CHARLOTTE
SCHOOL OF DATA SCIENCE

# FACULTY
## NEWSLETTER

We are in the home stretch of the semester! I've heard of many great things going on in the classrooms this semester. Just a thanks to those teaching SDS courses this semester. One large announcement that came out recently is an Executive Order on the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence. Buzz from Jason Windett is that this is one of the longest Executive Orders ever published. Link to the full EO **HERE**. Two Centers with SDS faculty are reviewing and determining how to respond (Center for TAIMing AI led by Taufiquar Khan and the Center Humane AI Studies led by Gordon Hull). Feel free to reach out to TK or Gordon to find out more.

As a reminder, we have students in both the BS and MS programs graduating this December. Academic Affairs has gently reminded us that we are expected to attend at least one ceremony per year. If you haven't already, please indicate **via the RSVP form** which ceremony you plan to attend this academic year. I'll be at both the undergraduate ceremony at 10:00 am Friday Dec 15th and the graduate ceremony at 10:00 am on Saturday, Dec 16th.

Congratulations to all who were recognized at the Niner Research Reception. It was great seeing many of your names on the list. I particularly like the list of Collaborative Awards that had many SDS faculty listed!

Finally our final faculty social of the semester is Friday November 17th. I look forward to seeing many of you there for relaxed conversations with snacks and beverages.

-Doug



## SDS Annual Conferences - Call for Presenters for WiDS and AFC

**Women in Data Science: Priority Submission Deadline: November 8th**

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**

**Analytics Frontiers: Priority Submission Deadline for Faculty - February 1**

The 2024 Analytics Frontiers Conference will now 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.

SDS faculty are invited to have first dibs on proposal submissions! Check out our Google Form to submit yours today.

**LEARN MORE**

## Call for Summer School Teaching and Course Offerings

Are you interested in teaching a summer course- for 5 or 10 weeks? We are currently building the summer SDS schedule. Whether an existing DSBA, HCIP, or DTSC class or a new special topics course, please reach out to Josh Hertel with suggestions or questions.

## Save the Date: SDS 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 to attend an open reception directly after the board meeting from 5:00-6:00 pm.

## 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.

## SDS to be Represented at the "Mathematics Education for the Future Project" in 2024

Marco Scipioni, Associate Professor at SDS, will be presenting in Bologna, Italy at the Mathematics Education for the Future Project in August, 2024. He is thrilled that his abstract "Learning Statistics through Ethical Data Science" was accepted last week.



## Monday SDS Professional Seminars

**November 13, 2023: E15 Group: Hospitality Strategy & Analytics**

E15 approaches real-life hospitality problems with an entrepreneurial spirit & strategy/analytics mindset in a variety of sectors including sports & entertainment, education, health care, and business & industry. We plan to introduce how E15 interacts with all phases of driving business decisions through data from the acquisition/storage to the advanced analytics that results in business strategy and consumer behavior predictions. Presented by Carlos Guzman, Sr. Strategy Analyst, Strategy & Analytics E15; Melissa Melnick, Data Scientist; Mark McConnell, Manager, Data Science

*You can find the complete list of fall seminars with the links to register here!*



## Wednesday HI Research Seminars

- **November 8, 2023**: Opportunities and Challenges of Generative Conversational Artificial Intelligence Systems in Health

- **November 15, 2023**: Machine Learning-Based Analytics of the Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Alcohol Consumption Habit Changes Among United States Healthcare Workers

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

## Teaching in the Cloud: Introduction to AWS Academy

**November 15, 2023 - 9:00-10:00 am - virtual**

Email Robert Fox for the invitation and Zoom link.

