Abstract:
The Monarch Butterfly takes on an epic migration journey from as far north of Canada to a very specific region of Mexico. Along the way, this fascinating creature faces various conflicts of great magnitude: physically, geologically, politically, agriculturally, and environmentally. Digital Production Arts students and Dr. Donar are engaging in creative research that will explore these important issues within the context of conceptual, educational and artistic themes. He will shed light on the challenges that his students face in developing such a creative project that combines the technical with the artistic and conceptual learning that makes our program unique with in the academic world. This research project involves important university partnerships with the Cherry Farm Insectary and the South Carolina Botanical Gardens Educational Center where our students are able to explore and apply creative and scientific research to inform, guide and inspire our animation projects.

Bio:
David Donar is an associate professor teaching animation, story and design in the Digital Production Arts program at Clemson University. His art career spans many different venues, industry, and medium. He started out as a political cartoonist in college. His political cartoons/animations have been published in the NY Times, CNN, Wall Street Journal, and the Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year. Along with his political work, his films have been aired on MTV, PBS, and the Independent Film Channel, and screened in festivals throughout the world, most recently, at the Brooklyn Museum of Art. His professional experiences include Disney Interactive/TV, Cartoon Network, Nickelodeon, and Mondo Media. He is an alumnus of Cal Arts (Los Angeles) and prior to Clemson, a professor at Sheridan Institute of Animation Applied Arts program in Toronto, Canada.