The Perch —
A newsletter from Savas Labs
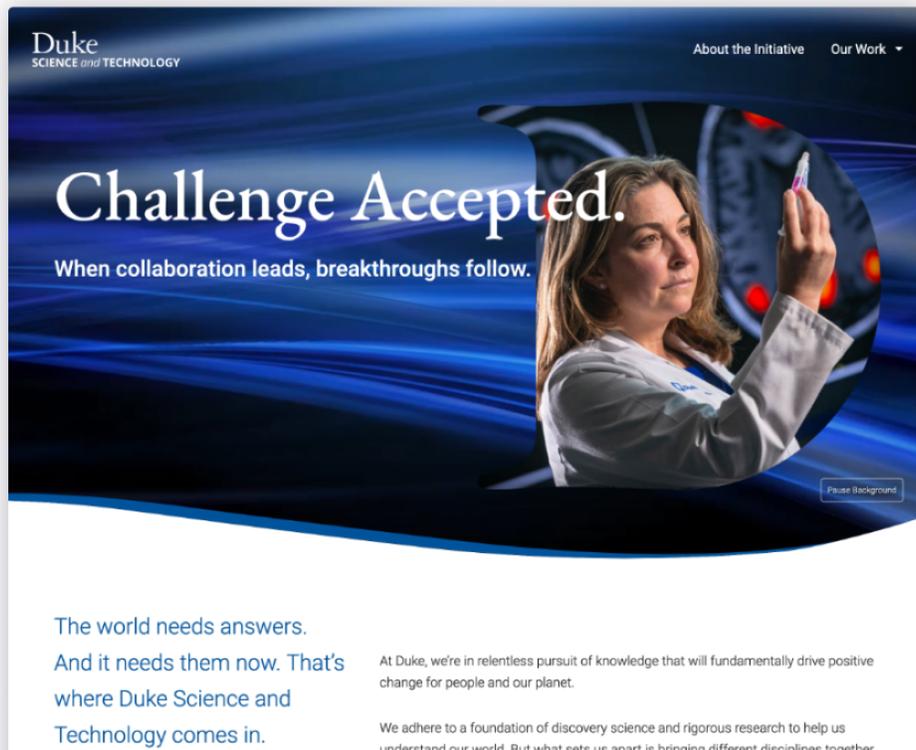
#15
April 2021

THIS MONTH —

Design Tools We ♥

For a long time, designers were beholden to a cadre of programs to get their work done. We used to rely on Photoshop, Illustrator, and other Adobe tools; that's no longer the case. A plethora of new applications, by prioritizing the designer's experience, have opened the door for viable alternatives. Our primary design tool of choice is Figma, which continues to **expand features** at a pace that has us changing the way we approach our work. Beyond visual design, places like a blank Google Doc or Notion page are where we typically first organize our design thinking. We recently delivered our first Webflow project (another tool we ♥), and it's got us strategizing about what that means for our design and development capabilities for future projects.

It's an exciting time to be a digital designer; the landscape is rich with options, and new tools are hitting the web every day. We've highlighted a few of our new favorites down below.

💪 Featured work —

Hot off the press: an engaging and innovative site to showcase the science and technology work happening at Duke. Utilizing custom-built blocks combined with standard WordPress features, we delivered an elegant site that provides a platform to establish a new gift-giving initiative that will grow in the years to come. Check out **the site** and read more about our process in our case study.

Read the case study →

⭐ The more you know —

Modern Web Content Architecture: Part 2 →

Savasians Madeline and Devan continue their series about modern web architecture with a closer look at monolithic CMS pros and cons.

Madeline Streilein and Devan Chase, Savas Labs

Coming Together at Config 2021 →

Figma had a big week. If you missed attending Config, don't worry — here's a wrap of all the cool new tools.

Dylan Field, Figma

The Component Gallery →

Take it straight from our #design channel: *"my mouth dropped open."*

Iain Bean, The Component Gallery

Contrast Checker →

A tool that notes the level of contrast of text on an object *and* the object on a background at the same time.

