FACULTY
NEWSLETTER

We are nearing mid-term and Spring Break! If you have concerns about students and/or they are not succeeding in your course, please make sure to document this through our various channels (care and concern, midterm grade posting, etc). I hope you get at least a bit of a break and/or some significant research progress over the week.

As a follow-up, last month in this newsletter I discussed the potential for one-time funding and asked for potential research support/funding from faculty. The good news is that we received $225k from the Provost's office. With this funding, I was able to fund every request that the faculty sent to me. One of the larger items we partnered to purchase is a new NVIDIA HGX System with four H100s. This will enable large AI models to be trained in our URC. SDS can designate a few faculty for priority in this system. If you are interested in being one of the priority faculty for this equipment, please let me know. Also, we have $25k in professional development and conference travel funding for items to occur before Jun 15, 2024. Send me your request for support.

-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.

Women in Data Science: Registration Open

March 21, 2024 | UNC Charlotte Marriott

The School of Data Science has had the privilege of hosting the Women in Data Science Conference for several years. With the generous support of our title sponsor Lowes, the event is free and open to students and early career professionals from across the Carolinas. This day-long conference will feature workshops, hands-on training, networking opportunities, and a career fair. The Women in Data Science (WiDS) Conference is part of a global initiative dedicated to mitigating unconscious biases in analytical and predictive models, thereby preventing decisions and designs that may exacerbate inequalities and underserved populations. Moreover, the investment aims to promote economic justice and prosperity for all, effectively addressing workforce talent shortage challenges. **We encourage you and your students to register and attend this year's event.**

Analytics Frontiers: Registration Open

April 16, 2024 | Charlotte Convention Center

Faculty tickets for the Analytics Frontiers Conference (April 16th at the Charlotte Convention Center) are available:

- School of Data Science Faculty/Staff Registration: $49
- UNC Charlotte Faculty/Staff Registration (non -SDS): $149

Speakers and workshops can be found here. Space is limited- Register Today.

LEARN MORE

Have a story to share, an event to highlight, a new grant, or a job posting? Please feel free to share it with us @ **sds-communications@charlotte.edu**

Graduate Student Funding Training/Q&A

Session for Faculty and Staff- *From GPDNET*

March 4, 2024 @ 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Are you wondering about compensation packages, GASP, graduate assistantships or paying for fees? Join a Funding Q&A Session and let the Graduate Admissions funding and assistantships team answer all your questions. These sessions are held on the first and third Mondays of every month. Add to Google Calendar

Monday SDS Professional Seminars

All SDS students and faculty are invited to engage in the Monday SDS Professional Seminars. This is an opportunity to connect with community organizations and industry professionals in person! Please encourage your students to sign up, join in the conversation, and build their professional networks.

Monday, March 4, 2024- No Seminar/Spring Break

Monday, March 11, 2024, 4:00 to 5:00 pm | Dubois Center

Abstract: Think NASCAR is just cars going in circles for hours? Think again! The current composition of NASCAR teams includes engineers, computer programmers and data scientists all dedicated to creating speed with the usage of tools and technologies commonly found in other major technology industries.

- Machine Learning tools to help the team strategize when the best time is for a pit stop? YES!
- Cloud-based computing systems and workflows running 25,000+ vehicle setups for optimization? YES!
- Data analytics reporting to evaluate all aspects of the team and the competition? YES!

The team at LEGACY MC would like to walk you through a typical race week preparation and all the data tools and technology that go into a race-winning effort on the track. **Register here**

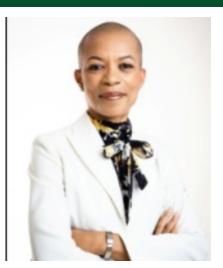# HIA Seminars: The Informatics Research Seminar Series

UNC Charlotte and the School of Data Science are pleased to participate in Duke University's weekly Health Informatics Seminar. The Informatics Research Seminar Series is part of a collaboration with universities across North Carolina. 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 on Wednesdays at 4 PM EST. Coming up in the next two weeks:

- March 6 & 13, 2024 - No Seminars
- March 20, 2024 **- Genomics Segmentation and Blockchains in Healthcare Markets, Sunil Erevelles, PhD, UNC Charlotte**

Checking Boxes in Tech and Engineering Environments

March 12th at 12:00 pm | Lucas Room, Cone Center

Black Research Support Network Event and the CCI Inclusion Committee present Dr. Fay Cobb Payton as she talks about the trajectories of Women of color in tech. Dr. Cobb is currently the visiting scholar and special advisor to the Chancellor's Office on Inclusive Innovation Ecosystems at Rutgers University. You won't want to miss this great experience and networking opportunity.

LEARN MORE

"Defense Technology Showcase" and "Artificial Intelligence Roundtable" from Defense Alliance of NC

March 21 - 8:30am - 4:00pm at UNC Charlotte

Attend a full day of Department of Defense Members, University Professors, Researchers, Industry, Federal & State Government, and members of NC's Defense

Innovation Ecosystem! Full list of speakers can be found at the registration link.

