School of Data Science
UNC CHARLOTTE

FACULTY
NEWSLETTER

UNC CHARLOTTE
School of Data Science

SDS Faculty,

Welcome to the Spring semester. It is both the same and different this semester. We still are online, yet there is a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel. One of the biggest feedback items from students this fall is that students really appreciate your recording and posting your lectures/sessions. Keep watching your email for announcements on vaccine rollout if you would like to get one. We are part of Group 3, which should be the next group eligible.

I hope your courses have started well and you are able to engage your students in meaningful ways. Let me know if I can help with any issues that arise. On the positive side, SDS has celebrated it's one year anniversary! It has been a strange but good year for SDS. More on this later as I finish my self assessment and send it to you. Harish Cherukuri will be leading the faculty review of my performance. I appreciate any feedback that you are willing to provide. Harish will coordinate with you over the next couple months.

We also have great things going on this semester: Our Women in Data Science conference at the beginning of March and our Analytics Frontiers plan for the end of April. Several faculty have arranged some additional fantastic speakers so watch the upcoming events page for registration details including two in February. In addition, we will have a seed grant process for summer funding later this semester. We didn't allocate all the funds this Spring, so I'm hoping you will consider submitting something for the summer. We have allocated $60k which is 3x the Spring amount so watch for this opportunity that Dongsong Zhang is leading for us.

One more topic that impacts you is that this is the first year with your joint and affiliate appointments. Just FYI, I'm working with your Colleges and Department Chairs to include your contributions to SDS in your annual review. More information on this soon, but let's just say I'm not expecting it to be perfectly smooth so your help and feedback will be greatly appreciated on this process.

Thanks for being part of SDS!

Best,

Doug Hague, Executive Director, SDS.

IMPORTANT UPDATES

WiDS Charlotte Conference: Call For Proposals

The School of Data Science is honored to once again host**Charlotte's Women in Data Science (WiDS) Conference** on *March 4th - 5th, 2021.*

This year, the conference will be a two-day event, complete with two keynote speakers, panel discussions, and a series of breakout sessions, featuring

industry and academic experts from across the region, highlighting groundbreaking research, innovative industry solutions, and more.

We are currently searching for *female* industry thought leaders to share their expert knowledge as speakers for the 2021 WiDS conference.

Broad topic areas can include:
- Career & Professional Development (Salary Negotiation, Interview Success, Diversifying the STEM field, etc.)
- Applied Research: NLP and Social Media
- Machine Learning and AI in the Cloud
- Applied Research: NLP and Social Media
- Applied Research: Data Visualization
- Hands-on Training (AWS, Tableau, TensorFlow, SAS, etc.)

Those interested in participating in the WiDS Charlotte conference as a presenter must submit a formal proposal. All proposals must be submitted as a PDF to **Analyticsfrontiers@uncc.edu** by ***Thursday, February 11th, 2021.***

Learn More Here

In Case You Missed It: SDS Webinar Recordings

With the transition to virtual events, the School of Data Science has worked hard to ensure that SDS students, faculty, staff and the community have access to as many recordings of our virtual events as possible.

We will be updating the SDS Youtube channel weekly to provide you with updated content. The following videos can be found on the channel:

- **SDS Fall Webinar Series**
  - **What is Knowledge Production? Racism and Research in the Academy with Dr. Lewis Gordon**
  - **NEW: A Conversation with Dr. Ruha Benjamin: Anti-Blackness, Bias, Surveillance and Carceral Technology**
  - **Data Science In The Fight For Civil Liberties with Lucia Tian**
  - **NEW: Data Analytics In The Intelligence Community Panel Discussion**
- **Wednesday Seminar Series**
  - **Cloud Wars: The Transformative Impact of AWS, Azure and GCP Cloud Platforms**
  - **Five Years Out, Reflections on Careers in Health Informatics and Analytics**
  - **NEW: A Day In The Life Of A Data Scientist**
  - **NEW: Navigating Resumes and Interviews During a Pandemic**

NEW Atkins Library Database - Statista
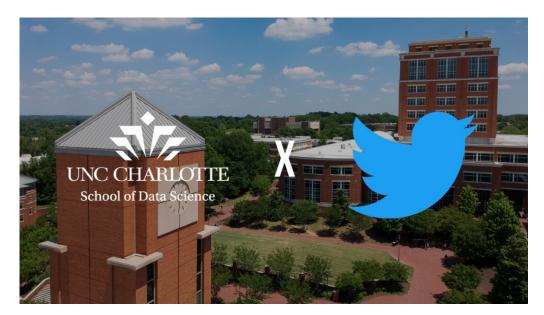

Atkins Library has created a new, public statistics database for UNC Charlotte faculty and students, through the platform, **Statista.**

While Statista has an international business focus, other topics are available such as health, social sciences and opinion polls.

