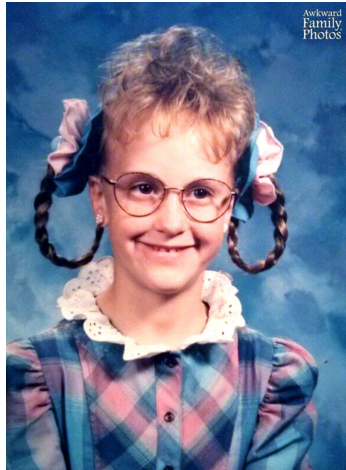CHARLOTTE
SCHOOL OF DATA SCIENCE

FACULTY
NEWSLETTER

Well we are off to a new semester. Lots of things going on including welcoming around 670 students to SDS! The traffic through our offices is much increased over the summer and especially over last Spring. Our first faculty meeting is scheduled for Friday September 15th. I hope to see you there.

We will provide more details later, but a quick preview of faculty meeting is that the PhD proposal and the Sports Analytics BS are launching their second round of approvals; Spring classes are nearly set, student orgs are active, planning has started for our Spring Conferences, several Ignite Center grants with SDS faculty were funded, grants continue to be proposed and awarded, the State budget has been slow coming, but we continue to work to get data science as part of it, a monthly faculty social hour is in the works, etc., etc. etc. Welcome to Fall 2023!

Doug

Updating Biographies- SDS Faculty Website

The SDS is in the process of reviewing and updating the faculty website. If you have not reviewed your entry lately, please do. We welcome updated information- SDS classes taught, changes in assignments, updated headshots. Please send any revisions to Lindsay Lennon (lindsay.lennon@charlotte.edu) SDS Communications and Events Manager.

Liyue Fan wins the NSF Career Award

A Utility Aware Framework for Privately Sharing Individual Level Data
October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2027
Total Intended Award Amount: $574,877.00

Abstract: Individual level data can be collected and shared to benefit a wide range of research studies and exploratory applications. However, most privacy protecting data sharing solutions focus on well-defined aggregate analysis and do not take into account the application's utility goals. Furthermore, current solutions may be limited in addressing the application-specific privacy needs, resulting in overly strong or inadequate privacy protection.

This project develops novel privacy protecting data sharing solutions by incorporating an application's privacy needs and utility goals in one optimization framework. **More info**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SDS Seminars are BACK!

Compass Group- September 11

Compass Group has a current market valuation of $25 billion. This talk will cover Compass Group's data journey, starting with the early days where data science was a novelty, to today, where AI is expected to be ubiquitous. Modern advances in AI represent a revolutionary advance in technology, but our use of it at Compass Group is one of evolution, rather than revolution. Technology doesn't change our core fundamental business, but it does fundamentally change how we go about it.

Connect with the NC Health Informatics Research Community: HI Research Seminars

The Informatics Research Seminar Series is sponsored by Duke University in collaboration with the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (UNC-CH), North Carolina Central University (NCCU, Durham, NC,), University of North Carolina-Charlotte (UNC-C), East Carolina University (ECU, Greenville, NC), and Wake Forest University (WFU, Winston-Salem, NC). This series explores key areas in Health Informatics and includes research results, an overview of programs of research, basic, applied, and evaluative projects, as well as research from varied epistemological stances. The virtual seminars are held ***Wednesdays @ 4:00 pm.***

An Examination of Negligent Design in Healthcare Technology
Wednesday, September 6th @4:00 pm | Virtual

Negligent design is a legal theory stating that a product was designed in such a way it could foreseeably lead to injury. This presentation examines two actual legal cases, a civil and a criminal case, both involving healthcare technologies. Participants will be provided with evidence on the design of technology in each case and asked to determine which case involved negligent design. **Log in and join the conversation.**

AWS Academy Educator Enablement half-day Session

October 6th, 12:00 - 4:00pm (virtual)

