

# AI for All



Monthly Newsletter

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April 2026

Vol. 2, Issue 4

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

AI for All Monthly Newsletter, April 2026 Vol. 2, Issue 4 Communication

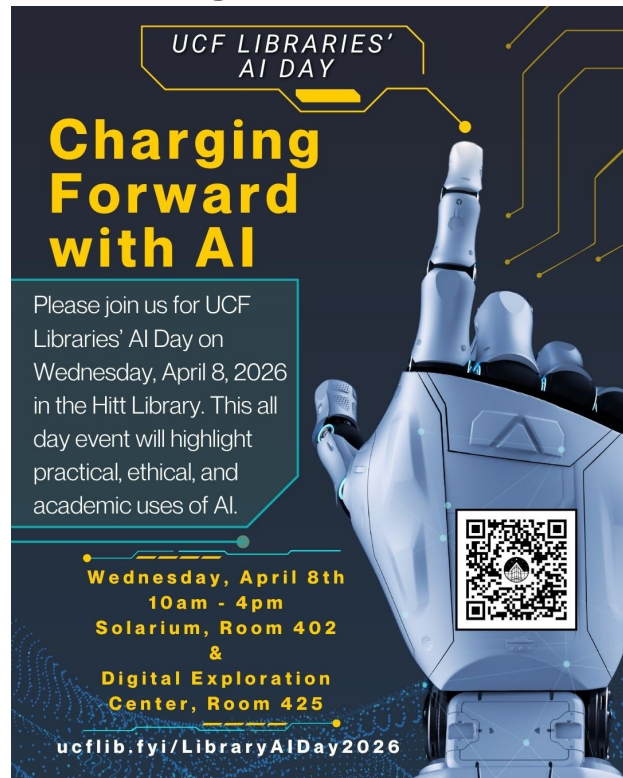
Lead: Anastasia Bojanowski

**Note for distribution:** Department liaisons, please forward this mailing to departmental colleagues.

## **Knight Spotlight: UCF AI News**

- The [UCF Institute of AI \(IAI\)](#) had 23 papers accepted for the upcoming conference in Rio de Janeiro, marking a record for the university (2026, March 5). UCF Institute of Artificial Intelligence.
- UCF Selected for [National Endowment for the Humanities Project on AI in Education](#). (2026, March 11). *UCF Today*. As the only institution in Florida selected for an NEH award this year, UCF researchers will explore a new generative AI learning community for faculty and graduate students. Professors **Anastasia Salter and Mel Stanfill** are leading a new "Digital Humanities Generative AI Learning Community" to integrate AI into humanities teaching.
- Pegasus [Professor Zihua Qu](#) was honored for his research on AI data center energy efficiency, addressing the massive power demands of 2026-era models. (2026, March 26). *UCF Today*.
- UCF launched [CAP 1931 \(AI for All\)](#) and [PAD 3930 \(AI for the Workplace\)](#) to ensure AI fluency across all majors. (2026, March). UCF Institute for Artificial Intelligence.

## Upcoming Events



### Save the Date: Student-Focused AI Day —

**April 8, All day event.** Please save the date for UCF Libraries' AI Day, taking place on Wednesday, April 8. This student-facing event will highlight practical, ethical, and academic uses of artificial intelligence, with sessions designed to support student learning, productivity, and career readiness. We hope you'll help us spread the word to your students and join us in supporting their AI literacy. UCF Libraries' AI Day 2026 agenda and registration.

### April

- **Supercharge Your Day Job with Artificial Intelligence, April 14, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (noon).**
- **Amazon Quick Suite: AI-Powered Research Workspace, April 15, 1:00-4:00 PM.**  
Discover how to transform your research workflows with Amazon Quick Suite, an enterprise AI platform that unifies data analysis, automation, and intelligent assistance in a single workspace. This hands-on workshop demonstrates how to organize data using Spaces, build custom AI agents trained on your lab's specialized knowledge, automate repetitive tasks with Quick Flows, and conduct deep-dive analysis using Quick Research.

### May

- **Supercharge Your Day Job with Artificial Intelligence, May 20, 10:00-11:00 AM.** Many of us have tried Generative AI (GenAI) like ChatGPT before, but what about using it in your “day job” at UCF? Where are the areas where GenAI can make us faster and more productive? We'll briefly review what GenAI is and how it works, then address its advantages and weaknesses. We will also touch on effective prompt engineering before turning to possible productivity gains.

## June

- **UCF's *Teaching and Learning with AI Conference, 2026*** (Special UCF Registration Price), **June 11-13**. The FCTL, CDL, and UCF Libraries are hosting the fourth annual *Teaching and Learning with AI* conference, dedicated to sharing teaching practices in the age of AI. We focus less on research than on practical ideas: what are YOU doing about AI? We welcome presentations that embrace AI, those that discuss resisting it, and everything in between. The conference takes place June 11-13 (2026) at the Gaylord Palms near the theme parks. UCF faculty cannot attend for free due to catering costs, but there is a substantial discount: UCF registration is only \$250, the same price whether presenting or simply attending. Email [teachwithai@ucf.edu](mailto:teachwithai@ucf.edu) to obtain the link to register, specifying whether you will be paying with department funds or a personal credit card.
- **AI Summer Camp, June 15, 2026 9:00 AM to Friday, June 19 at 4:00 PM**. The Institute of Artificial Intelligence (IAI) introduced a new AI Summer Camp for rising 8th grade students! Join us for a one-week crash course on areas in Generative AI, Computer Vision, Robotics, Medical AI, and more. With hands-on learning and mentorship from top IAI faculty researchers, students will have a great foundation of AI technologies and be well-equipped for the future!
- **Supercharge Your Day Job with Artificial Intelligence, June 17, 10:00-11:00 AM**. Many of us have tried Generative AI (GenAI) like ChatGPT before, but what about using it in your “day job” at UCF? Where are the areas where GenAI can make us faster and more productive? We’ll briefly review what GenAI is and how it works, then address its advantages and weaknesses. We will also touch on effective prompt engineering before turning to possible productivity gains.

