FACULTY NEWSLETTER

Well the semester is about over. Please make sure to submit your grades on time! I hate to have to say this, but there seems to be one person I have to track down each semester. If you are teaching an SDS course and you know you'll be late, please proactively let me know, but it would be great if we had zero, nada, nil late grades this semester.

Having let my inner Scrooge out for a second, let me say thank you to all of you for your contributions to the School. Our PhD program will be submitted to the System this week, the BS in Sports Analytics also goes before we get back into classes. Both of these are the results of tremendous efforts by the committees as well as many others. Your interdisciplinary work together has felt like it got a real boost with the Ignite Centers than many of you are participating in. As Dongsong already sent out, your next ideas can be submitted to the SDS Seed Grant program early next semester. While we are growing and changing, the future looks very bright for SDS. Finish up strong and then have a great holiday break.

-Doug

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) - Several Grants Available

Dongsong Zhang has shared a few NOFO options available to SDS faculty. Their deadlines and focuses vary, but the list with details can be found **here**.

Analytics Frontiers: Call for Presenters

The 2024 Analytics Frontiers Conference will be held uptown at the Charlotte Convention Center on Tuesday, April 16th . Truist Bank returns as the title sponsor for the event. *This is the largest data science conference in the region, attracting more than 500 thought leaders, scientists, and business executives.* Topic ideas include ethics, finance, healthcare, and more.

LEARN MORE

Women in Data Science: Call for Presenters

The 2024 Women in Data Science (WiDS) Conference will be held on March 21 at the UNC Charlotte Marriott Convention Center. We are excited to announce that Lowe's continues as our title sponsor for this event. This annual conference aims to inspire, educate, and engage current and future data scientists in the Carolinas, regardless of gender, and to support women in the field by providing training, networking, and mentoring opportunities. There are several breakout sessions planned throughout the day, and we are accepting speaker proposals on topics such as career development, machine learning and AI in the cloud, and more.

LEARN MORE

Advisory Board Meeting & Reception

Thursday, December 7, 3:30 – 6:00pm

The School of Data Science will host its December board meeting in person. Faculty

and students are invited and encouraged to attend the open networking reception directly after the board meeting from 5:00-6:00 pm in Colvard 1040. Come meet and mingle with the **SDS Advisory Board**. Refreshments will be served.

Save the Date: SDS Faculty Meeting

Friday, January 26, 2024, 1:00-2:00 pm

Please save the date: We have scheduled the next SDS Faculty meeting for January 26th, Location TBD. Please join us for updates on the curriculum, degree proposals, and the next round of SDS Seed Grants.

2023 Outstanding Data Science Junior Faculty AND Faculty Research Awards

Deadline: Midnight, Feb. 15, 2024

This annual faculty research award is aimed to recognize significant achievements in data science research of a core or an affiliate faculty member of the School of Data Science in the calendar year 2023. The winner of this award will receive a one-time $2,000 research stipend that can be used to cover any research-related expenses, such as conference travel, data and software purchases, and compensation for study participants.

Faculty

Junior Faculty

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

National Consortium for Data Science: DataBytes: "Casual AI: The Key to High-Stakes Decision Making"

Tuesday, December 5th l 4 pm l Virtual

Join Christopher Lam, CEO of Epistamai, as he discusses how to use causal AI to build AI systems that society can trust for high-stakes decision-making. Lam will show how causal AI can help bridge the gap between symbolic AI and machine learning, demonstrating the value of integrating human knowledge and reasoning about the world to improve how data is analyzed. His use case will demonstrate how this more human-centric approach to AI can be used to build fairer and more equitable AI systems that are aligned with society's democratic values.

ncds | databytes

**Causal AI:
The Key to High-Stakes
Decision Making**

**Tuesday
December 5**
4 PM ET

Christopher Lam
Epistamai

O N L I N E W E B I N A R

https://bit.ly/NCDS_CasualAIDecisionMaking_Dec5

Register Here

Monday SDS Professional Seminars

The SDS Professional Seminars will resume on Monday, January 22, 2024! Look for the updated spring calendar soon!

Wednesday Health Informatics Research Seminars - @ *4:00 pm- virtual*

Returning in January 2024. All sessions are virtual. More information and a link to the virtual sessions can be found **here**!

2024 Outlook for Tech

February 2, 2024 - UNC Charlotte Marriott Conference Center

NC TECH's annual statewide kick-off event is packed with leading perspectives on trends and innovations shaping technology. This event will include executive panel discussions, a predictions keynote, an innovation briefing, NC TECH's 2024 Preview, the release of the annual 'State of the Technology Industry' Report, a tech expo and more. Outlook includes breakfast and lunch as well as a pre-event reception. Projected attendance is 250+.

LEARN MORE

Commencement 2023

Fall Commencement ceremonies will be held in Halton Arena. The Undergraduate Ceremony for the Bachelors in Data Science will be held on Friday, December 15th at 10:00 a.m. The Graduate Ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 16th at 10:00 a.m. The University has a dedicated website for all things related to graduation ceremonies: **December Commencement Ceremonies.**
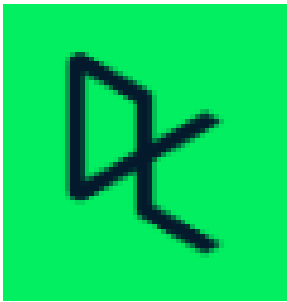
Important Dates

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

- **December 6, 2023:** Last day of classes
- **December 7, 2023:** Reading Day/ SDS Advisory Board Meeting and Reception
- **December 8- December 14th:** Exams
- **December 15, 2023:** Undergraduate Ceremony (CCI and SDS)
- **December 16, 2023:** Graduate Ceremony (HIA and DSBA)
- **December 20, 2023:** Fall 2023 Probation/Suspension notifications
- **December 22, 2023- January 1, 2024:** Winter Break - University Closed

FACULTY
RESOURCES

DataCamp Renewed for 2024

The School of Data Science and the College of Computing and Informatics recently re-upped our agreement with DataCamp. All SDS and CCI students actively enrolled for spring and all SDS faculty can request access to create a free account on the platform (or join UNCC's platform with their existing account). All SDS students have free access to learning resources on hundreds of topics in the field of data science. Students can sign up through their respective websites:

- **Data Science-Undergraduate**
- **Health Informatics- Graduate**
- **Data Science and Business Analytics- Graduate**

Faculty, please contact **Robert Fox** if you have questions about DataCamp.

OpenAI Preparedness Challenge

Submissions due December 31st

To support the safety of highly capable AI systems, OpenAI is developing its approach to catastrophic risk preparedness, including building a Preparedness team and launching a challenge. Their team will offer $25,000 each in API credits to up to 10 top submissions, publish novel ideas and entries, and look for candidates for Preparedness from among the top contenders in this challenge. Responses will be accepted on a rolling basis through the end of the year. **Learn more on their website.**

SOUTHBDHUB

Research
UPDATES

Call for Proposals:
2024 SDS Summer Seed Grant

The purpose of this funding opportunity is aimed to support interdisciplinary research projects, with the hope of fueling the collaborative spirit that already exists within the field of data science. This seed grant provides up to $15,000 per award. The deadline for application is March 1, 2024. Questions can be directed to **Dongsong Zhang.**

MORE INFO

Follow us on social media!

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CHARLOTTE | DATA SCIENCE