AWS is seeking educators to learn more about the AWS Academy program and product roadmap updates, provide feedback to the AWS Academy leadership team, share their experiences, and network with other educators. This session will cover technical deep dives, demos, customer examples, and live Q&A with AWS experts. There will be 30 minute sessions in the agenda for guest speakers (educators like you!) to present an AWS project showcase. The idea is to learn from other educators, get to know the challenges, ideas, use cases on how to explore the

resources that AWS and AWS Academy have to offer to the students. The educator presenting an AWS project will receive a special gift from AWS! Registration is free! **Link to follow.**

The Career Consultant Training Program : UNC Career Center

Wednesday, October 25th | 12:00 - 4:00 PM | Career Center Classroom (Atkins 150)

The Career Consultant Training Program provides faculty and staff with the key strategies and techniques to work with UNC Charlotte students on their career development and management in a consulting role. Learn about common approaches, techniques, and strategies used by career development professionals at UNC Charlotte and across the nation from experts in the field. This program is intended to also provide campus colleagues with professional development to add to their careers and additional training updates to continue their skill development in assisting students. Lunch is provided; space is limited to 35 participants.

- Log into the Learning & Development Portal with your NinerNet credentials
- Click on "Events Calendar"
- Go to October 25th and click on Career Consultant Training Program

REGISTER HERE

AI Health Seminar: Real-world Applications of AI Chatbots with ChatGPT

September 14 at 6 AM ET

Join us for an engaging presentation on the transformative power of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the form of Chatbots. Designed for individuals with little to no experience in using AI Chatbots, this event aims to share valuable insights with a broad community, both at Duke and beyond. Our talk will focus on leveraging ChatGPT, a cutting-edge language model developed by OpenAI, to automate mundane tasks. Stephen Toback, Assistant Director of Academic Media Production and Engineering will showcase real-world applications of ChatGPT, including prompt engineering and refinement, practical implications, and security and privacy considerations. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the fascinating world of AI Chatbots and connect with a vibrant community of innovators, researchers, and enthusiasts. And yes, this description was drafted by ChatGPT! **Register Here.**

IEEE Intelligence and Security Informatics (ISI) 2023

Hilton Charlotte University Place, October 2-3, 2023

This conference is the leading international scientific conference on interdisciplinary research on information technology for intelligence, safety, and security. Over the years, the conference has evolved from its traditional orientation of intelligence and security domain towards a more integrated alignment of multiple domains, including technology, humans, organization, and security. The scientific community has increasingly recognized the need to address intelligence and security threats by understanding the interrelationships between these different components, and by integrating recent advances from different domains.

MORE INFO

Women in Statistics and Data Science Conference

Bellevue, WA | October 25 - 27

The 2023 Women in Statistics and Data Science Conference aims to bring together hundreds of statistical practitioners and data scientists. The conference will highlight the achievements and career interests of women in statistics and data science. Senior, mid-level, and junior stars representing industrial, academic, and government communities will unite to present their life's work and share their perspectives on the role of women in today's statistics and data science fields.

LEARN MORE

2023 ADSA Annual Meeting

San Antonio, TX | October 24 - 27

The ADSA Annual Meeting convenes data science methodologists and domain researchers from all disciplines and career stages to share breakthroughs and state-of-the-art approaches in data science research and education, with a strong emphasis on responsible data science. If you are interested in volunteering during the meeting, ADSA is **seeking volunteers to serve as poster judges**. It will only require about an hour of time and make a meaningful impact on the community. **Learn more on their website.**

Important Dates

Find the full **SDS Calendar of Events** on the program website

- **September 15, 2023:** Early Alert Deadline
- **September 22, 2023:** Deadline to apply for December 2023 Graduation*

Spring 2024 OUR Research Scholars Program

<u>Attention SDS Faculty</u>: Are you looking to engage undergraduates on a research, scholarly, or creative project? Have you thought about how an undergraduate student can help your scholarly research program? Have you had students asking you questions that would be interesting to further investigate? Are you looking to test a new question or try something new? Do you have a need for a student, but not the means? Yes? Yes. or Yes! The Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) can help! The OUR Scholars program can help you find and employ students in collaborative learning through undergraduate research, scholarly and creative activities. OUR is pleased to announce that they are now accepting submissions for faculty project descriptions for the Spring 2024 OUR Research Scholars Program. Ready to submit? The deadline for submission is September 15. This is step one, so please encourage your students to apply for the program. The program is FWS eligible, but not required.

