Spring is finally here and I think many of us are sprinting towards finals and graduation. We will graduate our first undergraduates this May! We also have a new undergraduate student organization working the paperwork to become an official student org. The Association of Data Scientists (the student org) is off and running and has a few people at the NC Education Datathon this week! It is great to see this group of students getting together and charging forward.

Our faculty meeting is next Monday April 11th at the Harris Alumni Center. SDS President Duan Chen is preparing for the elections. It would be best if we can get a quorum of 42 faculty members there. We will have a reception after the meeting with beverages and hors d'oeuvres for about an hour for those that would like to socialize and meet the faculty of SDS! I think we are going to make it with our first in-person meeting after all the virtual meetings. I’m looking forward to hearing about the SDS Seed Grant awardees as well as our inaugural SDS Research Award! Finally thanks to all the faculty that have lined up for summer curriculum projects. If you have an idea, but haven’t brought it forward, please contact Josh.

As far as new faculty, we will have new joint faculty with Philosophy as well as Software & Information Systems starting over the summer. I hope to finalize the Assistant/Associate Teaching Professor position soon. Please join these general faculty session as you are able.
Finally, please see the information about Ramadan below.

**RAMADAN 2022 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 2022 will last approximately from April 2 - May 2. Ramadan is scheduled on the lunar calendar so it moves dates each year.

**Muslim Students may be tired, hungry, and dehydrated in your classes - especially if they are with you late in the afternoon.**
How to Know It’s Time to Update Your SDS Faculty Directory Listing

It may just be time to send us a new headshot! If your faculty profile and pictures are in need of an update, please submit this Google Form. This can include your job title, education, courses taught, biography, external organization & title (for adjunct faculty), headshot, etc. You can view your current listing on the SDS Faculty Directory here. Please also use the above form to indicate whether the School of Data Science has permission to feature you with our new Faculty Spotlight posts on our social media!

University Career Center - Professional Headshots

This is a great opportunity for faculty to update their headshots on the UNC Charlotte website and LinkedIn accounts. Having a professional headshot gives strength to your personal brand.

DSBA GRADUATE PROGRAM CURRICULUM NEWS

DSBA Curriculum Revisions
Starting Fall 2022, there will be a change in the selection and numbers of required and elective courses for both the Master’s and Certificate programs. One fewer core course and one more elective course will be required compared to the old requirement. The changes address the concerns about having many overlaps of covered topics among the core courses. The change will also allow students to take more advanced electives.

Summer Curriculum Projects:DSBA
The DSBA program encourages faculty to develop a new elective course or significantly redesign an existing course by taking advantage of summer curriculum projects. Funding is available to support SDS faculty or a graduate assistant. Faculty will be asked to submit a brief proposal and budget. Please contact Josh Hertel (jhertel@uncc.edu) for more information.
TOMORROW! April 5 at 12-1pm - HIA Alumni Panel

Students will have the opportunity to hear from HIA alumni and learn about a "day in the life" of someone working in this role.

Featured Panelists:
- Daniel Buchenberger, HI MS, Manager - Vernex
- Keri Carver, HI MS, IT Strategy and Planning Manager, Mecklenburg County Information Technology Services Department
- Dr. Saugat Karki, HI MS, Health Scientist, Centers for Disease Control

This will be an online event provided through the Career Center. Come prepared to ask questions and engage with our panel of experts!

REGISTER HERE

TOMORROW! Join Us for the Sixth Annual APHI Nexus: April 5, 2022, 12:30-5:00 pm

Come celebrate National Public Health Week with UNC Charlotte’s Academy for Population Health Innovation (APHI) at the virtual APHI Nexus 2022- Advancing Population Health Equity on Tuesday, April 5th, 12:30-5:00 pm.*

Join us on zoom for this annual event that brings together Mecklenburg County public health professionals, UNC Charlotte faculty and students, data scientists, health care organizations, community groups, and policymakers to explore innovative new
approaches to addressing the Charlotte area's most pressing community health needs and priorities.

