CHARLOTTE
SCHOOL OF DATA SCIENCE

FACULTY
NEWSLETTER

Note From Executive Director, Doug Hague

Thanks to everyone who was able to attend the faculty meeting earlier in September. We received great feedback and learned how to manage when we don't have a quorum available vote on issues within the School. See Duan's notes below about the election. Thanks to all who volunteered to serve in both elected and nominated positions. The School has the additional complexity of balancing between the colleges so we appreciate your patience and diligence as we work through everything.

Lots of items below that are of interest so I hope you take the time to read through. We are still meeting at the Golden Owl each Thursday if you'd like to join. We typically arrive between 4:30 and 5:00 and are there until around 5:30-6:00.

One final thing. The Bookstore wants you to let them know what books/materials are required for your courses next semester. Please make sure to complete this even to say nothing is required. This keeps your chairs and me from getting notes to remind you to complete it.

Lots of good things are going on in our committees, but I'll let them discuss

below.

-Doug

Faculty Governance

As was sent in an email earlier, we have completed our first faculty vote! Full results here. By-laws are here, we will work to get these onto the website soon. Congratulations to Duan, Wlodek, Rajib and Sunil and thanks for your willingness to serve. And thanks to all of you for providing service to SDS (Table of SDS Committees).

Program News and Updates

Welcome Lindsay Lennon, SDS Communications and Events Manager
We are pleased to announce the addition of Lindsay Lennon to the SDS team. She started this week and will take over communications, marketing for the School and academic programs as well as coordinating special events like the Women in Data Science and Analytics Frontiers conferences this spring. Prior to coming to UNC Charlotte Lindsay was a Program Manager for the Yale School of Management. She holds a BA in Marketing and Entrepreneurship form Central Connecticut State University.

Welcome Back to Carly Mahedy, SDS Director of Student Services
Carly Mahedy returned from maternity leave (Welcome to the

world Fletcher Mahedy!) last week. We are excited to have her back supporting the SDS undergraduate and graduate programs!

Appreciation for Brenda Bradrick, Interim Adviser
Sincere thanks to Brenda Bradrick who stepped in while Carly was out of the office. Those of you who have had the opportunity to work with Brenda know that she brings a level of professionalism and commitment to her work that is not easily matched. She has been a tireless advocate for our students and the School. On behalf of the School we extend our heartfelt appreciation. Thank you Brenda!

Research, Training, and Data Resources: AWS Training for Faculty

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

The School of Data Science has invited Amazon Web Services to offer beginner and advanced workshops targeted specifically for faculty interested in using **AWS Academy** in their classrooms. Bridging the gap between industry and academia, AWS Academy is a free, ready-to-teach cloud computing curriculum that prepares students to pursue industry-recognized certifications and in-demand cloud jobs. This session will provide an overview of AWS Academy. AWS will offer two workshops for on October 12th:

Introduction to AWS Academy
Tuesday, October 12th, 10:00-11:00 AM - **Register Here**
This session will provide an introduction to AWS and an overview of AWS Academy for the classroom.
Presenters:
Lindsay Hopkins, Sr. Program Manager, AWS Education-to-Workforce
Dr. Monica Beane, Program Manager, AWS Education-to-Workforce
Matt Heffernan, Technical Program Manager, AWS T&C Educational Program

UNC Charlotte - AWS Academy Deep Dive (Advanced)
Tuesday, October 12th, 1:00 – 2:30 PM - **Register Here**
This session will provide a deeper dive into AWS Academy components and learner lab constructs.
Presenters:
Lindsay Hopkins, Sr. Program Manager, AWS Education-to-Workforce
Dr. Monica Beane, Program Manager, AWS Education-to-Workforce
Matt Heffernan, Technical Program Manager, AWS T&C Educational Program

---

SDS Bootcamps: Relaunched for Fall 2021

BOOTCAMP COURSES

- INTRODUCTION TO PYTHON FOR DATA SCIENE
- INTRODUCTION TO R FOR DATA SCIENCE
- OVERVIEW OF STATISTICS FOR DATA SCIENCE

All three of the current SDS boot camps (Python, Statistics, and Introduction to R) were reviewed this spring. Registration for the Fall Semester SDS Boot Camps will open for students on Monday, August 2nd. These training modules are open to all students actively enrolled in the DSBA or HIA programs. These online courses were created as a free resource for students. They are intended to be utilized as introductory or foundational review tools. **Please share this with your students**. More information about the courses can be found here:

SDS Bootcamps

Students currently enrolled in the Fall 2021 sections must complete the bootcamp by Tuesday, December 7, 2021.