REGISTER

Conversational Systems and AI- LACS Presentation Series with Dr. Manuel Pérez-Quiñones

March 29, 2024, 2:30-3:30 pm

Languages and Cultural Studies has put together an interesting monthly series of seminars on the intersection of AI and languages. The seminars will be held in the Language Resource Center- Mebane Hall 434 . Please join the conversation.

Important Dates

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

- March 1: Summer Seed Grant proposals due
- March 1: Unsatisfactory midterm grades due for Spring 2024 Term by 12:00 pm
- March 4: Fall 2024 Schedule of Classes available on the web
- March 4: Student registration appointment times are available on the web
- March 4-9: Student Spring Recess - No Classes
- **March 18: Last Day to Withdraw from a Full Term Course**

Student
RESOURCES

Inspire Inclusion
An International Women's Day Event

March 15, 2024 | 7:30-11:30 AM
Student Activity Center (SAC) Salons
- UNC Charlotte

Imagine a gender equal world. A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and educated. Collectively we can all #InspireInclusion You will learn:

- Let's talk Inspire Inclusion a fireside chat with a technology leader and Dean Cukic
- How to build an inclusive culture from a C-level panel
- How inclusion impacted career journeys from a technology execs & student panel

REGISTER

Registration is now open for CIC: AMIA's Clinical Informatics Conference

Join the nation's leading informaticians at AMIA's Clinical Informatics Conference in Minneapolis, May 21-23. Hear the latest on the role artificial intelligence can play in healthcare. Learn from thought leaders driving the future of healthcare delivery. Explore practice-ready solutions to make an immediate impact on patient care. Solutions such as reducing clinical documentation and alleviating burden, specifically for those who interact with healthcare data.

UConn Center for mHealth and Social Media

Abstract Deadline: March 25, 2024

The UConn Center for mHealth and Social Media's 8th Annual Virtual Conference will feature keynote speakers and panelists who are leaders in the use of AI to solve health problems and/or advance scientific scholarship. A theme throughout the conference will be novel applications, ethical issues, and best practices of AI as well as implications for training the next generation of healthcare professionals and scientists. We are accepting abstracts for 2-minute flash talk video and 12-minute paper presentations. We welcome abstracts relating to topics in artificial intelligence or any related discipline. We will select six authors to give formal paper presentations with time for Q&A during our conference. Authors selected for our video poster sessions will be asked to create a 2-minute video that generally conveys the study design and findings; presenters will have the opportunity to showcase their work and answer questions in our breakout sessions. More details on our submission page. **Submit Abstract Here**

Cultural Competence in Computing (3C) Fellows-Apply Today

March 1st Deadline for submission

Applications are being accepted to participate in the AIICE (Alliance for Identity Inclusive Computing Education)/Cultural Competence in Computing (3C) Fellows program. STEM departments face longstanding diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) challenges, yet systemic racism and bias remain unaddressed. The Cultural Competence in Computing (3C) Fellows Program offers professional development for faculty, staff, postdocs, and students to understand and address issues like racism, bias, and discrimination. Participants develop inclusive projects to foster equitable academic cultures. This program is open to faculty, staff, post-doctoral candidates, and graduate students. This is a cohort professional development program that will start in February 2025. Detailed information is here and on the FAQ page. **The deadline to apply is March 1st.**

3C | CULTURAL COMPETENCE IN COMPUTING

DEDICATE Training Workshop 2024 - From SouthBDHUB

Applications due May 1, 2024

The DEDICATE Program will build institutional capacity as well as individual faculty capacity in teaching data science at not only historically underserved institutions (HBCUs and HSIs) but also within the interdisciplinary areas (Social Impact Areas) of 1. Criminal Justice 2. Geosciences and Health Disparities 3. Food and Water Systems. To solve some of the biggest challenges to broadening participation in STEM at a systems-level, four problems were identified that are barriers to success: 1) Instructor-designed "projects" not based in research-based pedagogies, 2) Silos of projects across STEM and Non-STEM disciplines, 3) Lack of faculty-centric design, and 4) Lack of systemic-change networks. DEDICATE seeks to support faculty from across the Southern census region of the US and from California, in designing and implementing POGIL curriculum and data-enabled code modules in the social impact areas of 1. Criminal Justice 2. Geosciences and Health Disparities 3. Food and Water Systems. Faculty from these disciplines will be selected from HBCUs and HSIs. February 15, 2024 Registration Opens - May 1, 2024 Registration Closes. **Registration for the Summer Cohort May Be Accessed Here**

Recruitment Event: National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) April 8-10 in Long Beach, California

The School of Data Science will be at this year's NCUR hosted by the Council on Undergraduate Research from April 8-10 in Long Beach, California. NCUR, organized by the Council, promotes undergraduate research across disciplines. It's a chance for graduate programs to connect with over 3,500 undergraduates at the 'Future Fair' to scout potential students.