The event includes an opening address by Director, Mecklenburg County Public Health, Raynard Washington, a choice of one of four concurrent workshops, and a closing plenary featuring Sandro Galea, Dean of the Boston University School of Public Health.

Questions? Email contact@APHInnovation.org.

*Up to 3.5 Continuing education credits available for:
  - ACHE (self-report)
  - CHES (request/documentation required)
  - CPH (self-report)
  - Social Work Contact Hours (request/documentation required)

REGISTER HERE

SDS Faculty Meeting - April 11, 3:30-5:00pm

The SDS staff meeting will be on Monday, April 11 at 3:30pm to 5:00pm. It will be an in-person meeting at the Harris Alumni Center.

Conference at Ft. Bragg - April 5-6

Data Science AI Topics of Interest

Ft. Bragg is hosting a conference, sponsored by AFCEA (Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association), with content relevant to the Data Science/AI/Cyber domain and the US Dept. of Defense. The AFCEA Technet Conference will be held on April 5-6 at Fort Bragg, NC. Conference tracks include:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Cloud
- Cyber
- Data
- Small Business

The event will provide an excellent opportunity to gain a current awareness of the needs and priorities of the defense community (particularly in the area of Special Operations) with regard to AI, Cyber, and Data Science (DOD). Such an awareness will enable better targeting of proposals and research topics to objectives in the DOD domain.
Access to the High Performance Cluster - Spring 2022

If you are planning to use one or both of the HPC educational clusters for course sections during the Spring 2022 term, please use the link below to complete the account creation request form. More details can be found here.

CDC announces a 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 the needs of decision-makers.

MORE INFORMATION HERE

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.
Specifying SDS as an Affiliate Center

When routing a proposal, **please make sure to specify the School of Data Science as an affiliated center in the Niner Research system** in addition to your home department, so that the school can keep track of the proposals submitted and awarded by our faculty. Instructions can be found on the Research tab of our website.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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Summer & Fall 2022 Special Topics Courses

This summer and fall the SDS is offering several special topics courses for students enrolled in the DSBA and HIA programs. Find the list of courses below.

SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE LIST

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Wednesday SDS Seminars- 4:00-5:00 pm

**Please Encourage Students to Participate.**

Each semester the SDS hosts regular professional development seminars on Wednesday afternoon. These sessions allow students to interact directly with companies and thought leaders across multiple domains in data science and analytics. The April 6th Wednesday Seminar will feature Vahid Sanii, Reporting Analytics Lead, Wells Fargo. He will walk students through the process of data munging through analysis, Case Study: Data Ingestion & Modeling through March Madness. This session will be in-person, held on the Center City campus/Dubois Center.
North Carolina Education Datathon

The Hunt Institute is pleased to announce the first-ever North Carolina Education Datathon on April 4-5, 2022, at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh, NC. This free, two-day event will bring together university researchers and student-led teams from across North Carolina to compete to turn publicly available data into actionable information to address inequities and improve educational outcomes. The winning team will receive a monetary prize. This year’s theme is *Exploring the Relationship Between the Digital Divide and Postsecondary Educational Attainment*.

MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION FOUND HERE

SDS Student Bootcamps

The SDS has developed a variety of Boot Camps to support new and continuing students. Currently we offer four online/asynchronous training and review modules: Introduction to Python, Statistics for Data Science, Introduction to R, and, as of this spring, Introduction to SAS For Data Science. We are discussing developing a new SQL bootcamp for fall 2023. The bootcamps are free and available to any student enrolled in a SDS course. Registration for the spring semester SDS Boot Camps is currently open.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Coursera for Campus

The School of Data Science has joined Coursera for Campus Basic Plan. DSBA and HIA graduate students, and the Data Science undergraduates have access to more than 4,000 courses in the Coursera catalog. Students must request access by completing the google form below. Participants will receive an email confirmation from SDS and from Coursera with an invitation to set up an account.

REQUEST FOR ACCESS FORM