Career Center Offers Free Professional Headshots for Faculty and Students

Give your professional image a boost on LinkedIn with a headshot. Having a professional headshot gives strength to your personal brand. There's no charge for the headshot program, and it is open to all current UNC Charlotte students, faculty/staff, and alumni.

UNIVERSITY CAREER CENTER

Learn More Here

AI for Good Foundation Curriculum and Datasets

The AI for Good Foundation has **just released its initial Launchpad curriculum that is available for faculty use.** They are focused on the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals and are building datasets for curriculum use at universities. They have **provided documents here and here**. **Feel free to review and use**. Please let Doug Hague know if you have feedback or further requests about the materials.

CDC Announces a New Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics

The Center will bring together next-generation public health data, expert disease modelers, public health emergency responders, and high-quality communications, to meet the needs of decision-makers.

Learn More Here

South Big Data Hub- Engagement Opportunities

The South Big Data Innovation Hub is a research coordination network that catalyzes and strengthens public-private partnerships to apply data science and analytics to scientific, societal and economic challenges important to the region and the nation. The South Hub is one of a network of four hubs across the country, launched by the National Science Foundation in partnership with our host institutions. **The Hub offers several education, training, funding (seed grants), and speaking opportunities to its community every year.**

Learn More Here

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Compliance Research

SDS is in discussion with the Office of Disability Services, OneIT, Campus Facilities and others to explore/design possible data-driven efforts to, for example, identify physical areas of campus which may not be ADA compliant/accessible.

If you would like to participate in this dialog, please reach out to Rick Hudson (**rhudson@uncc.edu**), SDS Project Manager.

Army - HBCU/MI Faculty Immersion Program

The U.S. Army has launched a new initiative titled: Army - HBCU/MI Faculty Immersion Program. **The purpose** of this program, to be executed under the authority 10 U.S.C. 2362, is to **foster collaboration, enhance research capabilities, and encourage participation in the programs and activities of the Department of Defense by covered educational institutions.** The concept is a **two-year program executed in three phases**. **Phase One** places an HBCU/MI junior faculty in an Army laboratory for a minimum of ten consecutive weeks for training and collaboration with Army in-house researchers. Phase Two places the HBCU/MI junior faculty member at an R-1 Institute of Higher Education (IHE) for a semester of training and experience working with Army and the R-1 IHE researchers. **Phase Two** also includes the further development of an Army-relevant research proposal for continuing research into phase three of the program. **Phase Three** entails eighteen months conducting the proposed research at the junior faculty member's home institution (i.e., the HBCU/MI) with continued collaboration with Army and R-1 IHE teammates. The Army is seeking applicants with junior faculty members who are currently performing research in the field of artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML).

The opportunity has been announced via Special Notice in www.grants.gov under FOA: W911NF-19-S-0013. The Special Notice includes a list of past and current Army-sponsored R-1 IHEs for HBCU/MI participants to consider as long-term teammates.

Intelligence Community Center of Academic Excellence (IC-CAE)

Charlotte's Intelligence Community Center of Academic Excellence (IC-CAE) is planning an exercise for students slated for the end of the fall semester. As currently envisioned, the event will consist of a role-playing exercise during which students filling the roles of intelligence analysts will be presented with a dynamic scenario over the course of several hours. At various points during the exercise, students will brief their findings and assessments to participants playing the roles of intelligence consumers and policymakers.

SDS Collaboration with the Coral Restoration Foundation

The Computer Vision class is facilitating a student team project supported by data provided by the Coral Restoration Foundation (CRF) of Key Largo, FL. Using photomosaic data provided by CRF, students are exploring the application of machine learning approaches towards automating the extraction of data from imagery. The objective is to extract information describing the growth of corals in areas where the foundation is working to seed reefs.

The Knowledge Discovery in Databases class is also exploring other CRF data holdings.

