



Welcome to our inaugural newsletter!

The AI for All initiative was created in the Provost's office in 2025 to encourage AI fluency among UCF students, faculty, and staff. We've recently completed work on a [website](#) for the initiative, with pages dedicated to our guiding principles for AI use, data privacy considerations, details about which AI tools can (and cannot) be used at UCF, and much more. Have a look and [let us know](#) what you think!

Many of you are receiving this newsletter from a colleague in your Department/School. Everyone is also welcome to [sign up](#) to receive the newsletter directly.

Tip of the Month

Many manual tasks could be accomplished faster with a Large Language Model (LLM) like Copilot or ChatGPT. As an example, we recently needed a list of teaching centers in Europe. In the days before AI, this would have meant using Google to find a list of universities, and then visiting each website manually to search for a teaching center webpage. An LLM can do this in much less time. With some tools, in fact, the output can even include an Excel file with those desired URLs already populated. Short version: always ask yourself if an LLM can automate a task you're about to tackle.

Join Our Community of Practice

Want to exchange ideas about the newest AI tools, or discuss what's been in the news? We meet monthly on Teams during the academic year to learn from each other and to share best practices. Join the community of practice [through this link](#) to view the Microsoft Team. Use the code *kucty4s* to join. You will be sent Outlook calendar invitations to join monthly meetings.

New Login Location for Copilot at UCF

1. Go to portal.office.com - note that copilot.microsoft.com no longer works for school accounts (if your UCF email isn't recognized, switch to Edge).
2. Click "Sign in" (top-right) and choose Work or School.
3. Enter your full UCF email (@ucf.edu), then log in with your NID + password. (You may need to adjust SafeSearch away from "Strict".)
4. Confirm the green-shield checkmark near the top — that indicates data protection mode.



New UCF Institute for Artificial Intelligence

In July, UCF announced a new research-focused [Institute for Artificial Intelligence](#) (IAI), to be led by trustee chair Mubarak Shah from Computer Science. As President Cartwright noted, "As Florida's Premier Engineering and Technology University, UCF is uniquely positioned to lead in this critical space. This initiative reflects our broader commitment to grow research, scale our areas of excellence and prepare students to lead in a technology-driven future." Our own AI for All initiative, which focuses on student AI fluency, will exist in parallel with the research-focused Institute for Artificial Intelligence.

AI Agents and Respondus

Recent [videos](#) show how agentic AI (e.g., ChatGPT Agent, Cluely) can log into an LMS and complete assignments. We tested these agents locally on Webcourses. Both agents were disabled when Respondus Lockdown Browser was turned on in Webcourses. Thus, it is our recommendation that you enable Respondus in Webcourses for exams and quizzes.

- [CDL Guide](#)
- [FMC Workshops](#)

AI-Related Events

Student Events

Sept 25, 10:00 AM–3:00 PM: UCF Student AI Day, John C. Hitt Library.

[Register via Handshake](#)

Please encourage your students to attend! (note: the previously-announced AI Day for faculty needed to be delayed until spring due to space/room limitations)

Staff Events

For "Supercharge Your Day Job with AI" requests: [visit our staff page](#)

Recent Updates to AI Models

- May: Claude 4
- June: Gemini 2.5 Pro
- July: Grok 4
- Aug: ChatGPT 5, ChatGPT Agent, ChatGPT Study Mode
- Aug: Gemini's Nano Banana image generator

Recent Articles of Note

[APA's policy on using/disclosing AI use](#)

When a generative AI model is used in the drafting of a manuscript for an APA publication or the research reported therein, the use of AI must be disclosed in the appropriate section and cited; and, AI cannot be named as an author on an APA scholarly publication.

[Anthropic Agrees to Pay Authors at Least \\$1.5 Billion in AI Copyright Settlement](#)

Anthropic will pay at least \$3,000 for each copyrighted work that it pirated. The company downloaded unauthorized copies of books in early efforts to gather training data for its AI tools.

[Your brain on ChatGPT: Accumulation of cognitive debt when using an AI assistant for essay writing task](#)

This article from the MIT Media Lab looks at cognitive offloading, a term often associated with AI tools. Researchers at MIT have studied the neural connectivity patterns of students tasked with writing essays and found that those who employed AI assistance had the weakest overall coupling.