## Healthcare Finance & Technology Symposium

**December 6-7, 2023 | Charlotte, NC**

The NC Chapter of HIMSS is hosting a two-day event in Charlotte exploring the latest challenges that our health systems are facing, as well as potential solutions. Health systems are large and complex, and often it is difficult for all departments to come together and coordinate plans. The Symposium is structured to allow various disciplines (e.g. finance, information technology, operations, supply chain) to gather better understanding of the widespread issues the entire health system or healthcare provider is facing. Check **here** for more information on other upcoming NCHIMSS events.

**HIMSS**
**NORTH CAROLINA**
**CHAPTER**

## University of South Carolina's National Big Data Health Science Conference

**February 2nd - 3rd 2024**

The 2024 Conference Planning Committee invites you to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations at the 5th Annual National Big Data Health Science Conference. Authors will have the option of publishing their abstract in the 2024 Conference Proceedings (with Biomedical Central, a part of Springer Nature) at no cost. Abstract Submission **Deadline: December 4, 2023**

**SUBMIT ABSTRACT**

## 2024 Outlook for Tech

**February 2, 2024 - UNC Charlotte Marriott Convention 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+.

## 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

- **November 17**: SDS Faculty Social Hour, 3:00 – 4:00 pm, Colvard 1017
- **November 22-25:** Thanksgiving Break - No Classes
- **December 6**: Last day of classes
- **December 7**: Reading Day



SCHOOL OF DATA SCIENCE

# FACULTY RESOURCES

## On Campus Resources: CLT AI Workshop Series

Syllabus and Classroom: Communication on AI Tools

- Nov 16, 10:00am - 11:00am
- Dec 1, 10:00am - 11:00am

Check out AI ACROSS THE CURRICULUM resources **here**!



Faculty Workshops
October 18 - November 17
Generative AI
Canvas Analytics
Canvas Studio

Generative AI & Learning Analytics Made Easy!

CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

teaching.charlotte.edu

Register Now!

# SouthBDHub: Pipeline Grants Competition

**Letters of Inquiry due November 7**

RSF's Pipeline Grants Competition, co-funded with the Economic Mobility and Opportunity program at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, seeks to promote diversity in the social sciences, including racial, ethnic, gender, disciplinary, institutional, and geographic diversity. The competition funds innovative research on economic mobility and access to opportunity in the United States. We are particularly interested in research focused on structural barriers to economic mobility and how individuals, communities and state entities understand, navigate and challenge systemic inequalities. **Learn more on their website.**

# Open Preparedness Challenge

**Submissions due December 31**

To support the safety of highly-capable AI systems, OpenAI is developing their 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.**

# Notice of Special Interest: Advance Data Science Approaches Through Secondary Data Analysis to Reveal Scientific Insights of COVID-19 Testing Technologies

**Submissions due January 5, 2024**

The RADx Initiative drives biomedical innovation, helping our nation rapidly respond to COVID-19 and future pandemics by developing diverse testing technologies and strategies to meet broad demand, while placing particular focus on diverse, vulnerable, and underserved populations. The RADx Data Hub is at the center of the effort, serving as the central repository for researchers to access RADx datasets and analytic tools. On May 15, NIH announced an extension of the NOT-OD-23-040: Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Advance Data Science Approaches Through Secondary Data Analysis to Reveal Scientific Insights of COVID-19 Testing Technologies. This NOSI supports secondary data analysis, addressing questions and advancing scientific inquiry related to SARS-CoV-2 through existing data resources in the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics Data Hub (RADx Data Hub), including and in conjunction with other data resources. **Learn more on their website.**

# Student
## RESOURCES

## Summer 2024 Research Internship at The Allen Institute for AI-  Seattle, WA

**Applications due November 6**

AI2 is seeking passionate, early-career researchers to join us for an internship. Undergraduate, Masters and PhD graduate students in AI-related fields are invited to apply for full-time research internships with us year-round. Applicants should have an interest in natural language processing, machine learning, knowledge representation, semantics, question answering, textual entailment, and/or computer vision. International candidates are welcome to apply. Pay is competitive, and visa sponsorship is available. **Learn more on their website.**