Contact Carly Mahedy to share materials.

May Faculty Mentor Training Sessions - *From GPDNET*

The Graduate School will offer Mentor Training for graduate faculty May 15, 9:00-4:00, in its second session of the year. The session will be held in the Halton Reading Room. The curriculum comes from the Center for the Improvement of the

Mentored Experience in Research (CIMER) at the University of Wisconsin. It is highly interactive and includes a variety of useful resources and tools. Join the more than 240 faculty members who have already participated in this training. You will leave with tools and best practices to help you effectively mentor graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. Attendance is limited, so please sign up.

Data Science and Health Analytics In The NEWS

From Data Science Current - A monthly newsletter from the Data Science Council of America

Mistral Next: The Latest GPT-4 Competitor from Mistral AI
French AI startup Mistral AI has unveiled its latest prototype language model, "Mistral Next," sparking excitement and curiosity within the tech community. Positioned as a potential competitor to renowned models like GPT-4, Mistral Next promises advanced capabilities and a commitment to ethical conversation. Let's delve into the details of this new release. From Analytics Vidhya, FEBRUARY 23, 2024

How Are Conversational and Generative AI Tools Impacting Communication?
In this contributed article, Nate MacLeitch, CEO of QuickBlox, believes that communication is good; AI-enhanced communication is great. AI's ability to offer services like tone assistance, quick-answer responses, real-time translation, and audio-to-text conversions facilitates collaborative efforts among professionals, patients, and customers, regardless of their background. insideBIGDATA, FEBRUARY 16, 2024

From American Medical Informatics Association's (AMIA) Informatics SmartBrief Newsletter

AI may need to learn to forget - A survey found that nearly one-third of workers have input customer information, financial and sales figures, personally identifying information, and other sensitive data into publicly available generative AI tools, posing security and privacy risks. Some training data may also be inaccurate, outdated, biased, or copyrighted, and machine "unlearning" expert Seth Neel says it's possible to add random noise to obscure private or unwanted information, and he is working on using unlearning to make AI models more robust. Full Story: ZDNet (2/22), Harvard Business School Working Knowledge (2/23)

Data Science Community Newsletter

- **PREDICTING DEFORESTATION BEFORE IT HAPPENS** - A new algorithm, trained on painstakingly created satellit images of forested areas, is now able to predict where deforestation is likely to happen next. Carlos Souza, a senior researcher at Imazon, an NGO building a platform called PrevisIA, spent two years tediously teasing out where the roads were on the satellite images, a task the AI can now handle. Souza explains how important roads are, "If we keep track of the roads, we could potentially anticipate what will be the future deforested areas, because 95% of deforestation is carried out within 5 km of a road," he says.

- **FOLLOW THE MONEY** - A spreadsheet of new data science programs and funding announcements.

Other Newsletters and Resources

- **Medium** - Medium is an open-source online publishing platform where anyone can publish and share insightful perspectives and useful knowledge. It has a wide-ranging offering of topics including: Programming, Data Science, Technology, Self Improvement, Machine Learning, etc. In addition to their website, they also publish a daily e-newsletter.

- **SouthBDHub -** The monthly newsletter contains a listing of news, events, and opportunities in data science, analytics, engineering, and policy. A selection of stories and announcements are below. Subscribe to their Listserv.

RESOURCES, HACKATHONS, AND MEET-UPS FOR STUDENTS

Axe Hacks - One Day Hackathon on Campus | Mar 16, 2024

On March 16, 2024, Girls that Code will be hosting Axe Hacks on UNC Charlotte's campus. Axe Hacks is a one-day hackathon designed to encourage women and beginner-level students to partake in hackathons. All UNC Charlotte students are invited to register. Registration is open now! Please direct any student questions to the Girls Who Code email: girlswhocodeuncc@gmail.com, or you may contact Ashleigh Sico, Student Organization President of Girls that Code at asico@charlotte.edu.

Alteryx Datathon- New York City

This year's Datathon is called Spark Your Interest: Datathon and is held in conjunction with NYC Open Data Week. The theme is about exploring the different challenges that face New York City – from

housing, air quality, SAT scores, water consumption, elections, filming locations; there are so many stories to be told and solutions to be found. The Datathon is open to all students 18 years and over. They don't need prior experience or exposure to data analytics or associated software. The best part is that they get to compete with other learners across the tri-state area, for a chance to win a share in the prize pool totaling $20,000!

- **Alteryx New York City Datathon Event - Alteryx Community** -This Community post is a high-level overview of the event.
- Alteryx 2024 NYC Datathon Round 1 Details - Alteryx Community- This Community post gives you an overview of Round 1 which is the virtual qualifying round and top 75 competitors move on to Round2.

Spark Your Interest: Datathon Registration

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