[How to spot fake AI photos](#)

This TED Talk focuses on AI-generated content known as “deep fakes,” which pose a threat of real harm. Digital forensics expert Hany Farid espouses four strategies to detect if images are real or artifice. The detection methods are effective at the time of the video (July 2025) yet their efficacy with the evolution of AI technology is uncertain.

[Students hate them. Universities need them. The only real solution to the A.I. cheating crisis](#)

In a recent New York Times opinion essay, Clay Shirky looks to a standard that once reigned supreme in higher education—the humble blue book. Frustrated with the trend of students turning to AI for assignments and the false positives that plague AI detection software, Shirky posits that blue book assessment promotes the depth of learning that could support transference while safeguarding the rigor so many faculty seek.

- FCTL has created a handout of [best practices](#) for implementing blue book exams, since the format is likely unfamiliar to most students.

[“ChatGPT killed my son”: Parents’ lawsuit describes suicide notes in chat logs](#)

This sobering article posted to Ars Technica reports on a recent lawsuit brought by the parents of a son who initially turned to ChatGPT for study assistance. With further engagement, ChatGPT’s safeguards failed and the teen committed suicide. The report looks at data on the extent to which Gen Z confides mental health concerns in AI platforms, the risks, and the need for improvement.

UCF professors Laurie O. Campbell, Glenn W. Lambie, and B. Grant Hayes (together with Kathryn Babb from another institution) had published a related study before the suicide described above took place: [An Examination of Generative AI Response to Suicide Inquires: Content Analysis](#) (2025).

[Winning the Race: America’s AI Action Plan](#)

Document released by the White House in 2025: "As our global competitors race to exploit these technologies, it is a national security imperative for the United States to achieve and maintain unquestioned and unchallenged global technological dominance. To secure our future, we must harness the full power of American innovation."

Knight to Knight: AI Exchange

This section of the newsletter serves to connect needs with experience or expertise. Send a brief description of your need, plus your contact info, and we'll advertise it for you. We aim to match peers for consultations and collaborations.

Project Seeking Collaborators: AI-Enhanced Arab Music Improvisation

- **Researchers:** [Melissa Scott](#) (UCF Ethnomusicology) & Fadi Al-Ghawanmeh (Ph.D. Music Technology/Computer Science)
- **Status:** Fine-tuned AI for oud music; proof-of-concept completed; outputs validated by professional musicians.
- **Technical Needs:** MIR for non-Western systems; deep learning for sequence generation; real-time inference; cross-cultural training.
- **Seeking:** AI/ML researchers, music technologists, software developers.

Feel free to reach out to the researchers directly, or [submit your own need or an offer](#). Let us play matchmaker!

Spotlight on This Month's Grant Related to AI

[Expressions of interest: artificial intelligence humanities sandpits](#)

AHRC and SSHRC plan to invite expressions of interest to attend a humanities-led, interdisciplinary research sandpit putting humanities insights and methodologies at the heart of artificial intelligence (AI) tech design. A sandpit is a facilitated workshop process through which new project teams and research propositions will be co-developed and funded. Apply by October 30.

See also the AI for All website for [more grant opportunities](#).

Faculty Spotlight

Shashank Sonkar, Assistant Professor of Computer Science

Shashank Sonkar brings expertise in AI reasoning and computational modeling to UCF's Institute for Artificial Intelligence, where he advances research exploring how AI and Natural Language Processing systems can understand and model human thinking processes, including both correct reasoning patterns and the underlying cognitive mechanisms of misconceptions. This research drives advances in personalization technologies across multiple domains, with education being a critical area where AI can identify knowledge gaps and deliver contextually appropriate guidance to learners at scale.

Sonkar looks forward to collaborating with colleagues across disciplines—including education, learning sciences, cognitive sciences, and engineering—to strengthen existing partnerships at UCF and build new connections. Through collaboration, Sonkar seeks to simultaneously advance AI capabilities while creating more effective personalized technologies with transformative potential for education and beyond.

We look forward to bringing you additional **faculty spotlights** and future **staff spotlights** and **student spotlights**! Please [let us know](#) if you've got a recommendation, nomination, or self-nomination. We'd love to highlight creative teaching/workplace applications of AI, as well as recent non-technical publications related to AI.

Thanks for reading. See you next month! --Your [AI for All team](#).

Email us at ai@ucf.edu

AI for All: Where AI Fluency Meets Ethical Use and Collaborative Productivity

AI for All Initiative

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