## NC Datathon: Fill Out the Interest Form!
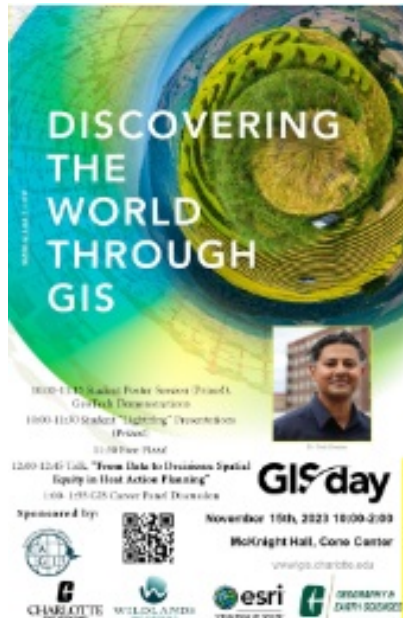
**NORTH CAROLINA EDUCATION DATATHON**

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024

The NC Datathon aims to harness the power of technology and data to create inventive answers for tackling intricate issues. This occasion unites teams led by university students from various parts of North Carolina and tasks them to find a solution for an educational challenge using diverse data sources. The event spans two days (February 8-February 9, 2024) and encompasses keynote speakers, team collaboration time, project presentations, evaluation, and the announcement of winners. Please click **HERE** for more information!

CAGIS, the Center for Advanced Geospatial Information Science, hosts GIS Day on November 15th at McKnight Hall in the Cone Center, starting at 10:00 AM. This event has expanded to engage various departments and centers, with a focus on offering career opportunities and enhancing student engagement, especially within the School of Data Science. It aligns with the GeoSAN mission, highlighting the significance of geotechnologies. **Learn More Here!**



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

### Vaccine skepticism, belief in misinformation growing- From AMIA Informatics SmartBrief

An October survey of more than 1,500 adults in the US found that a larger percentage question vaccines' safety and efficacy than they did in April 2021, and a larger proportion also believe that vaccines can cause autism, cancer, flu or COVID-19. People who rely on mainstream media for news were most likely to trust public health experts, understand vaccination and be vaccinated against COVID-19 than people who rely on other sources for news. Full Story: CNN (11/1)

### Where Charlotte ranks among the 20 top tech metros in the South- From Charlotte Inno

The Charlotte metro ranked seventh for tech employment growth, driven by a 29.8% hike between 2017 and 2021. Another highlight for Charlotte was landing among the top 10 for tech employment density, scoring 6.55 points on that metric. Read more here.

### Health system leaders explore next steps for AI- From AMIA Informatics SmartBrief

AI is primarily used as a tool in health care, but with the advent of generative AI, health systems are transitioning to using AI as an assistant, too, and trying to learn how to direct them and to engineer prompts, says Vincent Liu, a senior research scientist at Kaiser Permanente. "The risk I see is that we didn't get it right for the traditional or regular AI. What are we doing as a community to ensure that our response to generative AI will be better?" said American College of Medical Informatics Fellow Nigam Shah, chief data scientist at Stanford Health Care. Full Story: Healthcare Innovation (10/26)

## ChatGPT vs. BARD (KDnuggets)

Large language models (LLMs) are transforming the way we process and produce information. But, before considering either one of these models as a one-stop-solution, one must consider their key differences. By Roger Brown, Business Development & Strategic Partnerships at Cogito Tech LLC on October 17, 2023 in Language Models

## Washington U. establishes AI for Health Institute - From Amia's Informatics SmartBrief

Washington University in St. Louis has established the AI for Health Institute within the university's School of Engineering. Researchers at the new institute will design AI-based clinical decision support tools and algorithms to support precision medicine and characterize complex diseases in collaboration with researchers at WU's Institute for Informatics, Data Science and Biostatistics. Full Story: Health IT Analytics (10/23)

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