FACULTY NEWSLETTER

We are starting the final stretch of the semester. Thanks for finishing the semester strong. Congratulations to our SDS Seed Grant awardees and for the work they will do over the summer. We had great transdisciplinary proposals to select from. The good news I received today is that the Request for Preliminary Authorizations for both our PhD in Data Science and our BS in Sports Analytics has been cleared to submit to the UNC System office. Our committees are hard at work developing the Requests to Establish for early Fall submissions. I'd also like you to be aware of the UNC System Office request to the NC Legislature. The UNC Charlotte request is for $12M ($6M in recurring and $6M in one time) funding for data science and computer science. One never knows whether this will be funded or not by the Legislature, but this would be a major investment in SDS if this comes through as requested. Hopefully more to come after the state budget is passed.

We are always looking for stories to celebrate. If you have an event, research award, or story idea to share with the SDS community? Please submit ideas to Lindsay Lennon, SDS Communications and Events Manager.

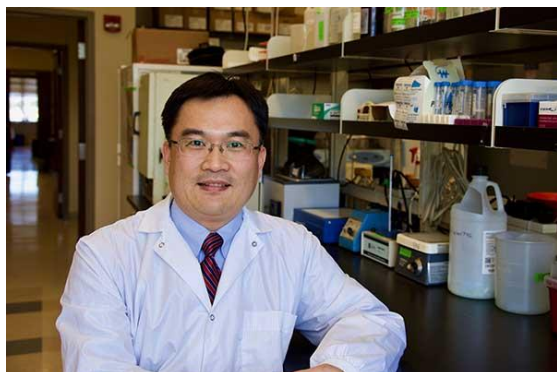## Winner Announced!
Outstanding Data Science Faculty Research Award

Please join us in congratulating Shan Yan on winning this year's Outstanding Data Science Faculty Research Award!

Each year, SDS awards a faculty member for his or her significant achievements in data science research. As this year's winner, Shan will receive a one-time $2,000 research award that can be used to cover any research-related expenses, such as conference travel, data and software purchase, and compensation for study participants.

MORE INFO

EurekAlert! news release: featuring Shan Yan

Shan Yan was also featured in a EurekAlert news article *"Researchers highlight nucleolar DNA damage response in fight against cancer"* last month! The article discusses how his research can fight the war against cancer, which affects millions of people each year.

You can read more **here**.

New Library Database: LandScan Global

The campus library now offers **LandScan Global,** a database that includes

historical global population datasets from 2000-2020. This is valuable for analyzing population trends and demographic changes.

Please note: To access this resource off-campus, you must be connected to the UNCC VPN. Data from 2021 is free!

FAQ
How to Connect

Major Faculty Research Areas in SDS

Six major research areas have been compiled with examples of grants/projects, sample publications, and any faculty currently working on those specific topics. Please refer to this list of research areas as inspiration for collaborative projects.

RESEARCH LIST

Master's Thesis Option for the DSBA MS Program

The DSBA curriculum committee has discussed the introduction of the DSBA Master's thesis option, and we have finalized the following details:

READ MORE

Ramadan is Coming: What you need to know

RAMADAN 2023 IS COMING!!

WHAT SCHOOL FACULTY NEEDS TO KNOW:

Ramadan is the Muslim month of fasting.

Practicing Muslim students will be fasting from dawn until dusk (approx. 6:00am to 8:00pm).

Fasting means NO FOOD and NO WATER.

Ramadan celebration often involves prayers late into the night.

It is not unusual to be up past midnight for prayers and then get up around 5am to eat before dawn and pray.

Ramadan 2023 will last approximately from March 23-April 22. Ramadan is scheduled on the lunar calendar so it moves dates each year.

Muslim students may be tired, hungry, and thirsty in your classes - especially if they are with you late in the afternoon.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SCHOOL OF DATA SCIENCE

A Glimpse into LLM, RL, and ChatGPT with Dr. Shaojian Zhu

Dr. Shaojian Zhu is a Staff Research Engineer at Google. On April 7th at 1pm, he will discuss "A Glimpse into LLM, RL, and ChatGPT" via Zoom.

MORE DETAILS

HIMSS Global Health in Chicago: April 17-21

HIMSS 23 T h e Conference & Exhibition is the most influential health information technology event of the year, where 40,000+ professionals throughout the global health ecosystem meet to build relationships during lively networking events, learn from experts in hot topic education sessions, and discover innovative health tech products to solve their greatest challenges.

NSF Grant Workshop: May 5: In person & virtual

John Szmer and Regina Branton will host the NSF Grant Workshop on 5/5 from 8AM to 5PM, both on campus and virtually. This *free* workshop will be an excellent opportunity to learn about the changes at NSF and to gain critical insight regarding the grant application process! It will feature a series of panels focused on the following topics: meet former directors at NSF, applying for convergence grants, developments regarding interdisciplinary grants, how to secure a dissertation grant, and specifics about Law & Science grants.
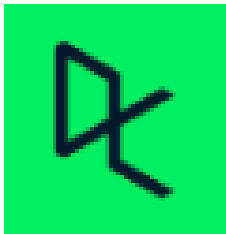
Check out more details HERE!