## UCF AI Updates

- NEW [Use of Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Tools Guidelines](#) from UCF Information Security. Guidelines for enterprise agreements, chat and agent, coding, and productivity tools
- [MyKnight STAR](#), a branded Education Advisory Board (EAB) platform. "Schedule appointments, explore majors, find resources, seek assistance, and more with the myKnight STAR app, powered by Navigate360 Student."

### Tip of the Month

**Protect Sensitive Information.** Never paste confidential data, such as identifying information, student records, personnel files, unpublished research, or personal information, into public AI tools. Follow [FERPA guidelines](#). Most consumer-facing AI tools use your inputs to improve their models. When in doubt, anonymize the data with alphanumeric substitutions.

# Publication Call for Papers

## Spring 2026 Call for Papers—Special Journal Issue

The journal *Frontiers in Computer Science: Human-Media Interactions* invites article submissions for a special topic: *Transforming Education through Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies*: [Call for Papers](#).

"We invite submissions for a Research Topic of *Frontiers in Computer Science* on *Transforming Education through Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies*. This Research Topic highlights innovative, interdisciplinary, and equity-oriented research exploring how artificial intelligence (AI) and related emerging technologies are reshaping education worldwide. We seek contributions that investigate the evolving role of AI in teaching and learning across subjects such as mathematics, science, computer science, computational thinking, engineering, and robotics."

Deadline for full submission: **April 30, 2026**. Questions can be sent to [Mike Borowczak](#).

## AI Grants

### [The Genesis Mission: Transforming Science and Energy with AI](#)

Office of Science (OS), United States Department of Energy (DOE)

**April 28, 2026** [Confirmed \$5,000,000]

The DOE Office of Science (SC), Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation (CMEI), Office of Environmental Management (EM), Office of Nuclear Energy (NE), Office of Electricity (OE), and Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Office (HGEO) hereby announce interest in receiving applications from interdisciplinary teams addressing the Genesis Mission National Science and Technology Challenges to accelerate scientific discovery and research and development (R&D) workflows using novel artificial intelligence (AI) models and frameworks.

### [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) to Accelerate Charitable Giving](#)

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)

**April 28, 2026** [Confirmed \$150,000]

Artificial intelligence (AI) is advancing rapidly, reshaping how people access information, make decisions, and engage with the world. For philanthropy, this creates an opportunity to rethink how AI can help donors discover causes and move from interest to action at moments when it matters most.

To explore this opportunity, PPT is launching the AI to Accelerate Charitable Giving Grand Challenges RFP to explore how AI can strengthen philanthropic practice and unlock new possibilities for generosity. The Challenge aims to enhance human decision-making with AI-powered tools, data, and insights that help donors give more and give sooner.

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## Updates to AI Tools (2026)

- **Gemini 3.1 Flash-Lite** (Google) [March 3] a new efficiency-focused model delivering 2.5× faster response times and 45% faster output generation compared to earlier Gemini versions, priced at just \$0.25 per million input tokens.
- Google also released **Deep Think** [March 3] A research-grade variant of Gemini NVIDIA
- released **Nemotron 3 Super** [March 11] a 120B hybrid Mamba-Transformer model with 12B active parameters, a 1 million token context window, and 2.2× throughput compared to GPT-OSS-120B
- **Mistral Small 4** [March 16] "family of three state-of-the-art small, dense models (14B, 8B, and 3B)" and **Mistral Large 3**—"our most capable model to date—a sparse mixture-of-experts trained with 41B active and 675B total parameters. Open-sourcing our models in a variety of compressed formats empowers the developer community and puts AI in people's hands through distributed intelligence." [France]
- OpenAI sunsets Sora
- Apple's **Multi-Bot Siri**: Apple announced it will move away from its exclusive OpenAI deal. Starting with **iOS 27**, Siri will use an "Extensions" system, allowing users to choose their default brain (Gemini, Claude, or ChatGPT)

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## Articles & Studies on AI

- [OpenAI enters its focus era by killing Sora](#): As the ChatGPT-maker eyes an IPO, it's ditching Sora in favor of a unified AI assistant and enterprise coding tools (2026, March 25). *WIRED*.
- [Jury finds Meta's platforms are harmful to children in 1st wave of social media addiction lawsuit](#) (2026, March 24). *PBS News*.
- [AI set to map risks of future climate disasters](#): Warning systems can engage people on a personal level — if they are built in a way that bridges technology and social science (2026, March 18). *Nature*.
- [When using AI leads to "brain fry"](#): A new study finds that certain patterns of AI use are driving cognitive fatigue, while others can help reduce burnout (2026, March 5). *Harvard Business Review*.
- The [Labor Department](#) announced a new initiative, Make America AI Ready, on March 24,

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## Faculty Spotlight

We invite faculty members who incorporate AI models into their professional workflow or curriculum to be featured in our Faculty Spotlight section. If you are interested in participating, please contact us at [ai@ucf.edu](mailto:ai@ucf.edu).

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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.

Thank you for reading our current issue. We will be back next month with more insights and updates. —Your *AI for All* team. Email us at [ai@ucf.edu](mailto:ai@ucf.edu)

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