Dear HCDE Alumni,

I am pleased to announce updates we have made to the Master of Science in Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE MS) curriculum, effective Autumn 2014. We have added many new courses in design and engineering to our MS curriculum in the last few years to make this new curriculum possible. We are also in the process of revising our Bachelor’s curriculum, with a projected launch date of Autumn 2015.

The HCDE MS Task Force (Committee Chair: Jan Spyridakis; Members: Gary Hsieh, Julie Kientz, Lauren Witt, Mark Zachry) sought advice from students, alumni, faculty, Professional Graduate Programs Advisory Board members, and Corporate Affiliates Program members. The Task Force considered feedback from all constituents and their experiences in industry, as well as requirements for the jobs that HCDE graduates obtain.

The Department has added numerous courses within the last few years to enhance the study of design and engineering, adding to the already rich set of courses that focus on user research methods. Additionally we have added courses on business strategies and ventures, and a required capstone project course.

**DESIGN**

- **Visual Communication**: provides an introduction to visual design principles as well as a systematic and critical understanding of visual communication components.
- **Information Visualization**: focuses on the design and presentation of complex information using graphics, animation, sound, visualization software, and hypermedia to enhance comprehension and analysis.
- **Interaction Design & Prototyping**: students gain expertise in design, development, and critique of solutions in online and mobile platforms, examining topics such as interaction theory, requirements and specifications, design language, and prototyping.

**ENGINEERING**

- **Computational Concepts in HCDE**: students explore basic computational concepts and programming skills needed to work with interactive systems in HCDE, drawing on topics such as log analysis, visualization, prototyping, and data mining.
- **Web Design Studio**: students learn principles and practices of professional website design and programming, gaining hands-on experience with designing and building a successful website using industry standard techniques.
- **Physical Computing and Prototyping**: students use electronic devices and fabrication tools to design and prototype interactive systems, including software and hardware components.

**BUSINESS**

- **HCDE in Organizational Contexts**: students learn how to incubate and develop an idea, manage a design project from start to finish, collaborate across disciplines, effectively translate stakeholder needs, work with partners and end-users, and communicate strategies for project management in organizations.
- **Designing a Human-Centered Venture**: students explore how to plan a new venture, examining topics such as team formation, user and market research, value creation, and iterative demand planning.

Thank you for your continued support of HCDE. As alumni when you refer students back to our program, you can be confident that our new curriculum will help students succeed in today’s job market and preserve the value of your degree.

Jan Spyridakis
Department Chair and Professor
Human Centered Design & Engineering

Help Build the David Farkas Endowment Fund
Support Undergraduate Students with Financial Need

“ I’ve always been a teacher first. Through the endowment I can still make a contribution to educating students, even though I won’t be in the classroom every day.”

- David Farkas
HCDE alumnus and good friend James Prekeges will match all donations made to the David Farkas Endowment Fund up to $15,000.
Please help us make our $15,000 goal by June 2014!
Your contribution honors Professor Emeritus David Farkas’s legacy and supports students with financial need.

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Discovery. It’s the Washington Way.

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