Important Dates

FACULTY
RESOURCES

Welcome to DataCamp!

The School of Data Science and the College of Computing and Informatics recently signed a trial agreement with DataCamp. All SDS students *actively* enrolled for spring and all SDS faculty should have received an email invitation to create a **free account** with the platform (or join UNCC's platform with their existing account). If you have not seen the invitation please check your spam folder! All SDS students have free access to learning resources on hundreds of topics in the field of data science. Please contact Robert Fox if you have questions about DataCamp.

SAS

Representatives from SAS reached out to the SDS to share with us free SAS professor workshops, and an Academic Programs brochure, which highlights additional resources including free teaching and learning portals, SAS Skill Builder for Students and SAS Educator Portal. Registration for their Summer 2023 SAS Educator Conference at SAS HQ in Cary, NC will open in March. Keep an eye out for more information.

Coursera on Campus

UNC Charlotte is partnering with online open course provider Coursera to offer students free

coursera

access to Grow with Google career certificates. Certificate programs in digital marketing and e-commerce, IT support, data analytics, project management, and UX design will be available to supplement coursework in academic programs as well as give Charlotte students a competitive workforce advantage. More information about the UNC Charlotte partnership can be found **HERE.** Faculty may request access to Coursera's 500 licenses for themselves and their students **HERE.**
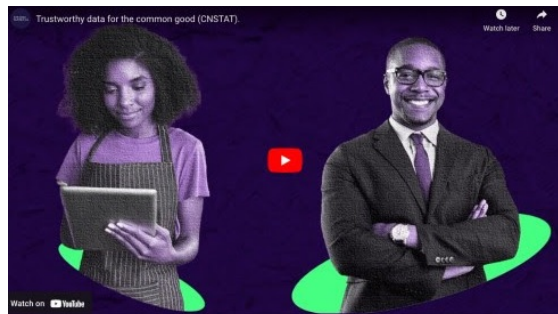
Online Alteryx SparkED Educator Resources

The **SparkED education program** provides you with a free comprehensive teaching and learning program, including a free 1-year renewable education license for Designer software. Alteryx offers several free trainings for faculty to get you started with Designer and present options for incorporating into your class(es) and one Advanced Designer Training to get you started using their Predictive Tools. An email address from a valid educational institution (.edu or regional equivalent) is required to register.

alteryx SPARKED

National Academies New Video: "Trustworthy Data for the Common Good"

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has released a 3 minute video highlighting how people use data to make decisions at home, and in businesses, sources of data and the role of federal statistical agencies, efforts to use data responsibly, and more. This can be a great addition to your next class!

Technology Development & Proof of Concept Fund

Research and Economic Development, through the Office of Research Commercialization and Development, offers proof-of-concept grants for up to $10,000 to support product development and initial testing of new university-owned innovations and technologies with strong commercial potential. Through this program, the university hopes to fill a critical funding gap along the innovation continuum and reduce some of the barriers associated with licensing and commercialization by adding significant value to early-stage innovations. The Technology Development and Proof-of-Concept Fund is managed by UNC Charlotte's Office of Research Commercialization and Development.

Questions regarding the program should be directed here.

Data Science Resource Repository

The Northeast Big Data Innovation Hub (NEBDHub) is proud to announce the relaunch of the Data Science Resource Repository (DSRR) to include over 625 resources. The DSRR is a curated set of resources for data science learners, educators, researchers, and career explorers of all backgrounds and education levels. It is an open-access platform that leverages data science best practices and resources to broadly increase knowledge capacity. The NEBDHub encourages data science community members to submit favorite data science and STEM education and research materials to the DSRR in both English and Spanish.

Student
RESOURCES

Center for Graduate Life and Learning

The mission is to provide a comfortable and safe environment where graduate students and postdoctoral fellows can network and get personal and professional support and development to enhance career success. They offer a place to meet and study, professional development workshops, writing support, and a rich variety of resources tailored for graduate students. The CGLL is located in Atkins, directly across from the Career Center. Stop by and discover the resources available to you.

Spring 2023 SDS Seminars

Our Monday seminars run from 4:00-5:00 pm, in person at CCB, room 501, and feature guest speakers from data science and health analytics who provide real-world insights and perspectives in various career paths. The full schedule with registration links is on our events page. Seminars are held from 4:00 to 5:00 pm, in person at CCB, room 501.

Coming April 10, 2023- Sanjay Srivastava from Genpact, *Making Digital Transformation Work*.

Google Developer Student Clubs

Google Developer Student Clubs (GDSCs) are community groups for college and university students interested in Google developer technologies. By joining a GDSC, students grow their knowledge in a peer-to-peer learning environment and build solutions for local businesses and their communities.

FIND A CHAPTER

SDS Faculty Grant Awards

Grants have recently been awarded to some SDS Faculty members. Please spend some time looking through their recent research projects.

MORE INFORMATION

CDC Announces 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 decision-makers needs.

MORE INFORMATION

NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Education and Mathematics Program

The National Science Foundation currently has a funding opportunity for low-income STEM students. Interested in submitting a proposal?
Email: **Dongsong Zhang**.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA CHARLOTTE | SCHOOL OF DATA SCIENCE

Follow us on social media!