Dave House and Nick Colley, GOV.UK Design System

Gradient Generator →

Say no more to gray gradients.
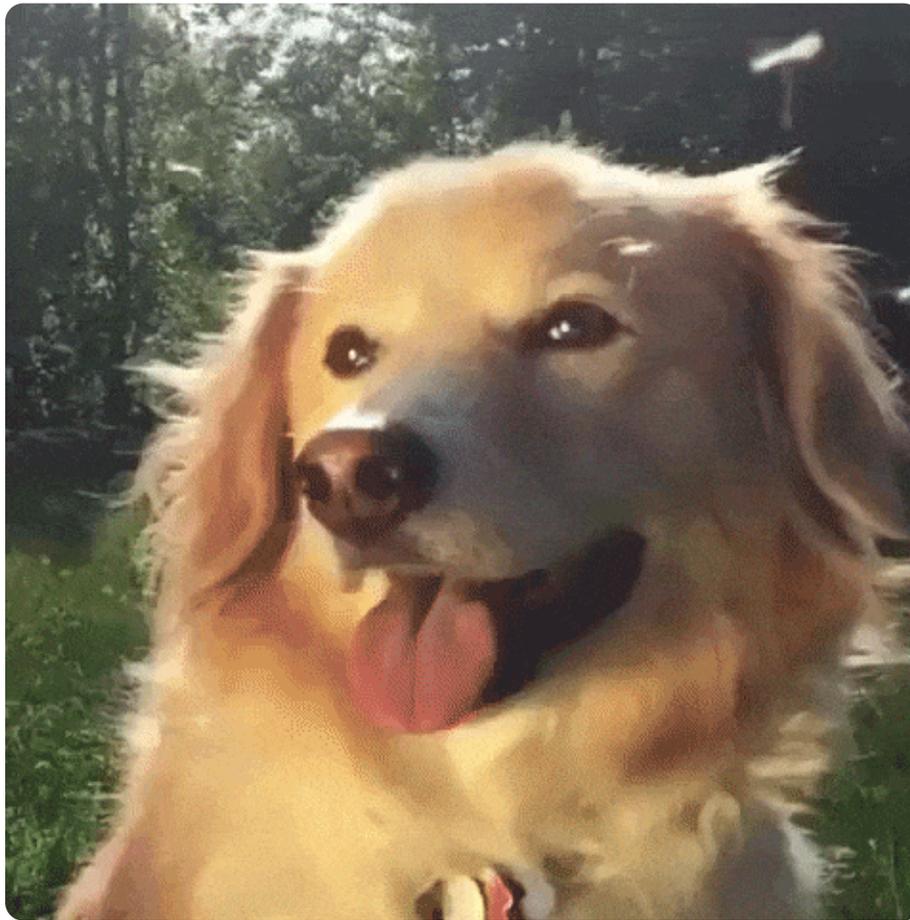
Erik Kennedy, Learn UI Design

📣 Client shoutout —

A shoutout to the **IMPAACT Network**, a global organization that operates clinical trials with the goal of ending the worldwide HIV epidemic among vulnerable populations. Last year, we helped redesign and launch a total rebuild of their website to increase usability for both their content creators and users, communicate their purpose, provide resources for their researchers and community of participants, and reflect their new brand.

Read about the project →

🎉 And now, a GIF —

You'll definitely catch us with our noses to the warm breeze.

😀 Join the team —

We're hiring for a Senior UX Designer/Product Strategist, Digital Project Manager, Full-stack JavaScript Engineer, Business Development Coordinator, and Growth Manager/Director. Please help us spread the word about new opportunities at Savas!

See open positions →

We may already be over a quarter through 2021, but it's not too late to support the Urban Ministry of Durham at **brighter2021.com**. Help us close out our last few wishes and pay forward the goodwill.

Make a wish →

Website→   **Twitter→**   **Linkedin→**   **Github→**   **Instagram→**

We design and build digital products.

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