

September 2025, Vol. 40

Dear Colleagues,

The crisp weather in New York City signals the coming autumn semester, and with it a reminder that the relatively quiet halls of our interconnected buildings are filling up once again with the energy of new and returning students who bring new and ongoing questions, insights, and a desire for making connections and making an impact in the world.

The Digital Futures Institute is ready to build on that energy, from students as well as our faculty colleagues, with programming that is responsive to the teaching, research, and public engagement needs and interests raised by the TC community, touching on a wide variety of topics. We will continue to hold our signature **DFI Speaker Series**, featuring researchers, designers, and practitioners from many disciplines who address key questions of digital innovation in society. Many of you have already taken advantage of the 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 been receiving **tips and related resources** to support your teaching and course development.

Perhaps most present in many of our minds, is the ever evolving landscape of artificial intelligence and its relevance for higher education. This semester, we will expand our ongoing college-wide programming on **AI and Education** to partner more closely with faculty and our administration to provide spaces for discussion and deliberation in addition to ongoing support through resources and troubleshooting. Engagement from **all** TC community stakeholders is vital to informing how Teachers College rises to meet this moment of unprecedented hype, panic, and euphoria surrounding this new/old technology and the transformational potential/threat it presents.

I look forward to generative semester ahead, full of healthy deliberations, intellectual engagement, and convivial debates.

Wishing you all an inspired start to the semester –

Lalitha

Lalitha Vasudevan
Vice Dean for Digital Innovation

What's New?

1. Fall 2025 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

The [Digital Futures Institute](#) collaborates with Media Services (in TCIT) 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.

4. New This Year

Are you advising doctoral students who are thinking about using multimodal methods in their dissertations?

They can now [open a ticket with DFI for media support](#). And check out our [multimodality page](#) for more resources.

AI Bytes: Quick Tips and Resources



AI in 30 Minutes: Your AI-Organized Digital Notebook using NotebookLM

Thursday, September 25th, 2025: 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

Online via Zoom

In just 30 minutes, see how to build your own custom AI-powered notebook. Upload PDFs, websites, YouTube videos, audio, Google Docs, Slides, and NotebookLM will summarize them, connect ideas, create a podcast, and answer your questions. Great for studying, teaching, or planning—your notebook, your way.

[Register](#)

DFI Speaker Series: Digital Decolonization: How Big Tech Exploits Us with Dr. Janine de Novais

Wednesday, September 24th, 2025: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Smith Learning Theater - Russel Hall 4th Floor

Topic: this talk will explore how social media and AI technologies represent a new form of colonialism—digital colonization—in which human attention, identity, and community are commodified for corporate profit.

[Register](#)

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