if you're teaching this semester, you've already received [tips and related resources](#) to support your teaching and course development.

Global challenges call for collective and creative solutions, and DFI is here to partner with you to achieve just that. Learn more at our [Open House](#) later this month.

Wishing you all an inspired start to the semester –

Lalitha

Lalitha Vasudevan
Vice Dean for Digital Innovation

What's New?

1. Fall 2026 Course Development Support

Individual assistance from DFI:

If you would like assistance setting up your Canvas course please [Open a DFI Support Ticket](#) and one of our Instructional Support Associates (ISAs) will contact you to assist.

We can assist with:

- Importing content from last fall
- Utilizing [one of the TC templates](#)
- Answering any questions you might have about adding content to your Canvas course

Do-it-yourself:

This simple [10-step Canvas Quickstart guide](#) is a great resource for faculty who would like to set up Canvas courses on their own.

2. Resources For Your Students

With many students being new to TC this semester we would like to share with you some guides and resources that may be helpful for you to post to your Canvas course to assist students as they navigate their first few weeks.

- [Canvas Quickstart Guide for Students](#)

If students ever need assistance outside of these guides they can always open a [Service Desk ticket](#).

3. Classroom Technology

Media Services (in TCIT) is here to provide you support for your classroom technology and digital pedagogy needs. See below for two ways to receive support for classroom technology use.

Open a Media Services Request:

Media Services can come and assist you with getting started at the beginning of each class session. Complete a request early to make sure you are on their schedule by filling out a [Media Services request form](#).

Classroom Specific Questions:

If you have a classroom specific technology question, [open a ticket](#) and Media Services will work with you to find an answer.

AI Bytes: Quick Tips and Resources

TC offers resources, guidelines, and learning opportunities to help you and your students navigate teaching and learning in an era of readily available AI tools. Whether you're new to AI or an experienced user, explore these valuable resources:

- **Craft Your AI Policy:** The TC AI Working Group has developed [sample AI course policies](#) to help you create a tailored statement for your syllabus. Set clear expectations for your students as soon as your course begins.
- **Google Gemini for TC:** Google Gemini is now available for TC Faculty, Students, and Staff.
 - Learn [how to access Gemini](#) now.
 - Share with students [TC guidance on using Google Gemini as a student](#).
- **Stay Informed:** Familiarize yourself with the [TC Generative AI Guidelines](#). These guidelines are your roadmap for ethical and practical AI use at TC.
- **Expand Your AI Horizons:** DFI offers a range of webinars and on-campus events throughout the fall. Keep an eye on the [DFI events page](#) for upcoming events.

Upcoming Faculty PD



Unlocking Discovery: Podcast Search Optimization Workshop

Tuesday, September 15th, 2026:
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Online Via Zoom

Topic: Ever wonder how to get your research, voice, or project to stand out in today's crowded digital ecosystem? Podcasting allows you to shape the language and conversation around your subject area—but only if your ideal audience can actually find you.

[Register](#)

Lights, Camera, Climate Action!: A multimodal writer's room

Wednesday, September 23rd, 2026:
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Smith Learning Theater; Russell Hall, 4th Floor

This DFI climate week event invites attendees to explore how performance writing can inform climate education and action. Emphasizing creative and collaborative praxis, attendees will have the opportunity to learn about climate communications initiatives at DFI that center multimodality, participate in an interactive table read, and develop climate-themed performance writing projects of their own.

Agenda

- 4:00 PM: Welcome and reception
- 5:00 PM: Table read of [One Last Sunday](#)
- 5:30 PM: Reflections and discussions
- 6:00 PM: Interactive table read of [One Last Sunday](#)
- 7:00 PM: Connect and mingle
- 8:00 PM: Closing

[Register](#)



Digital Futures Institute Open House

Wednesday, September 30th, 2026:
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Russell Hall 5th Floor

Topic: Join the Digital Futures Institute (DFI) for an interactive Open House! Explore our spaces, tour the Smith Learning Theater (SLT) and Macy Recording Studio, and learn more about everything DFI has to offer.

[Register](#)