Open Research Funders Group Open Scholarship Seed Awards

Proposals due September 15

Open scholarship can speed up discoveries, close information gaps, and promote reproducibility and innovation. However, it's not evenly distributed. To address this, the ORFG created the Open Scholarship Seed Award to support open scholarship activities within under-resourced contexts. They seek to fund forward-looking activities to encourage community-driven open scholarship initiatives and demonstrate the appetite for deeper open scholarship engagement at Minority Serving Institutions in the United States and academic institutions in countries and territories eligible to receive official development assistance. This award will support activities under the following categories: awareness and community building; capacities; and infrastructure.

LEARN MORE

New NSF Predictive Intelligence for Pandemic Prevention (PIPP) Phase II Centers Program

Launched

Will support fundamental R&D that transforms ability to forecast pandemic-scale events, detect outbreaks early, and respond efficiently.

LEARN MORE

Student RESOURCES

CLT Meet-Up Groups

Looking for ways to connect your students to the larger CLT tech community? Have them join one of the local meet-up groups in Charlotte. If you have specific suggestions that you would like to add to this list- please share them with Josh Hertel (jhertel@charlotte.edu). We will add recommendations in subsequent student newsletters.

- **FLEURIX** - A local non-profit, support women+ in technology by providing affordable and accessible community-driven events. Through thoughtful planning and execution, we seek to grow and diversify the technology sector in Charlotte and beyond. Sign up for their upcoming **Conference on October 19th, 2023.**

- **Women Who Code** is the largest and most active community of engineers dedicated to inspiring women to excel in technology careers. We envision a world where women are representative as technical executives, founders, VCs, board members, and software engineers. Our programs are designed to get you there.

- **Charlotte's R user group** is an opportunity to meet other R users, developers, and enthusiasts of all skill levels interested in discovering and sharing why the R programming language is such a joy to work with.

- **Charlotte Python Meetup** - Meet other Python users, developers, and enthusiasts of all skill levels interested in discovering and sharing why the Python programming language is such a joy to work with.

NC TECH is a not-for-profit, membership-driven trade association and the primary voice of the technology industry in North Carolina. NC TECH's mission is to foster growth and champion innovation in North Carolina's tech sector, while providing a

voice for the tech community. There is an upcoming **Career Fair for students on October 10, 2023.**

Data Science and Health Informatics In The NEWS

These are stories collected from a variety of newsletters and websites:

How new physicians are using ChatGPT:
ChatGPT and other large language models have "tremendous potential to make us better physicians," and clinical trainees should be given the resources to experiment with incorporating LLMs into their daily workflows, write resident physicians and digital health researchers Henry Bair and Mak Djulbegovic and medical student and AI researcher David Taylor Gonzalez. The trio has used ChatGPT to create checklists for working up common presentations, access recommended guidelines managing patient-specific conditions, generate templates for typical clinical scenarios, and draft easily understood discharge summaries. Full story: **MedPage Today (free registration)** (8/28)

Scientists try to solve AI "hallucination" problems
Generative AI chatbots' "hallucinations" are like a 4-year-old producing stories, says Suresh Venkatasubramanian, a professor at Brown University who co-developed the White House's Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights. The problem is that AI chatbots produce false information with absolute confidence, says Jevin West, co-founder of the Center for an Informed Public at the University of Washington, and Venkatasubramanian says developers are working on ways to prevent AI hallucinations. Full Story: CNN (8/29)

VA exec: EHR project is headed in positive direction
Department of Veterans Affairs Chief Information Officer Kurt DelBene says he is cautiously optimistic that the VA's EHR modernization initiative is headed in the right direction after a series of issues led to the pause of the rollout. DelBene says that contract renegotiations will benefit the project and hold Oracle Cerner accountable, but he cautions that changing the health record system is complex. Full Story: FedScoop (8/25)

Sequoia Project to continue as TEFCA coordinator
The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT renewed The Sequoia Project's contract as the recognized coordinating entity for the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement. Full Story: **EHR Intelligence** (8/29)

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