Please note: A ninernet login is required if you're off-campus but automatically pops up when the link is clicked.

Explore The Database

SDS Research Website Tab - Twitter Data

The School of Data Science has created a webpage under the**research tab**, on it's partnership with Twitter.

UNC Charlotte's School of Data Science is one of the first institutions of its kind to develop a formal relationship with Twitter for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining volumes of social media generated data sufficient for research. We remain, in many ways, a model for others.

Explore the page to discover available types of twitter data and how to request resources.

Learn More Here

SDS Researchers Ranked In Stanford University Study

A study conducted by Stanford University recognized four faculty members from UNC Charlotte's School of Data Science (SDS) in the top two percent of the world's most cited researchers.

Congratulations to the following SDS faculty members:

- **Dongsong Zhang:** Director of Research, the School of Data Science; Distinguished professor, Belk College of Business

- **Jean-Claude Thill:** Affiliate professor, the School of Data Science and the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- **Lina Zhou:** Affiliate professor, the School of Data Science and the Belk College of Business

- **Mary Lou Maher:** Affiliate faculty member, the School of Data Science; Professor, the College of Computing and Informatics

Click below to learn more about the study, and to the view entire list.

Read More Here

SDS Faculty Members Featured On Charlotte Business Buzz Podcast

SDS affiliate faculty members, **Jean-Claude Thill** and **Rajib Paul**, were featured as guests on season two of the Charlotte Business Buzz podcast, created by the Belk College of Business.

During the episode, Thill and Paul discussed their recent **COVID-19 dashboard project**.

Click below to discover four key takeaways from the episode, and to listen to the podcast.

Read More Here

Analytics and Big Data Society - Signature Series Panel Discussion

When: Wednesday, February 3rd, noon - 1 p.m.

Tech Talent is in demand – especially in Charlotte. Since 2010, the Charlotte Region has emerged as a leader in tech growth. As companies across all industries have scaled up their analytics, user experience and software development teams, the Charlotte Region has nearly doubled its tech talent pool.

To get a better view of the region's tech talent growth, the City of Charlotte, Charlotte Regional Business Alliance and Slalom commissioned a deep-dive study of talent in the sector.

Join us on February 3rd as we cover study results and discuss strategies for continuing to grow the region's tech scene.

Speakers:
- Alyssa Brown, Business Recruitment Project Manager, City of Charlotte
- Emily Cantrell, Talent Development Senior Manager, City of Charlotte
- Rob Horton, Chief Marketing Officer, Charlotte Regional Business Alliance

- Chuck McShane, SVP Research, Charlotte Regional Business Alliance

Register Here

SDS Wednesday Seminar: US Army Research Lab Information Session

When: Wednesday, February 10th, 4 - 5 p.m.

Join UNC Charlotte's School of Data Science for an information session with the Information Sciences Division of the U.S. Army Research Lab, featuring Dr. Stephen Russel

Register Here

Wednesday Seminar: Sustainable and Affordable Mobility For the World

When: Wednesday, February 17th, 6 - 7 p.m.

Join UNC Charlotte's School of Data Science and Dr. Christopher Borroni-Bird for a conversation on sustainable and affordable mobility for all the world's people.

Register Here

WiDS Charlotte Virtual Conference

When: March 4th - 5th, 2021

In response to the current COVID-19 restrictions on large face-to-face gatherings, the 4th annual Women in Data Science (WiDS) Charlotte Conference will be held virtually on *March 4th-5th, 2021.*

With the flexibility of a virtual environment, WiDS Charlotte 2021 will be held over multiple days (March 4th - 5th), granting the opportunity to host an even

larger number of attendees than our traditional conference space could support.

Register Here

AMMI Conference

When: April 15 – 16, 2021

Join Carolina Health Informatics Program's (CHIP) virtual Analytics and Machine-Learning in Maternal-Health Intervention (AMMI) conference on April 15 – 16, 2021.

The AMMI conference will provide a unique and much needed platform for multi-disciplinary researchers from maternal health, machine learning, informatics, and medical imaging on topics related to prenatal health.

This innovative virtual symposium will include keynote speakers, panel discussions, student poster sessions, and networking opportunities with the leading industry and academic researchers in machine learning and maternal health.

Lean More And Register Here

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