National Artificial Intelligence Advisory Committee (NAIAC) (*From informs*)

Today, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce issued a**press release** and posted a **Federal Register Notice** (FRN) (86 FR 50326) requesting nominations for the **National Artificial Intelligence Advisory Committee** (NAIAC). As outlined in the **National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020**, the NAIAC will advise the President and the **National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Office** on a number of topics as they relate to artificial intelligence (AI). The NAIAC will also form a subcommittee focused on AI and Law Enforcement, which will produce findings and recommendations on this topic.
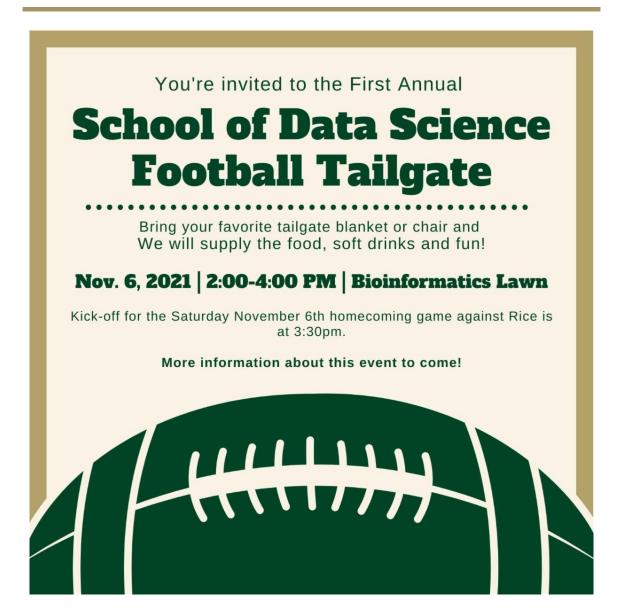
The NAIAC will consist of expert leaders from a broad and interdisciplinary range of AI-relevant disciplines from across **https://www.ai.gov/naiac/** academia, industry, nonprofits and civil society, and federal laboratories, including those from underrepresented communities. These experts will be qualified to provide advice and information on science and technology research, development, ethics, standards, education, fairness, civil rights implications, technology transfer, commercial application, security, and economic competitiveness related to AI.

Nominations are being accepted until 5PM ET on October 25, 2021, via the process outlined in the FRN. Please refer to the FRN for more details on the expectations for the NAIAC. We encourage you to share this opportunity widely with your colleagues who may be interested in either serving on, or nominating someone for, the NAIAC.

SDS Thursday Social at The Golden Owl
Thursday 4:30-6:00 pm

Every Thursday, the SDS hosts an informal gathering for faculty and staff to talk and share ideas and insights. The Golden Owl is located in the UNC Charlotte Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. Please join us!

You're invited to the First Annual

School of Data Science Football Tailgate

Bring your favorite tailgate blanket or chair and
We will supply the food, soft drinks and fun!

Nov. 6, 2021 | 2:00-4:00 PM | Bioinformatics Lawn

Kick-off for the Saturday November 6th homecoming game against Rice is at 3:30pm.

More information about this event to come!

ADSA Annual Meeting
November 10-12 | Savannah, GA

Registration is now open for the ADSA Annual Meeting, taking place **November 10-12 in Savannah, GA** with a virtual option. We understand there is still some uncertainty surrounding Covid and possible travel restrictions. Please know the health and safety of our community is our top priority. We will be following Savannah's local mandates as well as the CDC guidelines, which may require masks at all times while inside. If in the unfortunate event we are forced to cancel part or all of the meeting, we will be offering refunds.

Doug Hague is on the planning committee for the conference and is **helping organize a session called "Data science for social impact in university-based programs."** We are members of ADSA and get a **discount** off the registration fee, **so reach out to Doug before you register.**

Register Here

Tentative Dates Set for 2021-2022 SDS Faculty Meetings

We are currently working on the 2021-2022 SDS calendar. We have **identified three tentative dates** for next year's SDS Faculty and Staff meetings. We are planning for only three formal/in-person faculty meetings for the coming academic year.

- **Tuesday, January 11th, 2022, 3:30-5:00 pm**
- **Monday, April 11th, 2022, 3:30-5:00 pm**

We plan to **offer all three on-campus at Alumni House, along with a virtual option**. We will host a reception for faculty after each meeting (5:00-6:00 pm) for those in attendance.

Women in Data Science and Analytics Frontiers - Tentative Dates Announced

SDS is starting the planning process for WiDS 2022 and AFC 2022. Both events will be held in-person and on campus in the new UNC Charlotte Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. Tentative dates:

- Women in Data Science (WiDS) Charlotte Conference: **Monday, February 28, 2022**
- Analytics Frontier Conference: **Thursday, March 31, 2022**

We are **looking for faculty and staff to join the planning committees** for each of these events. If you are interested please reach out to either Doug Hague (dhague@uncc.edu) or Joshua Hertel (jhertel@uncc.edu).

Follow us on social media!

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE | SCHOOL OF DATA SCIENCE